



Watershed Security Fund

Healthy Watersheds • Thriving Communities

Grants Program
Overview

watershedsecurityfund.ca



Shared Vision

At the Watershed Security Fund, we **envision a future where thriving watersheds** and the natural flow of water are of the utmost importance, and **water is highly valued as the sacred source of life** for all living beings.

The Watershed Security Fund supports projects and initiatives that prioritize the health of our waterways, centre First Nations rights and knowledge, and reinforce lasting relationships to ensure **healthy watersheds and thriving communities** for generations.

Shared Values

Working Together to care for the natural world.

Innovation and Learning to promote flexible approaches that respect a diversity of knowledge systems.

Transparency, Openness, and Accountability when building trust, listening to communities, and honouring and respecting their work.

Ecosystem Stewardship that supports holistic, 'whole of watershed' practices that recognize water's inherent rights, centre all living creatures, and enhance community resilience.

Recognizing Inherent Rights of First Nations in BC, and their rights and responsibility to make informed decisions regarding watersheds.

On March 6, 2023, the Province and the First Nations Water Table announced a **\$100 million investment** to establish an independent Watershed Security Fund. This initial contribution seeded a **permanent endowment that generates a \$3–5 million annual baseline budget** for grants and programs.

Why Safeguard Watersheds?

Watersheds embody the **sacredness, interconnectedness, and interdependence** of the natural world, linking everything from mountaintops to oceans. They are areas of land where rain, snow, or melted ice flows downhill, often directed by surrounding hills and slopes, into common points of streams, rivers, lakes, groundwater, and eventually oceans. **The flow of water influences all it encounters while being shaped by everything it touches.**



Watershed security ensures sufficient clean water for ecosystems and communities, honouring water's inherent rights while supporting environmental, cultural, spiritual and economic prosperity.

We are working to grow durable and predictable sources of funding through provincial, federal, industry, and philanthropic contributions to support the vision of the WSF.



Scan the QR code for more information about the **Watershed Security Fund Grants Program**.



Grants Program

The WSF Grants Program funds freshwater projects focusing on **ecosystem health, reconciliation, climate resilience, and sustainable economies**. Through collaborative approaches, we aim to address urgent and long-term needs while uplifting **UNDRIP, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**.

Eligibility — Streams — Themes

Eligible applicants include **First Nations and non-First Nations organizations** intentionally weaving reconciliation and reciprocity into organizational culture, practice, and work.

Grant Opportunities are divided into three Streams based on the project's developmental stage, organizational relationship to First Nations, and maximum grant size. Streams include applications for up to **\$50,000, \$150,000 and \$400,000**.

The WSF supports projects that lead to actionable progress on freshwater health across six Funding Themes in all water basins in what is known as British Columbia. *See icons below.*

Ways to Apply

We uphold grant-making practices that are **approachable, accessible, adaptable, supportive**, and built on mutual respect, trust and reciprocity.

We offer three ways to apply:

- Through our online portal.
- By sending the application form through email.
- Through conversation with our grants team.

When to Apply

Application intakes will open yearly. Visit the **Grants Program page** on the WSF website for more information, or sign up for our newsletter to receive news and updates.

Themes



Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration



Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance



Watershed & Food Systems



Nature-based Infrastructure



Monitoring & Assessment



Land & Water-based Learning



Watershed Security Fund

The **First Nations Water Caucus**, the **First Nations Fisheries Council** (as secretariat to FNWC), and the **Real Estate Foundation of BC** are honoured to collaborate in this inspiring, impactful, and healing work. Together, they provide interim stewardship and support the co-development of the Fund until it is transferred to a permanent entity.

**First Nations
Water Caucus**



**First Nations
Fisheries Council
of British Columbia**



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