

NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST BC INDIGENOUS CANNABIS BUSINESS FUND



The New Relationship Trust (NRT) is a self-sustaining Indigenous-led not-for-profit organization with longstanding and demonstrated capacities in designing, implementing, and delivering grant programs to First Nation communities across B.C and has delivered funding grants in such a way that honours and respects each First Nation as having their own unique structure, cultural heritage, traditional laws, and knowledge in exercising their right to determine and develop priorities and strategies most important to them.

The NRT is committed to making every interaction with First Nation communities an exceptional one. We challenge ourselves to think innovatively and in alignment with Indigenous values to create meaningful and lasting impacts to each grant recipient.

EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS BUSINESSES IN THE CANNABIS SECTOR

Welcome to the Indigenous Cannabis Business Fund (ICBF) – a pioneering initiative in British Columbia committed to fostering economic empowerment, diversity, and equity for Indigenous Peoples of BC, within the regulated cannabis sector.

FUNDING STREAMS

Stream 1 – Community Planning and Engagement

Up to \$12,000 for information workshops, community engagement, and forums addressing cannabis-related information.

Stream 2 – Business Planning, Design, and Capital

Up to \$250,000 for business planning, design, licensing, and capital costs.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- B.C. First Nation governments, Tribal Councils, Indigenous corporations, partnerships, associations, co-operatives, and individual Indigenous entrepreneurs.
- Key criterion: Minimum of 51% Indigenous ownership, proportionate to equity invested.
- Grants are not standalone; applicants are expected to contribute to project costs.

APPLICATION PROCESS NAVIGATING YOUR JOURNEY

The ICBF provides a structured pathway for Indigenous applicants in B.C. to access funding, resources, and support to thrive in the regulated cannabis sector, aligning with broader goals of economic empowerment, diversity, and equity.

Expression of Interest (EOI) Form:

Applicants complete the EOI form, providing essential contact and project details, including legal status, licensing, and funding sources.

Applicant and Project Screening:

After EOI submission, connect with an Aboriginal Financial Institution (AFI) in B.C. for screening and due diligence.

Approval Decisions:

Stream 1 uses a basic criteria-based process, while **Stream 2** involves best practice business assessments by AFIs.

A multi-stakeholder Steering Committee provides overall guidance and direction.

GOALS FOR APPLICANTS ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Supporting Indigenous applicants in developing businesses within the regulated cannabis sector.

EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

Focusing on creating job opportunities, fostering skills development, and providing training for Indigenous individuals.

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

Contributing to economic diversification and equity, with a special emphasis on rural, remote communities and Indigenous women entrepreneurs.

BRAND AND PRODUCT PROMOTION

Encouraging Indigenous brands and products with support for development, public awareness, and procurement opportunities.

REGULATORY NAVIGATION

Assisting in navigating regulatory processes, ensuring adaptability and success post-legalization.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY

Balancing economic growth with community health, knowledge, and safety needs.



The ICBF initiative was developed in partnership with the BC Assembly of First Nations, the network of B.C. Aboriginal Financial Institutions (AFI's), Health Canada & Indigenous Services Canada Strategic Partnership Initiatives, and the Province of B.C. through the B.C. Cannabis Secretariat.

Funding opportunities under the ICBF are administered and co-delivered by the New Relationship Trust and participating AFI's in B.C.

For more information and assistance with the application process, please contact us.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Marc Storms

Cannabis Business Navigator

NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST

PHONE:

1 (877) 922-3338

EMAIL:

cannabisnavigator@nrtf.ca



If you would like more information about funding deadlines, please visit:

www.newrelationshiptrust.ca