



Indigenous Foodways in Schools Grants

About the Grants

Quick info:

[Farm to Cafeteria Canada](#) is offering grants in the range of \$500 - \$20,000 to Indigenous school communities in partnership with [Whole Kids](#), the Public Health Agency of Canada and regional partners (see the bottom of this document for partners). We are very grateful to our [Circle of Advisors](#) for their support in developing this grant opportunity.

What is the Goal of these Grants?

These grants are being offered to support long-term community visions of Indigenous food security and food sovereignty that are implemented in the school setting. (Learn more about Indigenous Food Sovereignty from the [Indigenous Food Systems Network](#) and [La Via Campesina](#).)

They will enhance the ability of school communities to harvest, preserve, grow, and serve culturally relevant and other nourishing foods to children and youth. They will also support engaging students in Indigenous foodways and developing food skills.

What do we mean by Indigenous School Communities?

Schools in Indigenous communities or with a high proportion of Indigenous students.

When can the grants be used?

During the September 2025 – June 2027 school years.

How can you learn more?

- Read these guidelines to understand what makes for a strong application.
- Join one of our 4 virtual sessions in February / March to learn more and discuss your ideas in breakout groups.

- Reach out to one of our regional partners to have a 1:1 discussion:
 - **BC:** Eve-Marie Richard - evemarie.richard@farmtoschoolbc.ca
 - **Manitoba:** Kate Wilson - farm2school@mahe.ca
 - **Ontario:** Heather Thoma - heather@sustainontario.com
 - **Quebec:** Florence Plourde - fplourde@equiterre.org
 - **New Brunswick:** Andi Emrich - andi@foodforallnb.ca
 - **Nova Scotia:** Sakej Doucette - sakej.doucette@nourishns.ca
 - **Newfoundland and Labrador:** Ashley Byrne - ashley@foodfirstnl.ca
 - **All other regions:** Jeff Kiyoshk Ross - jkiyoshk@farmtocafeteriacanada.ca

Full details:

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Goal of the Grants

These Indigenous Foodways in Schools Grants will provide funding for Indigenous school communities throughout Canada to support their long-term community visions of Indigenous food security and food sovereignty that are implemented in the school setting.

They aim to enhance the ability of school communities to:

- **Buy infrastructure and equipment** (e.g. canning and dehydrating equipment, refrigerators and freezers, fishing rods, deer driers, gardens and greenhouses).
- Harvest, fish, butcher, filet, grow, preserve, prepare, and serve **more culturally relevant and other nourishing food** to K-12 students.
- **Teach about** and weave Indigenous foods, foodways, worldviews, and approaches into daily practices at school including an emphasis on relationships, reciprocity, and connections to the land.
- **Connect** Elders, Knowledge Keepers, family members and other community members to the school and students.
- **Support land-based learning.**
- Support the **social development** of children and youth through land-based activities relating to food, intergenerational learning, mentorship opportunities and other meaningful connection.

Schools that receive a grant will join a growing community of [more than 230 previous](#) grant recipients, including many from Indigenous school communities. School communities that receive grants will also be provided

resources, training and ongoing technical support from the Farm to Cafeteria Canada team and its partners.

Funds Available

If you would like to apply for funding for Indigenous food sovereignty initiatives at your school you have 2 options:

Option 1 - Apply to host a community conversation (if you want to first hold a community conversation to shape your food sovereignty ideas and application).

We are offering 10 grants of up to **\$1,000** for a school community to host a **community conversation** before they submit their full grant application.

Option 2 - Apply for your initiative right away (if you already know what you want to do)

We will give one-time grants of **up to \$20,000** to schools across the country.

We will give a total of around \$200,000 between 2025 and 2027. More funds will be provided as they become available (we are actively looking to grow the funds we can offer).

Here are some examples of activities that schools could use funds in these grant ranges for:

Community Conversation	\$500-\$3000	\$3,000-10,000	\$10,000-20,000
<p>Bring together families and community members to talk about what actions that are implemented in the local school could support community food sovereignty.</p> <p>You will then be able to submit a full application for funding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Take students out for a trip on the land - honoraria, fishing rods, transportation, cooking pots, etc. ● Hold hands-on learning events (cooking, tasting, preserving, etc.) ● Buy basic equipment (pots and pans, kitchen knives, plates, dehydrating equipment, canning equipment, fridge or freezer, etc.) ● Host Elders / Knowledge Keepers at the school to share teachings ● Complete minor kitchen renovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enhance a meal service that involves students in harvesting and/or preparing culturally relevant foods ● Have a Knowledge Keeper or agroecologist help make a plan for a food forest; purchase perennial food bearing plants/trees ● Purchase larger equipment - food service equipment, commercial fridge / freezer, dishwasher ● Set up significant outdoor or indoor growing spaces and training opportunities ● Ongoing foodways education program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Set up a meal service that involves students in harvesting and/or preparing culturally relevant foods ● Establish large food forest or greenhouse ● Complete kitchen or food service area renovations

Eligibility

Grants may be implemented in **any school or schools** (kindergarten to grade 12) in Canada that are located in Indigenous communities or that serve a high proportion of Indigenous students. This includes schools in rural, remote and urban settings.

Schools that have only received a previous Farm to Cafeteria Canada [seed grant](#) are still eligible to apply. Schools that have previously received a [Farm to School Canada Grant](#) are **eligible to apply if they received funding before 2022**.

Any school or community organization in Canada can apply for a grant as long as they can:

- a) Show a clear connection to one or more schools in the community, and
- b) Commit to using the funds to support Indigenous food security and food sovereignty in the school setting. *(Those selected to receive a grant will be asked to enter into a contribution agreement confirming that the funds will be used for the idea proposed.)*

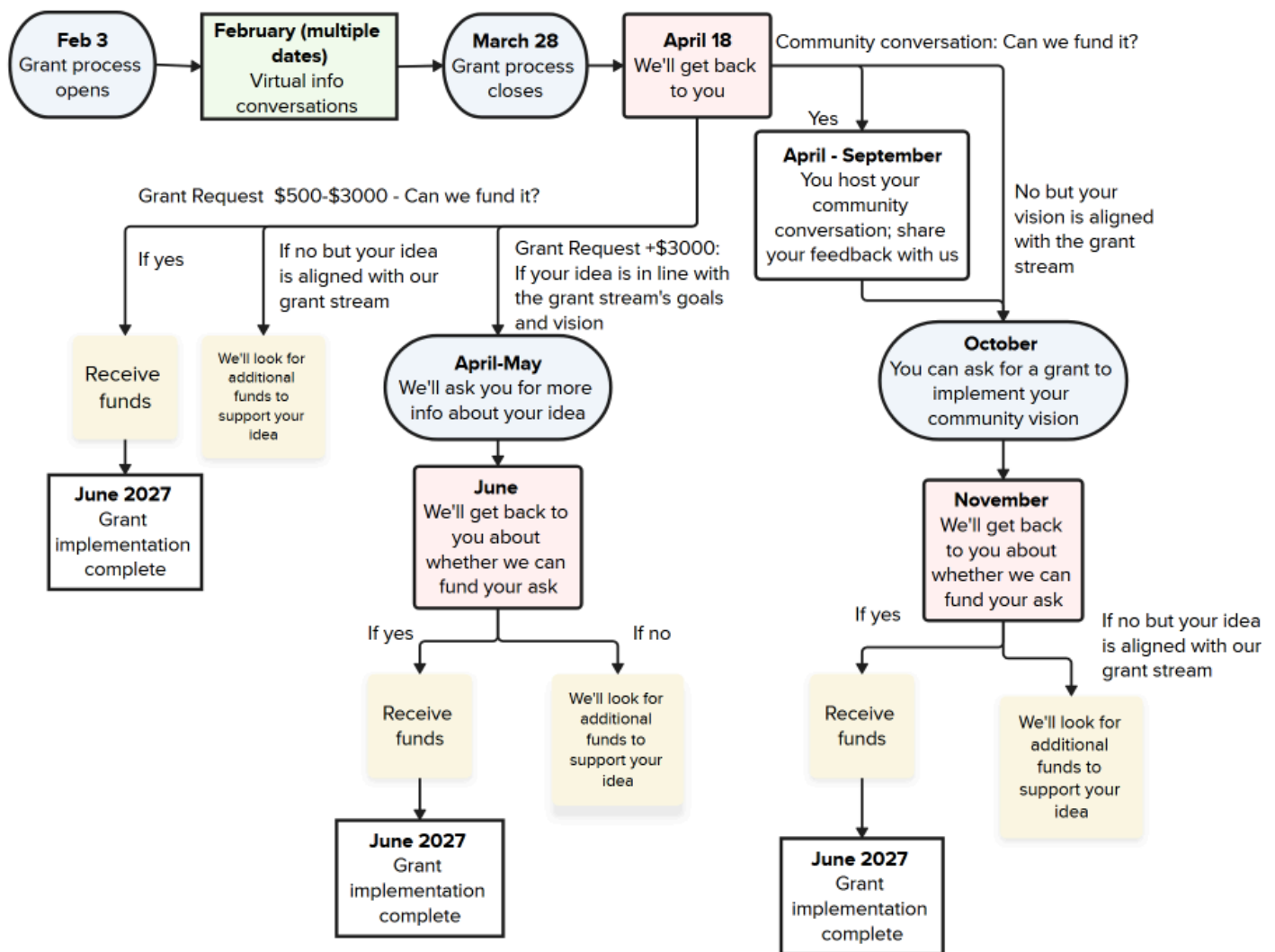
Application Process and Timeline

** We've tried to reduce barriers to applying for these grants while working to make sure that our limited funds support the needs and visions of communities. The flexible nature of these grants means that our timeline will evolve as we hear more about the needs of communities and as we hopefully secure more funding to offer in 2025 and 2026

Feb 3, 2025	Grant process shared on our website
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wed Feb 26, 3 pm ET (Bilingual) - register here ● Thurs Feb 27, noon ET (English only) - register here ● Mon Mar 3, 1:30 pm ET (Bilingual) - register here ● Tues Mar 4, 6 pm ET (English only) - register here 	Join a virtual conversation to connect with us, hear more about the grants and to brainstorm your ideas (optional)
Last day: March 28, 2025	Let us know about your interest in a grant. (Step 1)
April 25, 2025	<p>If you've applied to host a community conversation or for a grant of up to \$3000 you'll hear back about whether we can fund it</p> <p>If you've applied for a grant of more than \$3000 and your idea is a good fit for the grant stream we'll ask you for more information about your idea. (Step 2)</p>
Grant Funds: if you've asked for more than \$3000, your idea is aligned with the grant goals and we ask you for more information	
April-May 2025	We'll ask you to share more information with us through a conversation, submission of video/s, or in writing. (Step 3)

June 2025	Grant recipients notified.
Community Conversation: If you receive funds for a community conversation	
Up until end of September, 2025	Community conversations happen; feedback shared with us about how it went and what ideas came forward. (Step 2a)
End of October 2025	You can ask for a larger grant - we could schedule a conversation, or have you submit video/s or your ideas in writing. (Step 3)
November 2025	Grant recipients notified.
June 2027	Program deliverables complete

School Grants - Flowchart (all dates 2025)



Ideas of What the Funds Can be Used For

Community Conversation grants:

Grants can be used for up to \$1,000 to host a community conversation to understand community needs, assets, partnerships, and what the grant could achieve. Costs may include:

- Rental or use of space
- Food
- Child care
- Travel
- Facilitator or coordinator time
- Materials
- Other expenses relevant to the conversation

After communities host their conversations they will be able to submit a full application in September for additional funds, based on the ideas they discussed.

Full Grants:

Grant funds can be used for any costs related to advancing your community vision. We will prioritize initiatives and budgets that focus on longer-term community impacts and that are in line with the [Goal of the grants](#).

Costs can include:

Administrative

- Partnerships - bringing community partners together to support program planning, implementation and/or delivery
- Honoraria - recognition for Elders, Knowledge Keepers or community partners who support the project
- Salaries/wages
- Promotional materials
- Educational supplies and field trip costs
- Training - including events and certifications

Equipment & space modifications

- Kitchen equipment including a service station, appliances, pots and pans, reusable dishes, utensils, etc.
- Equipment and material costs for growing, foraging, fishing or harvesting food.
- Minor costs for food service space modifications.

Cost of culturally relevant and other health-promoting foods

Additional Considerations

- All applications will need a **Lead Applicant** (this may be the school Principal or Vice-Principal).
- Applications will benefit from showing that the initiative has a **diverse and committed team, community support and opportunities for knowledge-sharing** in place. *Examples of community supporters include Elders, Knowledge Keepers, experienced local food providers, chefs, public health dietitians or nurses, independent consultants and relevant non-profit organizations. Students can also play a supportive role and you might want to involve them in peer mentorship and knowledge-sharing opportunities within and between schools.*

- Successful applicants' initiatives must be **approved by local public health officials** (i.e. public health inspectors or environmental health officers) before implementation.
- We will ask all schools that receive grants to complete a mid-term and final progress report (we are working to make these as simple as possible and would welcome your feedback); and we invite schools to share with us at least one short story along with photos or videos that show the impacts of your initiative on your school community. Full details will be shared with grant recipient schools.

How We Work and Our Data Protocols

Our work and how we engage with communities is informed by a Circle of Indigenous Advisors ([see their bios here](#)). These Advisors represent a plurality of Indigenous Nations across Canada, and they are regularly consulted to help us engage respectfully with Indigenous partners and communities. The Circle of Advisors has informed our grant application process, evaluation tools, and communications processes including the use of respectful, inclusive and appropriate language and imagery.

Our data protocols for our Indigenous Foodways work are rooted in the principles of Indigenous data sovereignty. This means that Indigenous communities have control over the collection, ownership, and application of data that concerns them. We know that data is often governed by specific protocols that reflect the values, traditions, and priorities of each community. We will strive to make sure that all data collection is done in a way that respects cultural practices, with clear consent from individuals and communities involved.

Appropriate protocols are essential for maintaining trust and ensuring that data is used in a way that benefits the community that owns it. Indigenous data sovereignty allows communities to protect sensitive cultural information, maintain control over how their data is interpreted, and ensure that it is used for their benefit, not for exploitation or harm.

If your school receives a grant, we will gratefully ask you to report on the impacts that the grant has had on your school community. This will help us all understand the effects of our work together, improve our programs, and share stories of impact. The reporting process will include filling out a report at the end of years 1 and 2 to help us understand the impacts of these grants (e.g how many school staff play a leadership role in your program, how the grant funds have benefited your program, what challenges you've run into, and any feedback for us as a funder) and how your funds have been used. These reports will be used to understand the impacts of the program and improve our own work as a funder. You will not be judged or impacted by the information that you share. We will use any information that you share to generate summary reports from all of the schools that have received grants in this year and in other years and we may also use the aggregated data in peer reviewed research and other communications or fundraising work.

Also, we know that people are inspired by stories. We want to be able to share your amazing work, celebrate your efforts and how they have impacted your school community, and inspire and encourage others in their own journeys. At the end of your grant term we will ask you to share a story, that may include pictures or videos, about the impacts of the grant on your school community that we would like to post on our website and through social media. You will also be able to share your story out widely within and beyond your community. You will still own the story that you share and can ask us to edit or remove it from our website at any time. Please feel free to reach out at any time if you would like to have a discussion about the use of your data and story.

How will applications be selected?

- We will review the applications to make sure that they're complete
- Eligible applications will be pooled according to 6 geographic regions:
 - British Columbia
 - Prairies (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba)

- Territories (Yukon, Nunavut, Northwest Territories)
- Ontario
- Quebec
- Atlantic provinces
- Grants will be selected from the eligible pool of applicants and equitably distributed across the 6 regions. We will also look to make sure that the schools funded reflect a diversity of location (rural, remote, urban), type of school (elementary, middle, secondary), and activities planned.
- Our Advisors will confirm the selection of schools to receive grants.

How to Apply

Applications will be accepted online from February 3rd to March 28th, 2025.

- If you would like to host a community conversation before submitting your full application access our Share Your Interest - Community Conversation document.
- If you would like to apply for funds right away access our Share Your Interest - Grant Funds document

Get Inspired!

Are you looking for ideas on how the grants can be implemented in your school community?

- Browse through our grantee school stories [here](#)
- And be sure to check out our [Indigenous Foodways microsite](#) and farm to school [Resource Centre!](#)

Questions?

Need help with your grant application or have questions about the application process?

Reach out to us at grants@farmtocafeteriacanada.ca.

