



Infrastructure Canada

The First Nations Component



How can the Infrastructure Canada Program assist First Nations?

The Government of Canada through Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is committed to supporting strong First Nations communities, people and economies. There is a recognition that many First Nations communities need improvements to their physical infrastructure, such as better roads and water and sewer services. To help meet these needs, the federal government has launched the Infrastructure Canada Program, which has a component dedicated to First Nations.

Funding for this First Nations component will be available over the next two years, from April 2001 until March 2003. This funding will support planned capital investments in First Nations' community infrastructure.

What are the objectives of the Infrastructure Canada Program?

- to enhance community infrastructure
- to improve quality of life and environment
- to support long-term economic growth
- to build 21st-century infrastructure by using the best technologies, new approaches and best practices



Who is eligible for the program?

First Nations communities on reserves in all provinces and the Yukon Territory are eligible.

The program for the First Nations in the Northwest Territories (NWT) is being administered under the Canada-Northwest Territories agreement. First Nations in the NWT are invited to contact the INAC Yellowknife office for further information.

Proposals from Inuit and Métis communities are eligible under the federal/provincial/territorial agreements.

How does cost-sharing work for projects under this program?

Costs for approved projects will be shared by the Government of Canada and the First Nation. Projects can also be a shared initiative, involving a municipality or a province/territory as well.

There are two types of investment priorities under the Infrastructure Canada Program.

The first priority is "green" infrastructure projects. These include projects like improving the quality of the water and wastewater systems, solid waste management and flood control. The secondary priorities include other infrastructure projects that meet such needs as better local transportation and tourism development.

The program aims to have at least half of the projects it funds come under the "green" infrastructure category.

For a "green" infrastructure project, the First Nation would normally be required to provide at least one-sixth of the project cost. One-third would come from Infrastructure Canada, and up to 50 percent from INAC funding.

For other infrastructure projects, the First Nation would normally be required to provide at least one-third of the project cost. One-third would come from Infrastructure Canada, and one-third from INAC funding.

What do you include in your project proposal?

First Nations are invited to develop proposals that are in keeping with the priorities set regionally. Eligible projects must involve the construction, renewal, expansion or material enhancement of fixed capital assets that will be used by, or benefit, the public. Each project proposal must demonstrate:

1. how the project will advance the First Nation's development plans, both physically and economically;
2. how the project will meet the program's environmental, economic, community and innovation objectives;
3. how the financial support from Infrastructure Canada would be used (i.e. to implement, enhance the scope or accelerate the timing of the proposed project);
4. how the project will satisfy the federal environmental assessment requirements; and
5. how the project makes use of the best available, economically feasible technology.

How do you apply?

To submit a proposal, please fill out an application form available at your local INAC regional office or visit INAC's website.

Send a copy of your completed application form and your project proposal to your local INAC regional office. Please ensure that your submission fulfils the requirements of the regular capital program, and the five requirements of the Infrastructure Canada Program listed above. You must also include a Band Council Resolution showing that the project proposal has been authorized and endorsed by Chief and Council, and proof of your First Nation's financial commitment to the proposal. Please also indicate all sources of funding associated with the project.

First Nations may also request to apply on-line using the Web-based application form developed by the Treasury Board Secretariat. Your local INAC regional office can give you access to this system.

Selection and approval process

Each proposal goes through a screening, review and selection process at the INAC regional office level. The regional review committees include representatives from First Nations organizations. Projects will be selected based on their merit and will be prioritized using the objectives of the Infrastructure Canada Program as key criteria. Once the regional review committee makes its recommendations, selected project proposals will be forwarded to INAC headquarters for the necessary approvals. All projects that receive funding will be announced publicly.

Information on the projects selected will be included in the Infrastructure Canada's national Web-based information management system. Those responsible for the projects will need to provide project updates on a regular basis. Approved projects may be subject to an audit. INAC will participate in the interim and final evaluations of the national Infrastructure Canada Program.

Who do you contact first?

For more information please contact your local INAC regional office. You can also visit the INAC Website at www.inac.gc.ca, or the national Infrastructure Canada Program Website at www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/ino-bni, or call 1 800 0 CANADA.

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