



Background on the A00 Forest Resource Program

Jennifer Card, MNRF



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Introduction

The AOO Forest Resource Program was developed as part of the Algonquin Treaty negotiations with linkages to Forestry Transition Plans. Revenues from wood harvested off proposed Algonquin Settlement Lands is held in trust for Algonquins to access for capacity building and economic development related to forestry. The launch of this program represents an exclusive opportunity for Algonquin members to access funding to support forestry related projects and training.



Program creation

- Interim result of Treaty negotiations
 - Forestry Transition Plans developed to guide harvesting activities on proposed Settlement Lands
 - Revenues from wood harvested held in trust for the AOO for capacity building and economic development related to forestry
- Forestry Futures Trust (FFT) identified as the mechanism to administer funds
- At time of land transfers, any remaining revenues and investment income to be transferred to the AOO
- AOO has played a key role in program design and disbursement plan
 - Forestry Technical Task Team as the lead

Program purpose and principles

- **PURPOSE:** to provide funds for Algonquin communities, members and businesses for capacity building and economic development related to forestry
- **PRINCIPLES:**
 - Providing fair and equitable access to the program for all AOO communities and members
 - Funds are not tracked by parcel source and equally accessible by all communities
 - Projects to occur within the Algonquin Settlement Area (with the exception of training)

Key program elements – eligibility criteria

1. Applicants – must be Algonquin (including AOO communities and economic development corporations, AOO trusts, members)
2. Geographic Boundaries – projects to fall within Algonquin Settlement Area (exception is training)
3. Eligible Activities – forestry-related or complementary ecological activities that have the potential to increase long-term Algonquin capacity in the forestry sector and / or create economic development opportunities
 - Examples: silviculture activities for stand improvement, training, purchase of small equipment
4. Expenditures – all reasonable costs associated with eligible activities (see list of ineligible expenditures in program materials)

Application process

- Applications submitted digitally to the Forestry Futures Trust by the published deadline (Sept 15, 2023)
 - See application form and supporting materials at <http://www.forestryfutures.ca/aoo-forest-resource-program>
- REQUIREMENTS:
 - Applications submitted by individuals / businesses must be supported by the ANR
 - Proposed activities on parcels shared by multiple communities must have support from all communities with shared interest in the parcel
 - Proposed activities on Nation lands must have support from AOO

Timing / funding cycle

- Call for proposals – could be 1 to 2 per year depending on growth of funds in the trust
 - 75% of trust fund balance to be made available
 - Inaugural application deadline is Sept 15, 2023
- Call for proposals may be deferred in any given year – funds remain in the trust accruing interest for future access
- Eligible activities that may require multi-year funding can also be considered (based on funding availability)

Program administration

- Provided by the Forestry Futures Trust in coordination with the AOO
 - Receive and assess applications, process payments in a timely manner and manage project reporting
- Application Assessment:
 - Any questions / issues to be addressed by an Advisory Committee comprised of one rep each from FFT, AOO and MNRF
- Payment Process:
 - Reporting forms and receipts submitted to FFT for processing
 - Funds for approved activities dispersed directly to successful applicants
 - Payments may be lump-sum or instalments
 - A hold back may be applied, payable when project reporting complete

Summary

The AOO Forest Resource Program represents an exciting, new opportunity for AOO members or organizations to access funding to support forestry projects and training. The Forestry Technical Task Team worked hard to develop a program that is easily accessible and provides opportunities for Algonquins to be more directly involved in the forestry sector. Please spread the news with AOO members and encourage uptake in this new program.





Thank you

Jennifer Card