

# General Grants

Applying for Funding?  
Here's What You Should Know

January 2025



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# Agenda



**1. Who We Are**

**2. What We Fund**

**3. Application Process**

**4. Tips for Applying**

**5. Q&A**





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# 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](https://refbc.ca)



SnPink'tn. Photo: Stephen Hui





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# 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.

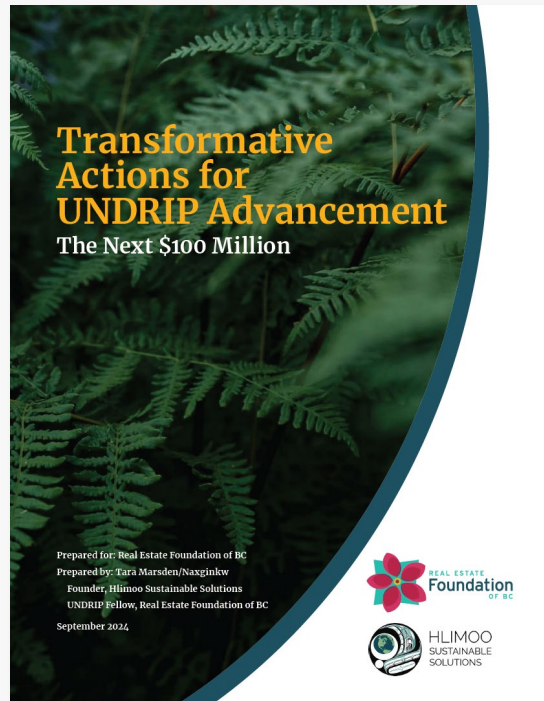
Our commitments are outlined in our new plan, prepared by Tara Marsden/Naxginkw, REFBC's UNDRIP Fellow.

→ [refbc.ca/taua](https://refbc.ca/taua)





# Grantmaking Commitments



→ [refbc.ca/taua](https://refbc.ca/taua)

## Increasing the amount of funding going to Indigenous-led, land-based projects

- Three years ago, Indigenous-led projects received **5%** of our grantmaking dollars.
- This year, that figure is anticipated to be **70%**.

## Sharing decision-making for grantmaking with Indigenous community leaders

- Three years ago, Indigenous advisors had oversight over **0%** of our grantmaking dollars.
- Currently, that figure is **95%**.





# What We Fund

TETÁĆES Revitalization Project.  
Photo: Alex Harris/Raincoast Conservation Foundation



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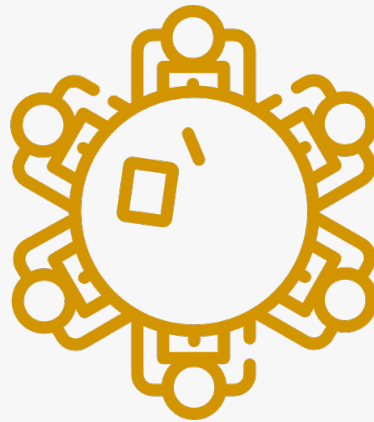
# Our Mandate



Law & Policy  
Reform



Applied  
Research



Community  
Engagement



Professional  
Education



Public  
Education



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# Our Priorities



Land Use



Fresh Water



Built  
Environments



Food  
Sovereignty



Real Estate  
Profession

→ [refbc.ca/priorities](https://refbc.ca/priorities)







# Land Use

## Our Priorities



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





Upper sqaycaya?i statlew valley  
Photo: Joshua Ostroff/World Wildlife Fund Canada

# Fresh Water

## Our Priorities



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





Photo: BC Non-Profit Housing Association

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# Built Environments

## Our Priorities



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





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# 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.



# Expanding PROFESSIONALISM

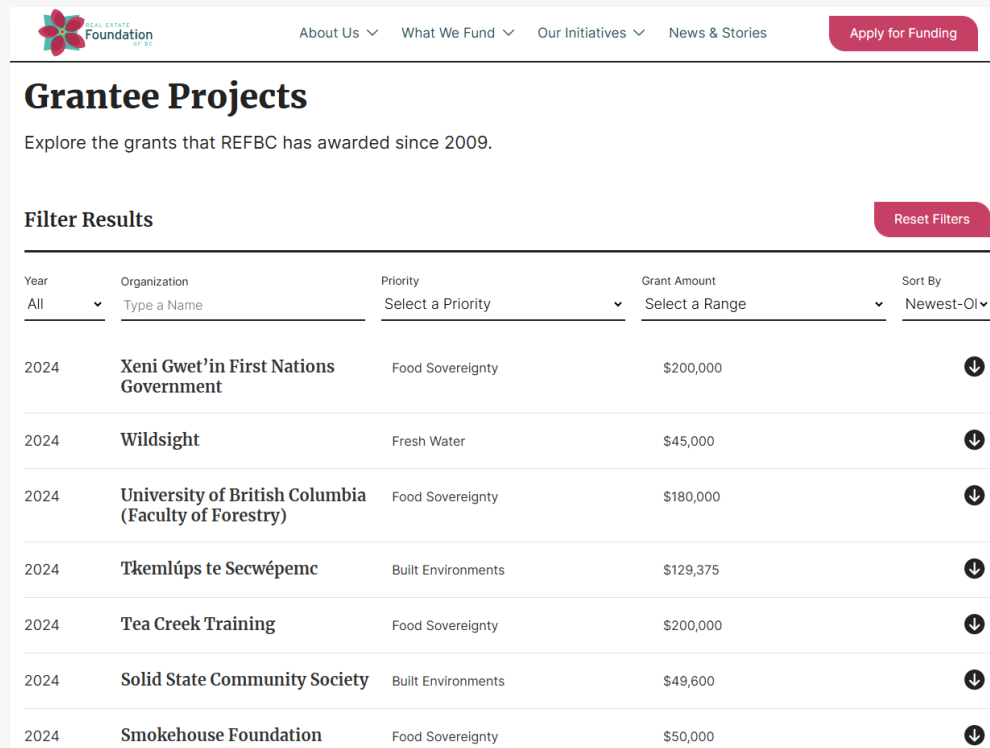


## Real Estate Profession Our Priorities



**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.

# What has REFBC funded recently?



The screenshot shows the 'Grantee Projects' page on the REFBC website. It features a navigation bar with links to 'About Us', 'What We Fund', 'Our Initiatives', and 'News & Stories', along with an 'Apply for Funding' button. Below the header, the page title 'Grantee Projects' is followed by a subtitle 'Explore the grants that REFBC has awarded since 2009.' A 'Filter Results' section includes a 'Reset Filters' button and a table with columns for Year, Organization, Priority, Grant Amount, and Sort By. The table lists seven grant projects from 2024, each with a download icon.

Year	Organization	Priority	Grant Amount	Sort By
All	Type a Name	Select a Priority	Select a Range	Newest-Old
2024	Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government	Food Sovereignty	\$200,000	↓
2024	Wildsight	Fresh Water	\$45,000	↓
2024	University of British Columbia (Faculty of Forestry)	Food Sovereignty	\$180,000	↓
2024	Tkemplúps te Secwépemc	Built Environments	\$129,375	↓
2024	Tea Creek Training	Food Sovereignty	\$200,000	↓
2024	Solid State Community Society	Built Environments	\$49,600	↓
2024	Smokehouse Foundation	Food Sovereignty	\$50,000	↓

→ [refbc.ca/projects](https://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 **25%** of eligible applications have been approved.







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# Application Process

# General Grants: Application Process for 2025



# Project Assessment Criteria



→ [refbc.ca/funding-priorities-guide](https://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, and/or take an innovative approach to a problem?

## Legacy

Can the outcomes be sustained?







# Tips for Applying

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# Which costs does REFBC typically fund?

## Grants can be used to cover project-related costs:

- ✓ Staffing and program delivery
- ✓ Project coordination
- ✓ Communications
- ✓ Consultant fees
- ✓ Workshops and training
- ✓ Travel, convening, and meeting expenses
- ✓ Ceremony and cultural protocols
- ✓ Honoraria
- ✓ Building cultural competency





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# 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 reserves
- × Debt retirement or mortgage paydowns
- × Retroactive funding



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# How much money does REFBC typically grant?

## **Small, grassroots projects**

Grants tend to range from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

## **Larger or province-wide projects**

Grants tend to range from \$50,000 to over \$100,000.

## **Complex, multi-year programs and initiatives**

Grants tend to range from \$100,000 to \$300,000.





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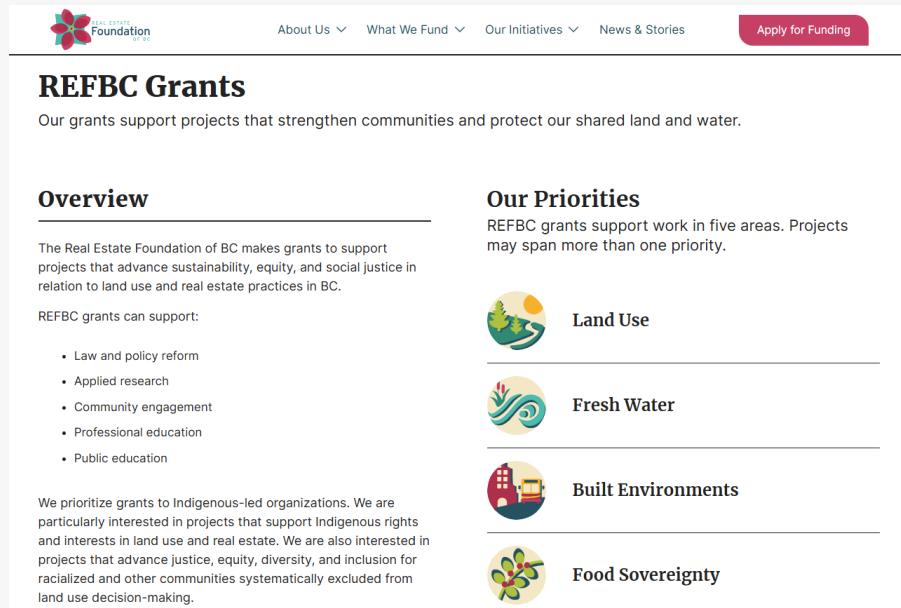
**A few tips on budgets...**



# 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.

A screenshot of the REFBC Grants website. The header includes the REFBC logo, navigation links (About Us, What We Fund, Our Initiatives, News & Stories), and an 'Apply for Funding' button. The main content area is titled 'REFBC Grants' and includes a description: '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 with corresponding icons: Land Use, Fresh Water, Built Environments, and Food Sovereignty. A fifth icon is shown without a label. The bottom of the page features a large arrow pointing to the URL 'refbc.ca/grants'.

→ [refbc.ca/grants](https://refbc.ca/grants)

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

Having any problems? Contact us at [grants@refbc.ca](mailto:grants@refbc.ca).





# Thank you

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

Email ————— [grants@refbc.ca](mailto:grants@refbc.ca)

Website ————— [refbc.ca/grants](http://refbc.ca/grants)



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