

# First Nations Guardians' Initiative

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Frequently Asked Questions and Applicant Guidelines documents contain valuable information on the application process and should be consulted first. If you have additional questions about the form or instructions, please contact the Secretariat **as early as possible** at [ec.gardiensautochtones-indigenousguardians.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.gardiensautochtones-indigenousguardians.ec@canada.ca).

**Please be aware that any question addressed to the Joint Working Group Secretariat will be answered and shared with all applicants.**

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## Scope

**What is the scope if this Pilot Initiative? It will help us determine which type of project would be a better fit.**

This Pilot Program funds First Nations communities to exercise their rights and responsibilities to the land, waters, and ice of their traditional territories. It does this through support for on-the-ground, community-based stewardship initiatives.

We invite you to consult the list of [eligible activities](#) for funding under the Pilot Program to give you a better idea of what a Guardian's initiative can include. You can also consult the Pilot Program [map](#), which provides a brief description of previous funded projects.

## **Eligibility**

### **Who is eligible to apply for this round of funding?**

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

### **As per the Tier 1 definition in the Applicants' Guidelines, the first line states that the applicant does not have any paid (full-time) staff dedicated to a specific Guardians initiative. Does this mean that a community who currently has a lands department is not able to be funded under this program?**

No. It means that the applicant does not have any paid full-time staff dedicated to a specific Guardians initiative.

### **Can a previous Tier 1 applicant and/or recipient reapply for a Tier 1?**

Yes, a previous Tier 1 applicant and/or recipient may reapply for a Tier 1. The applicant needs to submit a response in the additional information section of the proposal detailing how it meets the Tier 1 definition. The applicant must also demonstrate particularly compelling evidence to advance the work forward from the previous year in order to receive funding.

### **Can a previous Tier 2 applicant reapply for a Tier 1?**

Communities who applied as Tier 2, but were not successful, may reapply as a Tier 1 under certain conditions. The community needs to submit a new proposal, detail how it meets the Tier 1 definition and explain why it wants to be considered as a Tier 1 for this round of funding (context, etc.).

The Review Committee will cross-reference the community's previous Tier 2 application to its new Tier 1 proposal, in order to analyze the changes in circumstance. If the elements above are not clarified, the Review Committee may find a proposal ineligible as a Tier 1 application.

For reference, Tier 1 – New initiatives are defined as follow:

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.

### **Can a previous Tier 3 application reapply for a Tier 1?**

An individual community who was part of a Tier 3 Network application in the previous round of funding can apply for Tier 1 as long as it submits a new proposal that clearly demonstrates how it meets the Tier 1 definition (see above Tier 1 Initiative definition).

**Are joint partners eligible to submit and work on a project for this initiative? For example, is it possible to apply with another First Nation under one application?**

Joint partners' application are not eligible for Tier 1 funding. Joint applications are considered a Tier 3 application. A Tier 1 application can be submitted by one community/Nation/organization. As indicated in the Applicant Guidelines, Established and Emerging Regional Network (Tier 3) are considered as a group of communities or groups of First Nations.

Tier 1 applicants are **eligible to partner** with, and support, other groups/communities/Nations to advance the guardians movement in promoting nationhood. The single applicant must identify the other groups/communities/Nations as partners in the Partnerships section of the Proposal Form template.

**Further to the previous question, if joint partners are eligible for an application, would that amount be split between the joint partners of the submission of one project? Or would each partner receive \$60,000?**

Based on the previous question and answer, communities/Nations/organizations should apply separately for an amount of \$60,000 each.

**Can multiple Tier 1 proposals in a given area receive funding?**

Given the nature of the Pilot Program and the JWG's attempts at providing regional representation through the funding of initiatives nationally, the likelihood of two initiatives being funded in the same area is very unlikely.

**Could a proposed new guardian initiative, which is based on and expands an existing monitoring program, be eligible for this round of Tier 1 funding?**

The initiative may be eligible if it meets the Tier 1 criteria including the community not having any paid full-time staff specifically dedicated to their Guardians initiative.

**Can a Nation apply under Tier 1? The language seems community focused but the guidelines refer to Nation as well.**

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

## **Process**

**Is there an Expression of Interest step to the process?**

Applicants interested in applying have to submit a proposal using the templates provided. An Expression of Interest is not necessary in the current process.

**Can you confirm that to apply, the documents to be completed include the proposal, timeline and budget templates provided to us.**

We confirm that documents applicants must complete and submit include the:

1. Tier 1 Proposal (form)
2. Proposal Work Plan
3. Proposal Budget
4. Map of Area for proposed Guardian work
5. Band Councils Resolution (BCR) if applicable, and/or letters of support

**Is there additional information besides the proposal guidelines and templates as well as the information on the Indigenous Guardians Pilot Program webpage?**

All information is in the Proposal form, work plan and budget templates, applicant guidelines, Frequently Asked Questions and the [Pilot webpage](#).

If you have additional questions about the form or instructions, please contact the Secretariat **as early as possible** at [ec.gardiensautochtones-indigenousGuardians.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.gardiensautochtones-indigenousGuardians.ec@canada.ca). Please be aware that any question addressed to the Joint Working Group Secretariat will be answered and shared with all applicants.

When the Secretariat receives an email or a phone call from an interested organization/community/Nation, the organization's name and contact information are included on the Secretariat's distribution list.

**What is the deadline to submit an application?**

The call for proposals for 2021-2022 new Tier 1 First Nations Guardians' Initiatives is open **from Monday, August 31, 2020 to November 30, 2020, 23:59 (Pacific Standard Time)**.

## **Application form**

### ***Applicant Contact Information***

**What is the difference between the Primary contact, Secondary contact, Legal Organization or Nation Name and Funding Recipient's Organization Name?**

The Primary contact is the person best positioned to answer the Review Committee's questions regarding the program. This will be the first person the Committee should contact, if necessary.

The Secondary contact is the alternate person to answer the Review Committee's questions regarding the initiative.

The Legal Organization or Nation Name is the legal name of the organization/community/Nation applying for funding. It cannot be a person, it has to be an organization/community/Nation.

The Funding Recipient's Organization Name is the organization/community/Nation to which the funds will be allocated. It cannot be a person, it has to be an organization/community/Nation.

**Can we change the name of the proposed Guardians initiative afterwards, should the project be funded?**

Yes, the name of the Guardians initiative can be modified afterwards, should the initiative be selected for funding. We recognize that part of your proposed work may be to identify your Guardians initiative in your Indigenous language.

### ***Need***

**What information are you looking for in the need section?**

The Review Committee is looking for details around the issues the community/Nation is facing and how its Guardians initiative plans to address these.

**Are there priority geographic areas or subject matter areas for us to consider?**

There are no program priority geographic or subject matter areas. In this Pilot, priorities are defined by the applicants' areas of concern and interests. In the submission, applicants should be sure to explain why they are of importance, and how Guardians funding can support efforts in these areas.

A detailed explanation of the applicant's priorities will help the Review Committee to assess applications. As it is a Pilot, there is a desire to assess the outcomes in a diversity of geographies, ecosystems and other contexts.

***Capacity***

**At question 7b, are we talking about the capacities to manage a guardian initiative or the experiences justifying the implementation of the initiative?**

This question refers to previous work and/or experience that supports and/or justifies the implementation of the initiative and demonstrates the applicant's abilities to undertake and complete the proposed work.

***Community Support and Engagement***

**Do we need Band Council Resolutions (BCRs) from each of our communities and a Tribal Council Resolution (TCR) or will one or the other be fine?**

It is up to the applicant to determine the level of support considered most appropriate and that best demonstrates community support.

**If we want to submit a BCR, is there a specific template to submit?**

There is no BCR template provided in the Tier 1 call for proposals. Communities can submit the BCR template of their choice. The BCR should demonstrate the leadership's understanding of the value of the Guardians work to your Nation and how it will contribute to the success of your Nation.

**To whom should the letter of support be addressed?**

The letter(s) of support can be addressed to:  
Indigenous Guardians Pilot  
351 Saint-Joseph boulevard, Gatineau  
QC J8Y 3Z5

**Can support documentation be submitted after the application date?**

All documents should be submitted by the application deadline (*please refer to 'Process' on page 5 for more details*).

***Partnerships***

**Can you please confirm whether this project requires a certain amount of in-kind (cash or labour) contribution from project partners? I did not identify any such requirement, nor any partner requirement.**

Although Guardians funding does not require an amount of in-kind contribution from partners, support from projects' partners can strengthen the proposal in terms of sustainability. In the Tier 1 Proposal (form), you can indicate actual financial and in-kind support provided by partners, as well as anticipated financial and in-kind support partners may provide in the future.

## Work plan and Budget templates

### **Are applicants allowed to modify the budget and work plan templates?**

Yes, applicants may alter the document to adapt them to their needs. The documents are included to show the type of information the review committee is seeking.

Please ensure to provide enough details on your tasks/activities within your Guardians initiative in both templates, in line with the examples provided. For more information on the budget template, please refer to the tab labelled 'Glossary' in the Excel document.

### **Is there a requirement to provide a work plan document attached to the application form?**

While the work plan and budget templates are both required, they may be sent as separate files. However, if you wish to create a single PDF document including all the forms and templates, that can be accepted as well.

### **Are the work plan's coloured boxes meant to indicate when the work is to be done?**

Yes, the coloured boxes are an example of how applicants can indicate the period over which the work is done.

## Review Committee

### **What are the qualifications or background of the Joint Working Group Review Committee? Do members have guardian experience or any related qualifications?**

The members of the Joint Working Group (JWG) include eight First Nations representatives, four federal representatives and several agreed upon ex-officio members.

The First Nations members were selected by consensus from both volunteers and nominated participants who attended the National Indigenous Guardians Network Workshop held in Ottawa in May 2018, organized and hosted by the Indigenous Leadership Initiative and supported by the AFN.

First Nations members of the JWG have dozens of years of hands-on experience in managing and coordinating Guardians programs and initiatives and are leaders in this field. Efforts were made to ensure First Nation regional representation from across the country.

The federal members of the JWG are experienced in managing funding programs for Guardians-like activities across the government.

### **Will the scoring and decision making criteria be made public?**

The assessment criteria are available in the Applicants' Guidelines and on the webpage. These criteria are used to review and select First Nations Guardians' initiatives recommended for funding.

The scoring and decision making of each application will not be made public as the information collected in the application process is only used for the purpose of selecting the First Nations Guardians initiatives recommended for funding.

## **Other rounds of funding**

### **When will the next rounds of funding occur?**

As of the completion of this round (2021-2022), all the First Nations' funding envelopes for new initiatives (Tier 1), community-based initiatives (Tier 2) and networks (Tier 3) will be fully allocated within the Pilot. There are no further rounds of funding confirmed at this time.

The Indigenous Guardians Pilot Program was established for a period of four years, with all funding envelopes concluding in March 2022. The goal of the Pilot Program is to build the business case in support of long-term and increased funding for Indigenous Guardians across Canada.