



## **FIRST NATIONS CONFEDERACY OF CULTURAL EDUCATION CENTRES 2026-2028 CALL FOR FIRST NATION LANGUAGES PROPOSAL APPLICATIONS Indigenous Languages and Cultures Program<sup>1</sup>**

The Indigenous Languages and Cultures Program is a Canadian Heritage funding program. The First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres (FNCCEC) is working in collaboration with Canadian Heritage on Indigenous languages. The FNCCEC is the Regionally Designated Organization for First Nation languages in Ontario.

### **FUNDING GUIDELINES**

#### **SECTION 1: Funding Program**

The First Nation Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres is accepting proposal funding applications for the Indigenous Languages and Cultures Program from First Nation communities or First Nation organizations in Ontario.

The 2026-2028 Call for Applications to the Indigenous Languages and Cultures Program contains two (2) Funding Streams:

- Multi-Year 2026-2028 (applicant has discretion to apply for only one year 2026-2027)
- Ongoing Programmatic Funding (2026-2028)

#### **STREAM 1: Multi-Year**

- Funding to support language revitalization projects. Project-based funding that can range from one (1) year and up to two (2) years (2026-2028) for language projects and activities. An example of an eligible activity under this funding stream is development of language plan/strategy; needs assessment; language classes; land-based learning. Stream 1 is also for applicant's who are interested to apply for single year funding rather than multi-year.

#### **STREAM 2: Ongoing Programmatic Funding**

- Ongoing funding to support the implementation of a long-term language plan.
- Ongoing programmatic funding is to provide support for up to two (2) years (2026-2028) for First Nation communities and/or First Nation organizations **that have a long-term language plan and workplan in place and also have a minimum of two years of experience in providing First Nation languages revitalization services for their community.**

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<sup>1</sup> The Indigenous Languages and Cultures Program is Canadian Heritage's Indigenous Languages Component (ILC). The FNCCEC is working in collaboration with Canadian Heritage on Indigenous Languages, whereas FNCCEC is the delivery agent specifically for First Nations languages in Ontario. First Nation is one of the three distinct peoples who fall under the term "Indigenous".

Please Note: Post 2028, subject to funding from Government of Canada, funded applicants will not be required to reapply for ongoing programmatic funding. Funded applicants would be required to submit an updated workplan for subsequent years of funding that is being applied for and the activities must show that they are progressive from year to year.

**Applicants can only apply for one stream.**

## **PRIORITY**

**Applicants who are not currently receiving funding from the FNCCEC will be given PRIORITY.**

## **CALL FOR APPLICATION**

The FNCCEC ILC is specifically for First Nation languages for First Nations in Ontario.

Eligible applicants in Ontario who wish to submit a proposal application for the 2026-2028 Call for Proposals, **please read the following vital application information. It is mandatory to use FNCCEC General Application Form – Annex B, and Budget Template – Annex E.** FNCCEC will not accept proposals using Canadian Heritage's application form.

## **SECTION 2: WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY**

For the purpose the FNCCEC-ILC Funding Program, First Nations are defined as those who are legally and federally recognized in Canada under the *Indian Act*, and/or Treaties recognized and affirm by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

### **2.1: WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY (specific to Ontario)**

- a. First Nations Communities / Governments / Bands / Tribal Councils;
- b. First Nation cultural, language and education centres;
- c. Band or Tribal Council operated education institutions;
- d. First Nation community-based groups such as ad-hoc committees delegated to perform specific language revitalization efforts;
- e. First Nation led institution including their accredited programs;
- f. First Nation not for profit organizations (incorporated and unincorporated) includes community based and urban organization, and must provide the three mandatory requirements:
  1. Letter of Support from a federally recognized First Nation Band Council OR First Nation Tribal Council;
  2. The organization must identify First Nation participants and must demonstrate how the First Nation community (grassroots and urban based) members will be involved with the project activity and how the **First Nation** members will benefit from the project activity; and,
  3. The organization's budget must demonstrate the project funding will not result in income generation for the sole benefit of the organization, ie: offsetting overall operational costs of the organization or to supplement loss revenue from other funding source; or to hire new staff.

## **2.2: One Application Per Eligible Applicant and One Funding Stream per Eligible Applicant**

Only one proposal application per applicant. More than one application will not be accepted. Should an eligible applicant submit more than one application, the first application received by FNCCEC will be accepted. The subsequent application(s) will be returned to the applicant.

## **2.3: Who is NOT eligible to apply:**

- Individual applicants
- Public institutions (includes provincial schools and post secondary)
- For profit organizations and charities
- Provincial / Territorial / Municipal / Federal government and their agencies
- Previous applicants funded by FNCCEC ILC or Canadian Heritage ILC who have incomplete or outstanding reporting
- Non-Indigenous and Indigenous Not for Profit organizations and agencies
- Non-Indigenous agencies
- Any organization outside of Canada

## **SECTION 3: PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS**

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the Indigenous Languages Component are to:

- support the efforts of First Nations communities and First Nations-led organizations to reclaim, revitalize, maintain and strengthen their First Nations languages; and,
- create new First Nations language speakers, increase fluency, immersion opportunities, use of First Nations languages, and the documentation of all First Nations languages.

### **Expected results**

- Communities conduct language planning
- Communities develop resources to support language revitalization
- Trained First Nations Language instructors, revitalization specialists, facilitators and administrators
- First Nations Peoples access long-term funding
- Language revitalization activities are occurring
- First Nations make decisions regarding funding for the revitalization of First Nations languages
- Increased capacity to deliver language program and services for First Nation communities
- First Nations languages are documented and materials and data are owned, managed and controlled by First Nations
- Increase in the use of First Nations languages
- Increased number of fluent language speakers with increased language proficiency
- Increased number of First Nations language experts, translators and curriculum developers
- Intergenerational transmission of First Nations languages is increased
- Vitality of First Nations languages is improved

## **SECTION 4: ELIGIBILITIES**

**4.1:** Eligible activities must be community based and community led language projects. Language revitalization activities must be either participatory or resource or a combination of both.

### **4.2: ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:**

To be eligible for funding, the application must contribute to language fluency across the life cycle and support the efforts of Ontario First Nations communities and organizations in reclaiming, revitalizing, maintaining, strengthening and promoting First Nations languages such as:

1. language programs and services (e.g., language plan development, immersion activities, language nests, mentor-apprentice programming and land-based learning (such as language camps));
2. capacity building and training (e.g., curriculum development, leadership development, and teacher training);
3. community engagement (e.g., promotion and awareness, gatherings, planning);
4. community-led research and studies (e.g., language community assessments, data development);
5. resource development (e.g., documentation and archiving, instructor resources, language templates and tools, and audiovisual and multimedia materials); and
6. management and administration for language programming and services (e.g., communication, consultation, and coordination).

### **4.3: PRIORITY Activities - priority will be given to:**

1. Language plan development
2. Land based language and cultural activities involving elders, knowledge keepers, language speakers
3. Transmission of cultural knowledge by Elders, knowledge holders, ceremonial leaders to children and to youth, ie: ceremonies, cultural teachings, cultural and language workshops
4. Language lessons for children, youth, families and / or for adult learners, resources development, ie: language nests, classroom or community setting, language camps, learning hubs
5. Language development using technology such as APPS or online language delivery, or any other kinds of media tools
6. Cultural education activities, ie: ancestral life skills, language and cultural workshops, ceremonies, healing and wellness
7. Language Training and Mentorship

### **4.4: First Nation Languages**

An eligible applicant's activities can focus primarily on the respective ancestral language of the nation / community; or a combination of different First Nation languages.

### **4.5: Multi-Distinction Activities – Not Eligible**

If an eligible applicant's proposed activities are a combination of a First Nation language and the Inuit language and/or Michif, please submit your application directly to Canadian Heritage, the department is responsible for multi-distinction applications.

## **SECTION 5: ACTIVITY EXPENSES**

### **5.1 Eligible Expenses**

- Wages specifically related to project activity such as coordinator or project lead
- Professional Fees (honoraria) for elders, knowledge keepers, language speakers
- Contractors / Consultants Fees: A maximum of 10% of the total budget / request in funding (consultants fees cannot be the only expense for the project)
- Professional language development and language training programs
- In exceptional cases, stipend set at \$50.00 per month for the duration of the project activity for participation in community-based language classes or workshops or land based educational activities, however, to a maximum of 15% of the total budget / request in funding
- Equipment purchases such as computers, cameras required for project activity: purchases cannot exceed 15% of the total budget / request in funding
- Production of technology / media and language applications, such as Language APP, to a maximum of 30% of the total budget / request in funding
- Rent and utilities related to the project activity
- Supplies and resource materials related to project activity
- Photocopying and printing related to project activity
- General liability insurances
- Communication and translation services
- Costs associated with information technology internet, website fees, including purchases and update of hardware and software
- Travel expenses – must not exceed the rates set by Treasury Board (refer to treasury board site for rates)
- Administrative cost cannot exceed 15% of the total budget / request in funding and must be related to the coordination of the project such as bookkeeping service, office supplies, telephone, fax, utilities, postage fees, photocopying, printing, rent for office space, audit, legal, translation services

### **5.2: Time Period for Expenses:**

- i) Eligible expenses for Multi-Year funding must be incurred between April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027 and/or 2028.
- ii) Eligible expenses for Ongoing Programmatic funding must be incurred between April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2028.
- iii) FNCCEC is not responsible for any expenses incurred prior to April 1, 2026.
- iv) FNCCEC is not responsible for any expenses incurred for your project before you receive written confirmation from FNCCEC of funding approved for the funding year, any expenses incurred is at your own risk.
- v) Applicants who are not successful in receiving ILC funding but decide to engage in activities - this is at the discretion of the applicant to do so, importantly, the FNCCEC is not responsible for the work or any of the expenses incurred by non-funded applicants.

### **5.3: Ineligible Expenses are:**

- Capital purchase (includes vehicles), construction, renovations or repairs, purchase of buildings or structures
- Salaries and honoraria for board members in the delivery of regular operations
- Travel outside of Canada
- Start up and/or operational costs for business ventures or development of cultural and professional industries
- Support for development of cultural and professional industries or institutions
- Research fees, operational and administrative costs of an organization and institution existing or newly created programs and studies

- Attendance in post secondary academic courses offering language lessons
- In school K-12 programs (includes First Nation and non-First Nation schools and public programs)
- Teacher certification
- Conferences or conference fees or travel to conferences
- Awards or bursaries
- Contingency and miscellaneous fees
- Deficit recovery
- Volunteer hours
- Charitable donations

## **SECTION 6: PROJECT FUNDING**

### **6.1: PROJECT TIME**

FNCCEC strives to deliver funds as early as possible. Delay in funding results by various factors such as when Canadian Heritage releases the funds to FNCCEC; and / or the delay of the applicant in signing and returning the Funding Agreement to FNCCEC. Funds will not be released without a duly signed funding agreement by both parties (Recipient and FNCCEC) and when FNCCEC receives the funding from Canadian Heritage. *Please Note: It is advisable to wait for written confirmation of funding before commencing your project activity. Eligible expenses can be incurred even if project activities have commenced after April 1, 2026 (retro of incurred expenses to April 1, 2026).*

## **SECTION 7: FUNDING**

### **7.1: Multi-Year 2026-2027 & 2027-2028:**

- Up to one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) per year for participatory and/or resource activities.

### **7.2: Ongoing Programmatic Funding:**

- Up to one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) per year for activities 2026-2027 & 2027-2028
- **Applicants must have a language plan and demonstrate a minimum of two years of experience in providing First Nation language revitalization services; and, show how activities are progressive year to year, and how the language plan will be implemented.**

**\*\*\*NEW\*\*\***



### **Mandatory criteria to be eligible for Ongoing Programmatic Funding:**

The Language Plan must have:

- one or more longer-term goals to achieve community language revitalization and fluency;
- **multi-year work plan, spanning not less than two (2) years;**
- a set of concrete objectives that work towards obtaining the goal(s);
- comprehensive approach that incorporates multiple activities and strategies as appropriate;
- plans for activities that carry out the objectives on a seasonal or annual basis;

- proposed budgets to fund the activities; and,
- demonstrated support from First Nations communities by way of band council resolutions, regional/tribal council resolutions.

The language plan could have a range of other elements including but not limited to:

- monitoring/evaluation plan;
- identification of roles and responsibilities;
- community assessment or environmental scan of existing state of language in the community(ies) and/or nation;
- community language charter or other provision in First Nations constitution or bylaws or language law;
- research on language learning methodologies; and,
- training plans for community languages educators.

### **7.3: Other Funding Criteria for both Stream 1 and Stream 2 funding:**

- i) Budget request exceeding the amounts specified above will not be accepted.
- ii) Activities must be either participatory or resource or both. There is no limit to the number of activities to pursue, however, **total expenses/budget cannot exceed what is stipulated above.**
- iii) Applicants must submit a budget identifying the project activities and expenses for each activity listed in their proposal.

**Applicants cannot apply for both funding streams.**

## **SECTION 8: HOW TO APPLY AND APPLICATION DEADLINE**

### **8.1: Proposal Application Package:**

Applicant must use the Application Forms and Appendices and must submit a complete proposal application package which consists of mandatory forms:

1. Supporting documents listed in the Application Checklist (Annex A)
2. Annex B: General Application Form (Annex B includes Appendix 1 if applying for multiyear or single year funding to support language plan development or activities; Annex B includes Appendix 2 if applying for ongoing programmatic funding)
3. Annex C: Organization Overview
4. Annex D: Declaration
5. Annex E: Budget Template
6. Unincorporated Application Acceptance of Liability Form (if applicable, fill in template and sign)
7. Voided Cheque
8. If urban-based First Nation organization applying – see Section 2.1 (f) for mandatory requirements
9. **A language plan with two (2) year workplan must be submitted for Ongoing Programmatic Funding only. \*\*\*NEW\*\*\***

**PLEASE NOTE:** Applicant must provide in the application form(s), the official/legal name of the applicant community /organization /ad-hoc group. The FNCCEC requires the legal name to issue funding agreements and cheques. All correspondence and cheques will be mailed via Canada Post, therefore, the most current and correct address including a P.O. Box number (if applicable) and postal code is required, please ensure the appropriate mailing address is identified in the application form(s).

**8.2:** Applications will not be accepted if any **mandatory forms and supporting documents** are not included or not completed in the application submission. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all mandatory information is completed and included in the application, and you have signed the specific areas.

**8.3: Multi-Distinction and Indigenous - WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY FNCCEC**

If an eligible applicant's proposed activities are a combination of a First Nation language and the Inuit language and/or Michif, please submit your application directly to Canadian Heritage, the department is responsible for multi-distinction applications.

**SECTION 9: RELEVANT INFORMATION: Limits / Decisions / Responsibilities**

1. Submission of an application by an eligible applicant does not guarantee funding.
2. Submission of an application by an ineligible applicant will be returned to the applicant, and, an ineligible applicant also includes applicant who does not meet application requirements, deadline submission date and time.
3. Only one application and only one funding stream per applicant. Should an eligible applicant submit more than one application, the first application received by FNCCEC will be the one accepted for review (provided it is a complete application with all mandatory requirements). Any subsequent application(s) will not be assessed and will be returned to the applicant.
4. FNCCEC reserves the right to target funding to specific priorities.
5. The decisions regarding eligibility and funding amounts are final.
6. FNCCEC is not responsible for any expenses incurred for your project before you receive written confirmation from FNCCEC of funding approved for the funding year, any expenses incurred is at your own risk.
7. Applicants who are not successful in receiving ILC funding but decide to engage in activities - this is at the discretion of the applicant to do so, the FNCCEC is not responsible for the work or any of the expenses incurred by non-funded applicants.
8. FNCCEC is not responsible for any application sent directly to Canadian Heritage by the applicant and is then not provided by Canadian Heritage to the FNCCEC by the FNCCEC specified application deadline date and time. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that FNCCEC receives your application by the deadline date and time specified by FNCCEC regardless of where to and how the applicant sent its application.
9. Should FNCCEC receive a multi-distinction application, FNCCEC is not responsible to send the application to Canadian Heritage.

**SECTION 10: APPLICATION DEADLINE DATE & TIME**

The deadline to submit a proposal application for the 2026-2028 Call for Proposals is **FRIDAY December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 5:00 P.M. (EST, Ottawa, Ontario local time).**

Proposal Applications can be sent by EMAIL or by MAIL (Canada Post or Courier Service).

Late applications submitted by email or by mail / courier are ineligible and will not be accepted.



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|-----------------|
| <b>BY EMAIL</b> |
|-----------------|

Email application to: [ILCProgram@fnccec.ca](mailto:ILCProgram@fnccec.ca)

**Deadline Date and Time: FRIDAY December 19<sup>th</sup> 2025, at 5:00 P.M. EST Ottawa, Ontario time zone.**

Please ensure proposal application is emailed **NO LATER than FRIDAY December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 by 5:00 P.M. EST Ottawa time**

**No applications will be accepted after this date and time. Late applications will be returned to the applicant.**

**If the applicant's local time zone is different from Ottawa time zone, it is the applicant's responsibility to take note of difference in time zone and ensure application is submitted by 5:00 P.M. EST Ottawa time.**

**FNCCEC email system will confirm the date and time the email was sent by applicant and received by FNCCEC.**

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|---|
| <b>BY MAIL : Canada Post or Courier Service</b> |
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Mail / Courier application to:

FNCCEC Language Secretariat  
666 Kirkwood Avenue, Suite 302  
Ottawa, Ontario K1Z5X9

**APPLICATIONS BY MAIL MUST BE POSTMARK STAMPED BY CANADA POST ON OR BEFORE 5:00 P.M. (EST Ottawa time) FRIDAY, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025. If sending by courier, please make sure the package is delivered to FNCCEC office by deadline date and time.**

**AN APPLICATION POST MARK STAMPED AFTER 5:00 P.M. EST FRIDAY December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED and will be returned to the applicant. It is advisable to email or call FNCCEC to inform the office your application was mailed.**

**IMPORTANT:**

FNCCEC is not responsible for any application sent directly to Canadian Heritage by the applicant and not provided by Canadian Heritage to the FNCCEC by the FNCCEC specified application deadline date and time. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure your application is received by FNCCEC by the specified date and time set by FNCCEC.

**INQUIRIES OR ASSISTANCE**

Should you have any questions or require assistance with the application forms, please contact Frankie Cote, Chief Operating Officer, either by email to [ILCProgram@fnccec.ca](mailto:ILCProgram@fnccec.ca) or by phone 613-728-5999 (office) or 819-230-6432 (cell).

We look forward to receiving your application to the FNCCEC 2026-2028 ILC Call for Proposals  
Kitchi Megwetch / Thank You