

Indigenous Participation in the Cannabis Sector – Federal Supports Available (British Columbia)

British Columbia – First Nations Leadership Council Cannabis Working Group (May 27, 2020)

This document provides information on Government of Canada funding and supports which may be available to Indigenous communities or entrepreneurs in British Columbia who are seeking assistance to participate in the regulated cannabis sector. The document also includes links to relevant web content, as well as key contacts for these programs.

Other federal programs may be available for specific projects or businesses. For a more complete assessment of federal programs available, the **Innovation Canada portal** can be consulted at https://innovation.ised-isde.canada.ca/s/?language=en_CA.

FEDERAL ORGANIZATION	NAME	DESCRIPTION	KEY INFORMATION	KEY CONTACTS
Health Canada	Indigenous Navigator Service	Program-specific resource which provides ongoing support throughout the federal licensing process for cannabis.	<p>Self-identified Indigenous affiliated applicants who wish to become cannabis licence holder will be referred to a dedicated professional who is knowledgeable about Indigenous priorities, communities and circumstances.</p> <p>At the request of Indigenous communities or groups, the Navigator Service can also organize information sessions where licensing professionals can provide an overview of Health Canada’s licensing process and answer questions. Finally, the Navigator can connect Indigenous communities or groups looking to obtain a licence with additional available resources within Health Canada (e.g., Cannabis Licensing Advisor).</p>	navig@canada.ca

Indigenous Participation in the Cannabis Sector – Federal Supports Available (British Columbia)
British Columbia – First Nations Leadership Council Cannabis Working Group (May 27, 2020)

FEDERAL ORGANIZATION	NAME	DESCRIPTION	KEY INFORMATION	KEY CONTACTS
<p>Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada</p> <p>Indigenous Services Canada</p>	<p>Aboriginal Business and Entrepreneurship Development</p>	<p>National program aimed to increase the number of viable Indigenous businesses, provide a supportive Indigenous business environment, and enhance access to capital for Indigenous businesses.</p> <p>The program is managed by Aboriginal Financial Institutions (https://nacca.ca/aboriginal-financial-institutions/).</p>	<p>This program is Indigenous focussed, and is open to: First Nations, Métis or Inuit individuals; businesses owned and controlled by Indigenous peoples; Indigenous community and/or economic development corporation.</p> <p>Individuals may receive up to \$99,999 in funding assistance, provided through Aboriginal Financial Institutions. The amount of funding available for a business proposal depends on its scope and estimated budget.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tale’awtxw Aboriginal Capital Corporation (www.tacc.ca) • Nuuchahnulth Economic Development Corporation (www.Aw.nedc.info) • All Nations Trust Co. (www.antco.bc.ca) • Tribal Resources Investment Corp (www.tricorp.ca)
<p>Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada</p> <p>Indigenous Services Canada</p>	<p>Lands and Economic Development Services – Project Based (Targeted)*</p>	<p>Project-based funding is available for economic development, land management and environment management activities, including (not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity development planning • Land designations that support economic development • Development of proposals to raise financial resources • Program management services pertaining to community economic development 	<p>This program is Indigenous focussed.</p>	<p>Local Regional Office of CIRNAC</p>

Indigenous Participation in the Cannabis Sector – Federal Supports Available (British Columbia)
British Columbia – First Nations Leadership Council Cannabis Working Group (May 27, 2020)

FEDERAL ORGANIZATION	NAME	DESCRIPTION	KEY INFORMATION	KEY CONTACTS
<p>Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada</p> <p>Indigenous Services Canada</p>	<p>Community Opportunities Readiness Program</p>	<p>National program to address financial needs of Indigenous communities when they are in pursuit of, and wish to participate in, an economic opportunity.</p> <p>Activities considered may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support to pursue economic opportunities and attract private sector funding, such as feasibility studies, marketing, advertising and • support for community-owned businesses where there is an equity gap • Community economic infrastructure development related to business development 	<p>This program is Indigenous focussed, and is open to: First Nation and Inuit communities or organizations controlled by them.</p> <p>Proposals must directly relate to community economic benefits for First Nation and Inuit communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$1 million for business innovation/growth proposals. • Up to \$3 million for community economic infrastructure proposals. <p>In addition, funding provided for a project may not exceed 66.67% of the total eligible project cost for implementing community economic infrastructure projects or 80% of the total eligible project cost for all other projects</p>	<p>Julia Kristjanson (BC Region) Julia.Kristjanson@canada.ca</p>
<p>Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada</p>	<p>Canada Small Business Financing Program</p>	<p>National program helping small businesses get loans from financial institutions by sharing the risk with lenders.</p>	<p>Small business is defined as one operating for profit with gross annual revenues of \$10 million or less.</p> <p>Maximum available to any one borrower is \$1 million.</p> <p>Independent financial institutions are solely responsible for approving the loan, interest rates are also determined by the financial institution.</p>	<p>List of all the participating lenders in the Canada Small Business Financing Program</p>

Indigenous Participation in the Cannabis Sector – Federal Supports Available (British Columbia)
British Columbia – First Nations Leadership Council Cannabis Working Group (May 27, 2020)

FEDERAL ORGANIZATION	NAME	DESCRIPTION	KEY INFORMATION	KEY CONTACTS
Western Economic Diversification Canada	Regional Economic Growth through Innovation Program (REGI): Stream 1 – Business Scale up and Productivity (BSP)	National program to support businesses at various stages of development, including high-growth firms, wanting to accelerate their growth, scale-up, and be more productive and competitive in both domestic and global markets.	<p>This program is open to incorporated high-growth businesses scaling up and producing innovative goods, services or technologies that have been operating in western Canada for a minimum of 2 years</p> <p>It can cover up to 50% of eligible project costs, and includes a minimum of \$200,000 to a maximum of \$5 million, repayable interest-free funding to western Canadian companies. A minimum of 50% of the total project funding required from confirmed non-government sources.</p> <p>Upcoming program intakes: September 15 to October 14, 2020 and January 15 to February 16, 2021.</p>	Steve Jones (WD) steve.jones@canada.ca

Indigenous Participation in the Cannabis Sector – Federal Supports Available (British Columbia)
British Columbia – First Nations Leadership Council Cannabis Working Group (May 27, 2020)

FEDERAL ORGANIZATION	NAME	DESCRIPTION	KEY INFORMATION	KEY CONTACTS
<p>Western Economic Diversification Canada</p>	<p>Regional Economic Growth through Innovation Program (REGI): Stream 2 – Regional Innovation Ecosystems (RIE)</p>	<p>National Program aimed to create, grow and nurture inclusive regional ecosystems that support business needs throughout the innovation continuum, and foster an entrepreneurial environment conducive to innovation, growth and competitiveness.</p>	<p>This program is open to not-for-profit organizations (including Indigenous-led not-for profit organizations and Indigenous-owned businesses) that support businesses, innovators and entrepreneurs, for start-up, growth, productivity, technology commercialization, technology adoption, export and investment attraction.</p> <p>Repayable and non-repayable contributions, (normally only repayable where the proposed projects generate profits).</p> <p>The amount of funding awarded generally starts at 50% of total project costs and is based on factors such as the minimum amount required for the project to proceed, the extent to which other sources of available funding have been leveraged, and the applicant's ability to repay the contribution, if applicable.</p> <p>There is a continuous intake.</p>	<p>Trevor Todd (WD) trevor.todd@canada.ca</p>

Indigenous Participation in the Cannabis Sector – Federal Supports Available (British Columbia)
British Columbia – First Nations Leadership Council Cannabis Working Group (May 27, 2020)

FEDERAL ORGANIZATION	NAME	DESCRIPTION	KEY INFORMATION	KEY CONTACTS
Western Economic Diversification Canada	Community Economic Development and Diversification (CEDD) <i>Note: this program is not advertised on WD's website</i>	Regional program aimed to support economic development initiatives in the western region that contribute to the economic growth and diversification of communities across Western Canada by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sustaining and growing their economies, mobilizing community capacity; • responding to economic development opportunities identified through a community planning process; • adjusting to changing and challenging economic circumstances; and • supporting targeted communities. 	Indigenous communities are amongst targeted communities. Contributions to not-for-profit organizations will be non-repayable, except where a project results in what would normally be considered a commercial activity. Government assistance stacking level is up to 100% of eligible costs for non-commercial projects implemented by NFP organizations, social enterprises, Indigenous organizations or Indigenous-controlled enterprises where proceeds of the project will be reinvested in the community, or in accordance with formal agreements entered into with other levels of government. For commercial projects, the stacking limit will generally be limited to 50% of eligible capital costs including the establishment, modernization or expansion of physical plants and 75% for other eligible costs. There is a continuous intake.	Trevor Todd (WD) trevor.todd@canada.ca

Indigenous Participation in the Cannabis Sector – Federal Supports Available (British Columbia)
British Columbia – First Nations Leadership Council Cannabis Working Group (May 27, 2020)

FEDERAL ORGANIZATION	NAME	DESCRIPTION	KEY INFORMATION	KEY CONTACTS
Western Economic Diversification Canada	Western Canada Business Service Network (WCBSN)	<p>This is a group of several independent organizations that receive funding from WD to provide a range of services to help create and build small businesses across the West.</p> <p><u>Community Futures Programs</u> are focused on supporting entrepreneurs in rural areas with loans, training, and business advisory services.</p> <p><u>Indigenous Business Development Services</u> include offices that provide early entrepreneurship support for new and existing Indigenous entrepreneurs and business organizations in Western Canada.</p>	<p>Community Futures (CF) Programs may provide business loans for cannabis operations, but such decisions would be made on a case by case basis by the particular CF.</p>	<p>Kandice Morrison (WD) kandice.morrison@canada.ca</p>
Business Development Bank of Canada	Indigenous Entrepreneur Loan	<p>National program providing flexible financing to start or grow a business.</p>	<p>This program is Indigenous focussed.</p> <p>It provides financing of up to \$350,000. The loan can be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire fixed assets • Finance franchise fees • Cover start-up costs • Start exporting • Replenish working capital 	<p>Applications can be done online. https://www.bdc.ca/en/i_am/a_boriginal_entrepreneur/pages/indigenous-entrepreneur-loan.aspx</p>

Indigenous Participation in the Cannabis Sector – Federal Supports Available (British Columbia)
British Columbia – First Nations Leadership Council Cannabis Working Group (May 27, 2020)

FEDERAL ORGANIZATION	NAME	DESCRIPTION	KEY INFORMATION	KEY CONTACTS
Employment and Social Development Canada	Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program	National program which provides funding to Indigenous service delivery organizations that design and deliver job training services to First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban/non-affiliated Indigenous people in their communities.	<p>This program is Indigenous focussed.</p> <p>The program provides funding to Indigenous service delivery organizations that design and deliver job training. The list of service delivery organizations in British Columbia is available online at https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/indigenous-skills-employment-training/service-delivery-organizations.html.</p>	Karen Campbell, Director, Program Policy Coordination Unit (ESDC) Karen.Campbell@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca
Employment and Social Development Canada	Skills and Partnership Fund (SPF)	National, demand-driven, partnership-based program that supports government priorities through strategic partnerships.	<p>This program is Indigenous focused.</p> <p>It funds projects that contribute to skills development and training-to-employment of Indigenous workers towards long-term, meaningful employment.</p> <p>The next funding cycle is planned for 2021 and beyond.</p>	Karen Campbell, Director, Program Policy Coordination Unit (ESDC) Karen.Campbell@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca