

My Fellow Citizens

The cultural, artistic, and social heritage of North America's Indians is one rich in accomplishment. Only in recent years, however, have we recognized these abilities and skills when they were at the point of disappearing.

Every man needs to feel secure, that his ideas, ambitions, actions, and cultural inheritance are respected and recognized. He needs to know his abilities, knowledge, experience, and attitudes are respected by those with whom he comes in contact. Too often North America's Indians have been educationally, economically, and socially segregated and through indifference and neglect, bypassed by the fast-changing world about them.

British Columbia's First Citizens' Fund is another way of advancing the culture, education, economic circumstance, and position of our fellow citizens of the North American Indian race who were born in and are residents of British Columbia—our First Citizens. This pamphlet outlines in broad terms the objectives, policy, and procedures whereby British Columbia's Indians may use the Fund to realize improvements in educational, cultural, and economic activities they believe to be important.

Dan Campbell.

*Chairman,
First Citizens' Advisory Committee.*

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**FIRST CITIZENS
FUND IN
BRITISH COLUMBIA**



FIRST CITIZENS' FUND – GUIDELINES FOR ACTION

Something New

The purpose of the First Citizens' Fund is to encourage new, imaginative, and constructive projects and programmes in the fields of education, the arts, cultural and recreational affairs, communication and economic improvement amongst British Columbia's 40,000 North American Indians.

It is not designed to support or replace existing programmes financed by the Department of Indian Affairs of Canada or any other Provincial departments or agencies. It is intended to be a programme of self-help designed, initiated, and administered by bona fide British Columbia Indian bands, organizations, and individuals, with minimal administrative costs and organization.

General Guidelines

To be eligible for a First Citizens' Fund grant, projects should be:—

A new idea, project, or programme which has been considered and endorsed by a bona fide British Columbia Indian band, council organization, or individual.

While programmes of high educational value will be given priority, any projects in the major areas listed will be carefully considered and are eligible. Projects of a public works nature, however, such as water, sewer, and housing projects, legal expenses, and construction of community halls, except for those areas specifically designed for arts, crafts, and cultural activities, are not eligible for grants from the Fund. Administrative costs must be minimal.

The persons responsible for projects will be required to account for all public funds spent.

As a general rule, grants for capital items such as longhouses, cultural centres, and equipment will require 50-per-cent participation by the local community, that is, the Fund will pay half the cost and the community concerned will pay the other half.

The Fund will not make long-term commitments to a programme, particularly for administrative costs of existing or planned Indian organizations, and whenever possible will avoid granting funds for fixed cost, ongoing programmes.

PROJECTS IN LEARNING

Education

Educational projects are considered of great importance and include training and educational opportunity for individual Indians, the upgrading of teachers with a large Indian enrolment in their classes, and the improvement of standards and authenticity of basic Indian curriculum content in public school courses.

Projects in Learning

Financial assistance to attend academic, art, technical, and vocational schools, in-service training, apprenticeships, seminars, and conferences of an educational nature is limited to bona fide British Columbia Indians when not provided by other Provincial or Federal scholarship programmes.

Project learning expenditures include:—

Art and cultural scholarships.

Apprenticeship training or in-service training in any technical, business, or professional field, including local government, banking, real estate, property management and counselling. Where considered appropriate, the Fund may pay the salary of native Indians for up to six months while taking in-service training in municipal or Provincial government offices.

Seminars, conferences, and extension courses conducted by the University of British Columbia or University of Victoria to promote the knowledge and effectiveness of Indian leaders and teachers, Indian unity, communication, and co-operation between native Indian groups and communities.

Improve pre-school programmes such as kindergartens, provided the programme is not available through other Federal, Provincial, municipal, or community agencies and 50 per cent of the cost is paid for from local funds.

Project learning funds may be granted to non-native Indian individuals and agencies for only the following:—

Projects designed to improve the standards and authenticity of basic Indian curriculum content of public school courses.

Projects in co-operation with local school boards, designed to improve the counselling of Indian students within the school system. Wherever possible, part-time competent Indian counsellors will be assisted and encouraged by the Fund.

\$100 scholarships in appropriate summer courses to selected teachers employed in schools which have native Indian students enrolled (to be eligible the teacher must be nominated by the school district and, except in districts with a heavy Indian enrolment, the scholarship will be limited to one per school district).

ARTS AND HISTORY

The native Indian in British Columbia has a long and distinguished record of achievement in various art forms—painting, weaving, sculpture, dance, and story-telling. The social and economic interaction of their society was complex and effective. The Fund is designed to encourage and promote old skills and new and expanded expression of our native Indian cultural heritage in British Columbia. The Fund is designed to directly achieve these goals by:—

Granting cultural scholarships to bona fide native Indian Band Councils, organizations, or individuals.

Supporting and encouraging competent native Indian artisans to share their skills and teach Indian arts and crafts throughout British Columbia.

Sponsoring pageants, festivals, and other events to promote native Indian cultural activities.

By construction grants of 50 per cent of the cost up to a maximum amount of \$15,000 for the building of longhouses and the arts and crafts and educational workshops attached to community halls or other Indian centres. Community halls as such are not eligible for grants.

Supporting projects that will improve communication between various native Indian societies, organizations, and individuals in British Columbia.

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

It is important to encourage and make possible a strong and stable economy in the vicinity of Indian communities. The Fund can promote activities to achieve this through expanded training opportunities in business, provide interim or "start-up" financing for community-based workshops, distribution centres, and co-operative economic developments.

Areas of economic activity eligible for funds include:—

Funding of "in-service" or other training for native Indians responsible for, or employed in, business activities.

Providing up to 50 per cent of the costs, to a maximum of \$25,000 for building, equipping, and stocking community-based workshops and (or) distribution centres.

Initiating co-operative economic developments by providing 50 per cent of the cost, up to a maximum of \$50,000, of the "start-up" money needed. This grant is in the form of an extended loan rather than the provision of capital for a continued need.

RECREATION

The Fund will promote and encourage sports contests and activities, together with other recreational activities which may result in greater social contact between Indian communities.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications outlining the project, its aims and objectives, proposed method of operation, staffing, and planned costs should be forwarded to the:—

Chairman,
First Citizens' Fund,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, British Columbia.

Only projects which have originated with or been discussed and approved by local or Provincial bona fide North American Indian bands, associations, groups, or organizations will be considered for approval. Projects must also fall within the terms and intent of the First Citizens' Fund regulations. Copies of the regulations may be requested from the Chairman of the First Citizens' Fund.