



General Grants

Applying for Funding?
Here's What You Should Know

January 2026



Agenda



1. **Who We Are**
2. **What We Fund**
3. **Application Process**
4. **Common Questions**
5. **Q&A**





Who We Are

About Us



The **Real Estate Foundation of BC** (REFBC) is a philanthropic organization working to advance sustainable, equitable, and socially just land use across BC.

We fund projects, connect people, and share knowledge.

→ refbc.ca



SnPink'tn. Photo: Stephen Hui



Our Money Story

When a deposit is made on the purchase of a residential property in BC — and placed in a brokerage trust account — it earns a little bit of interest.

Banks and credit unions remit this interest to REFBC.

In turn, REFBC uses these funds to support projects that benefit communities across BC.

We recognize our ability to make grants is rooted in the displacement and theft of lands from First Nations.



UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

REFBC is committed to supporting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and working in partnership with First Nations.

In our work, we aim to uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Our commitments are outlined in our plan, *Transformative Actions for UNDRIP Advancement*.

→ refbc.ca/taua



Transformative Actions for UNDRIP Advancement

The Next \$100 Million

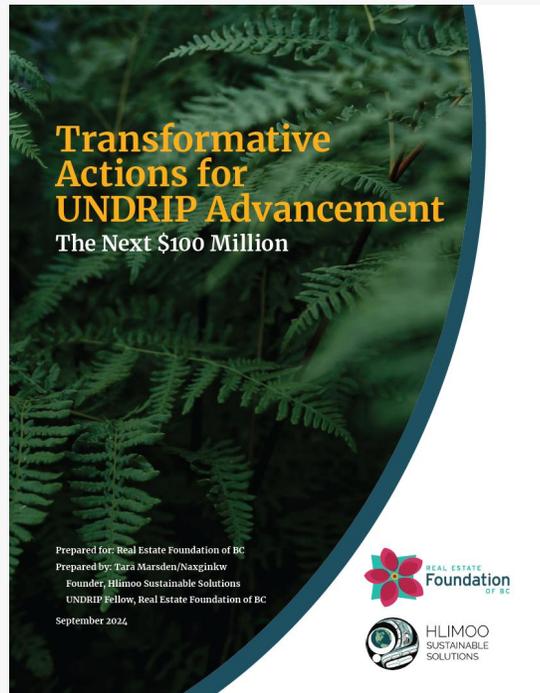


Transformative Actions for UNDRIP
Advancement Annual Progress Report
2024-2025

Prepared for: Real Estate Foundation of BC
Prepared by: Tara Marsden/Naxginkw
Founder, Hlimoo Sustainable Solutions
UNDRIP Fellow, Real Estate Foundation of BC
September 2024



Grantmaking Commitments



→ refbc.ca/taua

To increase funding to Indigenous-led projects:

- Several years ago, Indigenous-led organizations received 5% of our overall grantmaking dollars.
- Currently, that figure is over $\frac{2}{3}$.

To increase the involvement of Indigenous people in our grantmaking:

- In 2022, we introduced the Indigenous Grants Stream. The Indigenous Community Leaders Circle directs this invitation-only stream.
- For General Grants, an Indigenous Caucus advises Grants Staff during shortlisting.





What We Fund

Our Mandate



Law & Policy
Reform



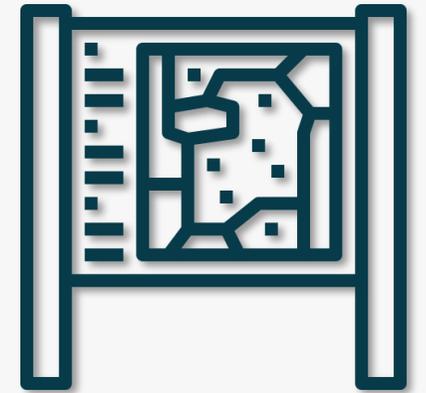
Applied
Research



Community
Engagement



Professional
Education



Public
Education



Our Priorities



Land Use



Fresh Water



Built
Environments



Food
Sovereignty



Real Estate
Profession

→ refbc.ca/priorities





Tūdeše chō. Photo: Stephen Hui

Land Use

Our Priorities



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

Grantee Project

Wilp Luutkudziiwus Education and Economic Society

Strengthening Governance

Grant: \$218,700 / 3 years

Priority: Land Use

Region: Northwest



To strengthen traditional governance structures in Madii Lii and Xsi Gwin Hauums — the territories of this Gitxsan wilp (house) — and declare an Indigenous protected and conserved area.

Gitxsan Laxyip. Photo: Stephen Hui



Upper sq̓əyčəyaʔ státləw valley
Photo: Joshua Ostroff/World Wildlife Fund Canada

Fresh Water

Our Priorities



Big Goal: Freshwater ecosystems are healthy, sustainable, and intrinsically valued.

Grantee Project

Cowichan Watershed Board

Supporting the Shift to Indigenous-Led Governance: Cowichan-Koksilah Watershed

Grant: \$180,000 / 3 years

Priority: Fresh Water

Region: Vancouver Island



To support formalizing the decision-making authority of the Cowichan Tribes in the Cowichan and Koksilah watersheds through the development of a water sustainability plan.





Photo: BC Non-Profit Housing Association

Built Environments

Our Priorities



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

Grantee Project

Hogan's Alley Society

Hogan's Alley Community Land Trust

Grant: \$75,000 / 2 years

Priority: Built Environments

Region: Lower Mainland



COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS 101

Virtual session educating the community on the history, principles, and values of Community Land Trusts (CLTs). Highlighting benefits for marginalized communities, particularly Black communities as we introduce HASCLT's purpose.

To uplift the Black community in Metro Vancouver by building a community land trust that will support affordable housing, a cultural centre, small businesses, and services.



Tea Creek, Gitxsan Laxyip. Photo: Stephen Hui

Food Sovereignty

Our Priorities



Big Goal: 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.

Grantee Project

Klinse-za Cultural Society

Miyopimâtisowin

Grant: \$50,000 / 1 year

Priority: Food Sovereignty

Region: Northeast



To provide experiential, land-based learning opportunities for Indigenous youth in Treaty 8 territory to participate in traditional food harvesting, growing, and preservation activities and assert Indigenous rights to hunt and fish.





Photo: BC Land Summit Society

Real Estate Profession

Our Priorities



Big Goal: 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.

Grantee Project

Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island Band)

Indigenous Real Estate Educational Initiative

Grant: \$20,000 / 1 year

Priority: Real Estate Profession

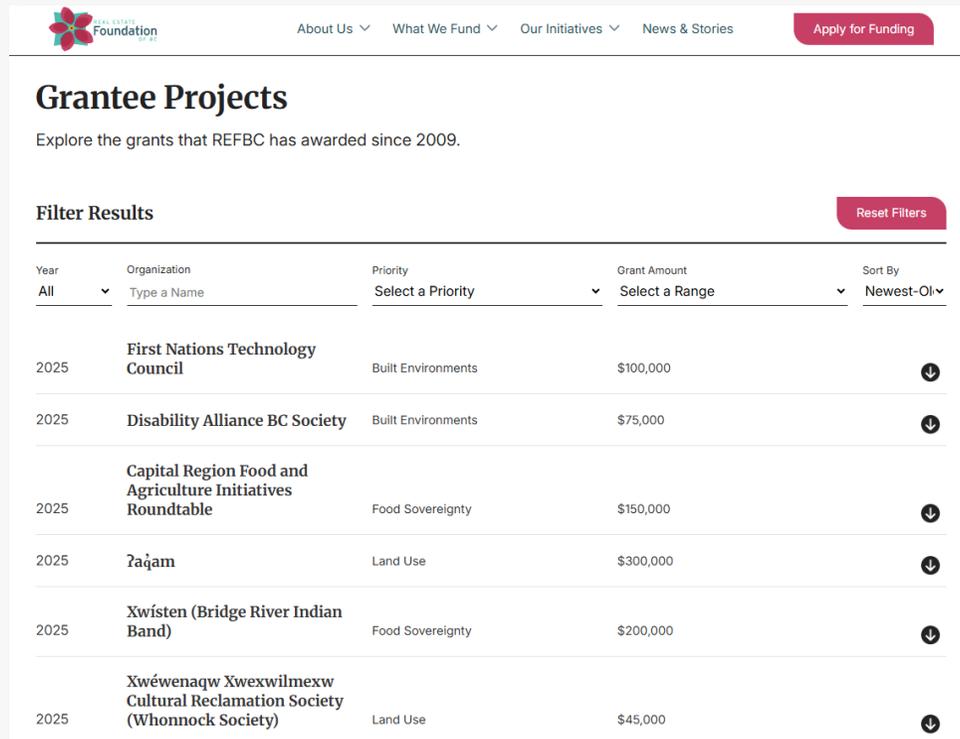
Region: Lower Mainland



To organize a series of workshops for Indigenous people around the Fraser Valley to learn about the real estate industry and the process of becoming a realtor, and to network with professionals.



What has REFBC funded recently?



The screenshot shows the REFBC website's 'Grantee Projects' page. It features a navigation bar with 'About Us', 'What We Fund', 'Our Initiatives', and 'News & Stories', along with an 'Apply for Funding' button. Below the header, there's a 'Filter Results' section with a 'Reset Filters' button. The main content is a table of projects awarded since 2009.

Year	Organization	Priority	Grant Amount	Sort By
All	Type a Name	Select a Priority	Select a Range	Newest-Old
2025	First Nations Technology Council	Built Environments	\$100,000	↓
2025	Disability Alliance BC Society	Built Environments	\$75,000	↓
2025	Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable	Food Sovereignty	\$150,000	↓
2025	Ta'qam	Land Use	\$300,000	↓
2025	Xwisten (Bridge River Indian Band)	Food Sovereignty	\$200,000	↓
2025	Xw'ewenaqw Xwexwilmexw Cultural Reclamation Society (Whonnock Society)	Land Use	\$45,000	↓

→ refbc.ca/projects

Each year, we receive more applications than we have the budget to fund.

- Recently, we have seen a **5 to 1** ratio of requested funding to available funding.
- About **20%** of eligible applications have been approved.
- Last year, we received 330 applications and made 75 grants.



Project Assessment Criteria



→ refbc.ca/funding-priorities-guide

Need

What is the significance of the issue?

UNDRIP

Does the project uphold or advance UNDRIP?

Relationship-Building

Is everyone at the table who needs to be at the table?

Leadership & Innovation

Does the project strengthen leadership, support emerging leaders, or take an innovative approach to a problem?

Legacy

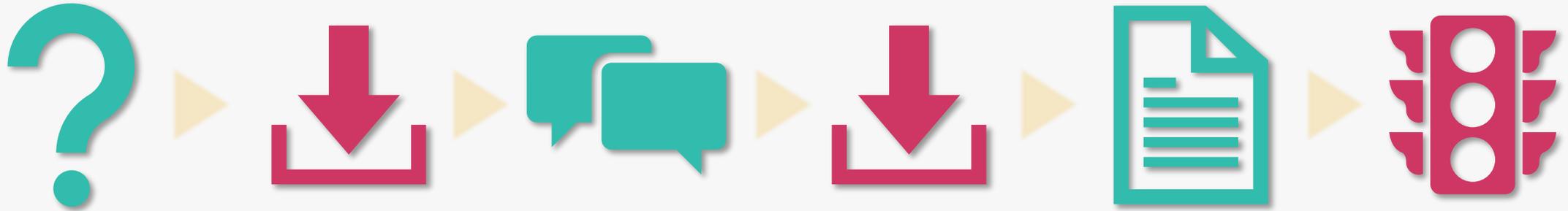
Can the outcomes be sustained?





Application Process

General Grants: 2026 Application Process



Inquiry

Grants staff host webinars and field inquiries.

Stage 1 Application

Intake opens:

January 6

Application deadline:

February 5

→ refbc.ca/grants

Review

Shortlisting by grants staff committee with advice from Indigenous Caucus.

Applicants notified:

late March – early April

Stage 2 Application

Shortlisted projects prepare Stage 2 application.

Application deadline:

April / June

Report

Grants staff prepare reports for CEO and Board of Governors.

Decision

Grants up to \$50,000 are adjudicated by CEO.

Grants over \$50,000 are adjudicated by Board.

Decision: June / September

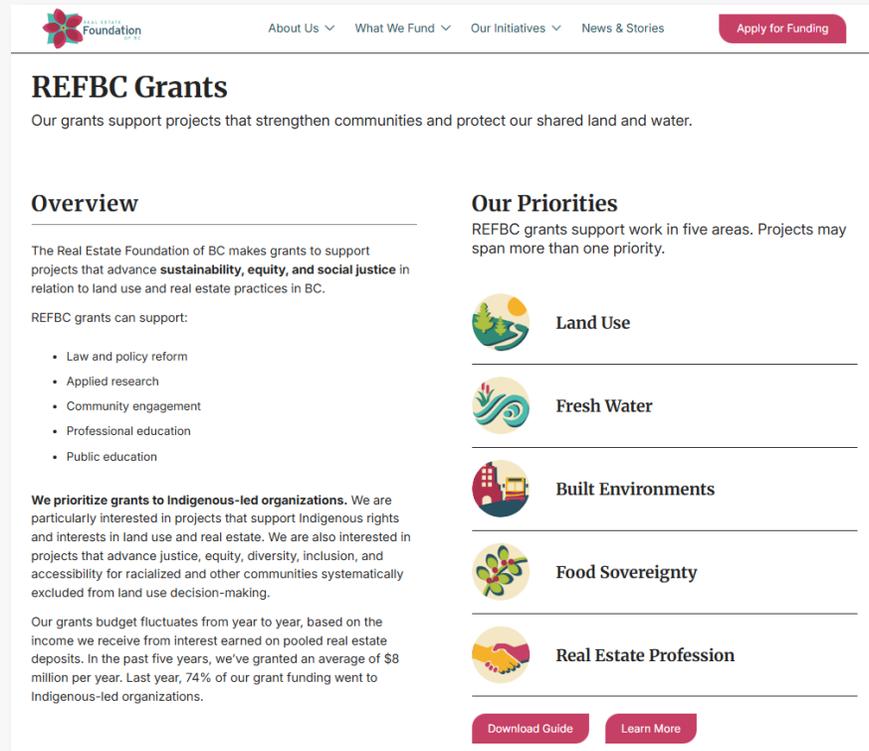
Online Application Form

We recommend drafting your application in the **Word document template**.

Copy and paste your responses into the **online application form** when you are ready to submit.

Tech troubleshooting tips are found at the beginning of the online form.

Having problems? Contact us at grants@refbc.ca.



The screenshot shows the REFBC Grants website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the REFBC logo, menu items for 'About Us', 'What We Fund', 'Our Initiatives', and 'News & Stories', and a red 'Apply for Funding' button. The main heading is 'REFBC Grants' with a sub-heading 'Our grants support projects that strengthen communities and protect our shared land and water.' Below this, there are two columns. The left column is titled 'Overview' and contains text about the foundation's mission and a list of supported areas: Law and policy reform, Applied research, Community engagement, Professional education, and Public education. The right column is titled 'Our Priorities' and lists five areas: Land Use, Fresh Water, Built Environments, Food Sovereignty, and Real Estate Profession, each with a corresponding icon. At the bottom of the right column, there are two buttons: 'Download Guide' and 'Learn More'.

→ refbc.ca/grants





Težtan Biny, Dasiqox-Nexwagwez'an.
Photo: Stephen Hui

Common Questions

How much money does REFBC typically grant?

Small, grassroots projects

Grants tend to range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 (1 year).

Larger or province-wide projects

Grants tend to range from \$50,000 to over \$100,000 (1 to 2 years).

Complex, multi-year programs & initiatives

Grants tend to range from \$100,000 to \$300,000 (2 to 3 years).



Which costs does REFBC typically fund?

Grants can be used to cover project-related costs:

- ✓ Staffing and program delivery
- ✓ Project coordination
- ✓ Communications
- ✓ Workshops and training
- ✓ Travel, convening, and meetings
- ✓ Indigenous ceremony and cultural protocols
- ✓ Honoraria
- ✓ Building cultural competency
- ✓ Consultant fees



Which costs does REFBC not fund?

A few activities and costs that we don't fund:

- × Capital costs, such as land or buildings
- × Activities that primarily provide financial benefits for individuals
- × Partisan political activities
- × Endowments or reserve funds
- × Debt retirement or mortgage paydowns
- × Retroactive expenses



Thank you

Please stay on the webinar, and we'll try to answer as many questions as we can.

Email ————— grants@refbc.ca

Website ————— refbc.ca/grants



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