

# Indigenous Languages in Education



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Nitaweintan annisnabemowin tah-wâniskâmâkah

“We want the Anishinabe language to be awakened.”

~Doreen Daychief; Anishinabe

## Background

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada calls for Indigenous language recognition, protection and revitalization to be directed and managed by Indigenous communities through support from the government. To address these *Calls to Action*, Alberta Education has worked with Indigenous community members and stakeholders including Alberta’s First Nations Colleges Universities and First Nations and Métis organizations to address and develop strategies to support K-12 Indigenous languages.

Based on these discussions, the following themes emerged:

- All Indigenous languages of Alberta are in need of protection.
- All Indigenous language groups require certified, professional teachers and instructors.
- Language revitalization efforts require quality teaching and learning materials (such as professional teacher guides and curricula and learning resources such as textbooks, video and audio recordings, etc).
- All Indigenous languages require substantially more instructional resource materials.

To address these concerns, the ILE grant program was created to increase opportunities for pedagogical training in Indigenous languages and to increase the number of early childhood education and K-12 teaching/learning resources in Alberta’s Indigenous languages. This grant provides funding for the promotion of Indigenous languages through two streams:

- Teacher/instructor development:
  - Activities that increase the number of Indigenous language training opportunities for early childhood education and K-12 instructors and teachers.
- Resource development:
  - Activities that increase the number of early childhood education and K-12 teaching and learning resources in Alberta’s Indigenous languages (Anishinabe [Saulteaux/Ojibway], Blackfoot, Cree, Dene, Michif, Nakoda/Nakota and Tsuut’ina).

Tu I?abi igi nômnasdicad

“We want to take our language back.”

~Lyndon Aginas; Nakota

## Who is Eligible for ILE?

**Instructor Development** projects will only be open to the First Nations colleges/universities and those Indigenous organizations that have a primary mandate to train early childhood education and K-12 language instructors in Indigenous languages.

**Resource Development** projects will be competitive and open to organizations that have expertise in developing Indigenous language resources, including First Nations and Métis communities, Indigenous organizations, provincial school jurisdictions and post-secondary institutions.

To ensure that resources are culturally appropriate, non-Indigenous organizations (i.e. provincial school jurisdictions and post-secondary institutions) will be required to partner with First Nations, Métis or Inuit communities and/or organizations.

**Note:** Individuals are not eligible to apply to the grant program.

	Teacher/Instructor Development Stream		Resource Development Stream	
Funding amount	\$4 million		\$2 million	
Funding over 2 years	Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2
	\$2 million	\$2 million	\$1.5 Million	\$500,000
Goals	The language teacher/instructor development stream will work towards increasing the number of professional, certified teachers in Alberta with fluency or pedagogical expertise in an Indigenous language.		The resource development stream will increase the number of early childhood education and K-12 teaching/learning resources in Alberta's Indigenous languages.	
Indicators of Success	Development of training programs for languages and language pedagogy; enrolment of teachers/instructors in existing language/pedagogy programs.		Locally developed resources for Alberta's Indigenous languages.	
Eligible Applicants	First Nations colleges and universities; Indigenous organizations that have a primary mandate for training early childhood education and K-12 Indigenous language instructors.		First Nations and Métis communities, Indigenous organizations and provincial school jurisdictions that partner with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities/organizations.	
Competitive?	No.		Yes.	
Example outputs	Development of courses, programs to train instructors; funding for access to existing training programs; development of transfer agreements; development of bridging programs towards a Bachelor of Education.		Teaching guides; curricula; flashcards; story books; dictionaries; language apps; learning videos; audio books.	
Minimum Grant	No minimum.		\$10,000	
Maximum Grant	Up to \$ 570,000 per project over two years.		Up to \$100,000 per project over two years.	
Number of Intakes	1		1	
Maximum proposals	1 per organization.		2 per organization (proposals should be substantially different).	

The ILE grant program offers \$6 million in funding over two years. A total of \$4 million has been allocated to the Language Instructor Development stream, while the resource development stream has been allocated \$2 million.

Support for teacher/instructor development can take the form of Indigenous language courses; curriculum and program development that promote language pedagogy; facilitating access to existing language instruction programs, tuition reimbursement, living stipends, or relocation allowances.

Development of resources can include, but are not limited to, the development of books, movies, flash cards, apps, or board games.

The language instructor development grant is a non-competitive grant and will provide a two-year maximum of \$570,000 to each First Nations college or university, and Indigenous organizations with a primary mandate in training early childhood education and K-12 language instructors.

The resource development stream will use a competitive grant process. The two-year maximum funding for this grant is \$100,000 with a minimum request of \$10,000 funding. This grant stream should be orientated toward K-12 Indigenous language learning outcomes.



Dīyī nīhīgūnāhā ch'adīt'á át'à Nátō nàkàyínínìjī át'á. Gwànīsttīnī-tī dīdīlī gūlīnī. Dīdīlī àdī nīhīgūnāhā t̄àsgūlā ídúwā-hī át'ā. Mīsīlā dātīshí k'á nīhīgūnāhā dík'á nādāsāàlà gwāgúnā. Áttāt'īyī dīdīlī gūlīn.

“Our languages are holy. Creator send it down from above. I am happy that there are funds available. Without financial assistance our language will be gone forever. We are able to record and publish our languages in book form. There is finally some assistance.”

~Bruce Starlight; Tsuut'ina

## Language Teacher/Instructor Development Stream

Support for instructor training should facilitate the development of certified teachers/instructors who have the capacity to teach an Indigenous language of Alberta. At the end of the program, instructors should present pedagogical knowledge in the Indigenous language that they are going to teach. These goals may be achieved by directly training individuals through existing programs, or through the creation of a new teacher/instructor training program.

Funding for the language teacher/instructor development stream will be distributed over two years, resulting in \$2 million in total funding per year (\$4 million in total). While there is no minimum amount an application can apply for, no grant will exceed \$285,000 per year.

This stream will have only one intake, with a deadline of **December 18, 2018**.

Kitsitsipowahsinnoon Ihtaotsistapitsiip Kiipaitapiiwahsinnoon

"Our Blackfoot language helps us understand our Blackfoot way of life."

~Pat Twigg; Blackfoot

## Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Alignment:** What is the extent to which the application and proposal align with the grant program's purpose and priorities?
- **Knowledge and ability:** Does the proposal demonstrate that the applicant will have the necessary knowledge and ability to manage and implement the proposal?
- **Implementation:** Does the application clearly outline how the project will be developed, implemented and assessed?
- **Appropriateness:** Is the requested funding appropriate for the project? Does the amount of funding exceed the maximum of \$285,000 over two years?
- **Timeline:** Can the project be successfully completed in a period of up to two years?
- **Impact:** How will planned activities result in a provincial increase of Indigenous language teachers/instructors for early childhood education and K-12 classrooms?

Nuhyetiá bet'a danarúʔá, eyí gháré t'at'i dené nelí bek'óreja,  
bech'ayúna séné, Nuhyetiá hok'étl'á bet'órúʔá, begħa hódí.

“Let’s use our language again, it distinguishes us, do not forget it.  
Always use your language, be proud of it.”

~Charlene Boucher; Dene Sų́liné

## Eligible Projects

The following list provides examples of eligible activities for a teacher/instructor development grant:

- Training of teachers/instructors in Indigenous language pedagogy.
- Bridging of existing certification towards a Bachelor of Education.
- Training of professional, certified teachers in an Indigenous language.
- Peer-to-peer teacher/instructor exchange programs.
- Creation of university credit transfer courses or programs that lead to a Bachelor of Education.
- Development of teacher/instructor training programs and/or courses to train instructors in languages or language pedagogy.
- Linking existing bridging programs to support teacher/instructor certification.
- Development of university credit transfer courses.

### Who Can Apply?

Applications for the *language teacher/instructor development stream* will be limited to First Nations colleges, universities and Indigenous organizations whose primary mandates include the development or training of early childhood education and K-12 Indigenous language teachers/instructors.

The following list includes various ways in which funds can be used. It is not an exhaustive list and other uses may be considered:

- Administrative costs associated with the creation of a teacher-training program.
  - Tuition reimbursement for courses in language pedagogy.
  - Living expenses (e.g. room and board) for students engaged in course work away from home.
  - Tools needed for coursework/development of courses (e.g. textbooks, computers).
  - Short-term positions (e.g. salaries and benefits for a project manager).

- Fees for professional advisors or consultants to provide professional services related to the project.
- Travel costs incurred for the specific purpose of participating in project activities.
- Software purchases and licensing fees, necessary for the implementation of the project.
- Information technology hardware (e.g. monitor, keyboards, computer data storage, hard disk drive (HDD), graphic cards, sound cards, memory (RAM), motherboards), directly related to the project.
- Professional development, training, workshops and conferences that align with training needs.
- Curricula development, testing, and implementation.
- Project administration costs (5 per cent of the sub-total amount requested before administration costs) including:
  - Office supplies.
  - Telecommunications, with the exception of connectivity infrastructure.
  - Clerical support.
  - The collection, maintenance and reporting of data and information in accordance with the project and financial reporting requirements.
- Honoraria/gifts for Elders to attend project related meetings/events.

**Ineligible expenditures** include, but are not limited to:

- Project administration fees (i.e. funds may not be used to pay oversight organizations that do not directly contribute to the project's completion).
- Capital related purchases (e.g. office printers, appliances, buildings etc.).
- Rent or mortgage payments (excluding living expenses for prospective instructors as mentioned above).
- Facilities operations and maintenance.
- Connectivity infrastructure (e.g. points of presence, fibre optics, transfer stations and satellite dishes).
- Information technology hardware (e.g. monitor, keyboards, computer data storage, hard disk drive [HDD], graphic cards, sound cards, memory [RAM], motherboards), not directly related to the project.
- Long-term salaries and benefits for program/project related human resources.

Notre langue ohci kiyânaw, awîna kiyânaw les métifs, notre langue ohci

“Language is a part of us, it is our identity...it’s who we are.”

~Les Skinner; Michif

## Resource Development Stream

The resource development stream should support the development of early childhood education and K-12 Indigenous language learning materials for students and professional learning and teaching materials for Indigenous language instructors. Activities should facilitate an increase in the number of teaching/learning resources in Alberta’s Indigenous languages.

Funding for the resource development stream will be tapered, with an allocation of \$1.5 million in the first year and \$500,000 in the second year. No project will receive more than \$50,000 per year. Applications must request a minimum of \$10,000 per year. Proposed projects are encouraged to plan for the development of multiple resources.

## Resource Development Requirements

Grant agreements will incorporate requirements from applicants that outline how they will adhere to the standards for curriculum development outlined in:

- *The Guiding Framework for the Design and Development of Kindergarten to Grade 12 Provincial Curriculum,*
- *Guidelines for Recognizing Diversity and Promoting Respect,* and
- *Walking Together First Nations Métis and Inuit Perspectives in Curriculum* resource.

Links to find the standards for curriculum development are listed at the end of this guideline.

Ownership of any resources, which are developed or produced under this grant program, will remain with the grant recipient. Upon completion of a grant agreement, the grant recipient grants a license to the ministry to use the resources developed, at no cost to the ministry.

This stream will have only one intake, with a deadline of **December 18, 2018**. Alberta Education can offer support for possible provincial authorization of any resource resulting from this grant program.

## Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Alignment:** What is the extent to which the application and proposal align with the grant program's purpose and priorities?
- **Knowledge and ability:** Does the proposal demonstrate that the applicant will have the necessary knowledge and ability to manage and implement the proposal?
- **Implementation:** Does the application clearly outline how the project will be developed, implemented, and assessed?
- **Appropriateness:** Is the funding requested appropriate for the project? Does the amount requested fall within the minimum and maximum values?
- **Timeline:** Can the project be successfully completed in period of up to two years?
- **Impact:** How will the planned activities result in increased high quality early childhood education and K-12 Indigenous teaching and learning resources?

## Eligible Projects

The following list provides examples of **eligible** activities for a resource development grant:

- Audio/video recordings.
- Development or translation of a child/student centered book.
- Creation of a language-learning website or app.
- Development of an Indigenous language dictionary.
- Development of language games.
- Development of any other Indigenous language instruction material (including assessments, word-searches, crosswords, flashcards, etc.).
- Development of teaching manuals or supplementary materials to train and prepare instructors for teaching Indigenous languages.
- Targeted language books.

### Who Can Apply?

Applications for the *resource development stream* are open to:

- Alberta First Nations
- Métis Settlements
- Organizations with a primary mandate to support early childhood education and K-12 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students
- Tribal Councils
- First Nations Education Authorities
- Provincial schools or post-secondary institutions who partner with an Indigenous community or organization

Grant funds are to be used to facilitate the development of high-quality teaching and learning resources. The following list includes various ways in which funds can be utilized. It is not an exhaustive list and other uses may be considered:

- Tools needed for resource development (e.g. iPad, computer).
- Short-term positions (e.g. salaries and benefits for a project manager).
- Fees for professional advisors or consultants to provide professional services related to the project.
- Travel costs incurred for the specific purpose of participating in project activities.
- Software purchases and licensing fees necessary for the implementation of the project.
- Information technology hardware (e.g. monitor, keyboards, computer data storage, hard disk drive [HDD], graphic cards, sound cards, memory [RAM], motherboards), directly related to the project.
- Professional learning, training workshops and education conferences that align with training needs.
- Curricula development-testing, and implementation, teacher-professional guides, student assessment guides.
- Project administration costs (5 per cent of the sub-total amount requested before administration costs) including:
  - Office supplies.
  - Telecommunications, with the exception connectivity infrastructure.
  - Clerical support.
  - The collection, maintenance and reporting of data and information in accordance with the project and financial reporting requirements.
- Honoraria/gifts for Elders to attend project related meetings/events.

**Ineligible expenditures** include, but are not limited to:

- Project administration fees (i.e. funds may not be used to pay oversight organizations that do not directly contribute to the project's completion).
- Capital related purchases (e.g. office printers, appliances, buildings etc.).
- Rent or mortgage payments.
- Facilities operations and maintenance.
- Connectivity infrastructure (e.g. points of presence, fibre optics, transfer stations and satellite dishes).
- Information technology hardware (e.g. monitor, keyboards, computer data storage, hard disk drive [HDD], graphic cards, sound cards, memory [RAM], motherboards), not directly related to the project.
- Long-term salaries and benefits for program/project related human resources.

# What are the Grant Timelines?

Milestones	Date
Grant program announced	October 2018
Application and proposal deadline	December 18, 2018
Application and proposal review	January-February 2019
Grant Monies Released	February/March 2019

## Application Process

- To receive an ILE grant, applicants should submit an application detailing the following information:
  - The legal name and address of the prospective grant recipient and its designated representative for the purpose of the proposed conditional grant.
  - A listing of the board of directors (if applicable).
  - The purpose and expected outcomes of the requested funding and proposed performance/reporting measures.
  - The grant recipient's education mandate or mission statement/vision statement (where available).
  - The proposed amount of the conditional grant (total funding amount requested).
  - A budget including the proposed timing of payments in accordance with anticipated needs, events that trigger payments, and the portion of funding that will be directed toward administrative costs.
  - Details of any other applications or proposals for financial assistance made to any other department or agency of the government, and to any other entities external to government, if those could impact the decision to grant or the quantum of the grant.
  - The date by which the conditional grant (funds) is required, as well as the proposed commencement and completion dates.
  - Letters of support (required only for applications in the resource development stream for non-Indigenous applicants).

An application template is available on the Alberta Education website: [First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Directorate](#)



Please send proposals through one of the following options:

By e-mail to: [EDC.ILE@gov.ab.ca](mailto:EDC.ILE@gov.ab.ca)

By mail to:

ATTN: Grant Manager  
First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Directorate  
Alberta Education  
10044 - 108 Street (11th floor)  
44 Capital Blvd  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 5E6

**All proposals must be received by December 18, 2018. Proposals received after this date will not be considered for funding.**

## Definitions

- **Alberta's Indigenous languages:** Anishinabe (Saulteaux/Ojibwa), Blackfoot (Niisitapi), Cree (nehiyaw), Dene (Suline, Tha and Za), Michif, Nakoda/Nakota, and Tsuut'ina.
- **Resources:** Tools used in teaching or learning a language.
- **Student resources:** Learning tools such as storybooks, flash cards, worksheets, games that can be used by students to learn and practice a language.
- **Instructor resources:** Teaching tools such as curricula, teaching guides, lesson plans, supplementary materials, professional development guides, etc.
- **Capital related purchases:** Items or facilities that are long-term investments such as industrial photocopiers, computer servers, or real estate.
- **Teacher:** An individual who holds a full teaching certificate from Alberta Education.
- **Instructor:** An individual who provides instruction without holding an Alberta teaching certificate.
- **Peer-to-peer instructor exchange:** The practice of instructors visiting schools other than their home institutions in order to observe and learn from other language instructors.
- **Bridging:** A partnership between educational institutions that provides fluent language speakers with recognition of previous academic experience and supports the completion of a Bachelors of Education degree.

# Links to standards for curriculum development

<https://education.alberta.ca/media/3575996/curriculum-development-guiding-framework.pdf>

<https://education.alberta.ca/media/1224528/rdpr-guidelines-2015.pdf>

<http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/aswt/>