

ACR Aboriginal Programs Project Program Template

Program Area:	3.0	Business Development
Sub Program:	3.3	Programs Sponsored by Government and Non-Profit Agencies
Template:	3.3.6	INAC Economic Development Programs
Sponsor(s):	<i>Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)</i>	

Objective

To assist First Nations communities and individuals to strengthen their business capabilities and employment skills.

Description

INAC has a number of programs focused on developing business capacity among First Nations including:

- Community Economic Opportunities Program (template 3.3.6.1)
- Aboriginal Contract Guarantee Instrument (template 3.3.6.2)
- Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative (template 2.4.6)
- First Nations Forestry Program (template 3.3.7)

The programs are delivered to First Nations communities through 550 community economic development organizations (CEDOs). In Alberta, there are 36 CEDOs, including four tribal or regional councils that act as CEDOs and 32 First Nations that act as CEDOs. The regional office of INAC in Edmonton provides funds to CEDOs and coordinates their activities.

Communities can use CEDOs to develop community economic plans, provide advisory services, plan business or resource development projects, provide contributions or loans to community members for training, business or resource development projects; hold equity positions in private or community enterprises, provide job-related training and employment programs, and manage financial and technical services.

Implementation

The delivery of the INAC programs is as follows:

- Community Economic Opportunities Program is delivered through the CEDOs and coordinated by the INAC regional office in Edmonton
- Aboriginal Contract Guarantee Instrument is delivered through the National Aboriginal Capital Corporation Association
- Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative is delivered by INAC through the regional office in

Edmonton

- First Nations Forestry Program is delivered by Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN)

These programs are available to First Nation governments and organizations. Partnerships of community organizations with governments and the private sector are encouraged, and will receive favourable consideration.

There is a formal process with INAC for reviewing, evaluating and approving proposals, based on the size of financial contribution. Proposals must be consistent with CEAA (Canadian Environmental Assessment Act) standards. Evaluation of proposals may take four to six months or longer for complex projects prior to a funding decision being made.

Timeframe for Results

Projects range from short- to long-term.

Measurable Criteria

Each project establishes objectives and deliverables. Meeting those targets is the main criteria for success.

Budget

Individual programs have overall budgets, as well as project limits.

Partners and Sponsors

INAC encourages partnerships with other government organizations, business and communities. Other organizations that work with off-reserve include Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC), Aboriginal Business Service Network (ABSN) of the Business Link, Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDC) funded by Western Diversification and the Alberta Indian Investment Corporation.

Experience with the Program

INAC has long-standing experience with Aboriginal programs.

General Applicability

INAC funding is provided only to First Nation governments and organizations. From an industry perspective, INAC support can be used to strengthen the capacity of a First Nation organization to participate in business ventures.

Additional Information or Support

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Template:**Community Economic Opportunities Program (CEOP)**

CEOP provides project-based support to those First Nation and Inuit communities that have the best opportunities for public services in economic development. Eligible projects will address the following:

- Employment of community members
- Business development
- Development of land and resources under community control
- Access to opportunities originating with land and resources beyond community control
- Promoting the community as a place to invest
- Research and advocacy

Priority will be given to projects that conform to priorities in regional program management strategies, generate higher levels of community benefits, have regional or community economic impact, generate a wide, range of benefits and lever the greatest funding from federal and provincial/territorial governments and/or private sector funding.

INAC funding will not exceed \$3,000,000 per project. INAC funding will be limited to the need for funding that has been demonstrated by the eligible recipient.

Total federal funding cannot exceed 80 per cent of the total cost of eligible activities, with the exception of economic infrastructure projects (66 2/3%).

Template:**Aboriginal Contract Guarantee Instrument (ACGI)**

The ACGI is designed to provide qualified Aboriginal contractors and service providers with an equivalent to mainstream surety bonding products and services. This instrument is intended to help level the playing field for Aboriginal businesses to increase their capacity to take advantage of opportunities such as those created through the federal government procurement strategy as well as compete in the mainstream marketplace where surety bonds and guarantees are required.

The ACGI covers three forms of contract guarantees:

- **Bid guarantees** provide financial assurance that the bid has been submitted in good faith, and the contractor intends to enter into the contract at the price bid and provide the required performance and payment guarantees.
- **Performance guarantees** protect the project owner from financial loss should the contractor fail to perform the contract in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract documents.
- **Payment guarantees** guarantee the contractor will pay certain subcontractor, labour and material bills associated with the project.

This instrument will be delivered nationally through Silu' Corporation, a subsidiary of the National Aboriginal Capital Corporation Association (NACCA), and in partnership with the surety industry. In the regions, the NACCA member Aboriginal financial institutions (AFIs) will play a major role in the delivery of this initiative with respect to the pre-qualification, monitoring and the processing of claims.

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