



Inventory of Community Economic Development Tools for Rural B.C. Communities

October 2016

Introduction

Across British Columbia, rural communities are responding to the opportunities and challenges that come with changing times. They recognize that maintaining diverse economies and a strong social fabric are keys to attracting and retaining both residents and investment.

The B.C. government has developed this inventory of programs and initiatives to support rural communities and First Nations who are facing, or may face, economic challenges. This inventory complements other programs such as the BC [online search tool](#) (*Search Economic Development Funding & Grants*).

The inventory contains more than 100 entries and is divided into six categories to help users identify the information they need:

- Urgent Transition Services: Resources available to communities where a major employer has closed or may curtail operations.
- Employment and Training Support: Resources to support training needs for impacted workers and others.
- Community Economic Development and/or Diversification: Programs and tools, including funding and support services, to help communities diversify their economies.
- Business Support Programs: Programs to help entrepreneurs become more competitive and grow their businesses.
- Community Infrastructure Programs: Programs to help communities create jobs and economic spin offs through capital projects.
- First Nations Programs: Programs and services to support First Nations.

PLEASE NOTE: This inventory is a living document. It is not intended to replace other sources of information; rather, it represents a high-level overview summarizing the many types of services (provincial, federal, private sector) available to communities. Information can be accessed at the end of each item, which links users to the service provider's website. While all attempts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this inventory, the appropriate agencies are responsible for the delivery of their programs. The inventory content will be updated and revised as appropriate. Questions or suggestions can be directed to ruraldividend@gov.bc.ca.

Contents

Introduction	2
1. Urgent Transition Services	8
Community Transition Services	8
Targeted Initiative for Older Workers	8
Work-share Program	8
2. Employment and Training Support	9
Apprenticeship Incentive Grant	9
BC Construction Association: Skilled Trades Employment Program	9
BC Jobs Plan	9
BC Provincial Nominee Program Skills Immigration and Express Entry BC	10
B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint	10
B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint: Explore LNG Occupations and Training	10
Canada BC Job Fund	11
Canada-B.C. Job Grant	11
Community and Employer Partnerships	12
Employment Program of B.C.	12
Industry Training Authority BC	12
BC Training Tax Credit for Apprentices	13
National Research Council: Youth Employment Programs	13
Skills Link (Youth Employment Strategy)	13
WorkBC	14
3. Community Economic Development and/or Diversification	15
BC Economic Development Association	15
B.C. Economic Development Portal	15
B.C. Gaming Grants	16
BC Hydro – Power Smart Sustainable Communities Program	16
BC Rural Dividend Program	16
Beetle Action Coalitions	17
Business Attraction Toolkit for B.C. Communities	17
Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program	17

Community Foundations	18
Vancouver Foundation	18
Victoria Foundation	18
Vancity Grants Program	19
Community Partners	19
Creative BC	19
DestinationBC	20
Environment Canada: EcoAction Community Funding Program	20
Federation of Canadian Municipalities: Green Municipal Fund	21
FrontCounter BC Discovery Tool	21
Forest Enhancement Society of B.C.	21
Fraser Basin Council	22
Gwaii Trust Society	22
Healthy Communities Capacity Building Fund	22
Invest Canada: Community Initiatives	23
Island Coastal Economic Trust	23
International Education Strategy	23
Hubcap – online social innovation community	24
Nechako-Kitimaat Development Fund	24
Network BC	24
Northern Development Initiative Trust	25
Capital Investment Analysis	25
Competitiveness Consulting Rebate	25
Economic Diversification Infrastructure	25
Forest Innovation Fund	26
Grant Writing Support Program	26
Supply Chain Connector	26
Real Estate Foundation of BC General Grants Program	27
Resort Municipality Initiative	27
Southern Interior Development Initiative	27
Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative	28
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Funding Program	28
Western Economic Diversification Canada	28
4a. Business Support Programs	29
BC Agrifood and Seafood Export Program	29
BC Bid	29
B.C. Business Portal	29

BC Buy Local Program _____	30
BC Child Care Resource and Referral Programs _____	30
BC Economic Atlas _____	30
B.C. Export Support Services _____	30
BC Farm Business Advisory Services Program _____	31
BC Hydro: Project Incentives _____	31
BC Hydro: Standing Offer Program _____	31
BC Innovation Council _____	32
BC Timber Sales _____	32
BizPal _____	33
Business Development Bank of Canada - BDC _____	33
Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program _____	33
Canada Business Network _____	34
CanExport _____	34
Clean Energy Projects B.C. _____	34
Community Contribution Company _____	34
Community Futures BC _____	35
Concierge: Your Guide to Innovation _____	35
Doing Business with Canada _____	35
Government Programs for Canadian Manufacturers _____	35
La Société de développement économique _____	35
LNG-Buy BC _____	36
MERX _____	36
Mitacs _____	36
National Research Council: Industrial Research Assistance Program _____	37
North Cariboo Agricultural Marketing Association _____	37
SmallBusinessBC _____	37
Starting a Restaurant in B.C. _____	37
Trade and Invest B.C. _____	38
Women's Enterprise Centre _____	38
4b. Business tax incentives and rebates _____	39
BC Hydro Deferral Program _____	39
BC Mining Exploration Tax Credit Program _____	39
Scientific Research and Experimental Development Tax Incentive Program _____	40

Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit	40
5. Community Infrastructure Programs	41
BC Air Access Program	41
BikeBC: Cycling Infrastructure Funding	41
CN EcoConnexions	42
Infrastructure Planning Grant Program	42
Innovative Clean Energy Fund (ICE Fund)	42
Community Energy Leadership Program	43
New Building Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund	43
Renewed Gas Tax Agreement/Strategic Priorities Fund	43
6. First Nations	44
Aboriginal BEST Program	44
Vancity Grants Program	44
Aboriginal Business and Investment Council	44
Aboriginal Financial Institutions	45
Aboriginal Organizations and Services: B.C.	45
Aboriginal Education and Training	45
Aboriginal People in Trades	46
Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy	46
Aboriginal Skills Training and Development Fund	46
Aboriginal Tourism Association of British Columbia	47
BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres	47
BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council	47
BC Jobs Plan	48
BC Rural Dividend Program	48
BC Training Tax Credit for Apprentices	48
Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier Council (CAMSC)	49
Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business	49
Cando (Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers)	49
Capital for Aboriginal Prosperity and Entrepreneurship	50
Ch’nook Indigenous Business Education	50
CN EcoConnexions	50
Coast Funds	51
Community Energy Leadership Program	51
Federation of Canadian Municipalities: Green Municipal Fund	51

First Nations Finance Authority	52
First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund	52
First Nations Financial Management Board	52
First Nations and LNG	53
First Nations Technology Council	53
Government of Canada: Funding for Indigenous Peoples	53
Healthy Communities Capacity Building Fund	53
Industry Training Authority: Aboriginal Initiatives	54
Kootenay Aboriginal Business Development Agency	54
National Aboriginal Energy and Power Association	54
New Relationship Trust	55
National Consortium for Indigenous Economic Development	55
Northern Development Initiative Trust	55
Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation	56
Post-Secondary Partnerships Program	56
Real Estate Foundation of BC General Grants Program	56
Skills and Partnership Fund	56
Southern Interior Development Initiative	57
Strategic Partners Initiative	57
Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative	57
Tribal Resources Investment Corporation (TRICORP)	58
Western Economic Diversification Initiative	58

1. Urgent Transition Services

The following resources are available to communities where a major employer has closed or plans to curtail operations.

Community Transition Services		B.C. government
What is it for?	Direct front-line service and support to communities, businesses and regional development organizations.	
Details	Regional economic development managers located throughout B.C. work with local governments, other ministries, employers, unions and economic development agencies to support workers and communities with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice, guidance and support for communities through transition process. • Transition support for impacted workers. • Help to develop economic development/diversification objectives. • Support to monitor and assess impacts on community support services. 	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

Targeted Initiative for Older Workers		B.C./Canadian governments
What is it for?	Help older workers in vulnerable communities return to work.	
Who can apply?	Unemployed workers between 55 and 64.	
Details	Includes employment-related support and training, training allowance.	
How to apply	Timing depends on local program delivery agency.	

[Learn more on the WorkBC website](#)

Work-share Program		Canadian government
What is it for?	Help employers and employees avoid layoffs.	
Details	Provides income support to workers eligible for Employment Insurance benefits who are willing to work a temporarily reduced work-week.	
How to apply	Employer and employees (and union if applicable) must agree to participate and apply together.	

[Learn more on the Service Canada website](#)

2. Employment and Training Support

Resources to support training needs so impacted workers can find jobs, employers can find skilled employees, and individuals can acquire the necessary training to seek new opportunities and remain in the community.

Apprenticeship Incentive Grant		Canadian government
What is it for?	Taxable cash grant available to registered apprentices once they have completed first or second year or equivalent of Red Seal trade apprenticeship.	
Who can apply?	Grant eligibility	
How to apply	Online application	

[Learn more on the Service Canada website](#)

BC Construction Association: Skilled Trades Employment Program		B.C./Canadian government agencies
What is it for?	Connects employers with motivated and trained candidates to fill skilled trade jobs and apprenticeships.	
Details	11 offices across B.C. screen individuals for employers and support them with certifications, equipment, education and networking.	

[Learn more on the BC Construction Association website](#)

BC Jobs Plan		B.C. government
What is it for?	Grow the B.C. economy and create job opportunities for British Columbians.	
Details	<p>Strategy that builds on key sectors of the B.C. economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key economic sectors: agrifoods; forestry; international education; mining & energy; natural gas; technology & green energy; tourism; transportation. • Four cross sectors: Aboriginal peoples & First Nations; international trade & investment; manufacturing; small business. 	

[Learn more on the BC Jobs Plan website](#)

BC Provincial Nominee Program Skills Immigration and Express Entry BC		B.C. government
What is it for?	Economic immigration pathway for in-demand foreign workers and experienced entrepreneurs.	
Who can apply?	Individuals nominated by the program are eligible to apply for permanent residence for themselves and their dependents.	
Details	Allows B.C. to select foreign workers and international graduates with the skills and experience to contribute to B.C.'s economy, and entrepreneurs ready to invest in the economy and create jobs for British Columbians.	
How to apply	Technical Guide	

[Learn more on the Welcome BC website](#)

B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint		B.C. government
What is it for?	Align training with in-demand jobs.	
Details	Provides seamless plan to take British Columbians from high school through post-secondary education and into the workforce. Support for those with special challenges, e.g. youth-at-risk, persons with disabilities, Aboriginal youth.	

[Learn more on the WorkBC website](#)

B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint: Explore LNG Occupations and Training		B.C. government
What is it for?	Re-engineering education and skills training to focus on in-demand jobs.	
Details	Learn about LNG opportunities, e.g. top 10 LNG occupations, apprenticeships	

[Learn more on the LNG in BC website](#)

Canada BC Job Fund		B. C./Canadian governments/education partners
What is it for?	Programs available to British Columbians facing barriers in entering trades occupations.	
Who can apply?	Eligible individuals under-represented in trades include First Nations, women, immigrants, youth).	
Details	Industry Training Authority partners with community service providers, training providers, and Aboriginal communities across B.C. to deliver pre-apprenticeship training.	

[Learn more on the Industry Training Authority website](#)

Canada-B.C. Job Grant		B.C./Canadian governments
What is it for?	Employer-driven, cost-sharing program to help British Columbians get the training they need to fill available jobs.	
Who can apply?	Employers or eligible organizations acting on behalf of employers.	
Details	<p>Four funding streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority sectors critical to the B.C. labour market • Unemployed stream • Skills training and jobs for eligible underrepresented groups (such as Aboriginal people, youth or persons with disabilities) • Helping employers prepare refugees for employment <p>Eligible employers can offset training costs as long as they have a job for the participant at the end of training.</p>	
How to apply	How to claim for reimbursement	

[Learn more on the WorkBC website](#)

Community and Employer Partnerships		B.C. government
What is it for?	Increase employment and work experience opportunities across B.C.	
Who can apply?	Local governments, First Nation bands/councils, businesses, non-profits, Crown corporations, public health/educational institutions.	
Details	<p>Create network of community organizations and employers to enable workers to gain skills and work experience.</p> <p>Five streams of funding: job creation partnerships (see below); labour market partnerships; research and innovation; project-based labour market training; and social innovation.</p>	
How to apply	Online Application User Guide	

[Learn more on the WorkBC website](#)

Employment Program of B.C.		B.C. government
What is it for?	Help unemployed British Columbians gain employment through a variety of services including employment counselling, financial supports for training, and wage subsidies.	
Who can apply?	Any unemployed citizen eligible to work in B.C.	
How to apply	At local WorkBC Employment Services Centres	

[Learn more on the WorkBC website](#)

Industry Training Authority BC		B.C. government
What is it for?	Apprenticeship training opportunities and information for tradespeople and employers.	
Who can apply?	Employees – registration checklist Employer sponsors – sponsorship form	
Details	Workers with trades experience but no accreditation can link to sponsors and apprenticeship challenge exams and access information. Tax credits for apprentices in eligible programs.	
How to apply	Continuous intake; scheduled delivery of specific programs.	

[Learn more on the Industry Training Authority website](#)

BC Training Tax Credit for Apprentices		B.C. government
What is it for?	Refundable income tax credits for apprentices enrolled in programs administered through the Industry Training Authority.	
Who can apply?	B.C. resident registered as apprentice with Industry Training Authority.	
Details	Basic tax credit for meeting requirements for tax credit level 1 or 2 of a B.C. recognized program; completion tax credit for meeting requirements for tax credit level 3 or 4 of Red Seal or non-Red Seal program. Enhanced tax credit for disabled or First Nations individuals entitled to basic or completion tax credit.	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

National Research Council: Youth Employment Programs		Canadian government
What is it for?	Help young Canadians (aged 15 to 30) find good jobs and stay employed.	
Who can apply?	Eligible incorporated small and medium-sized enterprises in Canada.	
Details	Internships through two programs: Youth Employment Program and Youth Employment Program – Green.	
How to apply	Contact 1-877-994-4727 for information and application.	

[Learn more on the National Research Council Canada website](#)

Skills Link (Youth Employment Strategy)		Canadian government
What is it for?	Help youth facing barriers to employment develop a broad range of skills and knowledge in order to participate in the current and future labour market.	
Who can apply?	Proposed projects must involve a minimum of eight youth participants.	
Details	Barriers include, but are not limited to, challenges faced by recent immigrant youth, youth with disabilities, single parent youth, youth who have no completed high school, indigenous youth, and youth living in rural or remote areas.	

[Learn more on the Service Canada website](#)

WorkBC		B.C. government
What is it for?	Help British Columbians navigate B.C.'s labour market.	
Details	<p>Job seekers can find jobs, explore career options and improve skills; employers can jobs, find the right talent and grow their businesses.</p> <p>Jobs and careers searchable database</p> <p>Career toolkit to find the right career in the right region</p> <p>Resources for counsellors, teacher and parents</p> <p>Resources for Aboriginal people</p> <p>Skills Training Programs help employers provide training so their businesses grow and move into the most dynamic sectors of B.C.'s economy.</p> <p>Labour Market Partnerships help organizations address labour market issues and human resource planning activities.</p> <p>Canada-B.C. Job Grant</p> <p>WorkBC Centres</p>	

[Learn more on the WorkBC website](#)

3. Community Economic Development and/or Diversification

Programs and tools available to help communities diversify their economies, including funding programs and support services.

BC Economic Development Association		Non-profit
What is it for?	Helps member communities grow and expand new and existing businesses and attract new investment.	
Who can apply?	Membership-based	
Details	Services include annual networking event, educational and professional development opportunities, public relations, advisory services and resources and partnering with communities and the Province of B.C. to market British Columbia for business investment.	

[Learn more on the BC Economic Development Association website](#)

B.C. Economic Development Portal		B.C. government
What is it for?	Online portal with free resources, tools and templates to guide B.C. communities through all the stages of economic development.	
Details	<p>Website offers free resources, tools and templates to support economic development in communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Searchable database to seek financial support. • Live or recorded webinars on current trends and innovative practices. • BC Economic Atlas – economic data-mapping tool. • Land development primer to assess a community’s readiness. • Business Attraction Toolkit for B.C. Communities. • Performance Measurement Toolkit to track success. 	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

B.C. Gaming Grants		B.C. government
What is it for?	Fund health care, education, and other programs and services across B.C.	
Who can apply?	Non-profit organizations	
Details	Support arts and culture, sports for youth and people with a disability, public safety, human and social services, and parent advisory councils.	
How to apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community gaming grants • Parent advisory councils 	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

BC Hydro – Power Smart Sustainable Communities Program		B.C. Crown corporation
What is it for?	Support community energy and emissions planning.	
Who can apply?	Local governments	
Details	Funding to help local governments implement tangible, high-impact projects that increase energy literacy, save electricity and demonstrate broader benefits to communities.	
How to apply	Contact key account manager or call 1-866-522-4713	

[Learn more on the BC Hydro website](#)

BC Rural Dividend Program		B.C. government
What is it for?	Strengthen resilience of small rural communities across B.C.	
Who can apply?	Communities with populations under 25,000; First Nations; not-for-profit organizations.	
Details	<p>Four project categories: community capacity building; workforce development; community and economic development; business sector development.</p> <p>Emphasis on projects that attract and retain youth, promote innovation and encourage partnerships.</p>	
How to apply	<p>Program guide</p> <p>Regular intakes each year.</p>	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

Beetle Action Coalitions		Funded by B.C. government
What is it for?	Support communities facing mountain pine beetle impacts.	
Who can apply?	Local governments, First Nation governments, non-profits	
Details	Invest in economic development projects and strategies to mitigate existing and future impacts of the epidemic, and support communities facing impacts due to the mountain pine beetle.	

Learn more on the coalition websites:

- [Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition](#)
- [Omineca Beetle Action Coalition](#)
- [Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition](#)

Business Attraction Toolkit for B.C. Communities		B.C. government
What is it for?	Help local governments attract businesses.	
Details	Supports communities through the various stages of business attraction, including planning , attracting , hosting prospective investors and assessing and securing opportunities .	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program		B.C. government
What is it for?	Help local governments reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	
Who can apply?	Local governments that signed on to the B.C. Climate Action Charter and commit to take actions.	
Details	Conditional grant program that provides funding to eligible communities equivalent to the carbon taxes they pay directly.	
How to apply	Complete and submit the progress survey sent to the financial officer of eligible communities.	

[Learn more on the Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development website](#)

Community Foundations	
What is it for?	Invest in communities to make them better places to live, work and play.
Details	Umbrella organization of 191 community foundations across Canada including 51 in B.C.

[Learn more on the Community Foundations of Canada website](#)

Vancouver Foundation		Non-profit
What is it for?	Build healthy, vibrant and livable communities.	
Who can apply?	Registered charities and other qualified organizations – eligibility information .	
Details	Field of interest grants : arts and culture, education and training, environment and animal welfare, health and social development. Fostering change grants to support youth in-and-from foster care.	
How to apply	Apply for a field of interest grant . Apply for a fostering change grant .	

[Learn more on the Vancouver Foundation website](#)

Victoria Foundation		Non-profit
What is it for?	Build a vibrant, caring community for all in the Capital Regional District.	
Who can apply?	Federally registered charities located in Capital Regional District.	
Details	Projects to support arts, culture and heritage; community services; education; environment; health and recreation.	
How to apply	Community Grants applications	

[Learn more on the Victoria Foundation website](#)

Vancity Grants Program		Non-profit
What is it for?	Create positive economic, social and environmental impacts in communities.	
Who can apply?	Not-for-profit organizations, social enterprises, co-operatives, labour unions, indigenous organizations or First Nations governments.	
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Partnership Program • Vancity enviroFund program • Micro-loan program for graduates of Aboriginal BEST Program 	
How to apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community partnership applications accepted on ongoing basis • Guidelines and application process 	

[Learn more on the Vancity website](#)

Community Partners		B.C. government
What is it for?	Organizations that can help to promote partnerships and collaboration throughout communities.	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

Creative BC		B.C. government
What is it for?	Grow and develop B.C.'s creative industries – motion picture, interactive digital, music and publishing sectors.	
Details	Refundable tax credits -- Production Services Tax Credit and Film Incentive BC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive Fund • Project Development Fund • Passport to Markets • BC Music Fund 	

[Learn more on the Creative BC website](#)

DestinationBC		Industry-led B.C. Crown corporation
What is it for?	Sustain economic propensity in B.C.'s tourism industry.	
Details	<p>DestinationBC helps communities and the tourism sector develop and implement tourism marketing plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destination BC co-op marketing partnerships program • Regional tourism programs • Destination development planning • Sector tourism programs <p>Municipal and Regional District Tax Program is applied to short-term accommodation, helping fund local tourism marketing, programs and products.</p>	
How to apply	ContactTourism@DestinationBC.ca or call 604 660-2861.	

[Learn more on the Destination British Columbia corporate website](#)

Environment Canada: EcoAction Community Funding Program		Canadian government
What is it for?	Protect, rehabilitate or enhance natural environment.	
Who can apply?	Non-profit groups and organizations. Businesses, governments, individuals and educational institutions are not eligible but can partner with non-profits.	
Details	Four priority themes: clean air, climate change, clean water, protection of nature. Program supports projects that build the capacity of communities to increase knowledge and skills as well as change attitudes and behaviours.	
How to apply	Applicant's guide and form	

[Learn more on the Environment and Climate Change Canada website](#)

Federation of Canadian Municipalities: Green Municipal Fund		Association
What is it for?	Innovative solutions or approaches to a municipal environmental issue.	
Who can apply?	Municipal/First Nations governments and partners.	
Details	Grants to develop plans and conduct feasibility studies and low-interest loans to implement capital projects. Five sectors: brownfields, energy, transportation, waste, water.	
How to apply	Application and approval processes and deadlines	

[Learn more on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities website](#)

FrontCounter BC Discovery Tool		B.C. government
What is it for?	Provides basic information about how land in B.C. is currently being used.	
Details	Free interactive web service so public users who are considering submitting a land use application to FrontCounter BC can see if there are other interests or tenures in a specific area.	

[Learn more on the FrontCounterBC website](#)

Forest Enhancement Society of B.C.		B.C. government
What is it for?	Advances and advocates for the environmental and resource stewardship of B.C.'s forests.	
Details	Reduce wildfire risk, rehabilitate forests, restore wildlife habitat, support fibre use from areas thought to be uneconomic to harvest and reforest, improving the management of greenhouse gases.	
How to apply	Contact local offices of Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

Fraser Basin Council		Non-profit
What is it for?	Advance sustainability in the Fraser River Basin and throughout B.C.	
Who can apply?	Public, private and non-profit organizations.	
Details	Available to assist organizations with sustainability challenges – group facilitation, conflict resolution, life sciences, natural resource management, sustainability planning, education, outreach and program administration. Offices in Vancouver, Kamloops, Williams Lake, Quesnel and Prince George.	

[Learn more on the Fraser Basin Council website](#)

Gwaii Trust Society		Non profit
What is it for?	To make the Haida Gwaii community a more desirable place to live, visit and conduct business.	
Who can apply?	Not-for-profit organizations, groups and local governments on Haida Gwaii.	
Details	Offers grants for vibrant communities, Haida language, arts, community innovation, travel assistance, youth and educational opportunities.	
How to apply	Grant application centre	

[Learn more on the Gwaii Trust Society website](#)

Healthy Communities Capacity Building Fund		B.C. government
What is it for?	Funding to create conditions that enable healthy people and healthy places in partnership with regional health authorities and other community stakeholders.	
Who can apply?	Local and First Nations governments.	
Details	Includes activities related to healthy eating and food security, tobacco reduction, physical activity, healthy early childhood development, positive mental health and well-being, culture of moderation for alcohol use, injury prevention, healthy built environment.	

[Learn more on the PlanH website](#)

Invest Canada: Community Initiatives		Canadian government
What is it for?	Create jobs and improve Canada’s capacity to compete in the global economy.	
Who can apply?	Canadian communities and non-profit, locally based organizations.	
Details	Help communities attract, retain and expand foreign direct investment -- international businesses establishing or expanding operations in Canada.	
How to apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register organization through the Partners@International.portal • How to register 	

[Learn more on the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service website](#)

Island Coastal Economic Trust		Independent trust
What is it for?	Support economic development initiatives on central and northern Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast.	
Who can apply?	Map of area where the Trust may invest.	
Details	Funds community-driven initiatives to spark new and sustainable regional economic growth and diversification in key sectors including forestry, transportation, tourism, mining, small business, energy, agriculture and aquaculture, and economic development.	
How to apply	Funding programs and regional support programs	

[Learn more on the Island Coastal Economic Trust website](#)

International Education Strategy		B.C. government
What is it for?	Benefit from social, cultural and economic opportunities resulting from international education activities.	
Details	<p>Advance B.C.’s reputation as a high-quality education destination in key markets such as China, India, Korea, Japan and the United Kingdom.</p> <p>British Columbia's International Education Strategy</p>	

[Learn more on the Ministry of Advanced Education website](#)

Hubcap – online social innovation community		Non profit
What is it for?	Find new ways to address social needs and work collaboratively to create better social outcomes.	
Details	A partnerships website run by members of the BC Partners for Social Impact . It offers a place for entrepreneurs, educators, funders and public policy makers to connect, share information and collaborate on projects. Tutorial videos .	

[Learn more on the Hubcap website](#)

Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund		Independent trust
What is it for?	Support sustainable economic activity in affected by the Kemano power project and creation of the Nechako Reservoir.	
Who can apply?	Local governments and non-profits serving areas with evidence of impacts from the power project and reservoir.	
Details	NKDF spends the income from its long-term investments on programs and projects that meet each community’s goals for economic development and community stability.	
How to apply	NKDF program guidelines	

[Learn more on the NKDF website](#)

Network BC		B.C. government
What is it for?	Maintain and increase access to telecommunications connectivity for citizens and businesses in rural and remote areas.	
Details	Facilitates communication between communities and telecommunications service providers to expand connectivity in B.C.	
How to apply	To explore connectivity options, contact local internet service provider.	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

Northern Development Initiative Trust		Independent trust
What is it for?	Stimulate economic growth and create jobs in central and northern B.C.	
Who can apply	Local governments, small businesses, not-for-profit organizations and others.	
Details	Funding programs overview . Regionally operated fund offers grants in four categories: pine beetle recovery funding, capacity building, community development, business development.	
How to apply	Grant process on Trust website . Intake deadlines throughout the year.	

[Learn more on the Northern Development Initiative Trust website](#)

Capital Investment Analysis		Independent trust
What is it for?	Grant funding to cover the cost of an advanced business case study that leads to a final investment decision for a major capital infrastructure project.	
Who can apply?	Local governments, First Nations bands, non-profits.	

[Learn more on the Northern Development Initiative Trust website](#)

Competitiveness Consulting Rebate		Independent trust
What is it for?	Rebate for outsourced consulting services.	
Who can apply?	Privately owned small and medium-sized companies engaged in manufacturing, innovative technologies, resource processing, transportation and distribution, and their first-line suppliers. Must have headquarters in the Trust region.	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

Economic Diversification Infrastructure		Independent trust
What is it for?	Grant and loan funding to support construction of infrastructure that directly diversifies the economy.	
Who can apply?	Local governments, First Nations bands, non-profits.	

[Learn more on the Northern Development Initiative Trust website](#)

Forest Innovation Fund		Independent trust
What is it for?	Support economic diversification in areas impacted by mountain pine beetle.	
Who can apply	Small and medium-sized enterprises operating in the Trust region.	
Details	Funding for research and development, innovative technologies, and new or improved products. Match and leverage funding from government or private sector investments.	
How to apply	Application guide posted on website.	

[Learn more on the Northern Development Initiative Trust website](#)

Grant Writing Support Program		Independent trust
What is it for?	Support employment of locally based grant writer.	
Who can apply?	Local governments and First Nations bands in Trust's service area.	

[Learn more on the Northern Development Initiative Trust website](#)

Supply Chain Connector		Independent trust
What is it for?	Help major industry, community and government procurement offices located local businesses in central and northern B.C. when building major projects.	
Who can apply?	Businesses with a physical location in central/northern B.C.	
Details	Free user-friendly database available for use to major project proponents, businesses and the public.	
How to apply	Register company profile	

[Learn more on the Northern Development Initiative Trust website](#)

Real Estate Foundation of BC General Grants Program		Philanthropic organization
What is it for?	Promote sustainable communities.	
Who can apply?	Registered non-profits in B.C. doing projects related to land use, including municipalities, First Nations, professional associations.	
Details	Five program areas: sustainable land use, built environment sustainability, freshwater sustainability, sustainable food systems, professional excellence in real estate industry.	
How to apply	Online grant portal	

[Learn more on the Real Estate Foundation website](#)

Resort Municipality Initiative		B.C. government
What is it for?	Help small, tourism-based municipalities support and increase visitation.	
Who can apply?	14 communities meet Resort Municipality Initiative criteria .	
Details	An incentive-based program based on a formula related to the number of accommodation units. Communities complete a multi-year resort development strategy and receive funding subject to an annual appropriation.	

[Learn more on the Resort Municipality Initiative website](#)

Southern Interior Development Initiative		Independent trust
What is it for?	Grow and diversify economy in B.C. Southern Interior.	
Who can apply?	Municipalities, regional districts, First Nations, registered non-profit societies, institutions, and industry associations within the Trust area .	
Details	Strategic investments leading to economic development projects that have long-lasting and measurable benefits.	
How to apply	Grant application guide Application Continuous intakes	

[Learn more on the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust website](#)

Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative		B.C. government
What is it for?	Reduce risk from wildfire in wildland urban interface.	
Who can apply?	Local governments and First Nations.	
Details	Development of Community wildfire protection plans; development of fuel management prescriptions; operational fuel treatments; fuel management demonstration projects; FireSmart grants.	
How to apply	Community wildfire protection plans and updates	

[Learn more on the UBCM website](#)

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Funding Program		Non-profit foundation
What is it for?	Funds environmental projects across Canada.	
Who can apply?	Municipalities, Aboriginal groups, educational institutions, Canadian charities.	
Details	Primary funding focus on environmental education; urban greening and enhancing biodiversity; energy conservation.	
How to apply	Apply for funding	

[Learn more on the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation website](#)

Western Economic Diversification Canada		Canadian government
What is it for?	Enhance and strengthen economy of Western Canada.	
Details	Investments in community-driven projects and other initiatives designed to increase productivity and competitiveness, and improve quality of life in western communities. Through Western Diversification Program , it invests in projects that support program activities of innovation, business development and entrepreneurship and community economic development.	

[Learn more about Western Economic Diversification Programs](#)

4a. Business Support Programs

Some of the many provincial, federal non-profit programs available to help entrepreneurs become more competitive and grow their businesses.

BC Agrifood and Seafood Export Program		B.C./Canadian governments
What is it for?	Help B.C. agriculture, food and seafood sectors increase export sales and expand international market access.	
Who can apply?	Agrifood/seafood producers, processors, associations and marketers with a head office in B.C. that market products grown or processed in B.C.	
Details	Federal-provincial funding for eligible marketing activities.	
How to apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to apply • Application deadlines Funding on first-come, first-served basis until funds have been allocated.	

[Learn more on the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia website](#)

BC Bid		B.C. government
What is it for?	Online access to B.C. public sector bid opportunities.	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

B.C. Business Portal		B.C. government
What is it for?	Resources to help individuals who want to start a business or for existing business owners looking to expand.	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

BC Buy Local Program		B.C. government
What is it for?	Support food security in B.C. and help promote local agrifood and seafood products.	
Details	Businesses and organizations can apply for matching funds for projects that promote local food such as in-store promotions, social media or traditional advertising.	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

BC Child Care Resource and Referral Programs		B.C. government
What is it for?	Quality child care referrals, resources and support to child care providers and parents.	
Details	Works with communities to enhance the availability and accessibility of a range of flexible, responsive and inclusive quality child care options and services.	

[Learn more on the Child Care Resource and Referral Services website](#)

BC Economic Atlas		B.C. government
What is it for?	Economic data-mapping tool to visualize a region's potential and support business and investment decisions.	
Details	Integrated map viewer displays spatial economic and natural resource data to support business and investment opportunity identification and business case analysis. Designed to work across all modern browsers as well as mobile and tablet devices. Download BC Economic Atlas tutorials .	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

B.C. Export Support Services		B.C. government
What is it for?	Increase export business in B.C.'s priority international markets.	
Who can apply?	Export-ready companies	
Details	Export development staff build relationships with qualified companies in priority sectors to identify and connect them with the B.C. government's international programs and representatives.	

[Learn more on the Trade and Invest British Columbia website](#)

BC Farm Business Advisory Services Program		B.C. government
What is it for?	Enable producers to make more informed decisions and strengthen their farm business.	
Who can apply?	Established or beginning farmers with proof of ownership or control of productive agricultural assets to generate farm income.	
Details	Access to basic financial analysis and specialized business planning services. Once a farm action plan is completed, producers can apply for farm business advisory services.	
How to apply	Complete a self-assessment and prepare a farm action plan	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

BC Hydro: Project Incentives		Crown corporation
What is it for?	Encourage energy efficiency.	
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding and expert support for industrial businesses to integrate energy management and efficiency design in long-term business plans. • Financial incentives to replace specified old, inefficient technologies. • Tools and resources for commercial businesses to improve energy efficiency. • Incentives, resources and technical assistances to help build energy-efficient buildings and homes. • Project incentives for distribution rate or transmission rate customers participating in a strategic energy management offer or new plant design. 	

[Learn more on the BC Hydro website](#)

BC Hydro: Standing Offer Program		Crown corporation
What is it for?	Encourage development of new small and clean or renewable energy projects throughout B.C.	
Who can apply?	Standing Offer program documents	

[Learn more on the BC Hydro website](#)

BC Innovation Council		B.C. Crown agency
What is it for?	Strengthen B.C.'s innovation economy, leading to more jobs and economic development.	
Who can apply?	B. C. technology entrepreneurs/companies.	
Details	<p>BCIC programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Venture Acceleration Program supports entrepreneurs/tech companies with executive-level consulting services. • BCIC-New Ventures Competition gives early-stage entrepreneurs education, mentorship, a chance to win cash and prizes. • BCIC Ignite provides funding to accelerate commercialization of new innovations in natural resources and applied sciences in B.C. • ACETECH offers training and mentoring for CEOs of technology, life sciences and innovative companies looking to grow revenue faster with less risk. • Launch Academy helps entrepreneurs build tech companies. • BCIC Innovator Skills Initiative inspires students to start companies. • Innovation Central Society in Prince George offers a regional voice. • Kamloops Innovation supports tech entrepreneurs in Central Interior. 	

[Learn more on the BC Innovation Council website](#)

BC Timber Sales		B.C. government
What is it for?	Provide cost and price benchmarks through the auction of timber harvested from public lands in B.C.	
Details	Provides opportunities for businesses to acquire rights to harvest timber, and provides opportunities for businesses to bid on service contracts in communities throughout the province through BC Bid .	
How to apply	BCTS has 13 offices across B.C. Individuals and corporations wanting to participate in the program may need to register as a BC timber sales enterprise.	

[Learn more on the BC Timber Sales website](#)

BizPal		Provincial governments
What is it for?	Online service provides simplified access to information about all the permits, licenses and other requirements needed to establish, operate and grow a business.	
Details	Searchable database provides information for 126 communities in B.C. Even if a local government is not currently participating, all incorporated municipalities are listed so provincial and federal information is available.	

[Learn more on the BizPal website](#)

Business Development Bank of Canada - BDC		Canadian government
What is it for?	Help Canadian businesses grow at home and abroad.	
Details	Offers business loans and advisory services, and a full spectrum of specialized financing.	

[Learn more on the BDC website](#)

Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program		B.C./Canadian governments
What is it for?	Accelerate pace of innovation in B.C.'s agrifood industry.	
Who can apply?	Industry, academia, retailers and others in late stage research and pilot projects that lead to commercialization and/or adoption of innovative products, technologies and practices.	
Details	Cost-shared program.	

[Learn more on the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia website](#)

Canada Business Network		Canadian government
What is it for?	Resources for business owners.	
Details	Information on government services, programs and regulations. Promotes entrepreneurship and innovation and provides assistance through a network of service centres across Canada, including Vancouver.	

[Learn more on the Canada Business Network website](#)

CanExport		Canadian government
What is it for?	Increase competitiveness of Canadian companies through new export opportunities and markets.	
Who can apply?	Incorporated companies meeting specified criteria.	
Details	Activities must promote international business development, represent new or expanded initiatives and provide an opportunity to yield incremental results.	
How to apply	Application process	

[Learn more on the Global Affairs Canada website](#)

Clean Energy Projects B.C.		B.C. government
What is it for?	Information about major clean energy projects in B.C.	
Details	Includes water power, wind power, ocean energy, solar energy, bioenergy with proponent guides to navigate clean energy projects.	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

Community Contribution Company		B.C. government
What is it for?	An innovative business model to bridge the gap between for-profit business and non-profit enterprises.	
Details	A new hybrid corporate model that allows entrepreneurs in B.C. to pursue social goals, including health, environmental, cultural or educational, through their businesses and still generate a profit. For example, a recycling service could create jobs and apply most of the profits to a local charity.	
How to apply	Commonly asked questions	

[Learn more on the B.C. Ministry of Finance website](#)

Community Futures BC		Canadian government
What is it for?	Support small business and community economic development.	
Details	Services and tools to help entrepreneurs and small business owners achieve their goals, including business support services, business planning advice, loans and self-employment assistance. Offers financing alternatives when access to credit is a challenge.	
How to apply	Small business help	

[Learn more on the Community Futures British Columbia website](#)

Concierge: Your Guide to Innovation		Canadian government
What is it for?	Connects businesses to provincial and federal funding, expertise, facilities and global opportunities.	
Details	Find funding programs and resources, research and development facilities to help develop innovative business ideas, and business advisory services .	

[Learn more on the Government of Canada website](#)

Doing Business with Canada		Canadian government
What is it for?	Information about grants and financing, how to sell to and work with government, procurement best practices and security screening.	

[Learn more on the Government of Canada website](#)

Government Programs for Canadian Manufacturers		Canadian government
What is it for?	Searchable database for government programs and services that can help manufacturers.	

[Learn more on the Government of Canada website](#)

La Société de développement économique		B.C. government
What is it for?	Provides business development services in French.	

[Learn more on the SDECB website](#)

LNG-Buy BC		B.C. government
What is it for?	Promotes the use of B.C. businesses to project proponents and their major contractors.	
Details	Includes an online tool and database so B.C. businesses can promote their services, and an LNG Business Kit to help B.C. companies compete for contract work.	

[Learn more on the LNG-Buy BC website](#)

MERX		Private company
What is it for?	Electronic tendering service to access bids or tenders from the Canadian public sector; Canadian agencies, Crown and private corporations, and U.S. federal, state or local opportunities.	

[Learn more on the MERX website](#)

Mitacs		National not-for-profit
What is it for?	Mitacs-funded research helps to strengthen connections, improve economic performance, and create jobs.	
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerate internship program brings together a grad student, a supervising professor and a partner organization to develop a research project. • Step program helps graduate students acquire professional and business skills. • Globalink forges international relationships and brings talented international researchers to Canada. • Elevate provides PhDs with two-year researcher fellowships so they stay in Canada. 	

[Learn more on the Mitacs website](#)

National Research Council: Industrial Research Assistance Program		Canadian government
What is it for?	Help undertake technology innovation.	
Who can apply?	Eligible incorporated small and medium-sized enterprises in Canada.	
Details	Project must be able to grow and generate profits through development and commercialization of innovative, technology-driven new or improved products, services, or processes in Canada.	
How to apply	Contact 1-877-994-4727 for referral to local industrial technology advisor.	

[Learn more on the Natural Research Council Canada website](#)

North Cariboo Agricultural Marketing Association		Non profit
What is it for?	Promote agriculture in the North Cariboo through agritourism, direct farm marketing, events, collaboration and partnerships.	
Details	Encourage farmers to produce and market new and innovative products (e.g. birch syrup), link consumers with North Cariboo farmers, support the local agricultural sector, and work closely with all levels of government.	

[Learn more on the Association website](#)

SmallBusinessBC		B.C./Canadian governments
What is it for?	Resource centre for knowledge-based business products and services.	

[Learn more on the Small Business BC website](#)

Starting a Restaurant in B.C.		B.C. government
What is it for?	Online guide provides guidance on the requirements of start a restaurant in B.C.	
Details	Includes a quick reference guide showing the steps involved, and a checklist.	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

Trade and Invest B.C.		B.C. government
What is it for?	Website with information to attract international investors, identify export opportunities, and find buyers for B.C. goods and services.	
Details	Multilingual site with profiles of communities and key sectors (mining, agriculture and food, tourism, technology, clean technology, life sciences, ICT/wireless, digital media/film/TV, natural gas, forestry and transportation), and contact information. Assistance for export-ready B.C. companies through local support and a network of trade and investment offices around the world.	

[Learn more on the Trade and Invest British Columbia website](#)

Women's Enterprise Centre		Canadian government
What is it for?	Assists women in starting and growing businesses in B.C.	
Details	Offers skills training, small business loans, advice and mentoring to women starting, purchasing, growing or exiting a business in B.C.	

[Learn more on the Women's Enterprise Centre website](#)

4b. Business tax incentives and rebates

Tax incentive and rebates encourage investment and help companies through difficult periods.

BC Hydro Deferral Program		Crown corporation
What is it for?	Keep mines open when commodity prices are low.	
Who can apply?	Mining customer payment plan	
Details	Companies operating metal and coal mines in B.C. can defer up to 75% of electricity costs over two years. As commodity prices recover, the mines will repay the deferred amounts with interest.	
How to apply	Eligible customers make a request to BC Hydro.	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

BC Mining Exploration Tax Credit Program		B.C. government
What is it for?	Encourage exploration for all base and precious metals, coal and some industrial minerals. Drilling expenses for oil and gas do not qualify.	
Who can apply?	Corporations that incur mining exploration expenses in B.C.	
Details	20% of qualified mining exploration expenses. B.C. Ministry of Finance Tax Bulletin (revised June 2016).	
How to apply	Complete Schedule 421 British Columbia Mining Exploration Tax Credit and submit with T2 Corporation Income Tax Return.	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

Scientific Research and Experimental Development Tax Incentive Program		Canadian government
What is it for?	Encourage Canadian businesses of all sizes to conduct research and development.	
Who can apply?	Corporations, individuals and trusts.	
Details	The work must meet the definition of scientific research and experimental development in subsection 248(1) of the <i>Income Tax Act</i>	
How to apply	Form T661 Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) Expenditures Claim	

[Learn more on the Canada Revenue Agency website](#)

Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit		B.C. government
What is it for?	Encourage investors to make equity capital investments in B.C. small businesses to help them develop and grow.	
Who can apply?	For corporations that invest in shares of a registered venture capital corporation or eligible business corporation.	
How to apply	Claim the credit when filing T2 Corporation Income Tax Return.	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

5. Community Infrastructure Programs

There are many provincial and federal programs that can help provide employment opportunities and economic spinoffs through capital projects.

BC Air Access Program		B.C. government
What is it for?	Capital funding to assist B.C. airports with infrastructure improvements.	
Who can apply?	Public airport operators, including local governments and other operating authorities.	
Details	Support projects to help maintain safe and reliable airport facilities and result in a significant, incremental economic benefit.	
How to apply	Submission process	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

BikeBC: Cycling Infrastructure Funding		B.C. government
What is it for?	Improve safety for cyclists to encourage healthy living and help address climate change.	
Details	Projects based on priority ranking to determine which best meet goal of encouraging transportation cycling, creating healthy living environments, reducing traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.	
How to apply	Apply for BikeBC funding	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

CN EcoConnexions		Business
What is it for?	Funding to green municipal properties, especially in communities where CN operates.	
Who can apply?	Municipalities, local community groups, business associations, First Nations, non-profits.	
Details	Projects should address local issues and involve local community groups and service clubs. They may address concerns related to water conservation, naturalization, stewardship or environmentally friendly transportation such as trails.	
How to apply	Making an application for funding	

[Learn more on the CN EcoConnexions website](#)

Infrastructure Planning Grant Program		B.C. government
What is it for?	Assist local governments in developing sustainable infrastructure to improve public health and safety, protect the natural environment, strengthen local and regional economies.	
Who can apply?	Local government.	
Details	Supports a range of initiatives to improve water, sewer, drainage and other environment infrastructure.	
How to apply	Program Guide	

[Learn more on the B.C. Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development website](#)

Innovative Clean Energy Fund (ICE Fund)		B.C. government
What is it for?	Advancement of pre-commercial clean energy technologies as a bridge to commercialization.	
Details	Projects funded include solar, wind, tidal, geothermal, ocean wave and bioenergy.	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

Community Energy Leadership Program		B.C. government
What is it for?	Support investments in energy efficiency and clean energy projects.	
Who can apply?	Local government and First Nations.	
Details	Support partnerships in small-scale community-owned energy generation from clean or renewable sources; encourage energy efficiency through retrofits.	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

New Building Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund		B.C./Canadian governments
What is it for?	Support infrastructure projects in smaller communities to support economic growth, a clean environment and stronger communities.	
Who can apply?	<i>Note: Program intake currently closed pending program review.</i> Municipal or regional government, band council, private sector body supported by municipal or regional government.	
Details	Project categories include: brownfield redevelopment; connectivity and broadband; disaster mitigation infrastructure; drinking water; green energy; highways and major roads; innovation; local and regional airports; public transit; short sea shipping; shortline rail; solid waste management; wastewater.	
How to apply	Forms and information <i>Note: Intake currently closed pending program review.</i>	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

Renewed Gas Tax Agreement/Strategic Priorities Fund		UBCM
What is it for?	Support infrastructure and capacity building projects outside of the Greater Vancouver region.	
Who can apply?	Local governments.	
Details	Projects must be either larger in scale, regional in impact or innovative, and align with the program objectives of productivity and economic growth, a clean environment and strong cities and communities.	

[Learn more on the UBCM website](#)

6. First Nations

In addition to the tools available to all communities, business and individuals, a number of organizations have programs and services of specific interest to First Nations.

Aboriginal BEST Program		B.C./Canadian governments, business
What is it for?	Turn part-time business ideas into full-time self-employment.	
Who can apply?	Aboriginal people interested in self-employment and entrepreneurship.	
Details	Free training series for Aboriginal people who want to become self-employed or start their own business.	
How to apply	Register for Aboriginal BEST	

[Learn more on the Aboriginal BEST website](#)

Vancity Grants Program		Non-profit
What is it for?	Microloans to support entrepreneurs who have completed the Aboriginal BEST program and are ready to start a business in the Coast Salish Territory.	
How to apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microloan application checklist 	

[Learn more on the Vancity website](#)

Aboriginal Business and Investment Council		B.C. government
Details	<p>Online information and tools to support economic development and encourage relationships between Aboriginal communities, industry and government.</p> <p>The First Nations Economic Development Database provides a single source of publicly available information about economic activity initiated by First Nations.</p>	

[Learn more on the Aboriginal Business and Investment Council website](#)

Aboriginal Financial Institutions		Non profit
What is it for?	Support First Nations and Métis entrepreneurs and businesses.	
Details	Provides business financing and support services including business loans, non-repayable contributions, financial and management consulting services, business startup and aftercare support.	
How to apply	Find a local institution	

[Learn more on the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association website](#)

Aboriginal Organizations and Services: B.C.		B.C. government
Details	Resource listing Aboriginal community-based services and organizations.	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

Aboriginal Education and Training		B.C./Canadian governments
What is it for?	Policies and learning programs to address challenges and barriers faced by Aboriginal students.	
Details	<p>Aboriginal Training for Employment to assist in the transition of Aboriginal people into sustainable employment.</p> <p>Community-based Programs that deliver programs for Aboriginal learners through partnerships between Aboriginal communities and public post-secondary institutions.</p> <p>Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework and Action Plan</p>	

[Learn more on the Ministry of Advanced Education website](#)

Aboriginal People in Trades		B.C./Canadian governments/education partners
What is it for?	Remove barriers and increase the number of Aboriginal people in skilled trades.	
Who can apply?	Eligible individuals under-represented in trades include First Nations, women, immigrants, youth).	
Details	Industrial Training Authority manages more than 100 trade programs in B.C. and partners with Aboriginal community training providers and industry to sponsor entry-level trades programs through the Canada BC Job Fund.	

[Learn more on the Industry Training Authority website](#)

Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy		Canadian government
What is it for?	Provides training or skills upgrading to link training needs to market demands.	
Who can apply?	All Aboriginal people, regardless of status or location.	
Details	Skills development, training for high-demand jobs, job finding, programs for youth, programs for urban and Aboriginal people with disabilities, access to child care. Flexible agreements with Aboriginal agreement holders in Canada.	
How to apply	List of agreement holders in British Columbia	

[Learn more on the Government of Canada website](#)

Aboriginal Skills Training and Development Fund		B.C. government
What is it for?	Ensure northern B.C.'s First Nations people have greater access to skills and grades training for LNG jobs.	
Who can apply?	Members of the Nak'azdli Band, Takla Lake First Nation, Tl'azt'en Nation and Yekooche First Nation.	
Details	Participants trained in essential and transferable skills such as computer literacy, math, English, personal development, safety training.	
How to apply	Contact the Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment and Training Association (PGNAETA).	

[Learn more on the PGNAETA website](#)

Aboriginal Tourism Association of British Columbia		Non-profit
What is it for?	Committed to growing and promoting sustainable, culturally rich Aboriginal tourism industry.	
Details	Offers training, information, networking opportunities and co-operative marketing programs.	

[Learn more on the Aboriginal Tourism Association of British Columbia website](#)

BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres		Non-profit
What is it for?	Support cultural, educational and economic development for Aboriginal peoples in B.C.	
Who can apply?	Friendship centres and other urban Aboriginal organizations.	
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Capacity Support Program: Core-like funding to support programs and services that increase Aboriginal participation in the economy. • Economic Empowerment of B.C.'s Aboriginal Youth: Support Aboriginal Youth in achieving success in employment and education. • First Citizens Fund: Support Programs delivered in partnership with B.C. Aboriginal organizations, including student bursary program; elders transportation program, friendship centre program directors. 	

[Learn more on the British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres website](#)

BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council		Non-profit
What is it for?	Support and facilitate First Nation efforts to manage and develop energy and mineral resources to enhance social, cultural, economic and political well-being of First Nations in B.C.	
Details	The council hosts free workshops and produces resources such as reports, discussion papers, maps and templates for First Nations throughout B.C.	

[Learn more on the BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council website](#)

BC Jobs Plan		B.C. government
What is it for?	Grow the B.C. economy and create job opportunities for British Columbians.	
Details	Aboriginal Peoples & First Nations is one of four cross sectors of the BC Jobs Plan.	

[Learn more on the BC Jobs Plan website](#)

BC Rural Dividend Program		B.C. government
What is it for?	Strengthen resilience of small rural communities across B.C.	
Who can apply?	Communities with populations under 25,000; First Nations; non-for-profit organizations.	
Details	Four project categories: community capacity building; workforce development; community and economic development; business sector development. Emphasis on projects that attract and retain youth, promote innovation and encourage partnerships.	
How to apply	Program guide Regular intakes each year.	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

BC Training Tax Credit for Apprentices		B.C. government
What is it for?	Refundable income tax credits for apprentices enrolled in programs administered through the Industry Training Authority.	
Who can apply?	B.C. residents registered as apprentice with Industry Training Authority.	
Details	The program includes an enhanced tax credit for First Nations or disabled individuals.	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier Council (CAMSC)		Non-profit
What is it for?	Boost economic development efforts and employment for Aboriginal and minority suppliers.	
Details	Core services include certification, advanced management education, Aboriginal and minority business information and supplier database, educational seminars, training and advisory services.	

[Learn more on the CAMSC website](#)

Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business		Non-profit
What is it for?	Facilitating positive and sustainable relations between the Canadian business sector and Aboriginal business communities.	

[Learn more on the CCAB website](#)

Cando (Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers)		Canadian non-profit
What is it for?	Build capacity to strengthen First Nations economies by providing programs and services to economic development officers.	
Who can apply?	Economic development personnel within a First Nation community or organization can become full members and those who support Cando's goals and objectives can be associate members. There are also organization and student memberships.	
Details	Cando serves hundreds of economic development officers, corporate leaders and government representatives across Canada, and has more than 100 B.C. members. It offers two certification designations – technician Aboriginal economic developer and professional Aboriginal economic developer.	

[Learn more on the Cando website](#)

Capital for Aboriginal Prosperity and Entrepreneurship		Private sector investment fund
What is it for?	Invests in industries and regions to promote entrepreneurial values among Aboriginal people.	
Details	Focuses on mid-market opportunities with a strong degree of Aboriginal involvement.	

[Learn more on the CAPE Fund website](#)

Ch'nook Indigenous Business Education		University
What is it for?	Address the needs of sustainable economic development in indigenous communities.	
Details	Develop management and leadership skills needed for business success and economic independence, and celebrate accomplishments of successful Aboriginal business leaders, organizations and students.	

[Learn more on the UBC Sauder School of Business website](#)

CN EcoConnexions		Business
What is it for?	Funding to green municipal properties, especially in communities where CN operates.	
Who can apply?	Municipalities, local community groups, business associations, First Nations, non-profits.	
Details	Projects should address local issues and involve local community groups and service clubs. They may address concerns related to water conservation, naturalization, stewardship or environmentally friendly transportation such as trails.	
How to apply	Making an application for funding	

[Learn more on the CN EcoConnexions website](#)

Coast Funds		Not for profit
What is it for?	Support First Nations in achieving their goals for sustainable economic development and conservation management in the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii.	
Details	Includes Coast Economic Development Society and Coast Conservation Endowment Fund Foundation provided by six private foundations, the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada.	
How to apply	Application information	

[Learn more on the Coast Funds website](#)

Community Energy Leadership Program		B.C. government
What is it for?	Support investments in energy efficiency and clean energy projects.	
Who can apply?	Local government and First Nations.	
Details	Support partnerships in small-scale, community-owned energy generation from clean or renewable sources; encourage energy efficiency through retrofits.	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

Federation of Canadian Municipalities: Green Municipal Fund		Association
What is it for?	Innovative solutions or approaches to a municipal environmental issue.	
Who can apply?	Municipal/First Nations governments and partners.	
Details	Grants to develop plans and conduct feasibility studies and low-interest loans to implement capital projects. Five sectors: brownfields, energy, transportation, waste, water.	
How to apply	Green Municipal Fund application and approval processes and deadlines	

[Learn more on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities website](#)

First Nations Finance Authority		Not for profit
What is it for?	Provide First Nations with the same financial instruments available to other levels of government to build safe, healthy and prosperous communities.	
Details	Modeled after the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia, it provides First Nations with investment options, capital planning advice and access to long-term loans with preferential interest rates.	
How to apply	Any First Nations government in Canada can become a borrowing member of the authority.	

[Learn more on the First Nations Finance Authority website](#)

First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund		B.C. government
What is it for?	Increase First Nations community participation in the clean energy sector.	
Who can apply?	First Nations in B.C. – band, community or corporation.	
Details	Can be used for feasibility studies, community energy planning, or grants to help proponents acquire equity in projects or undertake their own projects.	
How to apply	First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund: Guidelines for Funding	

[Learn more on the B.C. government website](#)

First Nations Financial Management Board		Aboriginal institution
What is it for?	Strengthen First Nations fiscal stewardship and accountability.	
Details	Provides First Nations with the tools and capacity needed to facilitate their participation in long-term pooled borrowing through capital markets to support their social and economic development needs.	

[Learn more on the First Nations Financial Management Board website](#)

First Nations and LNG		B.C. government
What is it for?	Provide immediate and long-term benefits for First Nation communities.	
Details	Includes benefits agreements with First Nations communities and skills training.	

[Learn more on the LNG in BC website](#)

First Nations Technology Council		Not for profit
What is it for?	Ensure B.C. First Nations have access to Internet and capacity to use digital technologies to the fullest potential.	
Details	Support the technology needs of First Nations in B.C. by engaging in activities to implement or enhance access to and use of technology services such as connectivity, capacity-building, information management and technology support and services.	

<http://www.technologycouncil.ca/>

Government of Canada: Funding for Indigenous Peoples		Canadian government
What is it for?	Find funding programs that support First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals and communities.	

[Learn more on the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada website](#)

Healthy Communities Capacity Building Fund		B.C. government
What is it for?	Funding to create conditions that enable healthy people and healthy places in partnership with regional health authorities and other community stakeholders.	
Who can apply?	Local and First Nations governments.	
Details	Includes activities related to healthy eating and food security, tobacco reduction, physical activity, healthy early childhood development, positive mental health and well-being, culture of moderation for alcohol use, injury prevention, healthy built environment.	

[Learn more on the PlanH website](#)

Industry Training Authority: Aboriginal Initiatives		B.C./Canadian governments/education partners
What is it for?	Ensure Aboriginal people have supported and unobstructed access to opportunities and success in apprenticeships and the skilled trades.	
Who can apply?	Eligible individuals under-represented in trades include First Nations, women, immigrants, youth).	
Details	Industry Training Authority partners with community service providers, training providers, and Aboriginal communities across B.C. to deliver pre-apprenticeship training.	

[Learn more on the Industry Training Authority website](#)

Kootenay Aboriginal Business Development Agency		Affiliated with Ktunaxa Nation
What is it for?	Increase number of Aboriginal businesses and their profitability in the Kootenay region.	
Who can apply?	Provides one-on-one business coaching, business development planning and research, information about sources of capital, pre- and post-lending advisory services, business seminars and workshops.	
Details	First Nation, Métis and Inuit people in the Kootenay region.	

[Learn more on the Kootenay Aboriginal Business Development Agency website](#)

National Aboriginal Energy and Power Association		Not for profit
What is it for?	Support, facilitate and promote an economically and environmentally sustainable Aboriginal energy and power sector.	
Who can apply?	The association delivers conferences, symposiums and workshops on power production, transmission, and oil and gas sectors with a key focused on Aboriginal community engagement and business development.	

[Learn more on the National Aboriginal Energy and Power Association website](#)

New Relationship Trust		Non-profit
What is it for?	Building strong, healthy, prosperous, independent First Nations within B.C.	
Who can apply?	First Nation individuals, communities, service organizations – depending on initiative.	
Details	<p>Five key development areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • governance capacity • education • language and culture • elders and youth • economic development <p>Economic Development Support Team</p>	
How to apply	Funding deadlines	

[Learn more on the New Relationship Trust website](#)

National Consortium for Indigenous Economic Development		University
What is it for?	Advance and share knowledge of best business practices, economic enablers and institutional mechanisms to foster indigenous economic development across Canada.	

[Learn more on the University of Victoria website](#)

Northern Development Initiative Trust		Independent trust
What is it for?	Provides funding and ability to identify and pursue new opportunities for stimulating economic growth and job creation in central and northern B.C.	
Why can apply?	Local governments, First Nations bands, non-profits.	
Details	<p>The trust has a number of programs of interest to First Nations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Investment Analysis covers the cost of an advanced business case study that leads to a final investment decision for a major capital infrastructure project. • Economic Diversification Infrastructure supports construction of infrastructure that directly diversifies the economy. • Grant Writing Support supports grant writing positions to dramatically increase the success communities have in applying for and securing grants. 	

[Learn more on the Northern Development Initiative Trust website](#)

Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation		Not for profit
What is it for?	Provide financial and business support for Aboriginal peoples on Vancouver Island.	

[Learn more on the NEDC website](#)

Post-Secondary Partnerships Program		Canadian government
What is it for?	Financial support to assist eligible First Nations students to pursue higher education.	
Who can apply?	Canadian post-secondary institutions recognized by a province or territory.	
Details	Financial support for tuition, compulsory student fees, required books, incentives and assistance for travel and living expenses.	
How to apply	Calls for proposals page	

[Learn more on the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada website](#)

Real Estate Foundation of BC General Grants Program		Philanthropic organization
What is it for?	Promote sustainable communities.	
Who can apply?	Registered non-profits in B.C. doing projects related to land use, including municipalities, First Nations, professional associations.	
Details	Five program areas: sustainable land use, built environment sustainability, freshwater sustainability, sustainable food systems, professional excellence in real estate industry.	
How to apply	Online grant portal	

[Learn more on the Real Estate Foundation website](#)

Skills and Partnership Fund		Canadian government
What is it for?	Funds skills development and training of indigenous workers for long-term employment.	
Details	Demand-driven, partnership-based program that supports government priorities through strategic priorities.	

[Learn more on the Employment and Social Development website](#)

Southern Interior Development Initiative		Independent trust
What is it for?	Grow and diversify economy in B.C. Southern Interior.	
Who can apply?	Municipalities, regional districts, First Nations, registered non-profit societies, institutions, and industry associations within the Trust area .	
Details	Strategic investments leading to economic development projects that have long-lasting and measurable benefits.	
How to apply	Grant application guide Application Continuous intakes	

[Learn more on the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust website](#)

Strategic Partners Initiative		Canadian government
What is it for?	Address persistent barriers that impede the full participation of Aboriginal people in the Canadian economy.	
Details	Focused, government-wide approach to better align federal investments, respond to new and changing economic conditions, and lever partnerships.	

[Learn more on the Canadian government website](#)

Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative		B.C. government
What is it for?	Reduce risk from wildfire in wildland urban interface.	
Who can apply?	Local governments and First Nations.	
Details	Development of community wildfire protection plans; development of fuel management prescriptions; operational fuel treatments; fuel management demonstration projects; FireSmart grants.	
How to apply	Community wildfire protection plans and updates	

[Learn more on the UBCM website](#)

Tribal Resources Investment Corporation (TRICORP)		Aboriginal capital corporation
What is it for?	Provides a wide range of financial services to First Nations entrepreneurs in northwest B.C.	

[Learn more on the TRICORP website](#)

Western Economic Diversification Initiative		Canadian government
What is it for?	Enhance and strengthen economy of Western Canada.	
Who can apply?	Not-for-profit organizations such as municipal governments, First Nations, hospitals, industry associations.	
Details	Projects support development and diversification priorities include economic growth acceleration opportunities for Aboriginal peoples.	

[Learn more on the Western Diversification Canada website](#)