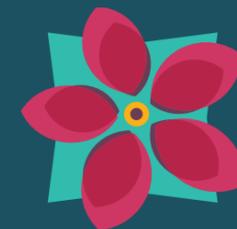




Guide to REFBC's

Funding Priorities



REAL ESTATE
Foundation
OF BC

Important Considerations for Grant Applicants

Intro to REFBC Grants

What does REFBC do?

The Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC) is a philanthropic organization that funds projects, builds relationships, and shares knowledge to advance sustainable, equitable, and socially just land use and real estate practices across BC. Our mandate is to support projects that involve law and policy reform, applied research, community engagement, and professional and public education. We are grateful for the guidance we have received over many years from diverse knowledge holders, experts, and community leaders, who have helped us identify our funding priorities. In our work, we are committed to upholding and advancing implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It is important for us to prioritize projects that support justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI).

For more details, see our strategic plan at refbc.ca/approach.

Where does the money come from?

The money that REFBC grants is a benefit from real estate transactions. When a deposit is made on the purchase of a residential property in BC – and placed in a brokerage trust account at a bank or credit union – it earns a little bit of interest. Banks and credit unions are required to remit this interest to REFBC. We pool this money, and invest it in funds screened through an environmental, social, and governance (ESG) framework, as well as impact investments, to generate additional revenue. Our revenue and, therefore, our grantmaking budget can vary considerably from year to year – based on interest rates, the volume of residential real estate transactions, and investment returns.

While the existence of REFBC provides a community benefit linked to the purchase of a home, our money story is rooted in displacement and theft of lands from First Nations. We recognize that colonial approaches to land use and property continue to infringe upon the rights, responsibilities, and relationships of First Nations to lands and waters.

Who are the people at REFBC?

REFBC, which was established by provincial legislation in 1985, is overseen by a seven-member Board of Governors. The Governors are appointed by the Province of BC (3), Union of BC Municipalities (1), BC Real Estate Association (1), Real Estate Institute of BC (1), and BC Non-Profit Housing Association (1). Our staff manages day-to-day operations, implements the strategic plan, and deliver grants and special programs.

Learn more: refbc.ca/grants





Land Use



Fresh Water



Built Environments



Food Sovereignty



Real Estate Profession

Big Goal

More and more, REFBC's funded projects uphold or advance the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Desired Impacts

(changes we want to see)

Relationships between people and the land promote thriving, resilient communities and natural environments for current and future generations.

Freshwater ecosystems are healthy, sustainable, and intrinsically valued.

Built environments support inclusive, thriving communities and a high quality of life without undermining natural systems.

Land is protected and enhanced to support thriving local sustainable food systems. Food sovereignty is enhanced for communities, particularly communities historically denied control over food systems through colonization.

Real estate professionals, industry groups, and their partners demonstrate leadership and innovation in advancing sustainable and equitable land use, built environments, climate action, and real estate practices that improve quality of life for all residents.

- Indigenous land governance, laws, and decision-making are respected and resourced.
- Relationships between people and the land are such that sensitive natural areas, biodiversity, and natural capital are valued, protected, and conserved.
- Ecological resiliency, Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing, and free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) are at the forefront of land use planning and practices, natural resource activities, and climate action.
- Relationship-building and growing networks within communities, or within and between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, supports well-informed and appropriate governance and use of lands.

- Indigenous water governance, laws, and decision-making are respected and resourced.
- Freshwater sustainability is supported through respect for Indigenous rights; strong legislation, policies, and regulations; and governance frameworks that are implemented, financed, and enforced.
- Diverse people, organizations, and communities act with a shared stewardship ethic to ensure the health and climate resilience of fresh water and land.
- Communities engage in effective collective decision-making and exercise authority in support of strong freshwater protection.
- Freshwater protection, governance, and management are driven by progressive community leadership.

- Built environments (including buildings, transportation, energy systems, and urban design) advance climate solutions and provide the foundation for healthy, just communities.
- Through applied research, engagement, or law and policy reform, housing meets community needs related to access, affordability, cultural safety, and inclusion.
- Place-based planning and programs engage a full range of perspectives and lived experiences in shaping built environments.
- Innovative models increase access to secure, affordable space for community organizations and homes for historically under-housed people.

- Communities have access to the land, resources, knowledge, and decision-making power needed to support local, inclusive, climate-resilient food systems.
- Indigenous communities control the policies, planning, and governance structures to assert food sovereignty.
- Indigenous knowledge, values, and approaches are centred in food planning, policies, and practices.

- Highly knowledgeable real estate professionals are equipped to serve the public interest and advise on trends, laws, and standards in real estate, land use, climate action, and built environments.
- Industry leaders collaborate with rightsholders, policy makers, planners, and researchers to support sustainable and equitable land use and real estate practices.
- Professionals contribute to real estate and land use practices that enable resilient, healthy communities and natural environments.

Funding Priorities Framework

What does REFBC fund?

This framework is meant to help organizations wishing to apply for a grant to assess how their work and ours aligns. The five Funding Priorities represent the core interests of REFBC. The Big Goals and Desired Impacts outline the outcomes that we would like to work toward in collaboration with grantees. To find out how we awarded grants in the most recent year, please see our [project directory at refbc.ca/projects](#).





Project Assessment Criteria

How does REFBC make granting decisions?

We share these criteria – refined over the years with guidance from diverse community leaders and knowledge holders – to provide insight into decision-making on grants.

	Need	Leadership & Innovation	Relationship-Building	UNDRIP	Legacy
Big Question	<i>What is the significance of the issue or gap being addressed?</i>	<i>Does the project strengthen leadership in a field, support emerging leaders, and/or take an innovative approach?</i>	<i>Are the people who need to be at the table, at the table?</i>	<i>Does the project uphold or advance the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)?</i>	<i>Can the outcomes be sustained? Will they have an ongoing legacy?</i>
Key Considerations <i>(Note: You do not need to answer all questions in your application.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Why this project? Why now? – What challenge or opportunity are you trying to address? What impact are you hoping to have? – Who will benefit from this project, who is leading it, and who is informing it? – Has this effort been identified as a high priority need by the communities this work seeks to serve? – Are there many other people, governments, or organizations working on this issue or gap? If not, why not? – If your project is aimed at policy or law reform, is the policy or legislative window open or likely to open during your project life? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Does this project represent a new or untested approach or method? Is it an attempt to develop a new edge practice or test a best practice? – Will this strengthen leadership (emerging or established) on a key issue that will have positive impacts for the communities it's meant to serve? – Where projects are led by non-Indigenous organizations, have you researched the relevant Indigenous history and culture? What is your history of working with local Indigenous rightsholders? – Does the project balance and integrate Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing with western science and ways of knowing? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – How will this project support or advance justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI)? – How will the relationships built through this project benefit the communities you are seeking to serve? – How are these communities involved in developing and leading this work? – Does your project build new relationships, strengthen existing ones, or help develop new understanding between your organization and other relevant actors? – How is your organization accountable to partners and others impacted by this work? What accountability mechanisms are in place? 	<p>For settler-led (not Indigenous-led) organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Where are you in your journey to understand and uphold UNDRIP in your work? – How will this project help you progress toward upholding or advancing UNDRIP? <p>Does the project identify ways it will uphold specific articles of UNDRIP?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Can the outcomes be sustained after the project is finished? – How can the project be modeled, replicated, or shared with others? – Does the project actively build new networks or strengthen existing ones? – Are youth and elders included in the project along with ways to support mentorship and intergenerational learning?



Talk to Us



Do you have any feedback on this guide? We'd love to hear from you. As well, we're always happy to chat about your project and application.

Note: Organizations and projects come in many shapes and sizes. If you think REFBC's mission and your work might be a good fit but you're not quite sure how, please contact our staff for a conversation.

Website ————— refbc.ca/grants

Email ————— grants@refbc.ca

Phone ————— 604-688-6800

Mailing address — **Real Estate Foundation of BC**
460-355 Burrard St
Vancouver, BC, V6C 2G8
Canada

We recognize and acknowledge the x^wməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, as well as First Nations across BC, on whose territories we live, work, and learn.

Photo Credit (Left)
Project: Nexwagwezʔan
(Dasiqox Tribal Park)
Photo: Stephen Hui/REFBC

Photo Credit (Cover)
Project: Columbia River
Field School
Photo: Bailey Repp/Wildsight

