

Annual Impact Report
2023-2024

NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST
Empowering First Nations in British Columbia



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NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST
Empowering First Nations in British Columbia

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Who We Are

NRT is a capacity building catalyst for First Nations in BC. We are committed to providing tools and funding opportunities to our clients that advance their nation-building initiatives and establish resilient, healthy, and vibrant communities.

NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST
Empowering First Nations in British Columbia

Our Business Model

NRT operates as a self-sustaining not-for profit organization. We manage a $100M fund in perpetuity such that the NRT operations and delivery of programs are funded by the Investment Income earned by the Fund and by third-party funds from private donors, corporate partnerships, and the Federal and Provincial governments to deliver impactful funding programs to First Nations.

Mission

To be a partner and catalyst in supporting capacity development transformation across First Nations in British Columbia.

Vision

Empowered, healthy, resilient, and thriving First Nations communities for all generations.

Values

ACCOUNTABILITY

We continuously work on behalf of First Nations, demonstrating accountability and transparency through meaningful engagement, ongoing evaluation, and reporting.

INTEGRITY

We build and sustain trust through fairness, honesty, and professionalism that reflects the best interests of First Nations.

HUMILITY

We observe, listen, and have empathy in collaborating with all our partners to find new and better ways to serve First Nations.

RECIPROCITY

We seek opportunities to share, learn and draw upon the unique cultures, customs, and wisdom of First Nations in delivering relevant, responsive, and innovative programs.

RESPECT

We make decisions that respect the unique circumstances, goals, and aspirations of each First Nation.

Foreword

On behalf of the board and staff of the New Relationship Trust (NRT), we are proud to present the 2023-2024 Annual Impact Report, highlighting our most significant year of growth and support for First Nations across B.C. in our 18-year history.

Through the development of strategic partnerships and the launch of four new initiatives, NRT has now reached a watershed moment, growing into a half-billion-dollar organization with $544 million in assets. This has allowed us to deliver more than $66 million in grants last year to Indigenous communities, organizations and entrepreneurs, driving progress in a wide field of priority areas, including education, governance, economic development, food security and clean energy.

This monumental leap was made possible through the relationships we built with funding partners and the communities we support, and the trust placed in our organization to serve as a conduit for transformative change.

Our board of directors is proud we have been able to engage and bring in more funding for First Nations, particularly funding for UNDRIP Action Plan, in partnership with the Province of B.C. The Declaration Act Engagement Fund allows communities to decide how their knowledge is going to be embedded into governance structures, program development and policies, how they're going to be in relationship and reconciliation with non-Indigenous partners.

Already 95% of First Nations in BC have taken steps to begin this important work, ensuring they have equal voice moving forward so that their rights and who they are as Indigenous people are respected.

Another significant initiative launched in 2023 in partnership with the Province was the Indigenous Food Security and Sovereignty grant, to strengthen Indigenous food systems and innovation. The positive response to this initiative was incredible, with 72 projects receiving funding in 2023 alone.

Our drive to innovate in the ways we can extend our range of support for First Nations in B.C. continues to inform our strategic accomplishments. Much of this work is shaped by the wisdom collected in the 2023 Community Engagement Report, in which First Nation communities and organizations shared valuable feedback on how NRT can expand its funding and services, as well as the critical steps First Nations are taking towards Nation building and self-governance.

We heard our communities are focusing on enshrining Indigenous legal orders, developing constitutions, and securing lands for future generations. Education, particularly for youth, is vital to equipping the next generation to carry forward the legacy of self-governance. Environmental stewardship, climate action, and meaningful engagement with stakeholders remain at the forefront of these efforts.

We are excited to be at the nexus of this collective effort, launching even more new partnership initiatives in the 2024-2025 year, and continuing to expand, refine and improve our existing funding and processes. This work would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff. We have welcomed new team members to support our growth, and continue to prioritize their growth and wellbeing, both in and out of the workplace, as part of our vision of success as an organization.

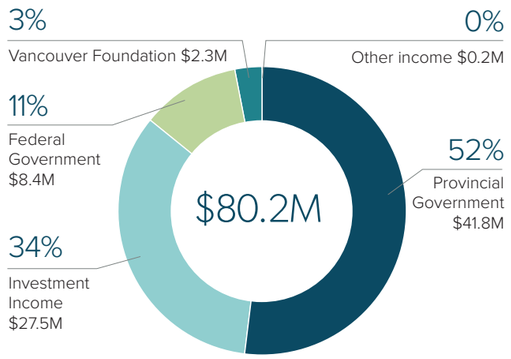
We invite you to join us in celebrating the successes of the past year and to redoubling our efforts for the future. We can accomplish so much when we work together. ■

2023/24

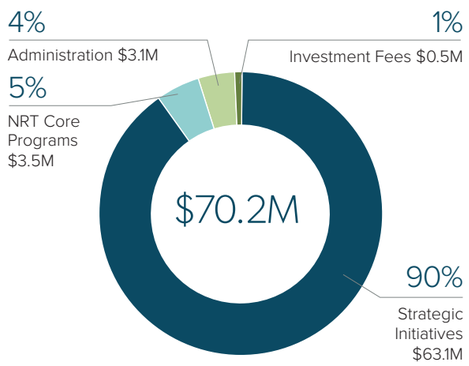
Fiscal Year in Highlights

Net **Activity**

REVENUES



EXPENDITURES



Fiscal & Program **Highlights**

$544M	NRT assets	4	New strategic initiatives launched	35	Nation Building Grants funded
$67M	Funding Grants to First Nations	20	Clean energy projects funded	72	Food Security Grants funded
12.67%	Return on investments	219	Scholarships & bursaries awarded	162	Declaration Act Engagement Fund Grants funded

18 YEARS

# of NRT Funding

Highlights **Since Inception**

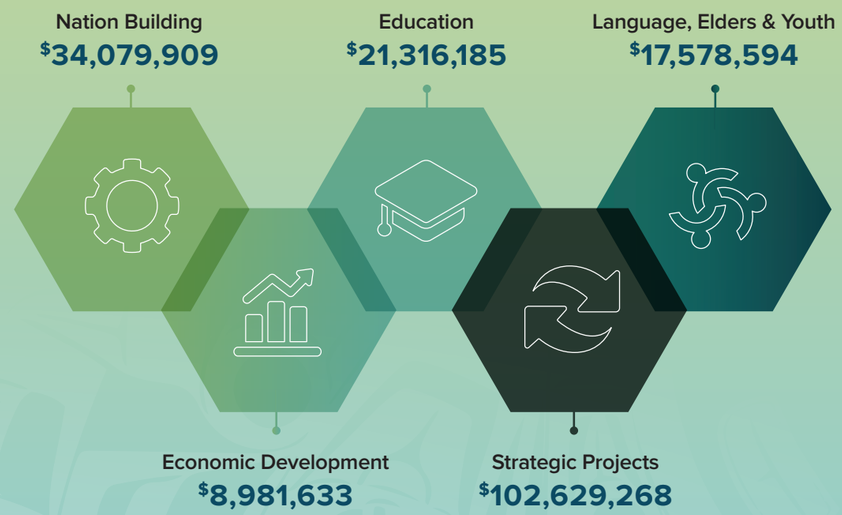
Over the last 18 years we have invested

$82M towards NRT core programs

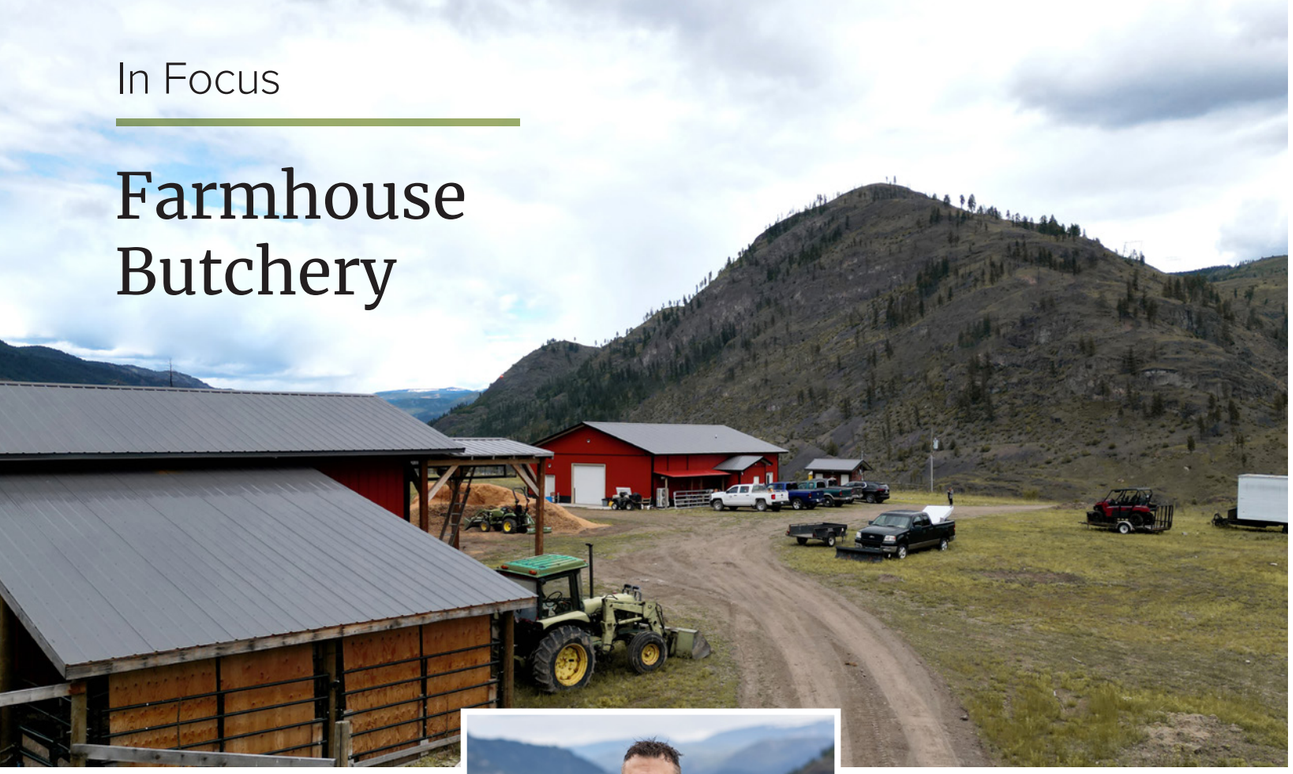
and **$185M** in total grant funding

across **8,442** projects, maintaining a **7.63%**

annual return on our investment portfolio.



Farmhouse Butchery





Dean Maynard

The Farmhouse Butchery in Westbank, BC, is one of 22 inaugural recipients of the new Indigenous Food Security and Sovereignty (IFS) program, a $30 million program established by Government of B.C. in 2023 to address existing gaps in supporting Indigenous agriculture and food projects.

The Farmhouse Butchery was born when Dean Maynard, one of the business partners and a member of the Métis Nation of BC, noted that while the region had plenty of farms and ranches, there was no local butcher or abattoir available. This meant animals were often sent hours away to be rendered or auctioned off, increasing the cost and footprint of the resulting food products and making raising cattle a little less viable for local ranches.

Maynard realized the Farmhouse Butchery farm could meet an urgent need community need as well as allow him to connect to the traditions of his own youth.

“I wanted to go back to a slower pace and I wanted less stress, and we have a lot of farmers that really need this service,” he says.

The Butchery’s community outreach includes school tours, to help young people understand where their food comes from, something Maynard speaks passionately about.

“It’s pretty interesting to see the kids react, and they learn. It’s hands-on. Sovereignty is knowing where your food comes from,“ he says.

In applying for the IFS funding, MGD’s objectives were three-fold: to build a new, safer road to the facility; to upgrade their sanitation system, and to upgrade some of the equipment in the shop. Maynard says the funding has proved a “game-changer”, greatly improving the business’ environmental and commercial sustainability.

With the Butchery’s upgrades, Maynard says he can now focus more firmly on continuing to grow the business and meet the community’s needs.

“I had a vision,” he says. “This is a future for me. The debt we put in is helping a lot of people; it’s working for the community.” ■

Fort Nelson First Nation

Rebuilding Nationhood Initiative

The Rebuilding Nationhood Initiative is strengthening Indigenous rights within the Fort Nelson First Nation, blending traditional Indigenous wisdom with modern legislative discussions on the Nation’s membership codes.

The Cree/Dene community is part of a First Nation-led pilot program supported by the Federal Government and NRT that provides mentorship and guidance to BC First Nation communities to enhance their governance policies and system.

Casey Caines, a member of the Fort Nelson First Nation and a student at law, is working for the Nation, the federal government and Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge to update the Nation’s membership codes while honoring their rich ancestral stories and traditions, led by 13 representatives from the original families from when the band was first amalgamated.

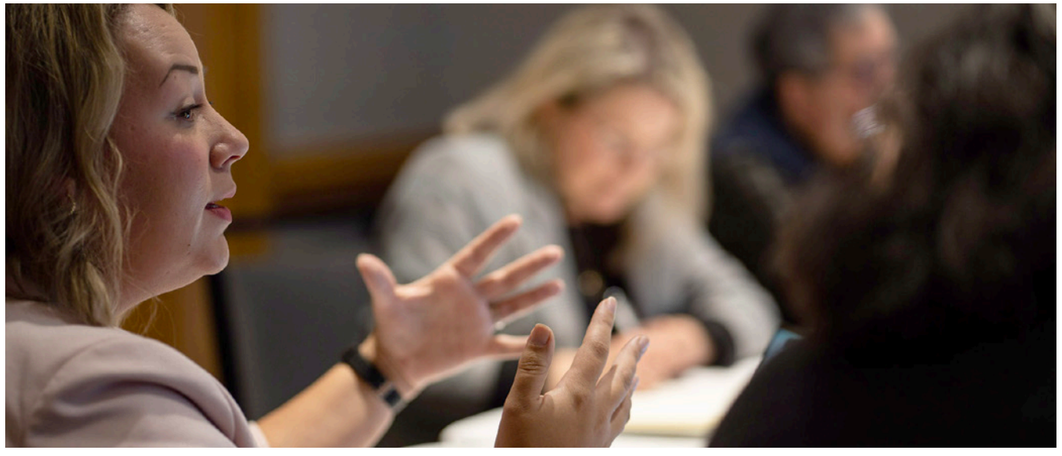
“They are in charge of making sure we’re on the right path in integrating our Indigenous legal ways of knowing and legal orders into all that we do in governance moving forward,” explains Caines.

The project was initiated in response to federal legislative reforms relating to First Nation status registration and band membership issues now under discussion. Caines explains that they are looking to the foundations of their culture to elucidate long-held ancestral principles on membership and inclusion, and the sharing of land and resources.

“We’re starting from the beginning and saying ‘what are the Cree and Dene ways of knowing that will move us forward into modernization of our membership code?’, and revisiting that in a completely different framework,” explains Caines. “We’re setting foundational blocks that were built hundreds of years ago on the traditional knowledge of our ancestors and their ways of knowing.”

Caines has partnered with the Nation’s Lands department to ensure the work “not only uplifts our community through membership and how we take care of one another, but also will guide how we take care of and honour stewardship for all the other living beings we are connected to.”

“The next steps are really taking the time to embed ourselves within the community,” says Caines, “ensuring everything we do is community rooted, community led, community comprehended.” ■



Casey Caines

Core Programs

Nation Building

$2,101,487 INVESTED IN 2023-2024

The NRT provides funding opportunities for First Nations, Indigenous organizations under the authority of a First Nation, and Tribal Councils in BC, to support Nation-building activities according to their self-determined priorities. Eligible projects can receive up to $120,000 to strengthen institutional, governance, and community capacity in reclaiming and rebuilding resiliency, self-determination and sovereignty within each Nation's own context.



Equity Matching

$510,000 INVESTED IN 2023-2024

The NRT has partnered with the network of BC Aboriginal Financial Institutions (AFIs) to offer an equity matching initiative to assist BC Indigenous entrepreneurs and First Nation Businesses with equity-matching funds to support, modernize or expand a business in BC.

NRT provides equity match funding of up to $5000 for First Nations entrepreneurs and $25,000 for First Nations businesses to reduce the cash burden for entrepreneurs in meeting their equity requirements of a business loan. Funds are administered by the partner AFIs.

Our Partners:

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





Elder Grants

The Elder Grant program provides up to $8000 in funding opportunities to elder groups in First Nation communities in British Columbia to improve access and the quality of elder experiences and activities for maintaining inclusion, belonging, cultural, emotional, mobility, health, and physical well-being.

Youth Grants

The Youth Grant program provides up to $8000 in funding opportunities to support inclusiveness, belonging, physical and mental well-being, cultural, traditional, creative, and entrepreneurial activities geared toward giving First Nation youth the tools, experiences, confidence, motivation, and teachings to be secure in their First Nation identity.

Language Grants

The Language Grant program provides up to $8000 in funding opportunities to First Nation communities in British Columbia for initiatives that revitalize First Nation languages and supports activities that build capacity to encourage and create new fluent speakers.



Core Programs

$493,400 INVESTED IN EDUCATION IN 2023-2024

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:

K-12 Initiatives

The K-12 Education Grant program supports First Nations students from kindergarten to Grade 12 in their transition to healthy, engaged and productive young adults, empowering students to aspire to higher educational outcomes through increased opportunities.

Grants up to $8000 per year are awarded to eligible BC First Nation schools and BC school classrooms with majority First Nation students. In 2022-2023, NRT invested $201,600 for projects in K-12 learning environments that create connections to First Nation culture and traditions, building the capacity, confidence and motivation for students to be secure in their First Nation identity.

Scholarships & Bursaries

The bursaries and scholarships program provides financial support to students from First Nations in BC to assist them in achieving excellence and success in their post-secondary journey. In 2023, NRT awarded 219 scholarships and bursaries, providing more than $1.1M in financial support to students.

These financial awards support students in attending university, college, skilled trades, or technology programs full-time at an accredited post-secondary institution anywhere in the world. Through fundraising, developing industry partnerships and a student-focused approach, NRT continues to support the Indigenous leaders of tomorrow.

Our Partners:

- Canfor
- Coastal GasLink
- Drillwell Enterprises
- Indigenous Leaders Scholarship
- Indigenous Leaders in Health and Climate Scholarships
- Keegan Combes Memorial Awards
- Land Title and Survey Authority of BC
- Technical Safety BC

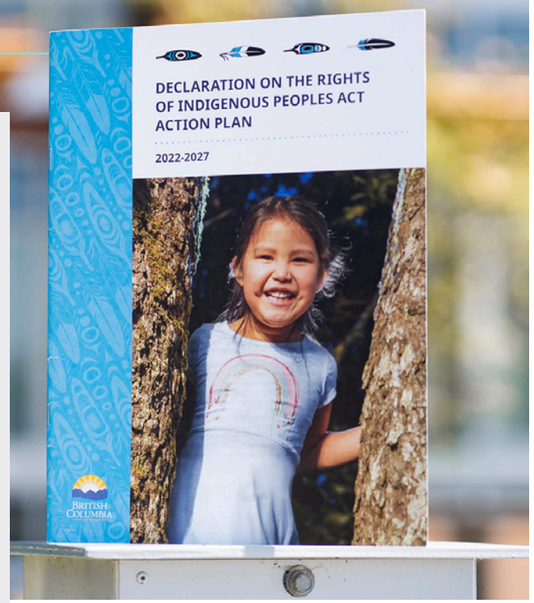
Strategic Projects

Declaration Act Engagement Fund

$41,600,000 ADMINISTERED IN 2023-2024

A new program established in 2023, the Declaration Act Engagement Fund (DAEF) is a $200M fund administered by NRT on behalf of the Province of B.C. The DAEF supports First Nations' capacity to engage with the Province of B.C. on the implementation of the Declaration Act Action Plan and alignment of Provincial laws with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP),* both of which must be done in consultation and co-operation with Indigenous Peoples in B.C.

The DAEF provides up to $1.04M in funding to each First Nation over a period of four years to empower their participation in government-to-government engagement and consultation.



Our Partners:

- B.C. Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Indigenous Food Sovereignty & Security

$7,977,964 ADMINISTERED IN 2023-2024

A new program launched in 2023, the Indigenous Food Security and Sovereignty (IFS) Grant is a three-year initiative administered by NRT on behalf of the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food that supports the development, expansion and strengthening of Indigenous food systems and innovation to enhance sustainability and growth of the Indigenous agriculture and food sovereignty.

Up to $250,000 in annual funding is available to Indigenous communities, businesses, organizations and entrepreneurs in BC for the development planning, design and implementation of food security projects.

Our Partners:

- BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food





Strategic Projects

BC Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative

$6,157,382 ADMINISTERED IN 2023-2024

The NRT administers funding on behalf of the Government of Canada's Pacific Economic Development Canada (PacifiCAN) and the Province of B.C. to deliver the BC Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative (BCICEI).

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

In 2023, the initiative was expanded with a further contribution of $140M from the Province of B.C. and a new funding stream is under development.

Our Partners:

- BC Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation
- Pacific Economic Development Canada (PacifiCan)

Community Energy Diesel Reduction

$2,880,637 ADMINISTERED IN 2023-2024

The NRT administers funding on behalf of the Province of B.C. and BC Hydro to deliver the Community Energy Diesel Reduction (CEDR) program to meet the Clean BC goal of reducing reliance on diesel electricity generation and heating in remote communities.

The CEDR Program provides eligible remote communities with access funding to support their progress through various stages of planning and implementation of decarbonization projects. This ensures remote communities have financial supports throughout the lifecycle of their energy projects at all stages of planning and implementation of their decarbonization projects through the following funding streams:

- Renewable Energy Generation (REG)—up to $4M
- Community Energy Planning and Management (CEP)—up to $95,000
- Energy Efficiency and Demand-side Management Projects (DSM) —up to $500,000

Our Partners:

- BC Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation
- BC Hydro

Strategic Projects

Rebuilding Nationhood Initiative

$640,000 ADMINISTERED IN 2023-2024







In 2020, the NRT, in partnership with the First Nations Summit, First Nations Public Service Secretariat and the National Consortium for Indigenous Economic Development launched a pilot program to develop a First Nation-led strategy that provides assessments, hands-on mentorship, and guidance to BC First Nation communities to enhance their governance policies and systems, with UNDRIP and the needs and aspirations of First Nations in BC as its organizing framework.

The second phase of this initiative is now under way to further develop the learning program while also implementing the pilot program in communities.

Our Partners:

- First Nations Summit
- First Nations Public Service Secretariat
- National Consortium for Indigenous Economic Development

Indigenous Resilience and Recovery Grant

$2,307,000 ADMINISTERED IN 2023-2024

The Indigenous Resilience and Recovery Grant (IRR Grant) provided funding to Indigenous non-profit organizations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 that faced ongoing funding and operational challenges in their post-pandemic recovery.

To support BC Indigenous non-profit organizations to address critical gaps in their funding, operational and program delivery, the IRR Grant initiative was created to deliver an Indigenous-led, collaborative and flexible funding model that enhances the organizational and economic resilience of Indigenous not for profit organizations during their post-pandemic recovery journey. Multi-year grants of up to $72,000 per year were available to Indigenous-led non-profits with annual revenues of more than $1 million.

Our Partners:

- BC Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
- Vancouver Foundation



Strategic Projects



Indigenous Cannabis Business Fund

$1,396,125 ADMINISTERED IN 2023-2024

The Indigenous Cannabis Business Fund (ICBF) provides non-repayable funding contributions to First Nation communities and businesses and Indigenous entrepreneurs in BC that want to participate in and receive supports to advance economic development opportunities in the federally (production, distribution, and retail) and provincially (non-medical retail sales) regulated cannabis sector.

Funding of up to $12,000 is available for Community Planning and Engagement activities, and funding of up to $250,000 is available for business planning, design and capital costs.

The ICBF initiative was developed in partnership with the BC Assembly of First Nations, the network of BC IFIs, Health Canada and Indigenous Services Canada's Strategic Partnership Initiatives, and the Province of BC through the BC Cannabis Secretariat.

Our Partners:

- B.C. Assembly of First Nations
- B.C. Cannabis Secretariat
- Health Canada
- Indigenous Services Canada Strategic Partnership Initiatives
- Network of B.C. Aboriginal Financial Institutions (AFI's)

Indigenous Co-Operative Initiative

4 COOPERATIVE PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN 2023-2024

The Indigenous Co-operative Initiative (ICI) aims to provide awareness, education and coaching to First Nations and Indigenous organizations in setting up co-operative business structures. The goal is to demystify the concept and promote the benefits of co-operative business models, and provide support to First Nations or Indigenous groups that want to explore the co-op structure for their business opportunities that better aligns with their specific needs, Indigenous perspectives, and business goals.

Our Partners:

- B.C. Co-operative AssociationDevelopment

Strategic Projects

Indigenous Labour Market Fund

$177,080 ADMINISTERED IN 2023-2024

A new program established in 2024, the Indigenous Labour Market Fund (LMF) is administered by NRT on behalf of the BC Government. The program was designed on the notion of cultural accommodation and flexibility to address labour market imbalances and goals to increases Indigenous labour market participation and job creation in BC while demonstrating respect for Indigenous culture, values, and traditions.

The LMF provides up to $250,000 in funding to support Indigenous communities and organizations across three streams:

- Labour Market Studies
- Indigenous-led Cultural Competency Training for Employers
- Culturally Relevant Job Fairs

Our Partners:

- BC Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction

Community AEDS

25 AEDS DISTRIBUTED IN 2023-2024

The Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Indigenous Initiative provides an AED kit to First Nations to enhance the well-being of their communities and to empower first aid leadership in First Nation communities across BC. Having access to an AED and action from bystanders can mean the difference between life and death for someone dealing with a sudden cardiac arrest.

Our Partners:

- St. John Ambulance



The NRT Team
2023/24

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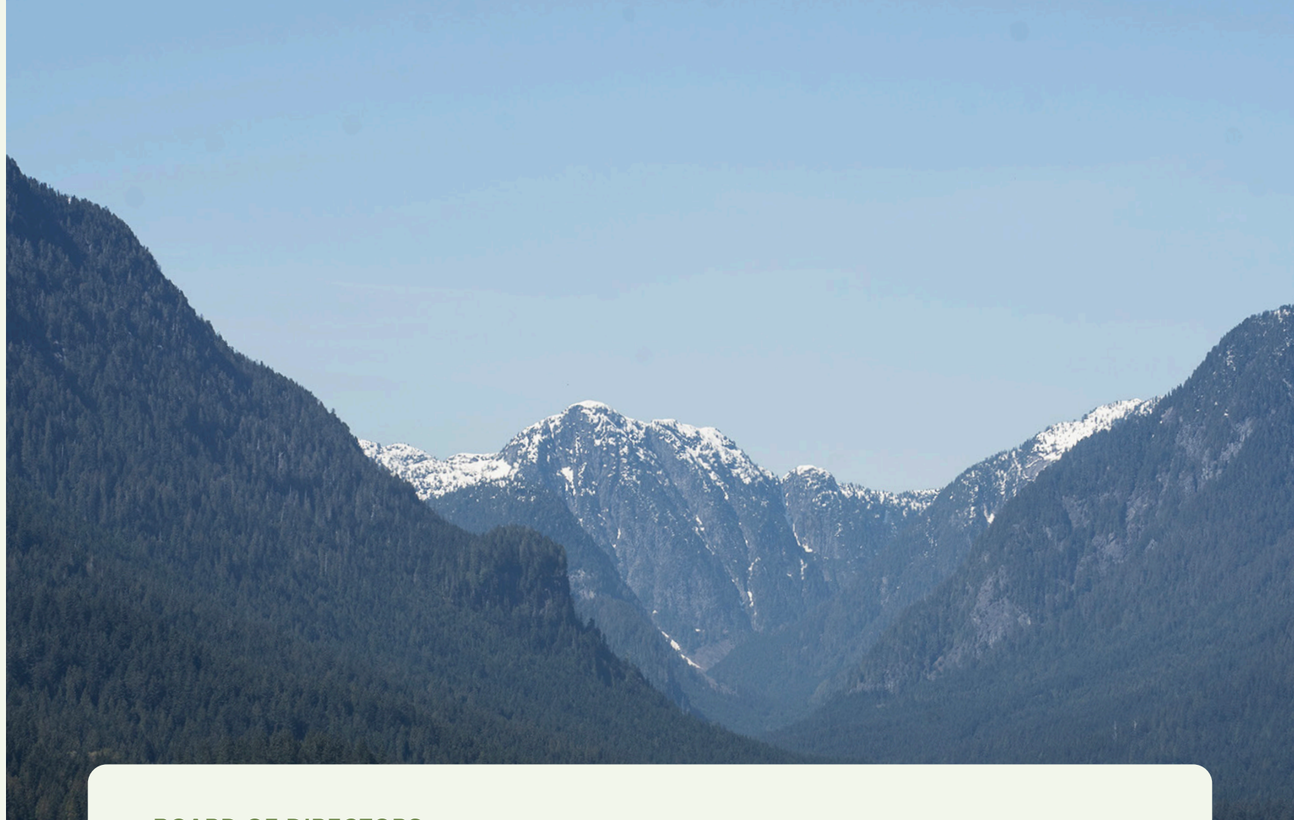


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