



IDDPNQL
FNQLSDI

Support for First Nations
climate leadership

Project Proposal Guide

This initiative is funded by the Government of Quebec as part of the
2030 Plan for a Green Economy

Plan for a
Green
Economy



Québec 

Support for First Nations climate leadership: An overview

The FNQLSDI has been tasked by the Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs with supporting First Nations community projects to strengthen their leadership in the climate transition.

- **Available funding:** \$6.3 million by July 1, 2025
- **Made available through:** the action supporting First Nations and Inuit to act on climate change of the 2030 Plan for a Green Economy implementation plan
- (“Soutenir les Premières Nations et les Inuit pour agir en changements climatiques”)
- **Eligible organizations:**
 - First Nations organizations (with the exception of the Cree Nation and the Naskapi Nation, who are engaged in a separate funding process)
- **Deadline for signing agreements:** The agreements between the FNQLSDI and the organizations responsible for the projects must be signed no later than March 31, 2025
- **Deadline for project completion:** Projects must be completed within 36 months (three years) of signing the agreement, but no later than March 31, 2028

Need help?

Help is available to all organizations that need it. We're here to help you develop and prepare your project proposal and support you at every stage of your project. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Laura Normandin-Bellefeuille, our climate change project leader, at changementsclimatiques@iddpnql.ca.

You can also call us at **418-843-9999**. We'll be happy to answer your questions and discuss your ideas, your project, and any concerns.

What are the goals of this initiative?

This initiative will support climate change projects led by First Nations. Specifically, it aims to:

- Strengthen First Nations' leadership in the climate transition by supporting projects that meet their needs and priorities
- Increase First Nations' resilience to the impacts of climate change and support their climate change mitigation planning efforts
- Promote climate-related capacity building and training
- Support the development of climate change knowledge and expertise

Who can apply?

This funding opportunity is open to First Nations organizations. All Nations are eligible, with the exception of the Cree Nation and the Naskapi Nation, who are engaged in a separate funding process.

To be eligible, an organization must:

Belong to an eligible First Nation

Have been in operation for at least one year at the time of application

The following **Indigenous organizations** are **eligible**:

- Indigenous communities and nations recognized by Quebec's National Assembly
- Regional commissions and organizations of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador
- Tribal councils
- Indigenous non-profit organizations and their equivalents
- Educational institutions
- Health and social service institutions
- Quebec non-profit organizations and associations
- Cooperatives, companies, and mutuels

Which projects are eligible?

To be eligible, a project must:

Have a direct connection to the climate transition among First Nations and address one or more of the following: climate change **adaptation**, climate change **mitigation** (excluding the implementation of such projects), or climate change **mobilization, knowledge transfer, or outreach**

Respond to a need identified as a priority by First Nations

Involve community members and organizations and focus on local capacity building

Adaptation projects

Climate **adaptation** projects can include:

- Knowledge acquisition
- Project planning
- Project implementation
- Capacity building

Adaptation projects must address both current and future impacts of climate change.

Mitigation projects

Climate **mitigation** projects can include:

- Knowledge acquisition
- Project planning
- Capacity building

Particular attention will need to be paid to the potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. You can contact us to discuss this point if needed.

Project examples

Here are some **examples of eligible projects**:

- Acquiring knowledge about the risks associated with climate change
- Carrying out adaptation projects identified in community adaptation plans
- Organizing an event on climate change, its impacts on the land and communities, and what can be done to adapt
- Having Indigenous youth take part in a conference on climate change and share their experiences and expertise at local or regional events
- Planning adaptation projects and projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Organizations can receive funding for more than one project, but only if they are different projects and the organization can demonstrate that it will be able to carry them out successfully. Projects that complement ongoing activities are eligible.

A project is not eligible if it:

- Aims to implement actions for mitigating climate change
- Is recurring
- Is related to the organization's regular or recurring activities
- Is already underway at the time of application, unless the organization is applying to start a new phase of the project or expand the project's scope
- Aims to establish a foundation or seek sponsorship

Budget

The budget available per project ranges from **\$50,000** to **\$500,000**.

A project may receive additional direct or indirect financial assistance from Quebec and Canadian government departments/ministries, agencies, and Crown corporations, for a total of up to 100% of the project's eligible expenses. However, a project cannot receive funding from another program or action funded by the Electrification and Climate Change Fund.

Project timing and duration

Organizations and communities will have **36 months** (three years) to complete their projects once they have been awarded funding. The last projects to be funded will start on March 31, 2025, and will need to be completed by March 31, 2028.

Work and related spending can begin from the date on which the FNQLSDI and the responsible organization sign the funding agreement for the project. This agreement will also specify the commitments of the parties involved.

Eligible and ineligible expenses

Here's a summary of the expenses that are eligible and ineligible under this initiative. The FNQLSDI reserves the right to reject any expenses it deems unrelated to the project's implementation or objectives.

Eligible expenses:

- Salaries and employee benefits
- Student grants
- Professional fees paid to a legal entity or individual for a specific task or service
- Travel, meal, and accommodation expenses within Quebec as per the FNQLSDI's internal policies
- Expenses for workshops and meetings in First Nations communities
- Expenses for communications activities
- Costs of purchasing or renting specialized equipment for the project, such as computers/tablets and tools for field work; vehicle rental costs (helicopters, cars, snowmobiles, and boats)
- Costs of acquiring data such as remote sensing images
- Administrative costs (up to a maximum of 10% of the awarded funding), including the cost of administrative management, office space rental, office equipment, and Internet access

Ineligible expenses:

- Costs incurred before the date on which the funding agreement is signed
- Costs related to offsetting greenhouse gas emissions
- Capital expenditures, i.e., costs associated with developing infrastructure, purchasing land or buildings, acquiring rolling or flying stock (such as boats, trucks, and snowmobiles), or renovating buildings
- Pay for the organization's regular staff for carrying out their usual tasks
- Fees and expenses associated with the organization's day-to-day operations
- Entertainment expenses, donations, and sponsorships
- Expenses incurred to comply with legal and regulatory requirements
- Expenses not directly related to or justified by the project

Project selection

A independent committee of First Nations climate change experts will evaluate the projects and recommend which ones to support. Projects will be received and selected on a rolling basis. Every organization that submits a project proposal will be contacted.

How can I submit a project proposal?

Eligible communities and organizations can submit a project proposal in whatever format works best for them.

1. Contact us if you'd like to propose a project or discuss your project and ideas. Laura Normandin-Bellefeuille, our climate change project leader, will be happy to assist you.
2. Email: changementsclimatiques@iddpnql.ca
3. Phone: **418-843-9999**
4. Fill out the [project proposal template](#) or submit your proposal in another format if that works better for you.
5. Prepare a [provisional budget](#).
6. Submit your project proposal by email to Laura or via the [FNQLSDI website](#).

Appendices

Selection criteria

To be considered for selection, a project must meet the following criteria:

Quality of the project proposal

- The situation and reasons for the project are well defined
- The project objectives are realistic
- The project meets the selection criteria
- The work plan and estimated timeline make sense and are realistic

Community priorities

- The proposal demonstrates that the project will address a need identified as a priority by the community

Relationship to climate change

- The project will increase your community's resilience to the impacts of climate change
- AND/OR
- The project will support your community's efforts to develop a climate change mitigation plan
- AND/OR
- The project will promote climate-related capacity building and training
- AND/OR
- The project will support the acquisition of climate change knowledge and expertise

Participatory approach and capacity building

- The proposal demonstrates that the project will support capacity building in the organization/community
- The proposal demonstrates that local actors will be responsible for the project
- Community members will be involved in the project

Valuing Indigenous knowledge

- The proposal demonstrates that the project will value Indigenous knowledge

Project deliverables, benefits, and communications

- The project deliverables make sense and are realistic
- The benefits of the project tie in with the goals of this funding initiative
- The proposal describes the types of communications that will be used to share and disseminate project information

Optional component

The project selection committee values collaboration between communities and sees this as a project asset.

Collaboration between communities

Here are some examples:

- The project will involve sharing knowledge and tools with other communities
- The project will benefit other communities
- The project will allow communities to work together more effectively



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