RECONCILIATION ACTION GRANTS – APPLICATION GUIDELINES

OSHKI WUPOOWANE | THE BLANKET FUND

OVERVIEW OF THE RECONCILIATION ACTION GRANTS

The Reconciliation Action Grant supports community-driven initiatives that advance truth, reconciliation, and meaningful connections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. This grant stream creates opportunities for learning and relationship-building by resourcing projects that strengthen cultural connections, elevate Indigenous voices, and foster education through cultural, artistic, and community-based activities. Proposed projects should reflect local priorities and be guided by Indigenous leadership, knowledge, and values.

The Blanket Fund was developed through consultation with Indigenous leaders and community members, and is supported through the sale of the Hudson's Bay Point Blankets. In October 2025, Canadian Tire Corporation announced that 100% of the Corporation's net proceeds from the Blankets will support The Blanket Fund, with a guaranteed minimum of $1M annually.

ELIGIBILITY – WHO CAN APPLY

The Reconciliation Action Grant welcomes applications from:

- Indigenous-led organizations, including both registered non-profits and charities
- Indigenous communities
- Indigenous grassroots groups or collectives
- Indigenous individuals (including Elders, Knowledge Keepers, artists, educators, community leaders, etc.), where the proposed initiative is designed to benefit the wider Indigenous community
- Non-Indigenous organizations, communities, or educational institutions, where activities are Indigenous-led, developed with Indigenous guidance, and designed to benefit Indigenous people and communities

Applicants do not need to be a registered charity or incorporated non-profit to apply.
In cases where the successful applicant is neither a registered charity/qualified donee nor a registered non-profit/non-qualified donee, DWF will require the project to be administered through an eligible charitable partner. DWF will provide guidance and documentation to ensure compliance with CRA regulations when a trustee arrangement is necessary.

INELIGIBLE GROUPS

- For-profit businesses

- Non-Indigenous individuals
- Municipal, Provincial, or Territorial Governments/Entities, where proposals fall outside the intention of this grant
- Government of Canada and federal entities
- Political parties or partisan organizations
- Organizations not legally recognized in Canada

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The Reconciliation Action Grant is a one-time grant that supports Indigenous-led cultural, artistic, and educational activities, events, and initiatives that:

- Contribute to cultural revitalization and the preservation of Indigenous languages, traditions, and knowledge
- Elevate Indigenous voices and perspectives
- Increase understanding and foster relationship-building between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples

Only new projects or initiatives will be considered; applications for existing or ongoing initiatives will not be considered.

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

- Direct benefit to Indigenous people and communities
- Alignment with culture, art, education, and/or community learning
- Clear Indigenous leadership and/or guidance
- Community relevance and responsiveness
- Defined and meaningful anticipated outcomes
- Opportunity for cross-cultural engagement between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Activities that do not directly benefit Indigenous communities or individuals
- Projects that are not Indigenous-led
- Fundraising events or activities
- Initiatives that have already begun before funding is awarded
- Projects completed before submission
- Ongoing or previously established programs or initiatives
- Profit-generating activities
- Political or partisan activities
- Other activities outside the scope of the Reconciliation Action Grant (activities that do not support Indigenous cultural, artistic, educational, or reconciliation-focused work)

FUNDING & ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Funding through the Reconciliation Action Grant ranges from $1,500 to $15,000, depending on the scale and scope of the proposed project. While applicants are not required to submit a detailed budget as part of their application, proposed funding should be appropriate to the project's size, objectives, and anticipated impact.

Funding can be used for costs that are directly related to the planning and delivery of the proposed project. All expenses must support an Indigenous-led activity, event, or initiative.

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Capital construction or major infrastructure projects
- Purchases unrelated to the proposed project
- Retroactive funding for activities that have already occurred
- Administrative or operational costs unrelated to the specific project
- Fundraising or profit-generating activities
- Personal scholarship/bursary, training, or upskilling
- Political campaigns or partisan activities

REPORTING

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 SUPPORT & ACCESSIBILITY

DWF recognizes the importance of accessibility and is committed to ensuring that the Oshki Wupoowane | The Blanket Fund application process is inclusive for all applicants.
Applicants who have questions about eligibility, funding, or application requirements are encouraged to contact DWF for guidance. DWF staff can provide clarification and general advice to help applicants understand the process.

Applicants with accessibility needs are encouraged to contact DWF in advance of the application deadline. Reasonable accommodations will be made to ensure that all applicants can fully participate in the process.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All information provided in the application will be treated with the utmost discretion. DWF will not disclose any application details to external parties without the applicant's explicit consent or as required

by law. Applicants can feel confident sharing their ideas, plans, and organizational information knowing that their data will be handled with respect for their privacy rights.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions or support, applicants may reach out to:
Email: fund@downiewenjack.ca
Phone: 1-833-666-2414 ext. 13

APPLICATION PROCESS

When you are ready to apply, the online application can be accessed here: Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund Reconciliation Action Grant Application. Applicants will then complete the following questions within the online portal:

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 made 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/event/initiative 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/event/initiative. (Max. 750 words.)
7. What are the expected outcomes?
8. All grantees will be required to report on the impact of their activity/event/initiative, including:
   a. The total number of people directly and indirectly impacted by the activity/event/initiative.
      i. A direct beneficiary is someone who is directly involved in your activity/event/initiative. For example, this is someone who participates in your event.
      ii. An indirect beneficiary is someone who is not directly connected to your activity/event/initiative 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/event/initiative.
   c. A short 'Reconciliation Action' story from the outcome of the activity/event/initiative.
   d. If possible, two to three social media-friendly pictures with explicit permission to use them from everyone featured.

   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?