

CRITERIA FOR FUNDING HEALING AND RECONCILIATION PROJECTS

Background

The 2006 General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada approved a series of recommendations which constitute a plan for Healing and Reconciliation between The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. The plan is called *Walking Together*. Central to *Walking Together* is the concept that healing and reconciliation will come about only if members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada at all levels of the church are involved. Healing will occur as congregations, women's groups, young people's groups, presbyteries, and other local and regional organizations meet and get to know their Aboriginal neighbours. Aboriginal members of our church likewise may be able to use funding support to pursue relationship building with their non-Aboriginal neighbours.

Local Initiative Funding

To support church members in reaching out to their Aboriginal neighbours, and to support Aboriginal church members in reaching out to the non-Aboriginal community, funding is available to support local initiatives. This support is intended to be "seed funding" to foster ongoing healing and reconciliation activity at the local or regional level. To ensure a wide range of projects is supported, normally only one project per year, per group will be considered.

Grants to individual projects are available from \$100 up to a maximum of \$5,000 per project. Projects at the lower end of the range might include providing refreshments for a fellowship time with members of a local Aboriginal community or service agency, or to provide an honorarium to an Aboriginal Elder or Aboriginal speaker. Mid-to-upper range projects might include a larger fellowship gathering, including Aboriginal speaker(s), or a workshop with Aboriginal people. Joint Aboriginal-Church recreational or service-oriented projects also might fall in the mid-to-upper range. Larger projects may involve a number of partner churches, Aboriginal organizations, or other groups.

Funding Criteria

- A. Eligible projects will fall into one of the three streams of activity:
 1. Engaging in conversations with Aboriginal peoples about their lives, their traditions, and their spirituality.
 2. Exploring issues of concern to Aboriginal people in Canada today.
 3. Developing activities and experiences to bring together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, including initiatives for youth.
- B. Eligible projects will bring together non-Aboriginal church members and Aboriginal people or Aboriginal church members and non-Aboriginal people.

- C. Eligible projects will identify a follow-up activity that shows relationship building between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.
- D. Eligible projects will be completed within one year of the release of the funds. An interim report will be due no later than nine months after the release of the funds. Funding recipients will submit an expense report and a final narrative report about the project within 60 days of the project's completion. The report should comment on what worked well, and what may not have worked, and offer advice for others wishing to do something similar. Unspent funds must be returned to the Healing and Reconciliation Program with the project report. Funds may only be spent for purposes outlined in approved funding applications. Changes to approved funding applications must be requested in writing and are subject to approval from the Healing and Reconciliation Advisory Committee.
- E. To encourage healing and reconciliation across Canada, priority may be given to projects based on their geographic location.

Support for Developing Projects

Contact Katharine Masterton (Kmasterton@presbyterian.ca or 1-800-619-7301 ext 250) Program Coordinator for Justice Ministries with questions about the project submission process. Katharine can help church members develop project proposals and to provide advice on how to make contacts with Aboriginal people and with others who have relevant information and resources.

Process to Apply for Funding

1. Read the project criteria.
2. Contact Justice Ministries to discuss your project prior to submitting an application.
3. Fill out the on-line application (www.presbyterian.ca/healing).
4. Justice Ministries staff will review project proposals and seek additional information from applicants, if necessary. Justice Ministries will present a summary of all project requests to the Healing and Reconciliation Advisory Committee which make final decisions on funding. Project applicants will be sent an email or letter communicating the decision of the Committee no later than 6 week following the project submission deadline.

Updated by:
Justice Ministries, December 2014