

ANNUAL REPORT
2020/21

NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST
Empowering First Nations in British Columbia



NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST

Empowering First Nations in B C

The New Relationship Trust (NRT) is an independent non-profit corporation dedicated to strengthening First Nations in BC through capacity building.

EMPOWERING FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES

IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

2020/21

ANNUAL REPORT



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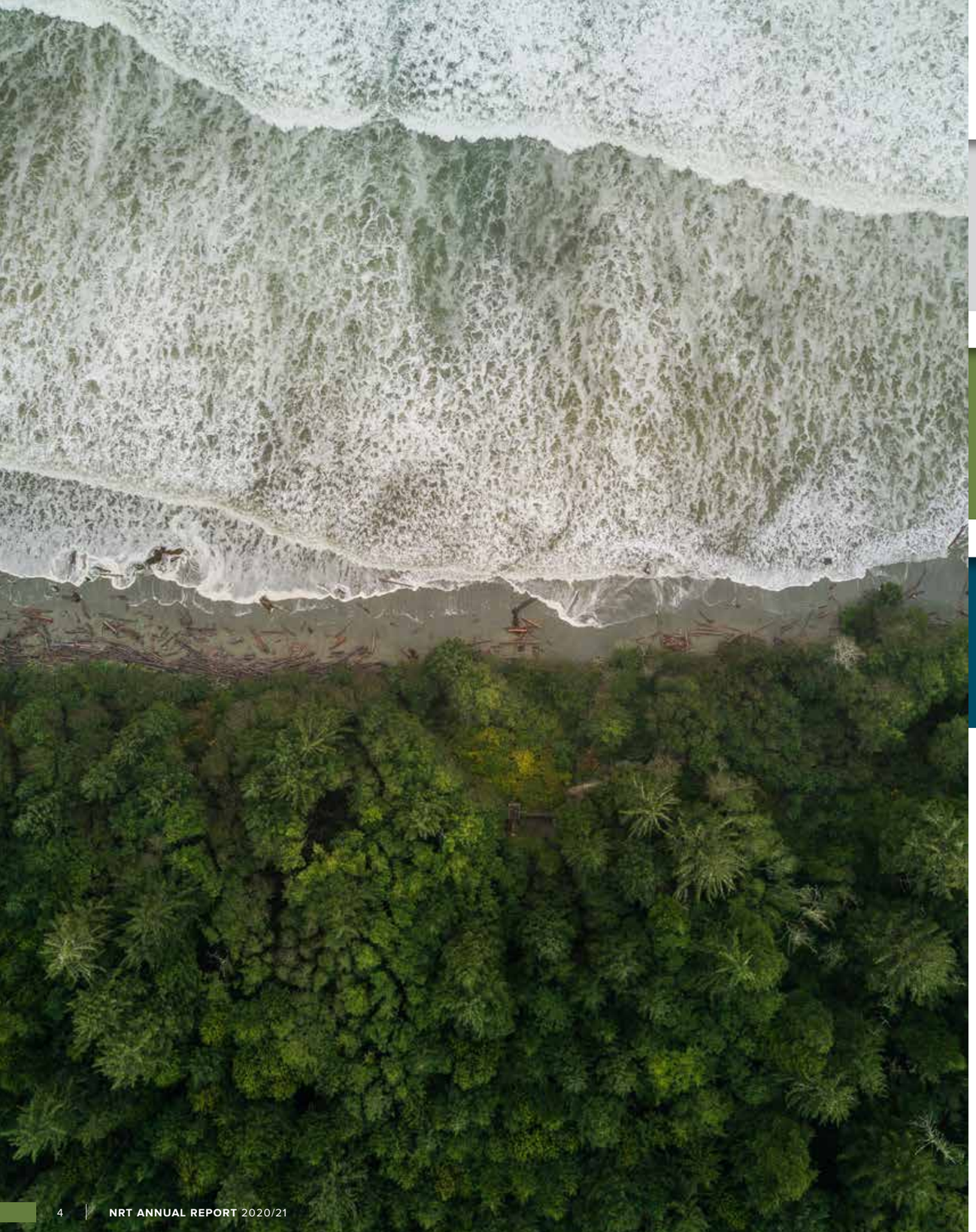
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NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST
Empowering First Nations in British Columbia

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OUR MISSION

Self-determined, self-sustaining, First Nations with effective governments and healthy empowered citizens.

NRT invests in the capacity development and transformation of First Nations governments and their citizens.

OUR VISION

Our vision is a British Columbia where First Nations enjoy a high quality of life that includes vibrant cultures and languages, effective and independent governments, social justice, and economic prosperity, and where all forms of education are valued and accessible.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We believe in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration that respects and advances First Nations' decision-making, traditional teachings and laws.

TO ACHIEVE OUR VISION AND MISSION, THE FOLLOWING GUIDING PRINCIPLES WILL INFORM OUR SHARED WORK:

- Supporting First Nations in their capacity development efforts as they pursue individual and communal self-sufficiency
- Engaging in effective communications and engagement with those that we serve to strengthen and inform our activities
- Ensuring fair and equitable access to our services through the creation of transparent criteria that focus on initiatives that lead to measurable change at the individual, community and Nation levels
- Increasing the investment fund through responsible management, leveraging of our assets and pursuit of additional resources while not duplicating or replacing existing government or First Nations programs

Foreword

On behalf of the board and staff at the New Relationship Trust, we present the annual report for the 2020-2021 fiscal year—a year of challenges, opportunities and growth for our organization and the First Nations we empower.

In response to the challenges felt throughout First Nations communities in BC this past year, we remained steadfast in removing barriers to improve access to funding and programs. We not only increased the annual grant amounts available to First Nations communities, but streamlined our program structure to offer simplified, flexible application processes

By inviting First Nations to identify the areas in which they need support, our organization can better empower First Nations according to their own unique needs and goals.

This renewed focus has highlighted opportunities to more deeply support First Nations in reclaiming and rebuilding self-determination and Nationhood. Toward that end we have amalgamated our governance capacity initiatives to launch a new Nation Building grant funding program, one that supports activities defined by First Nation applicants within their own context.

Our work to regenerate First Nation economic development and resiliency has also paid dividends, with 59 jobs created and 125 jobs maintained through a difficult pandemic, thanks to our Equity Matching Initiative to support Indigenous entrepreneurs and community businesses. Through the YES Entrepreneur Grant Challenge, we provided starting capital to alumni of our Young Entrepreneurs Symposium to launch or expand 20 innovative business start-ups that embody Indigenous values, culture, and sustainability.

Nearly $1.2 million in funding was directed to Education, Elders, Youth and Language initiatives for an impact that truly spans generations. The New Relationship Trust Foundation awarded scholarship and bursaries to 321 post-secondary students, marking a cumulative total of 3108 students awarded $14.3 million since our inception. These students will join the workforce as champions for our Nations and the hope for our collective future.

These initiatives are strengthened by our efforts to develop strategic partnerships with the public and private sector to enhance funding for First Nations. By capitalizing on federal and provincial funding, we have been able to support 31 Indigenous clean energy projects in BC in the past fiscal year.

After 15 years, we can safely say our work has only just begun. Since the NRT was launched as a $100 million fund, we are pleased to report our investment fund has earned $78.6 million. Through these earnings and other contributions, the fund has nearly regained its full value (reaching $98.4 million in value as of March 31, 2021) while also disbursing $93 million to First Nations in BC.

This is tangible evidence that our transition from a sunsetted fund to a perpetual fund is well under way, so that we may support First Nations in becoming healthy, prosperous and self-sufficient well into the future.

With our eyes firmly on this extended horizon, we have invested into our growth and impact as an organization, helping to ensure the NRT is a sustainable and responsive organization in serving First Nations and our strategic goals. We have welcomed new team members to support our partners and funding recipients, and will be unveiling a new look and website in the coming year. We continue to develop and enhance our information technology systems to accommodate the evolving, contemporary needs and priorities of First Nations in BC.

We look forward to our shared future and together realizing our vision of self-determined, self-sustaining First Nations with effective governments and healthy, empowered citizens.

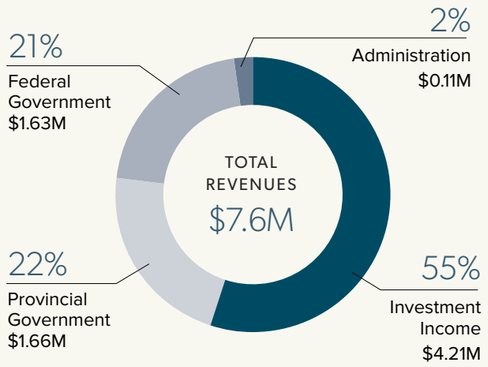


2020/21
FISCAL YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS

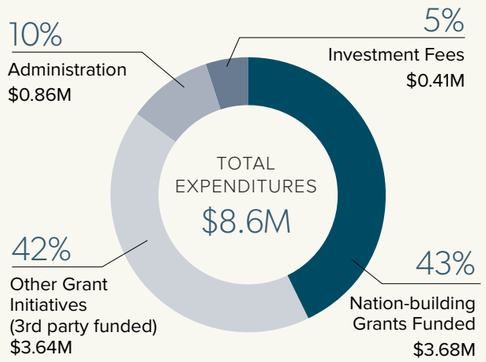


NET **ACTIVITY**

$103M | Revenues Since Inception



$112M | Expenditures Since Inception



$104.5M | **NET ASSET VALUE**

PROGRAM **DELIVERY**

$3.6M | Nation-Building Grants Disbursed

$3.1M | Clean Energy Grants Disbursed

$1.8M | Administration Costs

$6.2M | Financial Leverage Created Through Equity Matching Grants

23.7% | Administration Costs as % of Revenue

242 | Total Grant Initiatives Supported

14 | Total Clean Energy Projects Supported

321 | **POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS SUPPORTED**

138	133	35	15
Bursaries	Undergrads	Masters	Doctorates









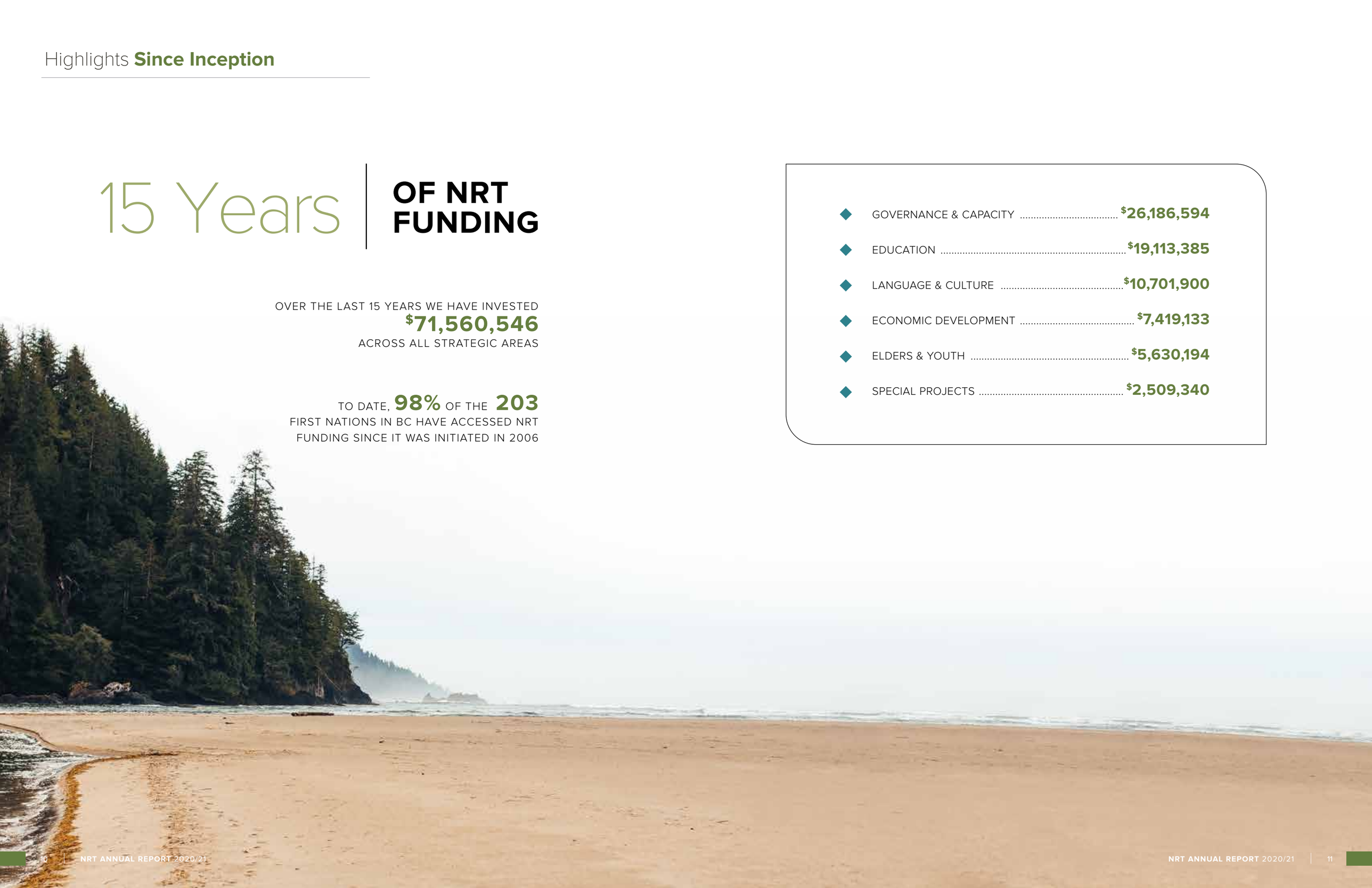


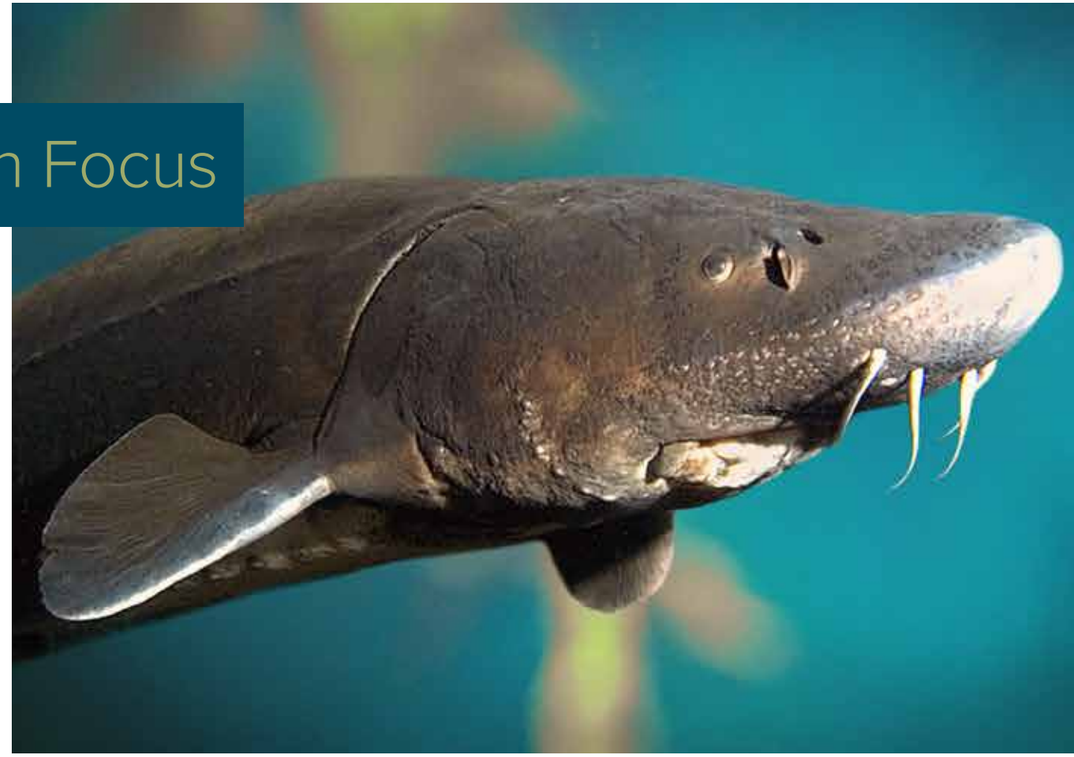
15 Years | OF NRT FUNDING

OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS WE HAVE INVESTED
$71,560,546
ACROSS ALL STRATEGIC AREAS

TO DATE, **98%** OF THE **203**
FIRST NATIONS IN BC HAVE ACCESSED NRT
FUNDING SINCE IT WAS INITIATED IN 2006

- GOVERNANCE & CAPACITY **$26,186,594**
- EDUCATION **$19,113,385**
- LANGUAGE & CULTURE **$10,701,900**
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT **$7,419,133**
- ELDERS & YOUTH **$5,630,194**
- SPECIAL PROJECTS **$2,509,340**





> Our Nation's relationships to our territory make us who we are; The River People. These relationships define us a Nation and highlight our protection and stewardship responsibilities that are grounded in our inherent and self-government rights.

ʔ***ELHDAQOX DECHEN TS'EDILHTAN*** (Sturgeon River Law)



ʔEsdilagh First Nation Sturgeon River Law

In May 2020, the ʔEsdilagh First Nation enacted a pivotal law to safeguard the waters of the Fraser River (Sturgeon River/ʔElhdaqox), known as the *ʔElhdaqox Dechen Ts'edilhtan, or Sturgeon River Law.*

The Fraser River bisects the ʔEsdilagh First Nation, which relies on the river's waters and aquatic species for its culture, livelihood and governance. Dwindling stocks of native white sturgeon and sockeye salmon—both important traditional food sources—have been severely impacted by mining effluent and other pollutants, diversion of streams upriver, and natural disasters such as wildfires and landslides.

Thanks to funding from the New Relationship Trust and support from the Tŝilhqot'in National Government, the Sturgeon River law transcribes the Tŝilhqot'in *dechen ts'edilhtan* (literal translation "laying down the stick"), long-held laws passed down through oral teachings regarding the care of this vital waterway.

The law's development allowed the ʔEsdilagh First Nation community to determine cumulative impacts, engage community members in the management and stewardship of the waterways, and map out compliance processes and enforcement objectives. The *Sturgeon River Law* is an important first step in protecting the region's watershed and the life that depends on it, and will form part of a larger project to establish water laws across the ʔEsdilagh First Nation's territory.







Scw’exmx Tribal Council Fire Knowledge & Cultural Burning Research

Incorporating traditional knowledge and use has become more vital than ever in restoring fuel mitigation practices to tackle the growing threat from wildfires in BC.

Thanks to NRT funding, the Scw’exmx Tribal Council drew from their extensive archives to incorporate Syilx and Nlaka’pamux Traditional Ecological Fire Knowledge (TEFK) and cultural burning into the Merritt Timber Supply Area’s fuel management planning process.

The project raises awareness of the importance of cultural protocols for prescribed burns for traditional plant management, for recycling nutrients back into the soil and caring for the land.

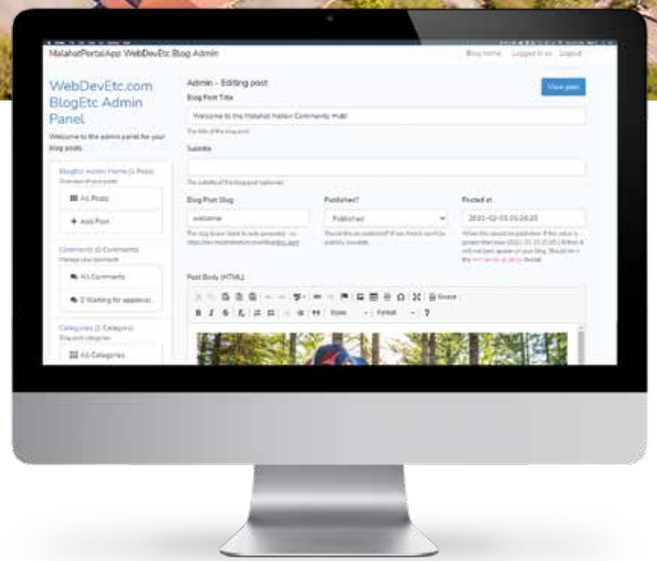


For the last 40 years, Scw’exmx communities have supported Fire Keepers and their practices of cultural burning even as some adapted their practices to work as fire fighters with BC Wildfire Services. This project addresses the desire of many communities to see the return of regular spring and fall burns, ensuring that cultural burning is done safely and respectfully, protecting communities from extreme fuel loading to reduce intense wildfire risks, enhancing ecosystem health and addressing food security needs.

The cultural burning knowledge gathered through this project and its application in the Nicola Valley will be incorporated into the Fire Ecology class in the Environmental Natural Resource Technician program at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology.



Malahat









Malahat Nation Web Portal

The Malahat Nation secured funding from NRT to develop a modern, web-based member portal to facilitate communications and exchanges of information in an easy-to-use app that community members can access on their phones.

The new app will allow members to log in securely, keep their personal information up to date, fill out forms, manage housing needs and sign up for calendar notifications, while providing administration staff with a reliable and secure way to communicate with membership through one-on-one and group messaging.

> “We are well on track to creating something that our community will benefit greatly from.”

Once completed, the project will augment staff efficiency by simplifying information tracking and effective communication with the community, and protect the health of community members by providing them with convenient mobile access in lieu of public computer terminals or in-person visits.

By hosting the app’s data on the Malahat Nation’s reserve lands, the new portal promises data security and independence, as well as the ability to update and expand the project to meet the community’s evolving needs over time.

Strategic Initiatives: **Education**

"Encouraging access to education"

Education is a key to strength for First Nations. Assisting First Nations individuals to pursue and complete their education and training goals is a high priority for NRT, achieved through the following components:

- Supporting the NRT Foundation to attract private and public contributions
- Providing scholarships and bursaries for First Nations post-secondary students
- Supporting First Nations communities for K-12 initiatives



SUPPORTING K-12 INITIATIVES

The New Relationship Trust provides grants up to $8,000 to support Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) education initiatives at the First Nations community level. In 2020-2021, NRT invested $253,600 for K-12 educational projects relating to English and Literacy, Math and Science.

NRT SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES

In 2020-2021, NRT invested $705,600 towards scholarships and bursaries to assist First Nations students in achieving post-secondary education and training goals. This initiative awards funding based on qualification criteria and the student's proposed contribution back to First Nations communities.

PARTNERSHIPS

NRT supports the NRT Foundation to create funding partnerships with First Nations, corporations, organizations, and public and private scholarship organizations to increase the capacity of BC First Nations through investments in education. These partnerships enable the NRT Foundation to award more scholarships and bursaries each year in specific fields of study.





Strategic Initiatives: **Language, Elders & Youth**

“Protecting & revitalizing First Nations languages”

First Nations in BC speak 34 languages and more than 60 dialects, such that fully 60% of the First Nations languages in Canada are spoken in BC. However, virtually all of these languages are in danger, jeopardizing a vital link to past culture and history.

In 2018-2019, the BC Government announced a $50 million grant to the First Peoples Cultural Council to help revitalize Indigenous languages in BC. In consideration of NRT’s policy to not duplicate government funding, language funding is now directed to assist First Nations youth groups in British Columbia to implement language revitalization initiatives involving Elders and community members.

Grants up to $4,000 are available for First Nations Youth groups and organizations, as well as BC First Nations communities representing Youth, with a total of $60,500 invested in 2020-2021.











Strategic Initiatives: **Language, Elders & Youth**

> *"Supporting initiatives that engage youth and Elders"*

In 2020-2021, NRT invested **$179,800** in First Nations Elders and Youth Grants.

ELDERS GRANTS

The NRT BC First Nation Elders Grant Initiative provides grants up to $2500 for groups, communities and organizations representing First Nation Elders in BC to develop and deliver community programs that benefit and build capacity for Elders, including storytelling, culture camps and participation in events and gatherings.

YOUTH GRANTS

The NRT BC Youth Grant Initiative provides grants up to $2500 for capacity-building projects in areas such as leadership, mentorship, team building, language and traditional cultural activities. NRT also provides funds to the BC Association of Friendship Centres to support the annual Gathering Our Voices Aboriginal Youth Conference.

TARGET	2020-2021	STATUS
At least 20 Youth, Elder and language projects are funded each year.	88 Youth, Elder and language projects funded: • 38 Elders Projects • 36 Youth projects • 14 Youth Language projects	Achieved





"Fostering and advancing economic development opportunities"

ENTREPRENEURS EQUITY MATCHING INITIATIVE AND COMMUNITY EQUITY MATCHING INITIATIVE

NRT invested $482,000 in 2020-2021 for equity-matching initiatives that assist emerging First Nations entrepreneurs and community businesses.

NRT partners with Aboriginal financial institutions (AFIs) in BC to provide match funding of up to $5000 for First Nations entrepreneurs and $25,000 for First Nations businesses. Funds are administered by the partner AFIs.

- All Nations Trust Company (ANTCO)
- Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation (NEDC)
- Tale'awtxw Aboriginal Capital Corporation (TACC)
- Tribal Resource Investment Corporation (TRICORP)
- Community Futures Development Corporation of Central Interior First Nations (CFDCIFN)
- Stó:lō Community Futures Development Corporation
- Native Fishing Association

BC INDIGENOUS CLEAN ENERGY INITIATIVE

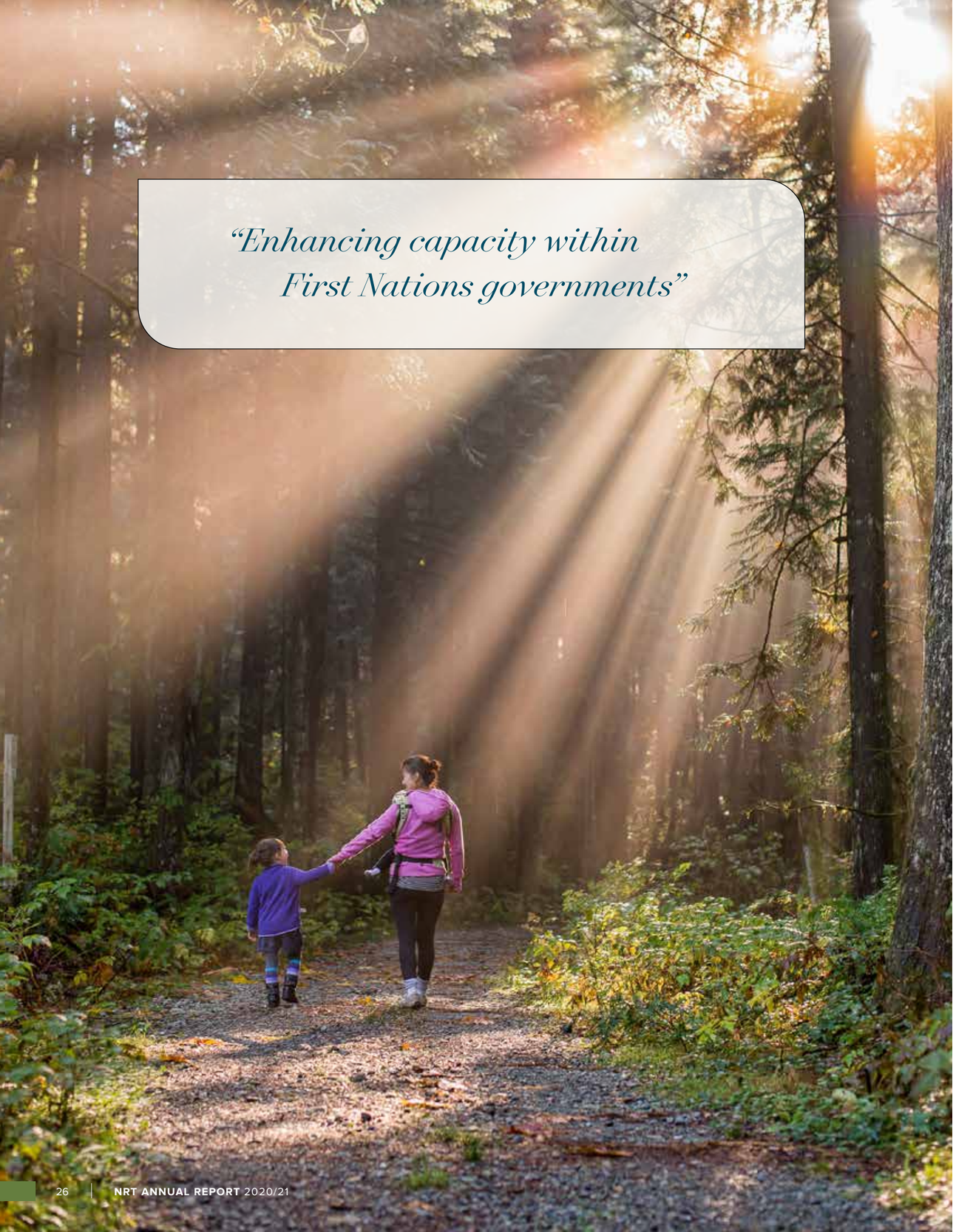
The New Relationship Trust administered nearly $3.1 million on behalf of the Government of Canada's Western Economic Diversification Canada and the Province of BC to deliver the BC Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative (BCICEI) in 2020-2021.

Funded through the federal government's Strategic Partnerships Initiative (SPI) and the BC provincial government's CleanBC plan, BCICEI provides up to $500,000 in support and capacity-building funds to Indigenous communities developing clean energy projects, helping to bridge the gap in early stage funding and assisting some remote communities in reducing their dependency on conventional diesel power generation.

BC FIRST NATIONS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

NRT participates in the BC First Nations Economic Development Working Group, a provincial working group tasked with overseeing the Action Plan for the BC First Nation Economic Development Strategy.

TARGET	2020-2021	STATUS
At least five annual funding opportunities are established and delivered to Aboriginal Financial Institutions in BC to support viable community-based business projects.	Three annual funding opportunities established and delivered.	Partially achieved
New and innovative criteria and funding streams are established and implemented, accessible to Indigenous entrepreneurs through the network of the Aboriginal Financial Institutions in BC.	New criteria and funding streams established and implemented.	Achieved



Strategic Initiatives: **Governance**

Building governance capacity helps First Nations and their communities move successfully toward self-determination. NRT encourages initiatives that foster cooperation between First Nation communities in BC and facilitates the sharing of information and outcomes.

In 2020-2021, First Nations governance capacity was funded through three initiatives: Nation Governance, Direct Support and Tribal Council Policy. These were subsequently amalgamated into a new **Nation Building initiative**, which supports Nation-building activities according to First Nations’ self-determined priorities.

NATION GOVERNANCE

In 2020-2021, NRT invested $504,900 to support First Nations in completing Nation-building and self-determination projects to research, explore, and assert First Nations rights and title. Projects funded through this initiative help improve governance systems and structures in the present-day context so that First Nations may advance their authority and jurisdiction over their lands, waters, resources, citizens, and services.

DIRECT SUPPORT

NRT invested $1,272,636 in Direct Support to BC First Nations for capacity building initiatives in 2020-2021. Funds supported diverse initiatives such as land use planning, GIS mapping, governance terms of reference, economic development strategies, financial policies, impact/benefit analyses and community engagement initiatives.

TRIBAL COUNCIL POLICY

NRT invested $102,082 in 2020-2021 to the Tribal Council Policy Initiative for policy development projects in one of NRT’s five areas of strategic priority: Economic Development, Education, Elders and Youth, Governance and Language.

TARGET	2020-2021	STATUS
At least 20 First Nation projects linked to Nationhood initiatives are funded each year.	49 First Nation projects linked to Nationhood initiatives funded: • 37 Direct Support projects • 12 Nation Governance projects	Achieved
New Nationhood funding guidelines and funding platform are implemented.	Nationhood funding guidelines and funding platform implemented.	Achieved
At least one strategic funding partnership is established annually for the delivery of programming linked to self-determination and Nationhood initiatives.	Strategic partnership initiated.	In progress

New Relationship
Trust Foundation

MISSION

To assist Indigenous Peoples in BC separately and collectively to meet their education goals, and to support the educational component of Indigenous language revitalization.

> “I am really confident in my career choice and cannot wait to find true purpose within my profession. I aspire to be known as a well rounded, dependable, and knowledgeable nurse with leadership qualities. I want to eventually be proud of myself for dedicating my career to medicine and helping others. I am extremely grateful for the support I have received from the NRTF.”

– MEGAN MCCALLUM
Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient

ABOUT
the New Relationship Trust Foundation

The NRT Foundation is a charitable non-profit society created in 2011 by the NRT to advance the education goals of Indigenous students in BC and attract additional funding partners for NRT’s education initiatives through its charitable status. In 2012, the Foundation assumed oversight of NRT’s education initiatives, focusing on fundraising and distributing scholarships and bursaries.

The NRT Foundation leverages donations with the goal of building an endowment fund of $30 million to offer scholarships and bursaries in perpetuity. The NRT Foundation hopes to achieve this goal over the next ten years.

TO DATE

To date, the Foundation has leveraged more than **$5.6 million** in support from new partners, and **3108 scholarships and bursaries** worth **$14.3 million** have been distributed.

NRT FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

The NRT Foundation 10th Annual Charity Golf Tournament was postponed due to the ongoing health crisis.







The Young Entrepreneurs Symposium

> Cultural representation matters, but good cultural representation matters more.
>
> – **PATRICK SHANNON,** (former YES delegate)
> **AND JOLEEN MITTON,** Supernaturals Modelling

The annual Young Entrepreneurs Symposium (YES) brings together young Indigenous youth with First Nation, Canadian and international business leaders and role models to build the skills, knowledge and networks they need to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Participants tackle three days of activities that provide an optimum mix of mentoring, competition and fun. Cash prizes are awarded to the top three teams at the gala.

Since the event's inception, more than 1,000 young Indigenous entrepreneurs have given confidence to their dreams while grounding themselves in the business fundamentals of planning, sales and marketing.

Due to the ongoing public health emergency, YES 2021 has been deferred to 2022.

YES ENTREPRENEUR CHALLENGE

Following the deferral of YES 2020, NRT launched the Young Entrepreneur Business challenge, inviting past YES delegates to submit their business plans for the chance to receive a $5000 grant as starting capital to launch or expand their businesses.

A total of 20 young Indigenous entrepreneurs were awarded grants for businesses models that featured innovative ways to promote Indigenous values, cultures, and economies. The business proposals exemplified the ingenuity and diversity of Indigenous entrepreneurship, ranging from a high-end Indigenous modelling agency to a subscription gift box service showcasing authentic Indigenous products.



Partnerships

NRT establishes and maintains partnerships with First Nations, public and private organizations that share common goals and values in order to leverage funds and minimize administrative costs.

NRT'S CURRENT PARTNERS ARE:

- Western Economic Diversification Canada
- Province of BC
- All Nations Trust Company (ANTCO)
- Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation (NEDC)
- Tale'awtxw Aboriginal Capital Corporation (TACC)
- Tribal Resource Investment Corporation (TRICORP)
- Community Futures Development Corporation of Central Interior First Nations (CFDCIFN)
- Stó:lō Community Futures Development Corporation
- Native Fishing Association

TARGET	2020-2021	STATUS
At least one strategic funding partnership is established annually for the delivery of programming linked to self-determination and Nationhood initiatives.	Strategic funding partnership initiated.	In progress
At least one strategic partnership that promotes an innovative approach for moving economic reconciliation forward within First Nation communities in BC is supported.	Strategic funding partnership initiated.	In progress
Collaborate with at least 30 First Nations and strategic partners each year on challenges, needs, priorities, and ideas to develop new ways of supporting First Nations in BC.	At least 30 collaborations undertaken across NRT initiatives.	Achieved



THE NRT TEAM
2020/21

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Hugh Braker
  CHAIR
- Wade Grant
- Liz Logan
- Byron Louis
- Mike Mearns
- Miles Richardson
- Angela Wesley

NRT STAFF

- Walter Schneider
  CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
- Marie Alaimo
  DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
- Kim Brazil
  DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES, CPA, CGA
- Cole Sayers
  DIRECTOR OF BC INDIGENOUS CLEAN ENERGY INITIATIVE (BCICEI)
- Selina Beltran
  BC INDIGENOUS CLEAN ENERGY INITIATIVE (BCICEI) PROGRAM SPECIALIST ASSOCIATE
- Matt Cook-Contois
  NRTF PARTNERSHIPS AND MARKETING MANAGER & NRT PROGRAM SPECIALIST SENIOR ASSOCIATE
- Lana Plante
  PROGRAM SPECIALIST ASSOCIATE
- Sarah Powell
  PROGRAMS DELIVERY AND SUPPORT ASSOCIATE
- Jeffrey Hernandez
  CORPORATE SERVICES SUPPORT

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Vancouver, BC V6E 3X1

INVESTMENT COUNCIL

Mercer
550 Burrard Street, Suite 900
Vancouver, BC V6C 3S8

NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST
Empowering First Nations in British Columbia

“We are once again defining ourselves by our own standards…measuring success by our own criteria.”

— **DR JOSEPH GOSNELL**, A First Nation, Again, 2003

NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST

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