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| **Watershed Security Fund Application FormApplication & Program Information** |

Welcome to the Watershed Security Fund funding application (WSF). Thank you for taking the time to apply for funding.

In 2023, the Province of B.C. made a historic investment to initiate the formation of the Watershed Security Fund (WSF/The Fund). The Real Estate Foundation of BC and the First Nations Water Caucus – with the First Nations Fisheries Council – are working together to provide interim Fund stewardship, and to support the co-development of the permanent, co-governed entity that will oversee and manage the Fund and grant program funding stream over the long term (details on our [website](https://watershedsecurityfund.ca/grants/)).

In the interim, we are honoured to collaborate with community partners to begin flowing critical dollars into community to support watershed health and security through a WSF grant funding program. Water is life, and remains the most important, environmental, cultural, economic, and spiritual well-spring we share. Thank you for your shared commitment to this inspiring, impactful, and healing work.

**Our current WSF funding intake opens June 3-26, 2024, for grants approved in September. Our second intake is planned to open in late 2024/ early 2025 for grants approved in Spring 2025. You can sign up for grant intake notifications** [**here.**](https://watershedsecurityfund.ca/grants/)

Before completing this application, **we recommend you download our** **application guide** from our grants program website [here](https://watershedsecurityfund.ca/grants/). It includes information on our funding intakes, streams, priorities, assessment criteria and eligibility guidelines.

Some high-level information is provided below.

**The Watershed Security Fund supports:**

* Reconciliation and advancing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
* Restoring and maintaining ecosystem services and watershed health
* Climate resiliency
* Local watershed governance, planning & monitoring initiatives
* Job creation and economic stimulus
* Learning and relationship-building between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities

**There are 3 Funding Streams by grant sizes:**

* **Stream 1: Headwaters** – grants of up to $50,000
* **Stream 2: Creek** – grants of up to $150,000
* **Stream 3: River** – grants of up to $500,000

Grant funding will support projects and initiatives that take place in territories and regions within what is known as BC, and that prioritize reconciliation, ecosystem restoration, climate resilience and sustainable economies. Funded projects will support healthy watersheds across a range of project types in any of these areas of watershed-based work:

* Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance
* Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration
* Nature-based Infrastructure
* Watersheds & Food Systems
* Monitoring & Assessment
* Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing

**Eligibility**

Eligible Organizations for WSF grant funding include *Indigenous or non-Indigenous*:

* Registered Non–profits
* Educational Institutions
* Social Enterprises (C3)

*Or*

* First Nations (including First Nation governments, Tribal Councils and others)
* Local/Regional Governments

Eligibility is not restricted to Canada Revenue Agency registered charities or qualified donees. In addition to those listed above, some other types of organizations may be eligible.

WSF Grants are not able to fund:

* Activities that primarily provide financial benefits for individuals
* Debt retirement, reserves, mortgage paydowns
* Retroactive expenses (costs incurred prior to funding being approved)
* Purchase of land or large scale development of buildings
* Endowments
* Partisan political activities
* Projects or initiatives that do not take place in what is known as BC.

Applications for short-term or multi-year projects and initiatives (up to 3 years) can be submitted.

**HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION:**

Questions with an asterisk (\*) are required questions that need to be completed to submit the form. ***Please feel free to use brief, point form answers.*** See our application guide on the WSF grants website page [here](https://watershedsecurityfund.ca/grants/) for more details.

You can also reach out to our Program Coordinator, Adarshana Thapa, grants@watershedsecurityfund.ca | **604-343-2620** | toll free 1-866-912-6800 **ext. 101**, if you have questions or feedback about the application process or our funding criteria and eligibility.

**There are three ways to submit an application:**

* **Online Portal** – Accessed through a link on the WSF [grants website page](https://watershedsecurityfund.ca/grants/).
* **Word Document** – Available to download from the WSF grants website page and submitted by email to grants@watershedsecurityfund.ca.
* **Zoom, Teams, Facetime or Phone Call** – Arranged through our Grants Program Coordinator, grants@watershedsecurityfund.ca. You’ll be connected with one of our grants program staff who will complete the application based on your conversation. A word version of the application will then be sent back to you, for you to confirm, finalize and submit by email to grants@watershedsecurityfund.ca. *This option is available between June 3- 18, 2024.* Please arrange this with our team well in advance, to allow time for us to schedule the call and then confirm and finalize the application content before the deadline of June 26.

If you reach out to our Program Coordinator well in advance of the deadline, there may be other options, such as submitting an application you previously prepared for another funding program, in lieu of our standard application. Please allow plenty of time so we can jointly ensure it provides the information we need to receive and review your application.

**SECTION 1: APPLICANT INFORMATION:**

**Date of Application\***

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| Month/Day/Year:  |

**Applicant Organization – Full Legal Name\***

*Please provide the full legal name of your organization followed by the preferred acronym - without punctuation in parenthesis. eg: Watershed Security Fund (WSF)*

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| Response: |

**Applicant Organization – DBA**

*Please provide your organization’s DBA (Doing Business As) Name if this is different from your legal name.*

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| Response: |

**Applicant Organization – Website**

*Please provide the Organization’s website*

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| Response: |

**Organization Type\***

*Please select the organization type listed below that best describes your organization.*

Your organization is an **Indigenous or non-Indigenous**:

[ ]  Registered Non–profit

[ ]  Educational Institution

[ ]  Social Enterprise (C3)

[ ]  Other - Describe below

Or

[ ]  First Nation (including First Nation governments, Tribal Councils and others)

[ ]  Local/Regional Government

*If your response above is Other, please provide a few words describing your organization type. Character Limit: 100*

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| Response: |

*If your response above is First Nation, please describe in a few words (e.g. First Nation government, Tribal Council, other). Character Limit: 100*

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| Response: |

**Organizational Relationship to First Nations\***

We recognize that First Nations title, rights, and sovereignty are crucial to the health and sustainability of lands and waters in the unceded and/or treaty territories across what is referred to as British Columbia. As the inherent rightsholders of these lands and waters who have protected and cared for them for millennia, First Nations in B.C. must have a central role in watershed work if we are to uphold commitments to UNDRIP and achieve transformative change towards healthy, secure watersheds. The Circle on Philanthropy developed a matrix based on guidance from Indigenous advisors from across Canada to help define organizations’ relationships to Indigenous Peoples.

***Please download and review the*** [***Circle’s I4DM Definitional Matrix***](https://www.the-circle.ca/the-i4dm.html) ***and select the classification below that best represents your organizational relationship to First Nations in B.C. based on the criteria within the matrix.*** *It should reflect the current state of your organization, rather than your organization's future goals or aspirations. Please note that for this question, an organization that has one or more First Nations project partners is not necessarily in the I4DM category of “Indigenous Partnerships” (or in our case, “First Nations Partnerships”). For the purpose of this question, the I4DM category representing “First Nations Partnerships” would only be indicated where First Nations decision makers sit equal and share leadership with non-First Nations partners (along with other criteria – see I4DM). There is a separate question (further in the application) where you can identify First Nations partners who you are working with in a variety of other types of roles and we look forward to learning about those too.*

[ ]  First Nation/s Led

[ ]  First Nation/s Partnerships

[ ]  First Nation/s Informed

[ ]  First Nation/s Benefitting

[ ]  Other

**‘Other’ Comments:**

*You are welcome to provide comments or context to your I4DM selection above or if you chose ‘other’. We suggest under 200 words.*

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| Comment: |

Is your organization a Canada Revenue Agency Registered Charity or Qualified Donee?\*

[ ]  Yes

[ ]  No

**Application Contact - Primary\***

*Please provide the name and contact information of the person we should contact if there are questions about your application. This is also the person who will be notified if your application is successful in being shortlisted or approved for funding.*

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| **First Name\*:**  | **Last Name\*:** |
| **Job Title\*:** | **Email Address\*:** |
| **Cell Phone:** | **Office Number:** |
| Is the application contact an employee or director of the proponent (applicant) organization?\*[ ]  Yes[ ]  No, I am a consultant/partnerIf No, please provide your contact details\* (required if answered ‘no’ above)**Email\*:****Phone Number:** |
| **Organization Name\*:** | **Organization Website:** |
| **Office Address\*:** | **City\*:** |
| **Province\*:** | **Postal Code\*:** |

**Application Contact – Secondary**

*You have the option of providing the name and contact information for up to two additional people you would like to identify as ‘secondary’ project contacts. We may contact this person if we are unable to reach you and have questions about your application.* ***Please copy the table above and paste into this section below as needed to provide information on up to two secondary contacts****.*

[copy/paste the contact information table and fill in for secondary contacts if applicable]

**Organization Description\***

*For the organization that is applying for funds (applicant), please tell us about your organization. This may include your purpose, who you serve, and why. Or, your mission, mandate, and programming. If your organization is a post-secondary institution, focus on the specific department or faculty overseeing the project. We suggest under 300 words.*

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| Response: |

**SECTION 2: PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Project Name\***

*We suggest under 80 characters, including spaces.*

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| Response: |

 **Project Description\***

*Please provide a brief overview of your project proposal, including goals or objectives, and major activities. What type of work are you seeking to do and where? To achieve what outcomes? We suggest under 500 words.*

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| Response:  |

 **Project Reason, Vision\***

*How does your project address urgent or long-term watershed health and security issues, conditions or opportunities? How is it achieving actionable progress on ecosystems health and climate resilience? What is the change you want to see? We suggest under 500 words.*

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| Response: |

 **Relationship to past or future work**

*Does this project build on past or current initiatives within your organization or by other organizations that support the change you are trying to create? Or will it build capacity or a foundation for future work or initiatives? We suggest under 200 words.*

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| Response: |

 **Project themes -Primary\***

*To help us and others understand the many dimensions of watershed security work, we have identified some project categories or themes. For the purpose of this application, at this stage we are only asking you to identify up to two; however, we do recognize that watershed work is inherently holistic and interwoven across many of these themes.*

*Please let us know which of these categories best reflects the strongest area of focus for your project:*

[ ]  Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance

[ ]  Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration

[ ]  Nature-based Infrastructure

[ ]  Watersheds & Food Systems

[ ]  Monitoring & Assessment

[ ]  Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing

[ ]  Other

‘**Other’ theme description (\*required if ‘Other’ was selected above)**

*If you chose ‘other’ for project theme, please describe in a few words:*

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| Response: |

 **Project themes – Option to Identify an Additional Project Theme**

*Please let us know which, if any, of these categories reflects an additional important dimension to your work.*

[ ]  Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance

[ ]  Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration

[ ]  Nature-based Infrastructure

[ ]  Watersheds & Food Systems

[ ]  Monitoring & Assessment

[ ]  Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing

[ ]  Other

**‘Other’ theme description**

*If you chose ‘other’ for project theme, please describe in a few words.*

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| Response: |

 **Geographic Area Served\***

*Please select the watershed basin that best includes the area or territory in which your project activities will take place.*

[ ]  Mackenzie

[ ]  Fraser

[ ]  Columbia

[ ]  North Coast - Pacific Ocean Seaboard

[ ]  South Coast - Pacific Ocean Seaboard

[ ]  Nass

[ ]  Skeena

[ ]  Stikine

[ ]  Taku

[ ]  Yukon

[ ]  More than 1 Basin



**Geographic Impact and First Nation/s Territory/Territories\***

*If your project impacts multiple watershed basins, please comment briefly on which ones. Please also list the First Nation/s territory/territories on which your project will take place. We suggest under 250 words.*

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| Response: |

**Funding Streams\***

*There are 3 Funding Streams by grant sizes. Please select the Funding Stream in which you are applying:*

[ ]  Stream 1: Headwaters – grants of up to $50,000

[ ]  Stream 2: Creek – grants of up to $150,000

[ ]  Stream 3: River – grants of up to $500,000

**Project Duration\***

*Please estimate the number of months required to complete the portion of your project for which funding is being requested. Project funding can be short term or multi-year (up to 3 years).*

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| Response: |

 **Estimated Project Start Date\***

*When do you hope to begin your project work for which funding is being requested? Spring, Summer, Fall or Winter start dates are all welcome. Projects need not be “launch ready” at this stage, and funding is not required to be spent in a given fiscal year. Note that funding does not support work/costs retroactively. Funded work can start any time after grants are approved. Approvals for our late spring intake are anticipated in the early Fall. Approvals for our Fall/Winter intake are anticipated in the Spring.*

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| Response: |

**SECTION 3 - UNDRIP COMMITMENTS**

The WSF is committed to upholding the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).](http://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf) This section is an opportunity to describe how UNDRIP principles and efforts toward reconciliation and reciprocity can be intentionally woven into organizational culture, practice, and project work.

First Nations Led organizations have the option of providing a distinct perspective on UNDRIP in relation to your project, through one optional question. Organizations that do not currently have First Nations people empowered at all levels have an opportunity to share how they are implementing meaningful approaches or overcoming barriers to upholding UNDRIP through a series of questions. For smaller scale projects in Stream 1 (Headwaters) even initial actionable steps to learn about UNDRIP implementation and decolonizing practices can be an important starting point.

Successful applicants will be able to report again on these commitments after projects are underway or completed.

**First Nations Led Organizations only - UNDRIP – First Nations Perspective**

*We recognize that each First Nation has their own distinct perspective on advancing UNDRIP that is grounded in their own culture, governance, and land relationships.* ***If you'd like to share, we invite you to describe how UNDRIP might be informing your project approach, or any statements/vision/position on UNDRIP that your First Nation or organization may have.*** *We suggest under 400 words. Brief, point form comments are also welcome.*

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| Comment: |

**Non-First Nations Led Organization - UNDRIP**

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| **For Non-First Nations-Led Organizations please complete the following section** |
| **Non-First Nations-Led Organizations - UNDRIP\****Please tell us about your plans to incorporate any of the following into your project planning or implementation. For comments, we suggest under 200 words. Brief, point form notes are welcome.*  |
| **UNDRIP - Project activities support the exercise of First Nations rights\****This can include land-based activities that support cultural and rights-based activities by First Nations. Select one.*[ ]  Planned[ ]  Not Planned[ ]  N/A Comment:  |
| **UNDRIP – Incorporation of First Nations knowledge into project planning\****This can include research on existing secondary sources, engagement with host/affected Nations, interviews with knowledge holders. Activities should be supported with commensurate budget planning for First Nations participation. Select one.*[ ]  Planned[ ]  Not Planned[ ]  N/A Comment:  |
| **UNDRIP – Communications and outreach to First Nation leadership\****This can include relationship-building, various forms of communication on the project, receiving input and direction into project design and implementation. Leadership can be elected Chief and Council, or traditional governance bodies. Activities should be supported with commensurate budget planning for Indigenous participation. Select one.*[ ]  Planned[ ]  Not Planned[ ]  N/A Comment:  |
| **UNDRIP – Project site/s First Nations ceremony\****This can include inviting host/affected Nations to conduct land-based ceremonies to commemorate various aspects of the project, where appropriate (respecting other demands on host Nations) and with sufficient support in the budget planning. Select one.*[ ]  Planned[ ]  Not Planned[ ]  N/A Comment:  |
| **UNDRIP – Training and other initiatives to strengthen the capacity of First Nations peoples to practice and uphold their Indigenous rights and interests in ways that are meaningful to them\****This can include support for land-use and land governance related capacity building and training for First Nations peoples as a part of your project. Activities should be supported with commensurate budget planning for Indigenous participation. Select one.*[ ]  Planned[ ]  Not Planned[ ]  N/A Comment: |
| **UNDRIP – Other\****If there are other ways you feel your project is advancing UNDRIP Principles, we would love to hear about this. Feel free to reference specific Articles or Article Numbers if applicable. Select one.*[ ]  Planned[ ]  Not Planned[ ]  N/A Comment: |

**SECTION 4 - ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

*We’d like to learn about your project approaches to any of the following, if applicable. For each of your responses, we suggest under 200 words. Brief, point form notes are welcome.*

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| **Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC)***Are you a First Nation working in your own territory? If not, is your project addressing FPIC? What policies or practices do you have to work towards or to obtain First Nations free, prior and informed consent for a project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, in connection with the development or use of water resources?* Response:  |
| **Regional Equity***Are there particular regional challenges in terms of access to funding or other resourcing, and in relation to urgent/pressing watershed security needs or impacts in your community or watershed basin?* Response: |
| **Community Connection** *How are the communities most impacted or served by the project involved in its design, direction and/or implementation? How do you stay engaged and responsible to your community?* Response: |
| **Economic Resiliency, Jobs, Training & Mentorship***Will your project create or sustain jobs, training and economic opportunities that contribute to economic and community resilience? Does the project embrace and advance mentorship and intergenerational learning, leadership and knowledge building?* Response:  |
| **Diversity of Interests & Collaboration** *If there are other communities, organizations, or sectors whose partnership and collaboration are key to your project goals, how are you engaging them or building relationships? Are you working on watershed-based shared decision-making, co-development, and co-governance work? Or engaged in community foundation building for those efforts?*Response:  |

**SECTION 5 – PARTNERS: ORGANIZATION NAMES AND ROLES**

*Partners are not a requirement of funding but depending on the goals and activities of your project, the work may benefit from or depend on collaboration. You will not be evaluated on the number of partners you identify – we are most interested in hearing about those you feel are integral to project success, if any. Organizations only providing financial support are not considered partners for this question.*

**Would you like to tell us about any key partners you may have on this project?**

*These can be either formal and finalized or currently in the discussion and negotiation phase.*

[ ]  Yes – If yes, please complete the table below. ***If you have more than one partner, please copy and paste the blank table to add more partners.***

[ ]  No – If no, move to next section on Project Budget.

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| **Partner Name:** *Full name of the organization or Individual partnering with you on this project* |
| **Partner Sector: *(select one)****Please select the option that best describes your partner’s sector.*[ ]  Non-Profit/NGO [ ]  Local/Regional Government [ ]  Provincial/Federal Government [ ]  First Nations Government [ ]  Industry, Association, Crown Corporation [ ]  Academic/Schools [ ]  Media/Comms [ ]  Consultants/Private Sector [ ]  Other  |
| **Partner Contact Name:***Please provide the name of ONE partner contact* | **Partner Contact Email:***Please provide the email address of ONE partner contact.* |
| **Partner Role:***Briefly describe the role they are playing in the project. What aspects of planning, informing, implementing, or disseminating are they involved in? We suggest under 100 words.*  |
| **Partner Status:***Please tell us the current status of this partnership:*[ ]  Confirmed[ ]  Planned | **First Nations - led:** *Is your partner First Nations or First Nations-led?*[ ]  Yes[ ]  No |
| **If you answered yes to ‘First Nations-led’ for your partner, please describe their Role\*:***Select the option that best describes the anticipated level of involvement for your First Nations Partner.*[ ]   **Full Partner** - Involved in project direction, design, implementation, dissemination, and follow up work[ ]   **Partial Partner** - Involved in some key milestones, has a say in key elements of project design, but may not be involved in all of the operational activities. [ ]   **Engagement** - Involved in engaging the community, sharing info, seeking and transmitting community input on project implementation[ ]   **Info-Sharing Only** - Capacity, time limitation, or other constraints not allowing for fulsome participation in project, but Nation wishes to be kept informed of activities and progress[ ]  **Other** – If the above descriptions do not fit, please describe your Indigenous partner’s role in your own words (We suggest under 200 words). Comments (if you chose ‘Other’):  |

**SECTION 6: PROJECT BUDGET**

*Eligible expenses for WSF Funding include: staffing and labour; program or project planning, design, delivery, coordination, communications, consultant fees; convening & relationship building, workshops, travel; Indigenous ceremony & cultural protocols, honoraria, building cultural competency; and, admin (of up to 10%). We encourage proposal budgets that support elders, youth, and ceremony, and sharing the story of project work. Site costs and capital equipment costs are eligible for restoration and nature based infrastructure projects, with some limitations.*

*Please see our application guide and budget template on the WSF grants website page* [*here*](https://watershedsecurityfund.ca/grants/) *for additional budget guidance.*

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| **Amount Requested\*** *Total amount of funds you are requesting from WSF.* Amount Requested: | **Total Project Cash Budget\*** *Total estimated required funds for the project, including project staffing but excluding in-kind expenses.* Total Project Cash Budget: |

**For Stream 1 (Headwaters) applications up to $50,000:**

**Description of Expenses\***

*Please briefly describe how you intend to allocate requested WSF funds. We suggest under 300 words.*

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| Comment: |

**For applications in Stream 2 (up to $150,000) and Stream 3 (up to $500,000) please submit our budget form with your application.\***

*Please complete the budget template form available on the grants page of our website (*[*https://watershedsecurityfund.ca/grants/*](https://watershedsecurityfund.ca/grants/)*) and submit it with your application.*

**SECTION 7: OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Additional Information**

*Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your project that was not already included in your responses? Feel free to include links to web-based supplementary information, documents, or videos that you feel strengthen your application? We suggest under 300 words.*

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| Comment: |

**Supplementary Documents or Letters of Support**

Please use file names that provide some indication of the file contents and date of publication if applicable.

**The following format is preferred:** Org Name Acronym\_Document Name\_Date of Publication – eg: WSF\_Drought Report\_Jan 2023.pdf

With the exception of budget forms for Stream 2 and Stream 3 applications, supplementary files are not mandatory and your application will not be evaluated based on the number of files you share. Please only provide materials you feel are necessary for telling the story of your project. If you intend to submit your application through our online portal, please note **it can only accommodate up to 5 attachments and the total size of all attachments must be below 30 MB**. If you have larger files or additional key materials to share, please consider providing links to online versions in your response to “Additional Information” or you may email them to grants@watershedsecurityfund.ca

Documents in PDF format are generally preferred, but Word and Excel files (for budget forms) may also be uploaded through the online application portal (or included with your application by email). Video or image files of 10 MB or less may also be uploaded or included.

 **Note:** Letters of support are welcome but not mandatory. Letters of support can also be in email format (please upload a PDF copy of the email). Letters of support addressed/submitted to other funders are also acceptable.

**Future Engagement**

We are still in the early stages of developing our grant funding program. In the future we hope to be able to offer some resources and engagement opportunities for applicants, grantees, and people working in the watershed sector.

***If you would like to be added to a list to be notified of future potential learning opportunities related to UNDRIP, watershed engagement and learning events, and funding supports, please indicate yes here:***

[ ]  Yes

[ ]  No

**Thank you for your time and effort in submitting an application. We appreciate this opportunity to learn about your organization and your proposed project.**