

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

Indigenous Agriculture and Relationship Development Program – Relationship Development and Engagement Program Guide

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For any questions, contact the program administrator:

Sustainable CAP
agriculture@gov.mb.ca
1-800-811-4411

This Program Guide has been updated for the September 2025 intake.

Program guidelines have changed since the previous intake.

Section 1 - Program Description

The Relationship Development and Engagement program supports actions and activities related to engagement and enhancing relationships between industry, academia, and Indigenous Peoples. Community engagement is a critical component of project design, development, and success. The program offers funding to eligible applicants to engage community members from project development through to project design and delivery.

Available funding focuses on opportunities to:

- Build relationships between sector participants, including industry, organizations, boards, watersheds, rural municipalities and other businesses, customers and Indigenous communities and government to enhance partnerships and explore collaborative sector and market opportunities, and land management.
- Build relationships between research institutions, academia and Indigenous communities and government to support the exploration of research projects or training initiatives.
- Increase community participation in early planning and development of food systems and markets.
- Other engagement or relationship development efforts to increase sector inclusivity.

Section 2 - Program Eligibility

The Relationship Development and Engagement program is open to:

- Indigenous Groups (First Nation, Métis, and Inuit) such as governments, individuals, businesses, communities, organizations, and other Indigenous-led groups undertaking agricultural and/or agri-food initiatives
- Municipal governments
- Industry organizations
- Processor organizations
- Producer organizations
- Research bodies, academia



Eligible applicants:

- Must demonstrate how the engagement project will tie into future initiatives.
- Must demonstrate how the engagement project will support the advancement of economic reconciliation.
- Can be from inside or outside of Manitoba, as long as the activities occur in Manitoba or have a positive outcome for the province and Indigenous peoples living in Manitoba.
 - Priority will be given to those applicants who operate or reside in Manitoba.
- Must ensure that they meet all eligibility requirements.

A business or organization with multiple divisions, operating names, or units, will count as one business or organization.

Government employees, who are the majority shareholder (50 per cent or higher) in a business or organization, are not eligible to apply for funding. A business or organization, which includes a provincial government employee as a minority shareholder, will be eligible to apply for funding.

Additional factors may be considered in determining the eligibility of the applicant, including:

- The provision of false or misleading information by the applicant under other Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership programs
- Amounts due and owing by the applicant under other Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership and Manitoba programs

Section 3 - Cost Share Funding

Activities are cost shared between government and the applicant; the cost share ratio is up to a maximum of 100:0 (government: applicant). There is a maximum funding limit of \$5,000 per event up to a total of five (5) events. Projects which involve five (5) events can receive up to \$25,000.

Project Length

- All projects shall start on April 1, 2026, or later.
- All projects must be completed, and reporting submitted, on or before August 20, 2027.
- Specific project start and end dates will be stated in the contribution agreement.

All Sustainable CAP projects are administered on a fiscal year of April 1 to March 31. Projects completed within one fiscal year will require a final report and financial claim upon project completion. Projects completed over multiple fiscal years will require a report (interim or final) and financial claim in each fiscal year.



Eligible Expenses

Expenses directly related to the execution of an approved project. The applicant must provide expense details for each funding stream activity in the Application Worksheet.

The following expenses are eligible for reimbursement:

- Facility and equipment rentals
- Professional speaker and facilitator fees, travel and accommodations
- Participant and Elder travel and accommodation costs
- Ground transportation costs related to tours and/or site visits
- Elder and/or Knowledge Keeper fees up to \$350 for a full day or \$175 for a half day
- Communication materials including expense related to the development, design and distribution
- Provincial sales tax (PST)
- Overhead expenses (e.g. internal administration, office supplies, use of own materials and supplies, use of own equipment, etc.), capped at 10% of total approved eligible expenses

See **Appendix A** for details of eligible expenses.

The applicant is solely responsible for all project expenses, including all ineligible expenses and any project deficits or over-runs.

Where a project is approved, no eligible expenses will be reimbursed unless a contribution agreement is signed.


If work is started on a project before formal written approval of program funding is received, the applicant does so at their own risk.

All expenses must be supported by an invoice and a valid proof of payment (note: handwritten cash receipts are not an acceptable form of proof of payment). **All invoices must be dated on or after April 1, 2026.**

Ineligible Expenses

The following expenses are **ineligible** for funding:

- Any expense, including a tax, which is eligible for a rebate, credit, or refund such as Goods and Services Tax (GST)
- In-kind contributions
- Staff salaries and wages for organizing an event
- Any expenses incurred before, or after, the dates listed in the contribution agreement
- Any expenses not required for the execution of the project
- Normal operating expenses associated with carrying out business operations
- Expenses associated with lobbying

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- Financing charges, loan interest payments, bank fees and charges
 - Any compensation to any government employee for organizing or delivering parts of the project
 - Multi-use items (e.g., items that are not directly related to the project activities, such as computers, tablets, printers, phones, cameras, pressure washers)
 - Any purchase of gift cards
 - Any project-related activity that generates revenue during the implementation of the project
 - Expenses associated with a hospitality or sponsorship event
 - Travel expenses for internal staff or volunteers
 - Food and beverages for event participants, internal staff and volunteers
 - Expenses incurred for other projects
 - Any item purchased before April 1, 2026
 - Any other expense deemed ineligible by the program administrator

Funding from Government:

The applicant must adhere to the stacking limit. The stacking limit refers to the maximum level of total Canadian government funding (federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal) a successful Applicant can receive towards total approved eligible expenses of a project.

The maximum level of total government funding must not exceed:

- 100 percent of total approved eligible expenses; or
- If the Applicant is a for-profit business or organization, 75 per cent for capital items that are approved eligible expenses.

Section 4 - Application Worksheet Assessment

Application Worksheets will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Project description
- Project deliverables and outcomes
- Engagement with associated Indigenous community and community members
- Alignment with government of Manitoba objectives, such as:
 - Advancing economic reconciliation
 - Advancing inclusion (including impact on youth, women, and elders)

Section 5 - How to Apply for Funding

Applicant Information Forms and Application Worksheets are available on the Manitoba Agriculture website. For more information, go to:

<https://www.manitoba.ca/scap/indigenoussagri/relationship-development.html>.

Manitoba Agriculture will publish deadline dates through the department's Growing Manitoba Ag newsletter, website, and social media channels.

Applicant Information Forms and Application Worksheets must be submitted to the program administrator via email at agriculture@gov.mb.ca no later than the deadline.

Applicants must acknowledge and agree to any terms and conditions contained in the Applicant Information Form and Application Worksheet.

Only the applicant may complete the Application Worksheet or other program documents.

Applicants must comply with all provincial and federal government laws and regulations applicable to their project and to their business or organization's operations.

Funding for projects will be subject to the appropriation of funds by the Government of Canada and the Manitoba government.

Funding amounts received from all sources must be declared on the application. Failure to disclose all financial sources for a project may nullify the application.

Definitions

Applicant: a person or entity who satisfies all the eligibility requirements set out in the terms and conditions and who submits an Applicant Information Form and an Application Worksheet under this program.

Contribution Agreement: the articles of agreement and annexes, as well as their amendments and the general terms and conditions applicable on the effective date of agreement.

Engagement: seeks to better engage the community to achieve long-term and sustainable outcomes, processes, relationships, discourse, decision-making, or implementation.

Government Employee: any full-time, regular, part-time or term individual employed by the provincial or federal government, including any special operating agency or Crown corporation.

Government Funding: any financial assistance in the form of provincial or federal grants, loans, or other assistance.

In-kind contributions: non-monetary goods and/or services that are not reimbursable by the program.


Manitoba Senior Public Servant: the Clerk of the Executive Council; a deputy minister or equivalent, or an assistant deputy minister; a chairperson, president, vice-president, chief executive officer or deputy chief executive officer of a Crown agency; a person who is designated or who occupies a position that is designated under section 31.1 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Conflict of Interest Act; and includes a person who, on a temporary basis, occupies a position described here.

Minister: the Minister of Agriculture for the Manitoba government, including any person authorized to act on the minister's behalf.

Person: includes an individual, partnership, association, or corporate body (entity).

Program Administrator: Manitoba Agriculture, or where applicable, any person engaged by the Manitoba government, to carry out administrative activities related to the program.

Project Proponent: can be any one, or more, of the individuals or groups described under program eligibility; where several of the eligible groups are involved in a single proposal, one individual shall be assigned as project contact for the group.



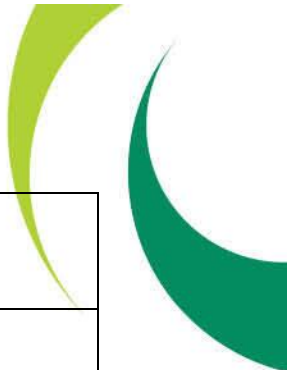
Sponsorship Event: an event where support is related to brand awareness, advertising and exposure and the funder may be compensated with complementary event passes, booth space, speaking engagements, promotional event materials, prizes, food, gifts, honorariums, etc.

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership: a five-year agricultural policy framework by Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial governments to encourage market development, innovation and research, environmental sustainability, value added processing, improved public trust and risk management across Canada's agriculture, agri-food, and agri-product sectors.

Terms and Conditions: the program rules that applicants accept and agree to follow, as part of the contribution agreement; may be occasionally revised, altered or amended.

Appendix A – Eligible Expense Details

Expense Category	Eligible Expense Details
Facility and Equipment Rentals	Rental fee for the venue of the event and necessary equipment like audio-visual systems, tables and chairs.
Professional Speakers & Facilitators Fee and Travel Accommodation	<p>Third party speakers justified as essential to the project and hired to deliver seminar, talks, and workshops or facilitate engagement activities.</p> <p>Expenses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker and facilitators fee for service delivery • Airfare • Meals • Transportation (non-airfare) • Mileage (for own vehicle) <p>Fuel is only eligible if the vehicle has been rented, and the purchase of fuel is supported by an invoice and proof of payment.</p> <p>Fuel for personal or business vehicles is ineligible as the mileage rate includes fuel.</p> <p>The current mileage rates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within Manitoba: \$0.46 per kilometer • Outside of Manitoba: \$0.56 per kilometer • North of the 53rd Parallel: \$0.504 per kilometer <p>Maximum of \$300 per person, per night, per room. Maximum of two (2) hotel rooms per activity.</p>
Elder and Knowledge Keeper Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$350 for a full day event • \$175 for a half day event <p>A full day event requires minimum of 6 hours of participation. A half day event requires minimum of 3 hours of participation.</p>
Participant and Elder travel and accommodation costs where applicable	<p>Travel and accommodation costs for attending the event. This includes mileage rate and lodging fee.</p> <p>Mileage rates will follow the General Manual of Administration.</p> <p>Fuel is only eligible if the vehicle has been rented, and the purchase of fuel is supported by an invoice and proof of payment.</p> <p>Fuel for personal or business vehicles is ineligible as the mileage rate includes fuel.</p> <p>The current mileage rates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within Manitoba: \$0.46 per kilometer. • Outside of Manitoba: \$0.56 per kilometer • North of the 53rd Parallel: \$0.504 per kilometer <p>Maximum of \$300 per person, per night, per room.</p>



Transportation costs related to tours and/or site visits	This is the cost of transporting participants from the event venue to a specific project site(s).
Knowledge Transfer Expenses	<p>Expenses related to the development, design and distribution of communication and extension materials.</p> <p>Examples of Knowledge Transfer Expenses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manuals • Brochures • Factsheets <p>This expense category does not cover website and social media items.</p>
Overhead	<p>Overhead covers up to 10% of the total approved expenses.</p> <p>Overhead may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative wages and benefits • Use of own office supplies • Use of own office equipment