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FIRST NATIONS BASELINE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM ON HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

APPLICATION GUIDE FOR THE 2025-
2026 CALL FOR PROPOSALS



Indigenous Services
Canada

Services aux
Autochtones Canada

Canada

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First Nations Baseline Assessment Program on Health and the Environment

Indigenous Services Canada’s First Nations Baseline Assessment Program on Health and the Environment (BAPHE) is a community-based research program that aims to bring together First Nations communities, principal investigators and scientific partners to collect human health and environmental baselines. The program supports First Nations, south of the 60° parallel, in assessing the baseline status of human health and the environment in their communities and traditional territories prior to the implementation of a major project (e.g., mine, oil facility, nuclear facility, bridge, road, port, dam).

A baseline captures the current state of selected human health and environmental indicators and can be used as a starting point for comparisons to show changes over time. Projects supported by BAPHE **must** include both a human health and environmental baseline.

First Nations communities and organizations can self-determine the human health and environmental indicators of significance to them. BAPHE does not require specific indicators to be collected. For examples of previously funded projects, please contact the BAPHE Secretariat at pebse-pn-fn-baphe@sac-isc.gc.ca.

Note: First Nations in British Columbia are supported through the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and can apply to a similar program through their [Environmental Contaminants Program](#).

2025-2026 Call for Proposals

BAPHE is inviting First Nations communities and organizations, south of the 60° parallel, to submit an application to the program that will enable the collection and analysis of the current state of selected human health and environmental indicators prior to the implementation of a major project. The deadline to submit an application is **November 1, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time**. Projects that are recommended for funding will begin on April 1, 2025.



Who can apply?

This program is open to applicants south of the 60° parallel in:

- Alberta
- Saskatchewan
- Manitoba
- Ontario
- Quebec
- Atlantic Canada (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador)

Groups that can apply for funding include:

- self-governing First Nations
- First Nation communities on reserve
- tribal councils and associations
- First Nation organizations
- non-government and voluntary associations and organizations, including non-profit corporations, that work on behalf of or in partnership with a First Nations community

Note: Métis and Inuit communities and organizations are not eligible applicants under this Call for Proposals.

An applicant **must** partner with a principal investigator or scientific partner who has an educational background in public health, population health, epidemiology, statistical epidemiology, contaminant exposure, toxicology or any other relevant field of study to be eligible for funding.

- For Primary Research projects, the principal investigator or scientific partner must have academic qualifications at the Masters' level, as a minimum (e.g., Master of Science, Master of Public Health).
- For Knowledge Integration projects, the principal investigator or scientific partner must have academic qualifications at the Bachelor's level (e.g., Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Education) or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

For applications that are not submitted directly by a First Nations community or organization, the applicant must identify the First Nations community or organization **as the project lead** and the principal investigator or scientific partner as **the external partner**. BAPHE can only initiate contribution agreements and provide funding to First Nations communities and organizations, or non-government, voluntary associations, organizations or non-profit corporations that work on behalf of or in partnership with a First Nations community. In addition, all applications must include a Letter of Support signed by leadership (e.g., Chief and Council, CEO, Executive Director). If the application is successful, BAPHE requires a Band Council Resolution for the project to initiate a contribution agreement.

Applications led by a principal investigator or scientific partner (e.g., academic, consultant, non-Indigenous organization) must demonstrate how they will collaborate with, engage with, and build capacity within the First Nations community or organization.



What projects can be funded?

BAPHE supports two types of projects:

1. **Primary Research:** Community-based research to collect and analyze data on human health and the environment directly through questionnaires, surveys, interviews and sampling.
2. **Knowledge Integration:** Community-based research that compiles, integrates and analyzes existing community information and scientific data on human health and the environment.

Primary Research Project

A Primary Research project should **assess the current state of selected human health and environmental indicators** in a First Nations community and/or traditional territory to establish a baseline.

A human health baseline could focus on:

- Self-reported health status
- Social determinants of Indigenous Peoples' health
- Community demographics
- Food safety
- Food security
- Prevalence of disease and illness
- Public health surveillance
- Access to health facilities, services, professionals and programming

Note: Questionnaires or surveys should include voluntary self-identification by gender, including gender plus categories, to make analysis more precise. Additional information is available at [Gender-based Analysis Plus \(GBA Plus\)](#).

An environmental baseline could focus on:

- Ambient air quality
- Indoor air quality and the state of housing, including issues of overcrowding
- Water quality
- Water quantity

- Soil quality related to a human exposure pathway
- Land use
- Land cover
- Meteorological parameters
- Terrestrial and aquatic species (e.g., species of cultural importance, country/traditional food, traditional/medicinal plants)

An applicant can request **up to \$125,000** for a Primary Research project for the two-year period of **April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2027**.

Knowledge Integration Project

A Knowledge Integration project should compile, integrate and analyze **existing community information and scientific data on human health and the environment** in a First Nations community and/or traditional territory. In addition, the First Nations community or organization should establish contacts and networks with scientists (e.g., academia, consultant) that have experience and qualifications to assist in the future development of a Primary Research project.

A Knowledge Integration project could include a combination of the following:

- Gathering and analyzing community information (e.g., interview transcripts, community engagement meeting records, questionnaire results)
- Gathering and analyzing health information (e.g., medical records, nursing station records, government datasets)
- Compiling and analyzing datasets on certain environmental media
- Conducting a literature review (e.g., government publications, academic publications, news articles)
- Analyzing existing community information and scientific data to create communication and education materials

An applicant can request **up to \$60,000** for a Knowledge Integration project for the one-year period of **April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026**.

Note: An applicant can only apply for one project type (i.e., Primary Research or Knowledge Integration) per Call for Proposals.



What needs to be included in the application?

The BAPHE Secretariat has a proposal template for Primary Research and Knowledge Integration projects, as well as a budget template and OCAP Compliance Form. Please contact the BAPHE Secretariat at pebse-pn-fn-baphe@sac-isc.gc.ca to receive these templates.

A Primary Research proposal application **must** include the following:

- Cover Page
- Plain Language Summary
- Purpose
- Rationale
- Methodology
- Indigenous/Traditional Knowledge
- Data Management
- Capacity Building
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Communication and Dissemination Plan
- Project Team
- Workplan
- Budget (attach)
- Letter of Support (attach)
- OCAP Compliance Form (attach)
- Laboratory Quote (attach)
- Resumes/CVs (attach)

To be eligible for funding a Primary Research proposal **must**:

- Follow a community-based research approach.
- Plan to produce a baseline of selected human health and environmental indicators for the First Nations community and/or traditional territory.
- Have a principal investigator or scientific partner with a minimum Master's degree and proven/documentated experience in the proposed field of study.

- Include Indigenous Knowledge Systems, or Indigenous ways of knowing, in the project's design and research methodology.
- Include conventional western science research methodologies.
- Identify an accredited laboratory for any sample analysis.
- Include all required proposal sections and attachments listed above.

A Knowledge Integration proposal application **must** include the following:

- Cover Page
- Plain Language Summary
- Purpose
- Rationale
- Methodology
- Indigenous/Traditional Knowledge
- Data Management
- Capacity Building
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Communication and Dissemination Plan
- Project Team
- Workplan
- Budget (attach)
- Letter of Support (attach)
- OCAP Compliance Form (attach)
- Resumes/CVs (attach)

To be eligible for funding a Knowledge Integration project **must**:

- Follow a community-based research approach.
- Plan to compile, integrate and analyze existing community information and scientific data on human health and the environment in the First Nations' community and/or traditional territory.
- Have a principal investigator or scientific partner with a minimum Bachelor's degree or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

- Begin to establish contacts and networks with principal investigators and scientific partners to assist in the future development of a Primary Research project.
- Include Indigenous Knowledge Systems, or Indigenous ways of knowing, in the project's design and research methodology.
- Include conventional western science secondary research methodologies.
- Include all required proposal sections and attachments listed above.

If your First Nations community or organization has previously received BAPHE funding and is applying for a new phase (i.e., continuation or expansion of a previous project), please include the following in your application:

- An additional **one page** describing how your proposal will build upon the previous project, including:
 - Successes to date
 - Lessons learned / Areas for improvement
 - Proposed new activities
 - Next steps

Note: If your application is successful, you will be required to provide a Band Council Resolution, Research Ethics Board approval certificate (for research involving human participants) and Letter of Commitment for cash and in-kind contributions from external partners to the BAPHE Secretariat. These documents are required to initiate a contribution agreement with Indigenous Services Canada.

A Research Ethics Board approval certificate can be obtained from a Canadian academic institution or the [Health Canada and Public Health Agency of Canada Research Ethics Board](#).



How to Apply

Please contact the BAPHE Secretariat to discuss your project idea and receive the proposal template, budget template and OCAP Compliance Form. An application can be submitted electronically to pebse-pn-fn-baphe@sac-isc.gc.ca or by postmarked mail, to the address below, in either English or French.

First Nations Baseline Assessment Program on Health and the Environment
Environmental Public Health Division
Population Health and Primary Care Directorate
First Nations and Inuit Health Branch
Indigenous Services Canada
A.L. 1919D
10 Wellington Street, Suite 1455
Gatineau QC K1A 0H4

Note: Applications submitted by courier or Canada Post must be postmarked by **November 1, 2024**.

For electronic submissions, the sender will receive an email receipt from the BAPHE Secretariat within **2 business days**. If you do not receive an email receipt, please follow-up with the BAPHE Secretariat to ensure your submission was received.

The BAPHE Secretariat cannot write applications for First Nations communities or organizations. However they can assist applicants in developing their project ideas, answering questions about the program and ensuring all necessary information has been included in the application. Prospective applicants can submit a draft application to the BAPHE Secretariat for review of mandatory program eligibility requirements **up to three days** before the Call for Proposals deadline of **November 1, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time**.



How Applications are Evaluated

Applications received by the Call for Proposals deadline of **November 1, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time** will undergo the following review process:

1. **Screening:** The BAPHE Secretariat is responsible for screening applications against the mandatory program eligibility requirements. All requirements must be met for an application to be eligible for funding and to proceed to the Science Peer Review and Community Involvement and Partnership Review.
2. **Science Peer Review** (for Primary Research projects only): Federal and non-federal scientists are responsible for reviewing and evaluating the overall scientific merit of an application, which includes the project design, research methodology, project team expertise, workplan and budget.
3. **Community Involvement and Partnership Review:** Federal and non-federal experts in First Nations' health and community issues are responsible for reviewing and evaluating the overall benefits of an application to the First Nations community or organization, which includes the inclusion of community knowledge and information, capacity building opportunities, inclusion of diverse populations and community perspectives, and the communication of project results to community members.
4. **Selection Committee:** The Selection Committee is responsible for reviewing and evaluating applications, as well as reviewing and integrating the quantitative and qualitative assessments from the above-mentioned reviews. The Selection Committee will discuss and rank applications and provide funding recommendations to the Director of the Environmental Public Health Division, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Indigenous Services Canada.

Applicants who do not pass the Screening Phase will be notified. In addition, after the Selection Committee has made their funding recommendations, both successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified. Applicants who are not successful will receive feedback on their application from the BAPHE Secretariat; compilation of comments and recommendations from the Reviewers and Selection Committee. The BAPHE Secretariat will keep all applications, whether successful or not, and may refer them to other applicable federal government funding programs with the applicants' approval.

Note: The BAPHE Call for Proposals is a **competitive process**, therefore not all eligible applications will be recommended for funding by the Selection Committee.



Eligible Expenses

BAPHE can support the following expenditures:

- 1. Salaries, Wages and Benefits:** Salaries, wages and benefits for existing or new employees of the First Nations community or organization (i.e., the applicant); this excludes professional service fees for the principal investigator and/or scientific partner. For existing employees, salary or wages are eligible when additional hours beyond the employee's regular hours are worked. The program cannot subsidize existing employee hours. For new employees, their entire salary or wages associated with work linked to the project are eligible. Benefits include mandatory employment-related costs such as employment insurance and the Canada Pension Plan. Positions of new employees could include a Project Coordinator, Research Lead, Research Assistant, Technician, Summer Student, etc.
- 2. Honoraria:** Compensation for a project participant (e.g., Elder, Knowledge Keeper, youth) described as a gratuitous payment (i.e., a voluntary payment that is noncontractual) to thank them for their time and knowledge. Honoraria should not be used as an alternative to a service contract or as a replacement for salary, wages or professional service fees. Honoraria requests must be separated into the following categories: Elder Services, Cultural Awareness Services and Knowledge Keeper Services. An honorarium of up to \$250-\$300/day per person can be requested.
- 3. Professional Services:** Project-related costs for the principal investigator and/or scientific partner (e.g., academic, consultant, non-Indigenous organization, Indigenous organization). This includes any expenses incurred by the principal investigator or scientific partner, including transportation, accommodation and meals. Indicate the estimated value of each contract to be awarded under the project, the contractor's name (if known), and the purpose of the contract. For any services provided by a community member (e.g., labourer, Elder, Knowledge Keeper, photographer, videographer) include their name or the name of their business. Professional service fees for a consulting firm or contractor **cannot exceed 40%** of the total funding request; this is to ensure economic equity between the principal investigator, scientific partner and First Nations community or organization staff.
- 4. Transportation, Accommodation and Meals:** Project-related travel costs for the First Nations community or organization (i.e., the applicant); this excludes the principal investigator and/or scientific partner. Include all travel, accommodations and meal costs, and indicate the purpose of travel. Please use government travel

rates by visiting the Travel Directive of the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat website, [Appendix C – Meal & Incidental Rates \(Canada/USA\)](#).

5. **Equipment and Facilities:** Project-related equipment costs. Specify the equipment required to conduct the project and the extent to which it will be used (e.g., monitoring or sampling equipment, camera, microphone, digital voice recorder). The project funding cannot be used for purchasing capital equipment in the amount of \$10,000 or greater. All purchased equipment will have to be returned to the Government of Canada at the end of the project, unless it is formally owned by the First Nations community and will continue being used for public benefit at the end of the project period. The program may request formal correspondence from the financial managers of the community.
6. **Laboratory Expenses:** Project-related laboratory costs. Provide a laboratory quote/estimate for the testing and analysis of biomonitoring or environmental media, include cost per sample. Attach the laboratory quote/estimate to the application.
7. **Training and Workshops:** Project-related costs for training sessions, workshops and community meetings. This includes honoraria, meals (i.e., catering), rental of meeting space, rental of audiovisual equipment. Please exclude salary, wages and travel costs; include these costs in the correct expenditure category listed above.
8. **Translation, Printing and Communication Products:** Project-related costs for translation services and the development and printing of communication projects (e.g., reports, flyers, brochures, posters).
9. **Administration Costs:** Project-related costs for administration fees, miscellaneous operation costs (e.g., office supplies, operating expenses, copier and photocopies, telephone and telecommunications, material and equipment rental, maintenance and repairs, accounting fees, human resources and pay services). **Maximum of 10% of the subtotal of project costs.**
10. **In-Kind Contributions:** Non-monetary resources, services or donations, which can be assigned a monetary value, that the applicant and/or external partners (i.e., principal investigator, scientific partner) provide to the project. This can include salary time.

For more information on what BAPHE can and cannot fund, please consult the [Primary Health Care Authority](#) or contact the BAPHE Secretariat at pebse-pn-fn-baphe@sac-isc.gc.ca.



Other Government of Canada Funding Sources

Indigenous Services Canada

1 - [First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program \(FNECP\)](#)

The program supports communities to identify, investigate and characterize the impact of exposure to environmental hazards. Its activities include community-based research, monitoring, risk assessment, and risk communication.

Email: fnecp-plcepn@sac-isc.gc.ca

2 - [First Nation Infrastructure Fund \(FNIF\)](#)

The FNIF helps First Nation communities improve and increase public infrastructure to improve the quality of life and environment for First Nation communities. There are eight categories of eligible projects: planning and skills development, solid waste management, roads and bridges, energy systems, connectivity, structural mitigation, fire protection, and cultural and recreational facilities.

Contact your Indigenous Services Canada regional office to find out more.

3 - [First Nations Waste Management Initiative](#)

This initiative supports First Nations in developing sustainable waste management systems. The program supports projects such as:

- community waste management agreements with municipalities and service providers
- engineered landfills in remote and isolated communities
- waste reduction and diversion initiatives such as recycling, composting and hazardous waste programs
- waste operator training
- coordinating waste diversion and transfer stations
- waste awareness and education programming
- landfill management and closing of refuse sites
- plans and feasibility studies

Contact your Indigenous Services Canada regional office to find out more.

4 - Emergency Management Assistance Program / First Nations FIRESMART Partnership

Provides funding to First Nations to build resiliency, prepare for natural hazards and respond to them. Project funding is available for First Nations-led emergency management preparedness, non-structural mitigation and FireSmart initiatives, such as training opportunities, emergency management plan development and testing, tsunami preparedness, all hazard risk assessments, and fire prevention and preparedness capacity building. Eligible emergencies include ongoing or imminent wildfires, floods, storms, and earthquakes.

Contact your [Indigenous Services Canada regional office emergency management contact](#) to find out more.

5 - Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program

The Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program (CCHAP) for First Nations South of 60°N enables communities to:

- Develop and implement health-related adaptation or action plans
- Identify vulnerabilities in the health system and develop plans to address them
- Develop knowledge-building and communication materials
- Support adaptation decision-making at the local, regional and national levels

CCHAP for First Nations South of 60°N can provide up to **\$100,000 per project** for community- or regional-based climate and health research and action projects to support First Nation communities to minimize risks and adapt to the impacts of climate change on human health. Recipients have **up to two years** to complete their project. Inquiries can be sent to the CCHAP inbox: cchap-pccas@sac-isc.gc.ca.

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

1 - First Nations Adapt Program

Provides funding to First Nation communities south of 60°N to assess and respond to climate change impacts on infrastructure and emergency management. Prioritizes communities most impacted by sea level rise, flooding, forest fires, drought, fisheries and winter road failures. Projects include:

- risk assessments for community infrastructure/emergency management
- development of adaptation options
- regional watershed management and data processes

- develop small-scale floodplain maps to identify flood risks to infrastructure
- develop best practices, tools and options for flood management

Email: adaptation@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca

Environment and Climate Change Canada

1 - [Environmental Damages Fund \(EDF\)](#)

The purpose of any contribution to the EDF is to restore the environment and conserve wildlife and habitats in a scientifically sound, cost-effective, and technically feasible way. Priority is given to projects that restore the natural environment and conserve wildlife, followed by: environmental quality improvement initiatives, research and development on environmental restoration and improvement, and education and awareness on issues affecting the health of the natural environment.

More information on the EDF, its funding priorities, and eligible applicants and activities can be found on the [EDF website](#) and [Available Funds website](#).

Email: EDF-FDE2@ec.gc.ca

2 – [Nature-Smart Climate Solutions Fund \(NSCSF\)](#)

This program is under the Indigenous-led Natural Climate Solutions (ILNCS) stream. The funding supports First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nations, communities and organizations to build capacity and undertake on-the-ground activities for ecological restoration, improved land management, and conservation.

Email: ec.fscan-nscsf.ec@ec.gc.ca

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

1 - [Indigenous Pathfinders Service](#)

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is offering the Indigenous Pathfinder service - a one-stop shop for advice and referral to help navigate the relevant information, tools and support available to start or expand activities in the agriculture and agri-food sector. The service strives to ensure you do not miss out on support and available business opportunities. An AAFC advisor will:

- listen to your project idea or plan and offer suggestions for next steps
- inform you about AAFC funding programs and services
- find and refer you to the right expert
- help you connect with other federal support available

- follow your progress

Telephone: 1-866-367-8506

TTY: 613-773-2600

Email: aafc.indigenouspathfinder-explorateurautochtone.aac@agr.gc.ca

