First Nations Guardians' Initiative

APPLICANT GUIDELINE

This Guideline outlines the eligibility and assessment criteria to identify candidate First Nations proposals that meet the goals and objectives for Tier 1 First Nations Guardians' Initiative funding.

Please note that application processes are closed for Tier 2 and Tier 3 initiatives. No application from Tier 2 and Tier 3 initiatives will be accepted.

1.0 Eligibility

1.1 Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are First Nations community(ies), nation(s), government(s), and/or representative organization(s).

1.2 Eligible Expenditures

Please ensure to provide enough details on the tasks/activities within your Guardians initiative in the budget template. Please also ensure to reflect both financial and non-financial (in-kind) contributions to your Guardians initiative.

1.3 Glossary

For further guidance on budget categories, please refer to the glossary provided in a tab in the budget template.

2.0 Assessment Criteria

2.1 General Criteria

In addition to assessment criteria (Section 2.2), applications should convey a desire and ability to:

- **Improve community relationships** within and/or between First Nations communities and/or other land users, researchers and/or other governments;
- **Provide opportunities for education and/or research**;
- **Attract non-government funds** or in-kind contributions from partners; and
- **Increase First Nations presence** on the land and waters.

2.2 Assessment Criteria

Clarity of proposal

- Has clearly stated objectives
- Has a detailed work plan

- Has a detailed budget

Governance

- Demonstrates how the organization or nation has taken care of the land, waters, plants and animals
- Demonstrates an expression of authority
- Demonstrates Youth engagement
- Supports Indigenous knowledge transfer
- Identifies clearly risks and mitigation strategies
- Has a clear vision of success and communication mechanisms

Capacity

- Has successfully completed past projects or activities supporting the initiative
- Demonstrates capacity-building ability
- Has invested money in the budget in support of Guardians
- Identifies the need for the initiative
- Identifies species of concern to the organization or nation
- Identifies areas of concern to the organization or nation

Cultural Inclusion

- Demonstrates cultural inclusion efforts
- Has clear vision of cultural inclusion in the initiative
- Demonstrates language revitalization efforts
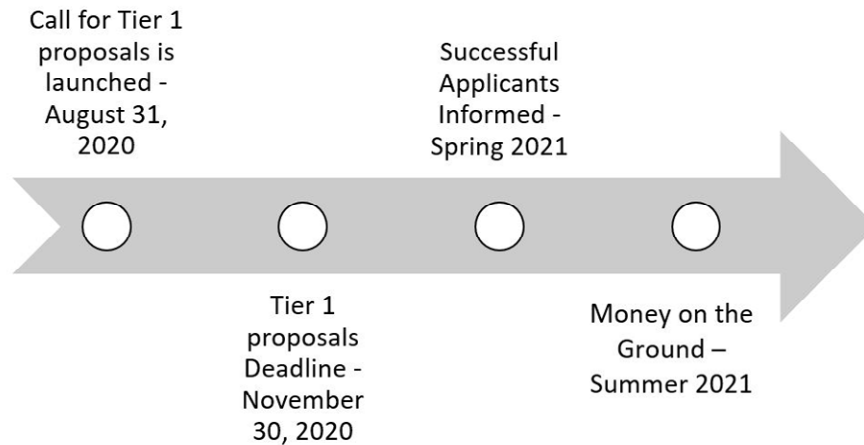
Community support and engagement

- Demonstrates community support for the initiative
- Has letters of support
- Has plans to maintain or expand community support

Partnership

- Has existing partnership(s)
- Demonstrates efforts in developing partnerships
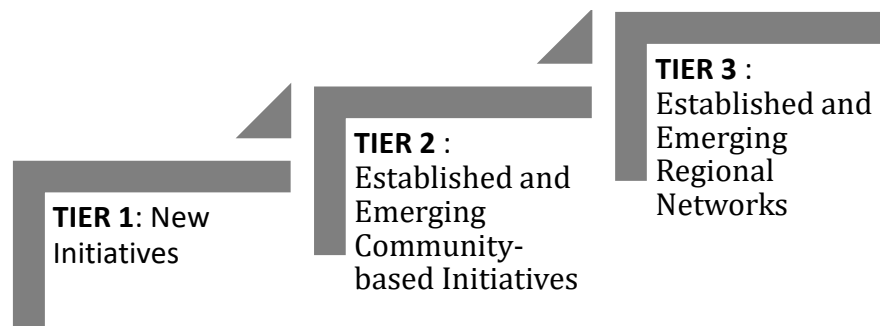
3.0 Application and Selection Process

The call for proposal launch will be on **Monday, August 31, 2020**. Applicants will have until **November 30, 2020 (23:59 PST)** to submit their proposal. Successful proposals should be informed in Spring 2021 and they may expect to have money in Summer 2021.

Call for Tier 1 proposals is launched - August 31, 2020

Successful Applicants Informed - Spring 2021

Tier 1 proposals Deadline - November 30, 2020

Money on the Ground – Summer 2021

4.0 Funding Categories

Funding will be distributed based on the stage of development of First Nations Guardians' initiative.

Please note that application processes are closed for Tier 2 and Tier 3 initiatives. No application from Tier 2 and Tier 3 initiatives will be accepted.

TIER 1: New Initiatives

TIER 2 : Established and Emerging Community-based Initiatives

TIER 3 : Established and Emerging Regional Networks

Tiered Funding Framework

Tier 3 – Established and Emerging Regional Networks
- 3-year proposals (multi-year)
- Total available for all Tier 3 Guardians groups for 3 years: approximately $2,9M

Tier 2 – Established and Emerging Community-based Initiatives
- 3-year proposals (multi-year)
- Total available for all Tier 2 Guardians groups for 3 years: approximately $2,9M

Tier 1 – New Initiatives
- Previous applicants to Tier 1 can reapply, but funding in one year is not a guarantee of funding in a subsequent year.
- Maximum allocation $60,000 per year for activities completed by March 31, 2021.
- Total of 10 Tier 1 projects will be selected for $600,000 in funding for the fiscal year, nationally.

Projects will be selected from the best submissions with the best chance of success (with long-term programming in mind) using the following categories.

5.0 Tier Definition Guidance

These are guidelines, not rules. Each applicant must identify in which tier their initiative best fits. Use best judgement to determine which pre-designated Tier fits the initiative scenario for which funding is being requested.

Tier 1 – New Initiatives

1. The applicant does not have any paid (full-time) staff dedicated to a specific Guardians initiative.
2. The applicant may or may not have members who are active on their traditional lands.
3. The applicant does not formally monitor ecological, social, economic or cultural indicators of their lands and waters, however some informal ad-hoc monitoring may happen.
4. The applicant has no formal mechanism to regularly provide information regarding the current state of traditional lands and waters into First Nations government's decision making, however some informal ad-hoc mechanisms may be used on an as need basis.

Tier 2 – Established and Emerging Community-based Initiatives

These funds are dedicated to an individual community or an individual First Nation for their Guardians' initiative.

Please note this Tier is complete and closed to new applications.

A. Emerging Community-based Initiatives

1. The applicant may or may not have Guardians but have dedicated staff whom oversee/manage/are active on their traditional lands and waters.
2. The applicant may or may not have formal mechanisms for educating and training lands staff in Indigenous knowledge and/or western science.
3. The applicant is attempting to monitor traditional lands and waters through informal mechanisms.
4. The applicant's monitoring information rarely supports First Nations governmental decision-making.
5. The applicant may or may not have partnerships.

B. Established Community-based Initiatives

1. The applicant has dedicated, formally recognized Guardians.
2. The applicant has formal mechanisms for educating and training Guardians in Indigenous knowledge and/or western science.
3. The applicant has formal monitoring programs of lands and/or waters.
4. The applicant regularly monitors information that supports First Nations' governments decision-making, e.g. contributing to the development and implementation of land and water use plans.

5. The applicant's Guardians engage with other land users, development proponents, researchers and/or other governments, thereby strengthening decision-making at all levels
6. The applicant has existing partnerships, and is now leveraging funds.

Tier 3 – Established and Emerging Regional Networks

These funds are dedicated to a group of communities or groups of First Nations for their Guardians' initiatives.

Please note this Tier is complete and closed to new applications.

A. Emerging Regional Networks

1. The applicant is working towards a Network commitment with other communities or First Nations in their region.
    a. Each First Nation may or may not have Guardians but has dedicated staff who oversee/manage/ are active on their traditional lands and waters.
2. The applicant may or may not work in partnership with a network to provide formal or informal mechanisms for educating and training staff in Indigenous knowledge systems and/or western science.
3. The applicant may or may not have formal mechanisms to work in partnership with a network to monitor traditional lands and waters.
4. The applicant may or may not share equipment and other resources (physical, human, intellectual or data) with partner communities or First Nations.
5. The applicant may or may not co-develop annual work plans with partners in a Network
6. The applicant may or may not work in partnership to leverage funds for the community-based programs and the network
7. The monitoring information for the network rarely supports collective community or First Nation governments decision-making.
8. The network may or may not engage with other land users, development proponents, researchers and/or other governments strengthening decision-making at all levels.

B. Established Regional Networks

1. The applicant can demonstrate a commitment to work with other communities or First Nations in their region.
    a. Each First Nation has dedicated Guardians on their traditional lands and waters.
2. The applicant works in partnership with a network to provide formal mechanisms for educating and training lands staff in Indigenous knowledge and/or western science.
3. The applicant has formal mechanisms to work within the network environment to monitor traditional lands and waters.
4. The applicant shares equipment and other resources (physical, human, intellectual or data) with partner First Nations.
5. The applicant has formal agreements with partners to support the sharing of resources.
6. The applicant works with the network partners to develop annual work plans, or portions of annual work plans.

7. The applicant works to leverage funds for both community-based initiatives and the network.
8. The monitoring information collected by the network supports collective First Nation government decision-making (e.g. contributing to land and water use planning and/or implementing these plans).
9. The network engages with other land users, development proponents, researchers and/or other governments strengthening decision making at all levels.

Appendix A

Tips for Writing SMART Objectives

[From: https://canadacollege.edu/adminservices/docs/tips_writing_smart_objectives.pdf]

Goals vs. Objectives
Good plans have goals and objectives. Setting goals and objectives correctly will help your plan to be successful. However, understanding the differences between a goal and an objective can be confusing.

Goals
Goals are broad, brief statements of intent that provide focus or vision for planning. They are non-specific, non-measurable, and usually cannot be attained. Below is an example of a program goal:
- *The goal of this project is for the WIC participants to look forward to their WIC visit and to feel like the time they spend at WIC is worthwhile.*

Objectives
Objectives are like the stepping stones towards the achievement of our goals. They are meant to be realistic targets for the program or project. Objectives are written in an active tense and use strong verbs like plan, write, conduct, produce, etc. rather than learn, understand, feel. Objectives can help you focus your program on what matters. They will always answer the following question:

WHO is going to do WHAT, WHEN, WHY (what does it demonstrate), and TO WHAT STANDARD?
- *By October 31, 2010 the APL will observe, analyze and report the average amount of time clients currently wait for WIC services.*

SMART Objectives
SMART refers to the acronym that describes the key characteristics of meaningful objectives.

SMART stands for:
- Specific: concrete, detailed, well defined
- Measurable: numbers, quantity, comparison
- Achievable: feasible, actionable
- Realistic: considering resources
- Time-Bound: a defined timeline

Specific – *What exactly are we going to do, with or for whom?*
Specific means that the objective is concrete, detailed, focused and well defined. The outcome is stated in numbers, percentages, or frequency. Objectives should communicate what you would like to see happen. To help set specific objectives it helps to ask the following questions:
- What exactly are we going to do, with or for whom?
- What strategies will be used?
- Is the objective described with action verbs?
- Is it clear who is involved?
- Is it clear where this will happen?
- Is it clear what will happen?
- Is the outcome clear?
- Will this objective lead to the desired results?

Measurable – *Is it measurable and can we measure it?*
This means that the objective can be measured and the measurement source is identified. All activities should be measurable at some level. To determine if your objective is measurable, ask questions such as:
- How much? How many?
- How will I know when it is accomplished?
- How will I know that the change has occurred?
- Can these measurements be obtained?

Achievable – *With a reasonable amount of effort and application can the objective be achieved??*
The objective or expectation of what will be accomplished must be realistic given the time period, resources allocated, etc.
- Can we get it done in the proposed time frame?
- Do I understand the limitations and constraints?
- Has anyone else done this successfully?
- Is this possible?

Realistic – *Can you realistically achieve the objectives with the resources you have?*
To be realistic, it must represent an objective toward which you are both willing and able to work. Objectives that are achievable, may not be realistic, however, realistic does not mean easy. Your objective is probably realistic if you truly believe that it can be accomplished.
- Have you accomplished anything similar in the past?
- What conditions would have to exist to accomplish this objective.
- Can we do this with the resources we have?
- Do you need to revisit priorities to make this happen?

Time-framed – *When will this objective be accomplished?*
This means stating clearly when the objective will be achieved. Deadlines create the all important sense of urgency.
- When will this objective be accomplished?

- Is there a stated deadline?

To develop SMART Objectives that will help you reach your goal, fill in the blanks below:

By____/_____/_____ _____ will have
(When?)   (Who? What? Include a number you can measure.)

_____.
(How? Why? Remember to specify results.)