



# Call for Applications!

## **AFFES Indigenous Relations Funding Program 2026-27**

### Introduction

The AFFES Indigenous Relations Team is pleased to announce a call for applications for its Indigenous Relations AFFES Funding Program for 2026-27.

We are committed to collaborating with our Indigenous partners, inclusive of communities and organizations, to support and fund the development of culturally appropriate resilience strategies using traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), including enhanced understanding and shared stewardship related to use of fire, and to develop partnership programs to support fire management and public safety with Indigenous communities.

This Program is intended to encourage continued and improved interest among First Nations, Tribal Councils and Provincial Territorial Organizations to partner with the Ministry, which will care for the safety of communities and the public as well as support reconciliation.



## Eligible Criteria

Eligible projects will fall into one of the following categories:

**Prevention** - Focuses on reducing the risk of wildfires before they start

**Mitigation** - Aims to reduce the negative impacts of wildland fires before they occur

**Response** - Supports readiness and action during wildfire events

**Use of Fire** - Recognizes fire as a cultural and ecological tool to support cultural traditions and achieve community-led resource and environmental stewardship goals

**Traditional Knowledge Transfer** - Supports culturally appropriate methods, vital for maintaining cultural identity, biodiversity, and sustainable resource management

**\*Please refer to the list below for examples of projects that meet the program's eligibility criteria. This list is non-exhaustive and is intended to help inform and inspire project ideas that support your community's needs. Examples of out-of-scope projects are also included.**



## Project Ideas In-Scope

- development of community education materials and programs
- youth education initiatives and public awareness campaigns
- support for the transfer and documentation of traditional knowledge
- support for community gatherings to identify priority traditional land use areas for mitigation activities
- training initiatives, including interagency training and scenario-based planning exercises
- support for community-based After Action Review gatherings
- support for the development of in-community values protection programs
- support for community gatherings to explore the historic use of fire and identify areas for capacity development to support contemporary reintroduction
- support for the development of a cultural burn pathway

## Project Ideas Out-Of-Scope

- Salary
- Capital infrastructure
- Large scale mitigation work
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans
- Equipment purchases



## Funding And Application Requirements

- Deadline to submit applications for review for this fiscal year is **June 30, 2026**.
- Project applications will be reviewed on July 1, 2026, with decisions rendered by July 31, 2026.
- All applicants will be notified of a decision in a timely manner as per eligibility, project timelines and funding availability.
- Project deliverables must be completed by February 28, 2027, to allow sufficient time to complete and submit final reporting by March 31, 2027.
- All expenditures must be based on the approved budget.
- Interim reporting may be required based on project complexity.
- Submission of the Final Report after the March 31, 2027 deadline may result in no additional project funding being released.
- Any unused funding must be returned to the government of Ontario by **March 31, 2027**.

## Application Evaluation Criteria

- Alignment with program priorities as outlined in the eligibility criteria section of this information package.
- Description of how the project will create positive and lasting benefits for the impacted community or communities.
- Assessment of the project's feasibility and the organization's capacity to implement it successfully.
- Budget justification, including whether the requested funding is reasonable and clearly linked to project activities.



## How To Apply

- Complete the Word Document Application Form attached in the communication.
- Have it signed by an authorized dignitary (Person with Delegation of Financial Authority)
- Submit completed and signed application to [affes.indigenousrelations@ontario.ca](mailto:affes.indigenousrelations@ontario.ca).

## Contact Information

For any inquiries regarding this call for applications, please contact  
[affes.indigenousrelations@ontario.ca](mailto:affes.indigenousrelations@ontario.ca)