



Indigenous Food Systems and Agriculture
Skills and Training Program
PROGRAM GUIDE 2024/25



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This program is funded by the Government of Canada
and the Province of British Columbia.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Indigenous Food Systems and Agriculture Skills and Training Program (ISAT) supports Indigenous Nations, communities, businesses, and organizations in increasing Indigenous participation in agriculture, seafood, food processing and related community economic development initiatives. The program does so by addressing labour capacity and workforce challenges within the food, seafood and agriculture sectors. ISAT funds activities involved in training and skills development, peer-to-peer learning, and revitalization of cultural and economic food harvesting and production practices.

Funding for this program is provided by the Province of BC through the Agriculture and Food Workforce Development Initiative. This initiative supports BC's agriculture, food, and seafood industry to provide a stable and increasing food supply to feed a growing BC and global population through targeted efforts to recruit and retain a sufficient workforce to meet the labour needs of the industry.

Program Goal

The goal of the Indigenous Food Systems and Agriculture Skills and Training Program is to support Indigenous People's food systems and agriculture related endeavours through increased capacity.

Program Objectives

- Increased capacity for Indigenous participation, leadership, and Indigenous-led training and extension services in the agriculture and food sector and community economic development initiatives.
- Improved awareness, applicability, access to and outcomes of applied skills development and training programs and/or curriculum for the food and agriculture sector.

Program Funding Limits

Applicants can apply for a minimum of \$25,000 up to a maximum of \$80,000 in funding.

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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible Applicants

To be considered eligible for this program, an applicant must be in the Province of British Columbia, and must be:

- **an Indigenous government, community, or Indigenous-led organization** (including a band or tribal council, government of a self-governing First Nation or Métis Nation Chartered Community, Society or Association, economic development corporation, not-for-profit other Indigenous organization¹, or association); or
- **an Indigenous business² or entrepreneur³ engaged in food production and/or processing with a minimum of 2 years in operation** (including a for-profit or social enterprise, cooperative or institution, or other Indigenous business, partnership or joint venture).

Guiding Principles for Projects

Proposed projects should align with the following principles:

- Build labour market capacity and identify innovative approaches.
- Engage employers, communities, service providers and clients in driving new/improved employment practices.
- Have potential for broader application, such as informing /influencing future program/policy development or for projects in other areas/regions to learn from (demonstration purposes).
- Include a sound research model and project evaluation.
- Not establish a need for ongoing government funding after project completion.

Eligible Activities and Expenditures

This program funds activities involved in training and skills development, peer-to-peer learning, and knowledge-sharing to support the revitalization of cultural and economic food harvesting and production practices.

Eligible project activities and expenditures include:

¹ An Indigenous led not-for-profit is defined as a not-for-profit organization where Indigenous persons have at least 51% decision making power.

² An Indigenous business is defined as a business where an Indigenous person(s) has/have at least 51% ownership and control of the business.

³ Indigenous entrepreneurs are defined as independent business owners, including sole proprietors and limited companies and partnerships owned by, or where the majority of shares are held by, an individual or family members, resident in the Province of British Columbia.

- Skills and training programs to increase Indigenous participation in agriculture, seafood, food processing and related community economic development initiatives.
- Identify need for and/or develop Indigenous-specific and led training, skills development and/or peer-to-peer learning programs and/or curriculum.
- Programs that support the revitalization of cultural and economic food harvesting and production processing practices through training, knowledge transfer and/or peer-to-peer learning.
- Revitalizing traditional production methods and knowledge, such as:
 - Food harvesting
 - Food preservation
 - The production of culturally appropriate foods

Ineligible Activities and Expenses

The following activities and expenses are not eligible for funding:

- Costs incurred prior to January 1, 2025 (Retroactive costs will not be considered).
- Applicants who do not meet the eligibility requirements of the program.
- Any costs not specifically required for the execution of the project.



APPLICATIONS

Important Program Dates

Applications will be accepted through the [IAF Client Portal](#) from **November 1, 2024, to November 29, 2024.**

- Application Open: November 1, 2024
- Application Deadline: November 29, 2024, at 4:00 PM PT
- Project Start Date: On or after January 1, 2025

Project Length

Projects can be up to 12 months in duration and must complete no later than **January 31, 2026.**

Application Process

Applicants will apply through the [IAF Client Portal](#). The application process will consist of:

Create an Account

- Create a personal profile (name and email)

Organization Registration

Note: It can take up to two business days for IAF Staff to verify your Organization Registration

- Organization information, including:
 - Name
 - Contact details
 - Type of organization
 - BC ID / CRA numbers
 - Primary contact
 - And more

Apply to ISAT Program for Project Funding

Select Indigenous Food Systems and Agriculture Skills and Training Program, and provide:

- Project start & end dates
- Project activities
- Description of key activities, who will undertake work and timeline
- Alignment with program priorities
- Performance measurement information
- Funding request/project budget

Applicants may provide relevant documents in support of their application (e.g. letters of support, CV's, quotes). These appendices can be uploaded through the IAF Client Portal as attachments to the application.

During the application window, IAF staff are available to answer questions regarding eligible activities, costs and/or the application process. IAF may also contact applicants for additional information or clarification to assess or strengthen their application.

Applicants can contact isat@iafbc.ca with any questions about the program or to receive support in developing their application.

Applicants are encouraged to include only activities they are confident will be completed on time and within budget limits



NOTIFICATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS

Funding Notifications and Contracts

Notification will be provided via email and on the IAF Client Portal within six weeks of a complete application submission.

If the project is approved, IAF will inform the applicant of the details of the decision and any associated terms and conditions. The applicant then enters into an agreement with IAF which outlines the obligations of each party.

Funding is project-specific and must be used for the approved project and related expenses. Funds are non-transferable.

Project activities requiring financial resources cannot commence until the contribution agreement has been signed by both the applicant and IAF. If you are not able to complete your project according to the approved project details, please inform the IAF Team as soon as possible.

Reporting Requirements

Program participants may be required to submit progress and financial reporting to IAF. Progress and financial reporting will be made available to the province. Reporting and supporting materials will be uploaded through IAF's Client Portal.

Reporting will be based on the following performance measures (where applicable):

- # of programs/training events completed
- # of participants
- # of Indigenous trainers, experts, knowledge holders engaged in training
- # of peer-to-peer knowledge transfer events
- # and type of knowledge transfer tools/materials developed and shared
- Reach of knowledge transfer events/tools/materials
- Feedback surveys and/or qualitative information on project impacts

Funding Acknowledgements

This program is funded by the Government of Canada and Province of British Columbia. As such, acknowledgement of funding is required when publicly communicating about a project and/or funding. To ensure appropriate acknowledgement, all communications and marketing materials, including public announcements or social media posts, must be pre-approved by the IAF Communications Team. Details on correctly acknowledging funding can be found on the project resource hub. Materials must be submitted via the IAF Client Portal.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Evaluation Criteria

All applications will be evaluated based on a set of pre-determined criteria. The following are examples of questions that will be used to score each application:

Criteria	Considerations for Evaluation
Program Alignment	Does the project align with the program goal and objectives?
Applicant Eligibility	Is the applicant eligible to apply for funding?
Project Eligibility	Are all project activities and expenses eligible for funding?
Project Alignment	Does the project align with the guiding principles for this program?
Project Benefits	What is the expected scope and reach of the project benefits?
Sustainability of Benefits	Are project benefits sustainable and will they extend beyond project funding?
Key Performance Indicators	How will the project capture and report on performance measures?
Project Plan	Are the project objectives realistic within the project's timeline and budget?
Applicant Resources/Capacity	Does the applicant have sufficient human resources (internal, partners, consultant) to undertake the project?