

Federal Funding to Support the Indigenous Forest Sector

National Summit on the Indigenous Forest Bioeconomy

October 10, 2024



Canada



Commitment to Reconciliation through Policy, Program and Internal Evolution

Wah-ila-toos Clean Energy Program Suite (CERRC, Northern REACHE, IODI)

Indigenous Forestry Initiative (IFI)

2 Billion Trees (2BT)

Nòkwewashk

Indigenous Natural Resource Partnerships (INRP)

Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program (ILGP)

Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario (FedNor)

Indigenous Services Canada Funding Opportunities



Federal Collaboration with Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek



Images Courtesy of BNA Papasay Sawmill Site Visit

Wah-ila-toos Program & Eligibility

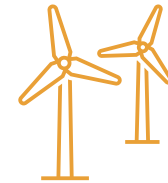
Core Wah-ila-toos Programs

1) Northern REACHE; 2) Clean Energy for Rural & Remote Communities; 3) Indigenous Off-Diesel Initiative

Applicants

- Indigenous communities and governments, tribal councils, development corporations & other Indigenous organizations
- Provincial, territorial, regional or municipal governments & related organizations
- Legally registered or incorporated Canadian for-profit & not-for-profit organizations

Projects



Solar | Wind | Hydropower | Energy Storage
Energy Efficiency | Innovative Technologies



Biomass Heating, District Heating &
Combined Heat & Power | Biomass Supply
Chains | Geothermal | Solar Thermal



Training Skills & Curriculum Development |
Energy Coordinators | Energy Literacy |
Energy Planning | Workshops, Events &
Engagement | Research & Feasibility

Wah-ila-toos Model



Indigenous Council
Strategic direction &
project review



**Community-centred,
relationship-based
approach**



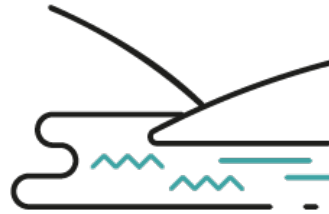
**Flexible timelines +
hands on support**



**Prioritize Indigenous-
led & Indigenous-
benefitting projects**



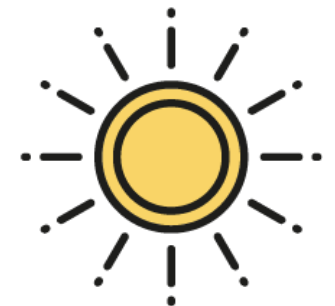
Governing Board
Project endorsement &
policy decisions



**Removing barriers
+ increasing
access**



**Meeting
communities
where they are at**



**Engagement &
dialogue**

Clean Energy for Indigenous, Rural & Remote Communities Program (CERRRC)

- CERRRC supports renewable energy deployment, demonstration, bioheat, & capacity building initiatives.
- 90% of CERRRC projects are Indigenous-led.
- To date, CERRRC has signed grants & contribution agreements for 187 projects, of which 97 are complete.



Contact nrcan.remoteenergy-energieadistance.rncan@canada.ca for an application guide.



CERRC Program BioHeat Stream



Funding available until 2027, or until fully allocated.

- Supports feasibility studies, capacity building & the installation of proven biomass heating, district heating & combined heat & power systems that displace diesel &/or other fossil fuels used for heating.
- Since 2018: 52 projects in 60+ Indigenous communities across Canada.



CERRC BioHeat Project Highlight: Wiwemikong Development Commission



Status: in progress

- Wood pellet heating & infrastructure project + community energy plan & district heating feasibility study with CERRC BioHeat

Anticipated Results:

- Reduced fossil fuel use & GHG emissions
- Stable, affordable residential heat
- Long-term community energy plan
- Potential future community district heating system



Keys to Success



Revenue Generation Plan:
Wood Pellet Manufacturing Plant



Available Feedstock Supply



Planning & Feasibility



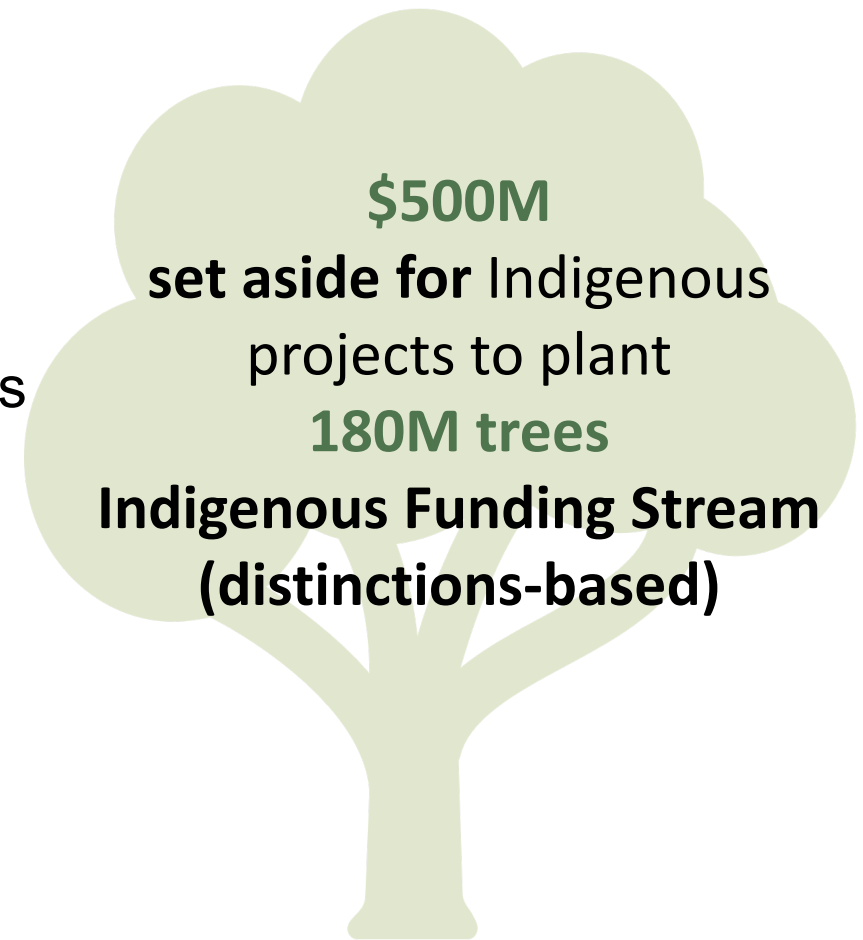
Active, Committed Funders:
Federal, Provincial, Community

Indigenous Forestry Initiative (IFI)

- Enhancing Indigenous leadership & participation in the forest sector through targeted support for knowledge sharing, skills training, economic development, community engagement, & forest stewardship projects.
- Contribution funding is closed, but a future call for Grant applications is anticipated to distribute remaining funds.
- Regional Liaison Officers, located in CFS' 5 regional forestry centres, support program delivery & can offer application guidance.
- Feedback & insight from Indigenous partners on the IFI continue to be appreciated.
- Contact ifi-ifa@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca for more information.

2 Billion Trees (2BT)

- Nature-based solutions to combat climate change.
- **10-year program to support planting 2 billion trees (2021-2031).**
- **Eligible applicants:** Indigenous governments & organizations, provinces, territories, 3rd party organizations (for & not-for-profit),
- **Funding:** Indigenous Funding Stream available for Indigenous tree planting projects. Ongoing applications-next deadline January 2025.
- For more info on Indigenous funding contact:
2BTIndigenous-2GAAutochtones@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca



2BT Project Highlight

BZA Tree Planting Climate Solution

BZA Forestry Resources Inc.

BZA Forestry Resources Inc. is an Indigenous owned business that provides forestry services on the Lake Nipigon Forest and surrounding areas with the goal of the sustainable management of natural resources and job opportunities for youth in First Nation Communities.

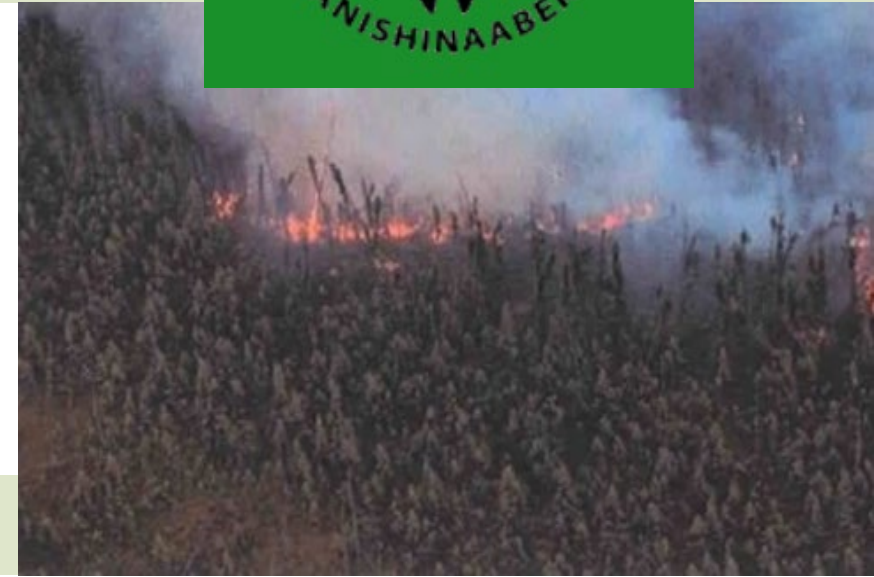
Location: Lake Nipigon Forest area, Ontario

Timeline: May 2022 – March 2031

NRCan Funding: \$235,104 + \$1,545,401

Project Goals:

- 2022-23 through the Planting Climate Solution's project, BZA successfully planted 140,000 trees in the area surrounding Lake Nipigon. The Project created jobs for Indigenous youth, allowing them to engage in climate change action and providing firsthand experience and training on how to mitigate the effects of climate change through regeneration of forested areas.
- 2023- 2031 BZA signed a new project to plant 100,000 trees per year for 8 years (800,000 trees) to reclaim 91 hectares of land that was negatively impacted by wildfire. This project built on the capacity from their first project and provides long term opportunities to the local First Nation communities and youth.



Nòkwewashk: Advancing Reconciliation in the Natural Resources Sector

- In 2022, Natural Resources Canada was gifted the name **Nòkwewashk** [No-kway-washk], an Algonquin word for sweetgrass, from Elders.
- The Nòkwewashk Sector leads initiatives that build and strengthen relationships with Indigenous partners, increasing opportunities for **participation and partnership in natural resource sectors**.
- Our goal is to advance economic reconciliation at Natural Resources Canada, ensuring that our policies, programs, operations, and culture are more responsive to the needs of Indigenous partners.
Some of our priorities include:



**Economic Participation
& Ownership**



UNDRIP Implementation



Lifecycle Participation



Respecting Indigenous Knowledge



Clean Energy Transition



Pathways to Reconciliation Action Plan

Indigenous Natural Resource Partnerships (INRP)

- \$80M to increase the economic participation of Indigenous communities & organizations in the development of natural resource projects that support the clean energy transition.
- \$25M dedicated to early engagement & capacity building for Indigenous communities, particularly in critical minerals development.
- The INRP funds projects that:
 - increase the capacity of Indigenous communities to engage in, benefit from, actively participate in &/or capitalize on economic development opportunities in the natural resource sectors; &/or
 - increase the investment &/or collaboration between Indigenous Peoples & other natural resource development stakeholders, including governments, industry, & non-governmental organizations.
- Due to high demand, INRP is not currently accepting applications. If additional funds become available, intake may re-open at a later date.

Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program (ILGP)

- **New Program Coming Soon:** Further details will be announced later this year.
- **Up to \$5B in Loan Guarantees:** Unlocks access to affordable capital for Indigenous groups seeking equity investments in natural resource & energy projects.
- **Eligibility:** Open to Indigenous governments & their wholly owned & controlled entities, supporting sector-agnostic natural resource & energy projects.
- **Delivery:** NRCan & Canada Development Investment Corporation (CDEV)
- **Priority:** Prioritizes self-determination & advances Canada's commitments to economic reconciliation.
- For more information on the ILGP please contact a2c@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

Sistering Indigenous & Western Science (SINEWS)

- **Paid mentorship initiative** to support pairs of female students (one Indigenous & non-Indigenous) at the university or college level in research areas relevant to the needs of Indigenous communities as well as NRCan's research mandates.
- Designed with **reconciliation & gender equity** at its core.
- **Now accepting applications for May 2025.**
- Contact sinews@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca for more information.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Increased representation of Indigenous and non-Indigenous women in STEM;
- 2 Contribute to Reconciliation
- 3 Knowledge Co-Creation
- 4 Multi-level mentorship (engagement and research skills)
- 5 Creating positive working relationships with Indigenous communities
- 6 Departmental collaboration and advancement of EDI

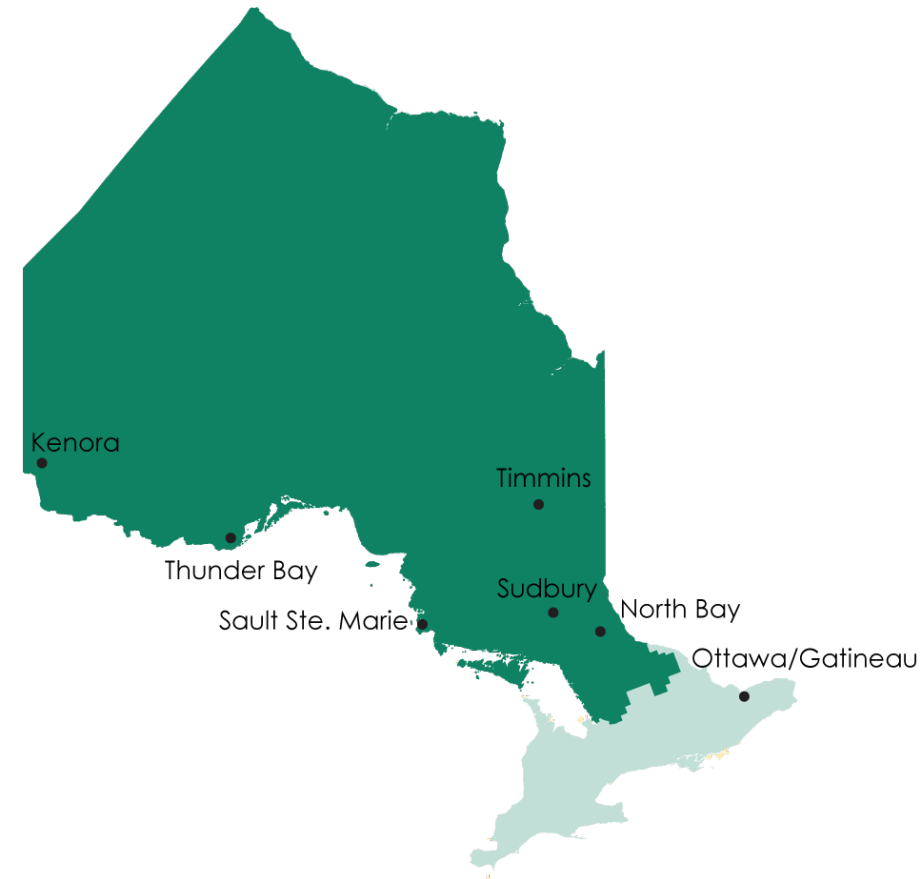
Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario (FedNor)

Core Programs

- Regional Economic Growth through Innovation (REGI)
- Northern Ontario Development Program (NODP)

Bioeconomy Projects Funded by FedNor

- Funding for bio product harvesting, handling, drying, storage to serve a region
- Bio-Economy business and sector development planning
- Small Scale Community Sawmills
- Forestry Bio-heat Equipment
- Bio-Economy support organizations such as Centre for Research and Innovation in the Bio-Economy



For more information on FedNor's programs, please contact: che.curtis-september@fednor.gc.ca

Indigenous Services Canada Funding Opportunities

1. LEDSP Targeted (LEDSP) – Training & Capacity Development – Continuous Intake

- Funding provides support for capacity-development projects & economic development opportunities

2. CORP Pre-Capitalization (usually up to \$250K*) – Soft Costs – Continuous Intake

- Community-owned businesses: Feasibility studies, business plans, and other planning documents leading to the establishment, acquisition or expansion of community-owned business(es)
- Request for Proposals (RFP) required for any funding requests > \$25K

3. CORP Prioritization Framework (PF) (>\$250K up to \$1 or \$3M) – Construction Costs, Equipment, Business Acquisitions

- National Process with **2 Intakes (January 31 and April 30, 2025)**
 1. **Equity Gap stream (up to \$1M / 30% of project costs)** support for the establishment, acquisition, or expansion of two or more community-owned businesses
 2. **Economic Infrastructure (up to \$3M / 66.67% of project costs)** - Capital costs for economic infrastructure like site servicing, site development (roads, sewer and water connections, etc.)

Thank you! Questions?

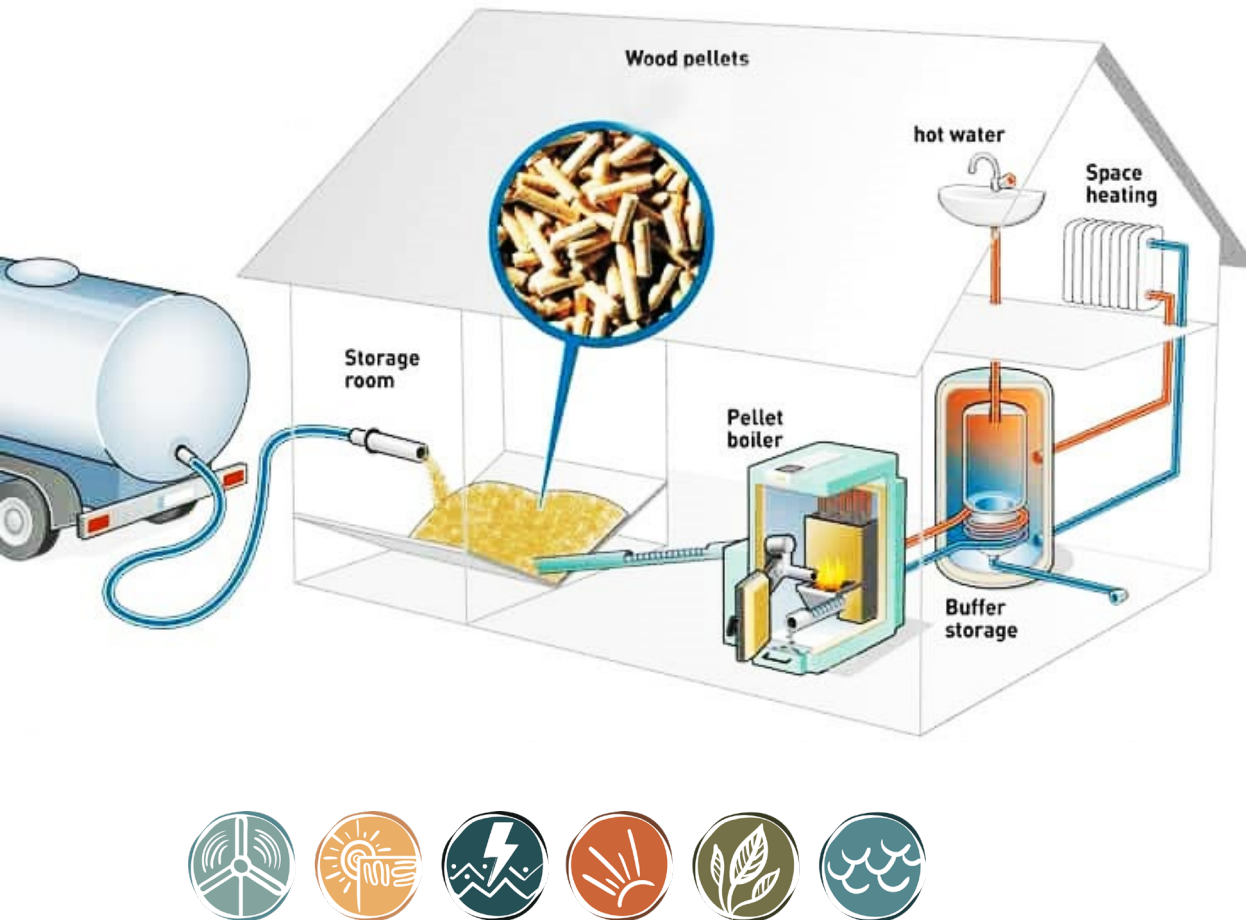
Funding Opportunity	Application Timing
CERRC BioHeat	Open intake – Apply Now!
Indigenous Forestry Initiative	Expression of Interest closed October 2023; applications under review. Future call for Grant applications anticipated.
2 Billion Trees	Open intake – Apply Now!
Indigenous Natural Resource Partnerships	Intake temporarily closed due to high demand. If new funds become available, intake may re-open at a later date.
Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program	Coming soon!
Indigenous Services Canada	LEDSPT & CORP PC Open – Apply Now! CORP PF – Closed Intake.
Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario	REGI & NODP are open – Apply Now!

To learn more or to find out how to apply to our various programs, please visit us at our booth!

Annexes



What is BioHeat?



- **Bioenergy:** renewable energy made available from organic materials (biomass).
- **Biomass:** used to provide energy in the form of heat or a combination of heat & electricity.
- **Forest biomass:** common in Canada, includes wood in many forms: firewood, wood chips, hog fuel, wood pellets, & other forest-sourced fibre.
- Implementing forest-based bioenergy can:
 - ✓ **Lower GHG** emissions from reduced fossil fuel use;
 - ✓ **Reduce risk of wildfire** damage with improved forest management;
 - ✓ **Provide a steady, secure energy supply;**
 - ✓ **Increase local economic development** & job creation with local biomass supply chains; &
 - ✓ **Reduce likelihood & impacts of spills** from fossil fuel storage & transportation.



Common Factors Related to Success or Barriers in BioHeat Projects

Influencing Success:

- Community Energy Plan, local clean energy champions
- Pre-project analyses, capacity building (workforce development) & planning
- Long-term, strong feasibility & business case plan
 - Supply chain analyses, local, available biomass supply
- Forestry activities supporting circular value chain within communities
- High community involvement, training & investment
- Partnership involvement & support of PTs, Utilities, Regulators, Private Lenders
- Committed project team rooted in community
- Community Governance & oversight of project separate from project management

Influencing Barriers:

- Unpredictable community access (road/river closures)
- Procurement Issues
 - Equipment supply issues (international manufacturers)
 - Inadequate procurement processes & contracting practices
- No (or uncertain) ongoing support for O&M
- Limited community capacity to plan, support & maintain the project
 - Employee availability, training/retention
- Weak business cases, little to no revenue generating opportunity
- insufficient project governance (e.g., only 1 person driving a project forward)