

National Tree Seed Centre (NTSC)
Indigenous Seed Collection Program (ISCP)

Who is the National Tree Seed Centre?

- Canada's principal national resource for forest seed conservation, education, and science.
- Through our scientific expertise, knowledge mobilization, and capacity building, we work collaboratively with a network of partners and convene across Canada and internationally to conserve and curate Canadian tree seeds.
- The NTSC plays a crucial role in maintaining healthy forests and delivering on Canada's global climate change commitments.

What is the ISCP accomplishing?

- The Indigenous Seed Collection Program's goal is to support Indigenous-led seed collections focused on species that are of cultural, medicinal, spiritual, and economic importance to each community.
- Combining traditional Indigenous ecological knowledge with western scientific approaches and research to better preserve and protect species of interest to Indigenous communities for the future; particularly as climate change threatens ecosystems.

Why should I get involved?

- To help your community preserve Indigenous ways of knowing, and conserve tree species of cultural, spiritual, and economic importance.
- To exchange knowledge and create a larger network of seed collectors across Turtle Island.
- To play a critical role in ensuring that the right seed from the right species is available for future planting and use.
- To build capacity in seed collection, processing of seeds, as well as long-term seed storage.
- To generate opportunities for the creation of small-to medium-size business enterprises.

Where do I start?

- Start by talking with your community about what trees, shrubs, and other plants are of cultural significance.
- Reach out to the Indigenous Seed Collection Program Coordinator (see contact information on page 6).
- ISCP has recorded webinars, online training videos, and written resources available to provide more information for your group or organization to start discussions with your communities or members.
- Schedule online meetings with NTSC staff, before in-person sessions, to coordinate our efforts together.
- Learn and understand the proper collection times, processing, and storing protocols for species of significance and interest.

How will my community or organization be supported in the project?

- We offer free, in-person seed collection training sessions targeted at your communities' unique species interests.
- Following these sessions, we will have online meetings to check in and answer any questions that may arise.
- We offer tours of the NTSC facility with in-depth lab training on seed cleaning and testing provision of seed collection equipment.
- Assistance navigating funding applications targeted toward Indigenous-seed collections, conservation, economic development, and potential climate change studies (see funding resources available below to help get you started).
- Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) offers space at the NTSC where you may ship your seeds to us for cleaning, processing, and storing at no charge. (A Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] can be developed to protect your intellectual property rights and ownership of your seeds). Your seeds can be accessed at any time.

Funding Resources:

**ESDC
Indigenous Skills
and Employment
Training Program**
(\$2B over 5 years &
\$408.2M per year,
ongoing.)

The Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) program is a distinctions-based labour market program designed to support First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and Urban/Non-affiliated Indigenous people improve their skills and meet their long-term career goals. The program funds a network of Indigenous service delivery organizations to provide Indigenous people with training and supports to improve their skills and secure employment in various economic sectors, including environmental assessment, protection & preservation, with the goal to reduce the employment and skills gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Find an Indigenous service delivery organization in your community:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/indigenous-skills-employment-training/service-delivery-organizations.html>

**Canada's Regional
Developments
Agency (RDA)
Jobs and Growth
Fund (\$700M/3Y)**

The Jobs & Growth Fund (JGF) provides funding to businesses & organizations to help create jobs and position local economies for long-term growth. The Fund, delivered by Canada's regional development agencies (RDAs), provides \$700 million nationally over three years, which includes up to \$70 million dedicated to businesses created after January 2020 that meet eligibility criteria. Indigenous-led organizations and/or businesses are strongly encouraged to apply. Under the initiative, RDAs may contribute up to 100 % of eligible project costs for projects with Indigenous clients.

Application: Rolling Intake

Contact: To find out more contact your Regional Development Agency

Website: <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/icgc.nsf/eng/07737.html>

**Canada's Regional
Developments
Agency (RDA)
Regional Economic
Growth Through
Innovation**

Business scale-up and productivity funding offered under the Regional Development Agency (RDA) helps businesses to accelerate their growth and assists with the adoption of innovative technologies that support scale-up, productivity, global competitiveness, as well as the development of and entry into new markets.

Regional Innovation Ecosystems Funding offered under this stream helps create, grow, and develop strong and inclusive regional networks that support business

growth/innovation. It also fosters the entrepreneurial environment necessary for more innovative regional economies and increases the competitiveness of small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), women entrepreneurs, and under-represented groups.

Application: *Rolling Intake*

Contact: *To find out more contact your Regional Development Agency*

Website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2018/12/regional-economic-growth-through-innovation.html>

First Nations Adapt, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)
(\$80,000-\$160,000 per year)

The First Nation Adapt Program supports community projects that build the capacity of First Nations south of the 60th parallel to address climate change impacts. The central goal of the program is to improve resiliency to climate change by improving knowledge of the issues facing First Nations, to better plan for the future. The FN Adapt Program supports many different types of activities or studies depending on specific community needs.

Applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis until all available funds are allocated.

Application: aadnc.adaptation.aandc@canada.ca

Contact: [1-800-567-9604](tel:1-800-567-9604)

Website: [First Nation Adapt Program: Funding Guidelines 2021 to 2022 \(rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca\)](https://rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca)

WWF for Nature and Climate Grants
(Funds decided on a case-by-case basis)

WWF supports local conservation efforts. From supporting projects to restore wildlife habitats, to contributing to scientific research and planting trees, WWF-Canada is helping reverse the decline of wildlife and fight climate change by offering grants to people and groups working on the ground for change. Nature-based climate solutions use the unique powers of nature to both capture and store carbon, which helps mitigate climate change, and safeguard species.

WWF-Canada's Nature and Climate Grant Program, presented in partnership with Aviva Canada, helps communities and Indigenous organizations restore degraded lands and shorelines in order to improve habitats and capture carbon.

Application: [Take Action With WWF: Apply For Funding / WWF.CA](https://www.wwf.ca)

Contact: 416-489-8800

Website: [Indigenous-led Conservation / WWF.CA](https://www.wwf.ca)

2 Billion Trees Program
(\$3.2B in funding until 2031, & \$500M for an Indigenous funding stream)

The 2 Billion Trees (2BT) program aims to motivate and support new tree planting projects. Over a period of 10 years, by 2031, up to \$3.2 billion will be invested in tree planting efforts to support provinces, territories, third-party organizations (for and not-for profit) and Indigenous organizations to plant two billion trees across Canada.

Subsequent funding rounds will be available in the future. The 2BT program intends on creating an ongoing call for proposals so that you can apply at different times of the year. Additionally, a \$500M Indigenous Funding stream will be launched in early 2023, managed through a co-developed inclusive governance model - more details to come! Indigenous-led projects are accepted in all funding streams, also.

Application: *More details on the next Call for Proposals process will be available in coming months.*

Contact: 2btrees-2garbres@nrca-nrcan.gc.ca
Website: [2 Billion Trees Program - Canada.ca](http://2BillionTreesProgram-Canada.ca)

**SFI for
Project Learning
Tree Canada**

(50-80% wage matching available, with up to \$32,000 CAD in reimbursements)

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) respects the rights of Indigenous Peoples and believe our shared quality of life improves when forests are sustainably managed for current and future generations. Project Learning Tree (PLT) offers opportunities to employers hiring youth aged 15-30 into Green Jobs. A “Green Job” is one that supports nature-based solutions for a more sustainable planet. Green jobs are typically involved in, but not limited to, jobs in the forest sector, parks, conservation, natural resource management, environmental education, sustainable food systems, climate change, carbon sequestration, species maintenance and recovery, water quality and quantity, and more. Green Jobs are considered positions that support nature-based solutions for a more sustainable planet.

Application: [Funding for Employers - Project Learning Tree Canada \(pltcanada.org\)](http://FundingforEmployers-ProjectLearningTreeCanada.pltcanada.org)

Contact: 613-747-2454

Website: [Who We Are - forests.org](http://WhoWeAre-forests.org)

**Aboriginal Fund
for Species at Risk**

(Up to \$2.7 million in funding available)

The Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR) support and promote the conservation, protection and recovery of target species and their habitats on Indigenous lands or lands where traditional food, social, and ceremonial activities are carried out by Indigenous peoples and support the engagement and leadership of Indigenous peoples in the conservation and recovery of the target species, their habitats and SARA processes.

Application: Currently closed

Contact: AFSAR-FAEP@ec.gc.ca

Website: [Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk - Canada.ca](http://AboriginalFundforSpeciesatRisk-Canada.ca)

**Habitat
Stewardship
Program**

(Up to \$6.5 million available funding)

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) administers HSP funds that support terrestrial stewardship projects.

Established in 2000, the Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) provides funding for projects submitted by Canadians that contribute directly to the recovery objectives and population goals of species at risk listed on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) and that prevent others from becoming a conservation concern.

Application: Currently closed

Contact: 1-800-668-6767

Website: [Habitat Stewardship Program for species at risk - Canada.ca](http://HabitatStewardshipProgramforspeciesatrisk-Canada.ca)

**Indigenous
Forestry Initiative**

(\$6.2 Million available for 2021-2023, \$1 Million per year after 2023)

The Indigenous Forestry Initiative (IFI) provides financial support to Indigenous-led economic development projects in Canada’s forest sector. Their goal is to create increased Indigenous participation in forestry-related opportunities, businesses, careers and governance. While also, increasing investment and collaboration between Indigenous peoples and other natural resource development stakeholders, including governments, industry and non-governmental organizations.

Application: Rolling intake, funding dependant on project.

Contact: 1-833-674-8282

Website: [Indigenous Forestry Initiative \(nrcan.gc.ca\)](http://IndigenousForestryInitiative(nrcan.gc.ca))

**Nature Smart
Climate Solutions
Fund (NSCSF)**
(\$631M)

The NSCSF initiative will support Indigenous organizations and communities to undertake Indigenous-led, on-the-ground projects for ecological restoration. These projects will also focus on improved management and conservation of wetlands, grasslands, and forests that result in reduced and captured GHG emissions. ECCC will make funding available to Indigenous partners to deliver projects to build capacity and advance Indigenous efforts on natural climate solutions through a distinctions-based approach with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

For questions related to the implementation of the Indigenous component of the NSCSF, please contact gardiensautochtones-indigenous_guardians@ec.gc.ca

Application: Currently closed

Contact: ec.fscan-nscsf.ec@ec.gc.ca or gardiensautochtones-indigenousguardians@ec.gc.ca

Website: Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund -

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/programs/nature-smart-climate-solutions-fund.html>

National Tree Seed Centre Contact Information

Mary Knockwood

Indigenous Seed Collection Program Coordinator

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or

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Phone: 506-452-3564

Verna Crossman

Contact for additional and upcoming funding information

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