

WSKI
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Young Indigenous Leaders
in Sustainable Development

Call for projects

February 1 to February 23, 2024

Up to \$65,000 per project





CALL FOR PROJECTS IN BRIEF

- > **Project submission period:** February 1 to February 23, 2024, at 11:45 p.m.
- > **Funding available:** up to \$65,000 per project
- > **Who can submit a project?**
 - > Indigenous youth 15 to 35 years old supported by an eligible organization (see next point);
 - > First Nations and Inuit organizations are defined as those whose governance is exclusively or predominantly indigenous (e.g., non-profit organizations, public organizations, cooperatives, or band councils that can legitimately represent the interests of one or more nations or communities);
 - > Non-indigenous organizations serving indigenous youth.
- > **Completion deadline:** Projects must be completed (and funding used) by March 1, 2025.
- > **Submission response date:** Whether they are selected or not, all project owners will receive written notification from M361 of the decision taken with regard to their project by March 29, 2024.





ABOUT THIS CALL FOR PROJECTS

M361, in collaboration with the Youth Secretariat (Secrétariat à la Jeunesse), wants to enable indigenous youth (15 to 35 years old) and organizations rallying Quebec's indigenous youth to undertake or pursue their actions in the field of sustainable development. How can we do this? By providing financial support and promoting the involvement and leadership of indigenous youth in this area.



MAIN CRITERIA

Projects submitted must meet the following two (2) main criteria:

- 1-** Projects must **support the leadership of indigenous youth**. In other words, a mobilization that can take one of two forms:
 - > Involve young people in the brainstorming and realization of the project;
 - > Offer at least one activity to indigenous youth during the project funding year.
- 2-** Projects must **respect the components of sustainable development**.
 - > Selected projects must cover at least two components of sustainable development.

If necessary, consult [the annex](#) for more information on the concept of sustainable development defined by the program.

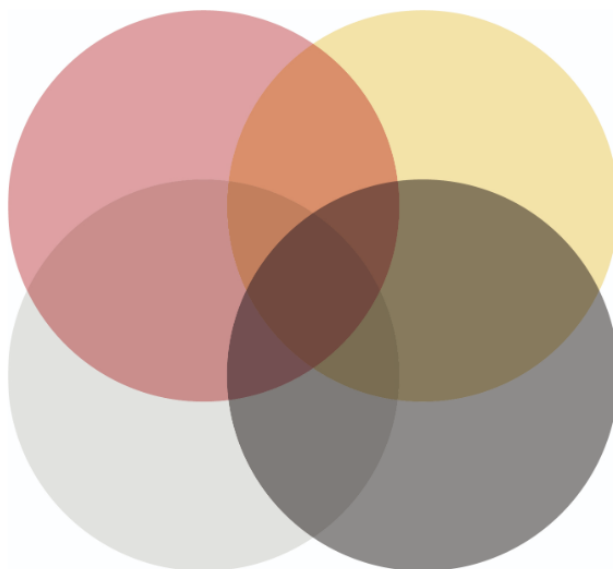
THE COMPONENTS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Social, cultural and spiritual :

A healthy society that defends its culture and way of life, reduces inequalities, and meets health, nutrition, and education needs while protecting cultural identity and language.

Environment :

Maintenance of ecosystem integrity, species diversity and conservation of natural and energy resources.



Legal :

Upholds the rights of First Nations and Inuit

Economic :

Economic activity and growth that does not harm the environment. To create wealth and improve living conditions.



TYPES OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The following is a list of examples of projects eligible for the call for projects:

- > An expedition to the land during which young people are in contact with their culture.
- > The creation of an herbarium of the Nation's plant species traditionally cultivated for medicine or food.
- > A youth committee affiliated with an indigenous friendship centre seeking to set up intercultural exchange workshops with other Nations or non-indigenous communities.
- > A berry-picking and food-processing workshop with elders.
- > An artistic project (music, storytelling, or crafting, for example) aimed at transmitting knowledge and practices to indigenous communities or raising awareness among non-indigenous people.

A FICTITIOUS EXAMPLE OF AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Several years ago, community members recorded elders telling tales and stories orally, the founding stories of Innu culture, passed down from generation to generation. **To bring these tales and stories to children**, the community's youth team (made up of five young people), with the help of the organization's coordinator, launched the following project:

- > Transfer recordings to a stable medium to preserve the original voices.
- > **Re-record stories in Innu-aimun**, in the forest, with voices and soundscapes that enrich the narrative and stimulate the imagination. These foundational stories are a way of sharing the vision of the Innu world and documenting the vision of the land.
- > Translate these stories into French for use by non-indigenous organizations working with children in towns, villages and communities located on Nitassinan ("Our Land" in Innu-aimun), the ancestral territory of the Innu people.

Social, cultural and spiritual component

Legal component



Environment
component

Economic
component

A short activity guide to complement the audio stories and a workshop led by one or more young people from the community will be offered to elementary schools, daycares and public libraries in the spring and summer. These workshops will, for example, **invite children to go to the forest to visit the places where the stories take place**. These activities may reach a hundred young people.

The youth team also wants to sell some copies of the audio stories to visitors to the community museum. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the community's youth team for similar projects.

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Costs of accessories or materials for an activity only (e.g., small cooking equipment, expedition backpacks, canoe, cross-country skis, snowshoes, food for a cooking workshop, craft materials).
- Costs of renting a shelter for an outing in the territory.
- Travel costs for a group of young people and their leaders (car, public transport, plane, train, etc.).
- Expenses related to the construction of a temporary building (e.g., greenhouse, tepee, etc.).
- Salary of a project coordinator up to 75% of the total project budget.
- Cost of training offered to a young person or a group of young people (e.g., young leader training).
- Management costs up to a maximum of 10% of the overall project budget (telecommunications, stationery and office expenses, insurance, bank charges, membership fees and subscriptions, computer supplies and equipment).



EXAMPLES OF INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Regular operating expenses of an organization.
- Expenses incurred prior to the signing of the agreement and those incurred after the project completion deadline.
- Costs related to the purchase of liability insurance.
- Infrastructure costs related to the construction of a permanent building (e.g., a youth centre).
- Purchase of motor vehicles.
- Purchase of weapons requiring a permit.
- Scholarships or competitions for cash prizes.




HOW TO SUBMIT A PROJECT ?

Between February 1 and 23, 2024, organizations that meet the criteria and conditions can submit a project by choosing one of the three proposed submission methods.

- 1-** Complete an online [submission form](#).
- 2-** **Submit online** a video presenting the project according to the information requested below. A telephone interview or videoconference will be conducted to complete the missing information.
- 3-** Call or email M361 to request support in completing the project submission form.
Telephone: [819-384-6825](tel:819-384-6825)
Email: projet@m361.ca





Gatherings, sharing experiences and knowledge, and joint decision-making are at the heart of the First Nations and Inuit identities. As such, initiatives promoting spaces for dialogue, sharing and communication will be considered in this call for projects.

In short, fostering the reaffirmation and reappropriation of identity and culture through access to the territory is one of the avenues promoted by this call for projects.

3- ECONOMIC COMPONENT

The economic component is just as important as the other three. However, in deploying the initiative, the economic aspect must not infringe on any of the other three spheres of sustainable development. Thus, the project must not be part of a rationale for economic growth and wealth accumulation. The project's impact must not lead to further degradation of the environment or create an imbalance that threatens the social fabric. Here are a few examples of projects that could be financed and in which the economic component can be found:

- > Deploy programs to financially assist youth in obtaining basic materials for hunting, fishing, and camping;
- > Create programs during cultural weeks to enable young people to go into the forest;
- > Multiply gatherings for young people and practice traditions in the woods by inviting seniors to pass on their knowledge, organize pow-wows, sweat lodges, or make canoes;
- > Set up remedial camps in the wilderness and cultural exchanges in other communities in Quebec or Canada.

4- LEGAL COMPONENT

Respect for First Nations and Inuit rights is at the heart of the sustainable development of the territories and the resources; it is also the vision of implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples regarding lands, territories, and resources.

Thus, initiatives aimed at documenting the territory through diverse data types will be welcomed and analyzed in this call for projects. They could focus, for example, on cultural practices or codes for self-determination.



ANNEX - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DETAIL

SOME PRECISIONS ON THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As indicated in the results of a survey carried out at the Youth Summit¹, indigenous youth, in general, tend to distance themselves from the notion of continuous development as part of a capitalist mindset, or as a result of the so-called developmentalist way of thinking. More specifically, they reject the idea that nature is at man's service and that progress necessarily involves controlling nature for the benefit of human and economic development. "Instead, they advocate degrowth and conceive a form of self-determination based on rejecting colonial and capitalist forms of governance and using traditional knowledge. We need to rediscover and rebuild harmony with Mother Earth."²

Moreover, the word "sustainable" doesn't exist in indigenous languages. It is, therefore, necessary to adapt how this issue is addressed.

To use a culturally adapted definition of the concept of sustainable development in this call for projects, here are brief descriptions of the four components of sustainable development, primarily inspired by documents from the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute (FNQLSDI)³.

1- ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENT

The words used to talk about the environment are generally political or technical, which doesn't necessarily fit with indigenous realities. The environmental sphere refers to the territory. This territory can include towns, communities, ecosystems, and the living and non-living species that inhabit them.

Protecting the land is fundamental to First Nations youth. The land is inseparable from their identities and, therefore, from their languages and cultures. As such, any project developed with the objective of protecting, connecting, or reconnecting with the territory will be welcomed as part of this call for projects.

First Nations and Inuit youth are concerned about climate change. Projects that aim to adapt and build resilience or highlight knowledge and future courses of action to address this issue will be considered.

2- SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL COMPONENT

First Nations and Inuit have been custodians of the land and responsible for its protection since time immemorial. In doing so, they honour their cultural responsibility and preserve their identities, traditional activities, and ways of life.

Young people have learned a great deal from previous generations and have different aspirations and perspectives on how to assume their role as stewards of the land. Projects that aim to enhance the territory as a meeting place or a vector of culture will be considered in this call for projects. Once again, this territory can include the city, the forest, or the community.

Informal education initiatives or projects that respect young people's cultural values and identity and the principle of lifelong learning may be eligible for this call for projects.

¹ Internal document, survey carried out as part of the Youth Summit (2023). Youth Secretariat.


² Ibid

³ IDDFNQL (2006). Sustainable development strategy for the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador; IDDFNQL (2022). 2021-2022 activity report. Spotted at <https://iddpnql.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/iddpnql-rapport-activites-20212022.pdf>





INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED AND PROJECT ANALYSIS CRITERIA:

- > Applicant's email address and telephone number.
 - > A description of the project, including:
 - > The area in which the project will take place (territory, community, Nations, etc.);
 - > The type of activities planned;
 - > The number of young indigenous people involved in the project or the number of young indigenous people targeted by the activities.
 - > Partners involved.
 - > Describe the involvement of indigenous youth in the project. Specify how this project addresses at least two of the four sustainable development components.
 - > Present a schedule of achievements (with key deliverables and activities). *
 - > Present a financial plan (preliminary budget).*
- * If you submit your project by video, you must provide as much information as possible about your schedule and financial planning. M361 will contact you by phone or email to complete any missing information.
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ABOUT

M361

M361 specializes in the design and implementation of large-scale social projects and the optimization of government programs. | m361.ca

YOUTH SECRETARIAT

The Youth Secretariat (Secrétariat à la Jeunesse) represents the interests and needs of young people to influence government action. It plays a major advisory role on youth issues for the government, ministries, and organizations and ensures that they participate in achieving the objectives of the Youth Policy. | jeunes.gouv.qc.ca

To submit a project : young-indigenous-leaders.ca



Initiative by:



Production partner:



In partnership with:

