INAC First Nation Adapt Program – Funding Guidelines

**Purpose**

The following text outlines the FN Adapt program’s eligibility guidelines. Please submit project descriptions directly to FN Adapt at the contact information below. For more information, please feel free to contact the program.

**Program Overview**

The goal of FN Adapt is to respond to climate change impacts affecting First Nation communities by providing direct funding support to communities that are experiencing repeated and severe climate impacts relating to flooding, forest fires and winter roads. The end goal of the program is to improve infrastructure resiliency to climate change impacts through various means including identification of impacts and community vulnerability as well as developing adaptation options and understanding the cost and benefits of various implementation options.

First Nation communities are experiencing significant climate events in the form of increased likelihood of flooding, forest fire and winter road failure which have implications on community infrastructure and the ability to respond to emergencies. As infrastructure is the focus of this funding, proposals need to clearly outline how the project will identify impacts on infrastructure and options for adaptation.

**Program Objectives**

Climate adaptation studies can take several different forms depending on past work and understanding of the community or region. The first step to understanding how climate change may be having an impact on community infrastructure is to conduct a vulnerability assessment (Level 1). Subsequent to learning about community vulnerability, the next step (Level 2) is to develop recommendations and options for activities to lessen current or potential climate impacts. What can follow (Level 3) is to identify costs versus benefits of various adaptation options which can provide information on the financial consequences of inaction in comparison to different adaptive measures. The three types of adaptation studies include:

* Level 1: Vulnerability Assessments
* Level 2: Adaptation Recommendations and Assessment of Options
* Level 3: Cost Benefit Analysis

Climate change impacts can occur in a number of different forms. We are focusing efforts on 4 key priority areas due to the frequency and magnitude of these impacts on Indigenous community infrastructure in Canada.

These priority areas include:

* Inland flooding
* Forest fires
* Sea level rise and coastal flooding
* Winter roads (shortened season)

**Overview of Project Requirements**

Please consider the following requirements when determining the eligibility of your project.

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| **Requirement** | **Category** | **Examples/Specifics** |
| The project demonstrates a clear link of climate change impacts and adaptation to community infrastructure | Infrastructure is defined as a physical structural element needed for the operation of the community. Vulnerability in this context is the degree to which infrastructure is unable to cope with adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. | Community buildings (schools, community centers, water treatment plants, band offices, etc.), bridges, roads, housing, sewage systems, etc.  |
| The applicant is eligible | A First Nation government in a province, including a band, tribal council or its agent (including its wholly owned corporation), on the condition that the First Nation has indicated support for the project and for the legally designated representative to act as an Applicant through a formal band or tribal council resolution. |  |
| The project objectives are consistent with program objectives | Vulnerability Assessments: identification of vulnerability, risk and/or opportunities related to climate change impacts. | Hazard mapping |
| Flood Models/Mapping  |
| PIEVC Reports  |
| Adaptation Recommendations and Assessment of Options: development of adaptation considerations, what actions will improve resiliency of the community, and integration of adaptation decision-making processes. | Range of adaptation measures |
| Community discussions |
| Scenarios/Projections |
| Cost Benefit Analysis | Recommendations |
| Costs of each adaptation measure |
| The project addresses one or more climate impact priority areas | Overland Flooding | Overland flooding due to spring run-off, rainfall, ice-damming and related infrastructure damage, reduction in service, and evacuation |
| Forest Fires | Forest fire related infrastructure damage, reduction in service, and evacuation |
| Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding | Coastal water related infrastructure concerns associated to erosion, sea level rise and sea ice dynamics  |
| Winter Roads (Thawing) | Impacts to winter road infrastructure and how it affects the community |
| The project is community driven |  | Band Council Resolution is required |

**FN Adapt Project Description Guidelines**

Please ensure your project description contains the following content areas.

1. **Description of Community Concerns**

Describe your communities’ climate change concerns and issues. In your description be sure to include how your community public buildings, services, facilities, and roads appear to be at risk to climate impacts, e.g., flooding, forest fires, etc. It is most important to specifically indicate what your project will accomplish in terms of improving community resiliency to climate impacts. Also please list what partners are involved in the project and the role of each partner in the project. FN Adapt can provide assistance in identifying partners.

1. **Proponent Eligibility**

Describe how you are eligible for funding.

1. **Adaptation Project Type**

Outline what type of adaptation project is being undertaken. Valid project types include vulnerability assessment, adaptation recommendations and assessment of options or cost benefit analysis.

1. **Climate Impact Priority Area**

Clearly state how your project will address impacts to community infrastructure from one or more of the following climate impact areas: inland flooding, forest fires, sea level rise and coastal flooding, or winter roads (shortened season).

1. **Proposed Methodology and Outcome of the Project**

The methodology demonstrates how the proponent will address the goals of the project by outlining clear steps in achieving the project results.

1. **Community Agreement**

The project description includes a signed Band Council Resolution.

1. **Budget and Work Plan**

The FN Adapt program will provide assistance in terms of supplying the required costing form and work plan. For now please describe in general terms your cost estimate for the project.

**Program Contact**

* If you are interested and/or have questions, please contact us and we can provide more information. By email at adaptation@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca