



Capacity Grants

Strengthening support to solve a conservation challenge
and deliver a conservation project

Overview

Capacity Grants build and strengthen the capability and capacity of organizations to successfully design and deliver conservation or restoration projects. The grant provides funds to support and develop strategies and abilities to initiate actions that benefit fish, wildlife, and habitat conservation aligned with objectives of the HCTF. Capacity Grants assist with the first steps in planning, designing, engaging, or implementing a project.

Goals of Grant

- **Support preliminary planning** to address a conservation issue or challenge in the community.
- **Increase capacity** to enhance the ability to implement a project.
- **Develop skills and abilities** of communities to undertake conservation projects.

In support of our strategic plan, this grant will emphasize the following:

- Indigenous community-led fish, wildlife, and habitat restoration and conservation.
- Climate change adaptation, mitigation, and cumulative effects on fish, wildlife, and their habitats.
- Caribou habitat restoration or conservation projects taking place in current caribou herd ranges.
- Broad and diverse participation in HCTF programs and projects.

Criteria and Details

Application Deadline: February 28

Duration: 2 Year Grant

Funding Cap: \$25K

Funding Dispersal: 80% of the grant will be issued up front and 20% once completed and final summary of work is submitted

Who is Eligible to Apply?

Applications must be made by an individual with the lead organization. The Project Lead is the individual with the authority and ability to administer the grant and fulfill the obligations to conduct the grant activities, deliver value for money, and manage risk and financial controls while fulfilling the other terms and conditions of the grant.





Eligible Budget Items:

- Honorarium, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Local Knowledge Holders (EKLK), and contract labor costs.
- Field equipment, materials, and supplies related to training (to a maximum of \$10,000).
- Mileage and other travel expenses.
- Specialized training that leads to effective conservation outcomes or enhances the ability to engage in conservation work.

Eligible Activities:

- Pilot projects, surveys, test field methods, scoping or feasibility studies including desktop research, mapping, literature review, discussions with regional and/or biology experts, Indigenous knowledge systems and methodologies, and best practices review.
- Partnerships or networking meetings, planning workshops, focus groups, sharing knowledge, collecting community input.
- Hiring a consultant; short-term salary or facilitation fees to lead or do planning, training, and advising, including honoraria, elders, and EKLK; or salary for field-based mentors, trainers, and advisors.
- Specialized training courses relevant to the project such as guardians or keepers training (e.g., Streamkeepers, Wetlandkeepers etc.); technical and scientific training (e.g., GPS, mapping, data collection, testing equipment); sampling and surveying techniques, monitoring and cameras, remote sensing or vegetation monitoring that directly link to project objectives; or training for the development of a conservation leader(s) in Indigenous communities by supporting post-secondary training (1- or 2-year certificate/diploma).

Ineligible Items and Activities:

- Internal organization capacity development such as staff training or strategic planning.
- Salaries for employees including government employees.
- Media production and communications.
- Purchase of land, tenure, lease, or licenses.
- Marine or salmon-only projects that do not also benefit provincially managed fish species or their habitats.
- HCTF does not fund invasive species programs, however, Capacity Grants may consider invasive species control as part of an overall grant e.g., training or planning.
- Purchase of capital assets such as vehicles, boats, ATVs, quads, trailers, or snowmobiles.
- Purchase of infrastructure such as docks, buildings, or campsites.
- General office equipment such as computers or phones.
- Costs for legal fees, law enforcement, and lobbying.
- Administration costs such as office space, furniture, and office equipment and supplies.





(Ineligible Items and Activities continued)

- General staff training costs for project personnel including certifications and courses not directly related to project objectives, such as standard first aid, safety training, and operator certifications for boats, ATVs, firearms, chainsaws, etc.

Example Project Themes:

- Collaborating with local communities and stakeholders to develop action plans for habitat restoration and species recovery, including gathering baseline data and identifying restoration priorities.
- Conducting field surveys, consultations, and feasibility studies to assess ecological conditions and inform management strategies for species and habitat conservation.
- Building capacity through training and technical support to engage in environmental monitoring and restoration projects that promote long-term conservation outcomes.

Sample Projects:

- Feasibility study to pilot stream mapping on a small scale to determine if it can be expanded to the entire watershed.
- Consulting with local community and landowners to create an action plan for restoration of the wetland.
- Conducting a desktop mapping exercise to identify sites for potential road restoration and ground truthing.
- Developing the goals and approach for a new Guardian program.
- Hiring a consultant biologist or regional expert to help map out key restoration objectives for caribou habitat enhancement and engage with community members on overall goals and objectives.

