



RECONCILIATION ACTION GRANTS

OSHKI WUPOOWANE | THE BLANKET FUND – APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund (DWF) and Hudson’s Bay Foundation (HBF) are pleased to announce that applications for [Oshki Wupoowane | The Blanket Fund](#) are open. The Blanket Fund will provide support for Indigenous cultural, artistic, and educational activities offered through two different grant streams. We invite applications from Indigenous people, as well as Indigenous-led initiatives and organizations from throughout Canada.

If you have any questions or need any support submitting your application, please contact us at fund@downiewenjack.ca or 1-844-944-4545 ext. 41. Arrangements can be made to submit your application by phone, video, fax, mail (handwritten or printed) or in a different format.

About Oshki Wupoowane | The Blanket Fund

In September 2022, DWF and HBF launched Oshki Wuppowane | The Blanket Fund. Moving forward, 100 percent of the net proceeds from the sale of all HBC Point Blankets will go to Indigenous Peoples. The Ojibwe “Oshki Wupoowane”, “a new blanket” in English, was chosen as the name of The Blanket Fund in collaboration with Chanie Wenjack’s family.

The Blanket Fund will provide support for Indigenous cultural, artistic, and educational activities. Offered through two different grant streams, The Blanket Fund can be accessed by both grassroots Indigenous communities and organizations, and by Indigenous individuals undertaking related initiatives.

The HBC Point Blanket has been called many things throughout its history: an essential trade item, an enduring emblem of Canada, a carrier of disease, and a symbol of colonialism. Acknowledging the many layers of symbolism the blanket embodies in history, art, pop culture, and commerce is an integral part of The Bay’s Truth & Reconciliation journey.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Hudson’s Bay Company (HBC), in partnership with First Peoples Group, has been engaging Indigenous people on a respectful approach to reconciliation. To achieve this, HBC has formed an Indigenous Advisory Circle, which reviewed and provided feedback and direction on what should be done with the proceeds from the Point Blankets.

DWF has engaged with Indigenous organizations, leaders, and community members throughout Canada to ensure DWF is being respectful and appropriate in discussing the role of the blankets, to solicit feedback on the design of an appropriate selection process and governance system for The Blanket Fund, as well as to ensure the funds raised and distributed through this initiative will have an impact at the community level. The structure of The Blanket Fund, the grant streams, the granting process, and all



aspects of The Blanket Fund were informed through our consultation with the Indigenous organizations, leaders, and community members.

Consultation with Indigenous people and communities will continue to take place as part of each phase of the partnership. This expertise, insight and knowledge have been and will continue to be foundational in guiding this partnership, as we work to ensure each step of the process is informed by Indigenous ways of knowing and doing.

**RECONCILIATION ACTION GRANT STREAM
\$1,500-\$15,000**

The Reconciliation Action grants stream will support reconciliation activities, events, and initiatives in communities that contribute to cultural revitalization, elevate Indigenous culture, languages, and traditions, increase understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, or other grassroots initiatives that move reconciliation forward.

APPLICATION TIMELINES

Applications for Reconciliation Action Grants will be reviewed quarterly in April, July, October, and January. Please submit your application before the below dates to be considered for the corresponding time period:

Intake Period	Applications Reviewed	Applicants Notified By
December 16, 2023 to March 15, 2024 11:59PM EST	Spring 2023	June 2024
March 16 to June 14, 2024 11:59PM EST	Summer 2024	September 2024
June 15 to September 13, 2024 11:59PM EST	Fall 2024	December 2024
September 14 to December 13, 2024 11:59PM EST	Winter 2025	March 2025

WHO CAN APPLY

Indigenous educators, cultural creators, community leaders, artists, Elders, youth, and others are encouraged to apply. Non-Indigenous individuals and organizations can apply, as long as all funds received go to Indigenous people, communities, or organizations (i.e., a non-Indigenous school/educator can apply for funding to bring an Indigenous Elder to speak to the school or a class).

All funds must be spent supporting an Indigenous-led activity, event, or initiative. This stream does not fund existing or ongoing programs or projects. **It is a one-time grant.**



Non-registered charities will act as an extension of DWF for legal purposes to deliver reconciliation programming, which will require a trustee agreement. DWF will provide the documentation to ensure compliance with CRA regulations.

If you have additional questions about your eligibility, please contact fund@downiewenjack.ca.

INELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS

- Individuals (individuals may apply if the activity, event, or initiative benefits Indigenous people and communities)
- For-profit organizations
- Business non-profit institutions, including business associations, chambers of commerce, etc.
- Provincial/territorial entities for purposes other than the intention of the grant (Indigenous cultural, artistic, and educational activities)
- Municipalities and their entities for purposes other than the intention of the grant (Indigenous cultural, artistic, and educational activities)
- Government of Canada and federal entities

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The Reconciliation Action grant stream focuses on Indigenous cultural, artistic, and educational activities, events, and initiatives that contribute to cultural revitalization, elevate Indigenous cultures, languages, and traditions, increase understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, or other grassroots initiatives that move reconciliation forward through culture, art, and education.

Successful Reconciliation Action grant recipients will demonstrate the following in their applications:

1. The grant will reach Indigenous people.
2. The grant will support Indigenous cultural, artistic, and educational activities, events, and initiatives.
3. Indigenous people have played a role in developing the activity, event, or initiative.
4. The activity, event, or initiative brings Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples together in the spirit of reconciliation.
5. There are defined outcomes for the activity, event, or initiative.

INELIGIBLE PROJECT

- Projects that do not directly impact Indigenous people and communities
- Projects that do not support Indigenous cultural, artistic, and educational activities
- Projects that are designed for fundraising purposes
- Projects that have started before the application is awarded
- Projects that are fully completed before the application is submitted
- Profit-generating projects or activities

REPORTING



The Blanket Fund grants are administered by DWF. Successful applicants will be required to submit a report, including a financial breakdown of how the grant has been spent, to DWF. DWF will work with the grantees to address any challenges in submitting the report to ensure there are no barriers to meeting the requirements of the grant.

APPLICATION PROCESS

This application is meant to be an opportunity to tell us about your activity, event, or initiative and how it will positively impact Indigenous people and communities. We have created the application with the intention to make it as accessible as possible. Please answer the following questions in the best way for you and your activity, event, or initiative.

1. Name of Activity/Event/Initiative
2. Date of Activity/Event/Initiative
 - a. Start Date
 - b. End Date
3. Contact Information (Name, Title, Organization, Email, Phone #, Address)
4. Organization Type
 - a. What type of group are you?
 - i. Registered charity/qualified done
 1. Please provide registered charitable #
 - ii. Registered non-profit/non-qualified donee
 - iii. Other (“Other” might be a community group, collective, etc. Applicants must have a bank account in their organization’s name.)
 - b. Are you partnering with another group that is a registered charity?
 - i. Yes (You will be asked to provide the name of the charity and its charitable registration number.)
 - ii. No
 - iii. Not sure (A registered charity – qualified done – is an organization that can issue official donation receipts for gifts it receives from individuals and corporations.)
5. Is your group/organization/activity/event/initiative Indigenous-led? Are decisions and direction provided by Indigenous peoples at all levels in your group/organization? Please share how decisions are made.
 - a. Indigenous-led means that 51% of your group/organization is Indigenous.
 - b. If you are requesting support for an activity/initiative/event where the funds will go to an Indigenous person/community but your group/organization is not Indigenous, please explain how the funds will impact Indigenous people and/or communities.
6. Project Description – Please describe the activity, initiative, or event. (Max. 750 words.)
7. What are the expected outcomes?
8. All grantees will be required to report on the impact of their activity, initiative, or event, including:
 - a. The total number of people directly and indirectly impacted by the activity/initiative/event.



- i. A direct beneficiary is someone who is directly involved in your activity, initiative, or event. For example, this is someone who participates in your event.
 - ii. An indirect beneficiary is someone who is not directly connected to your activity, initiative, or event but will still benefit from it. For example, the community where an event takes place or family members of the participants.
 - b. The total number of Indigenous people directly and indirectly impacted by the activity/initiative/event.
 - c. A short 'Reconciliation Action' story from the outcome of the activity/initiative/event.
 - d. If possible, two to three social media-friendly pictures with explicit permission to use the photos (including from participants featured in the photos).
 - e. Please confirm you will be able to report on the above outcomes.
 - i. Yes
 - ii. No
9. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your activity/event/initiative?