

CRITERIA FOR FUNDING HEALING AND RECONCILIATION PROJECTS

Background

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

Who is eligible? How much funding is available?

To support church groups in reaching out to Indigenous neighbours, and to support Indigenous church members in reaching out to the non-Indigenous 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. Only groups within The Presbyterian Church in Canada may apply. Initiatives by individuals are not eligible for funding (e.g. personal initiatives that are not part of or supported by Presbyterian groups such as a session or a presbytery).

Grants 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 Indigenous community or service agency, or to provide an honorarium to an Indigenous elder or Indigenous speaker. Mid-to-upper range projects might include a larger fellowship gathering, including Indigenous speaker(s), or a workshop with Indigenous people. Joint Indigenous-Church recreational or service oriented projects also might fall in the mid-to-upper range. Larger projects may involve a number of partner churches, Indigenous organizations, or other groups.

Funding Criteria

- A. Eligible projects will fall into one of the three streams of activity:
 1. Engaging in conversations with Indigenous people about their lives, their traditions, and their spirituality.
 2. Exploring issues of concern to Indigenous peoples in Canada today, particularly in light of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girl's 231 Calls for Justice and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
 3. Developing activities and experiences to bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, including youth.

- B. Eligible projects will bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. A group or court of The Presbyterian Church in Canada must be involved in project leadership to be eligible for this fund (e.g. youth group, WMS or AMS group, session, Native Ministries, presbytery, mission committee etc.).

- C. Eligible projects will demonstrate a commitment to continued relationship building between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. One way to do this in an application is to state potential next steps or follow-up activities. Follow-up activities should be identified with input from the Indigenous people involved in the initial project.
- D. Eligible projects will be completed within one year of the release of the funds. Funding recipients will submit a financial 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 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 initiatives occur as widely as possible across Canada, priority may be given to projects based on their geographic location. For example, if a large number of applications are received from Synod A while only one application is received from Synod B, priority will be given to providing full funding to the project in Synod B.

Support for Developing Projects

Contact Katharine Sisk with questions about the project submission process (contact information is below). Katharine can advise in developing proposals and provide advice on how to make contacts with Indigenous people and others who have relevant information or resources.

Process to Apply for Funding

1. Read the project criteria.
2. Contact Justice Ministries to ensure your project meets the seed fund criteria 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 makes final decisions on funding.
5. Project applicants will be sent an email or letter communicating the decision of the Committee no later than 6 weeks following the project submission deadline.

Contact Information

Katharine Sisk, Senior Program Coordinator, Justice Ministries
Ksisk@presbyterian.ca or call 1-800-619-7301 ext. 250.

Updated by: Justice Ministries, 2021