

BACKGROUND

Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program

Information for First Nations of Quebec

Recreational Infrastructure Canada is a 2-year funding program lasting until March 31, 2011 that will allow the Government of Canada to invest \$500 million in renovating recreational infrastructure across the country. An initial \$175 million was made available to launch the program, of which \$2 million is for First Nations of Quebec.

Recreational Infrastructure Canada is one of the initiatives of Canada's Economic Action Plan introduced in January 2009 for short-term economic stimulus. The purpose of the Plan is to stimulate the construction of public infrastructure, create jobs and contribute to the quality of life in communities affected by the economic downturn.

Although the program is intended for all Canadian communities in general, the information included in this backgrounder is specifically addressed to First Nations of Quebec.

DESIRED OUTCOME

- The projects supported by this program aims to increase construction activities for recreational infrastructure and create jobs.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- First Nation governments
- an agent supported by a First Nation

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Repair or upgrade of a recreational infrastructure, including:

- arenas
- gymnasiums
- swimming pools
- sports fields (tennis, basketball or volleyball courts, or other sports-specific courts)
- parks, fitness trails and bike paths
- multi-purpose facilities that have physical recreation activity as the primary rationale

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The project:

- must focus on existing infrastructure that is accessible to the general public
- begin and materially conclude construction before March 31, 2011
- would not have occurred as proposed without support from the program

The following projects are not eligible:

- the construction of new infrastructure, unless it is to add to or replace existing infrastructure
- studies on building or renovating infrastructure

Projects may be eligible as long as funds are available.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

Eligible costs include all costs directly related to the project and deemed reasonable and necessary to ensure its completion, for example:

- repair and rehabilitation costs
- professional fees
- costs of environmental assessments and follow-ups required by the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA)
- costs related to the public announcement and official ceremony, or of any temporary or permanent signage

The following costs are ineligible:

- mobile equipment purchasing costs
- fees for services normally provided by the First Nation or a third party
- administrative costs, including salaries and other benefits
- costs related to planning, engineering, architectural, supervision and management and other activities normally carried out by the First Nation
- costs of feasibility and planning studies
- taxes, such as GST and HST, for which the community is eligible for a tax rebate and all other costs eligible for rebates
- land costs
- legal fees
- routine maintenance costs

FUNDING

- for First Nations, the contribution covers 50% of the eligible project costs
- the contribution cannot exceed \$1 million per project
- any additional funding must come from sources other than the federal government
- For the first instalment, the overall budget to help Quebec First Nations is \$2 million

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

Each project requires a written application that includes:

- a project description, including the rationale, the targeted objectives and the work to be performed
- a breakdown of costs by fiscal year (April 1- March 31)
- funding sources and information on all federal or provincial assistance received or anticipated
- a work schedule
- if the project is carried out by an agent, a resolution adopted by the band council stating that the First Nation has indicated support for the project and the legally-designated representative to seek funding
- if applicable, the results of the last project with the Agency

Funding applications should be submitted to the Infrastructure Directorate of the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec:

INFORMATION REQUESTS

For questions or more information, please contact an advisor from:

Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec
Infrastructure Directorate
3340 Assomption Blvd.
Montreal, Quebec
H1N 3S4
Tel.: 514-283-6412, Fax: 514-283-3141
infrastructure@dec-ced.qc.ca