
Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF)

Presentation for the Indigenous Agribusiness
Workshop

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Alberta Indigenous Relations, March 2023



ABIF's Purpose

To help Indigenous community-owned businesses capitalize on business development opportunities to improve socio-economic outcomes.

Aligns with Alberta's goals to be a partner, create jobs and businesses, and invest in the economic future of Indigenous communities.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants are Indigenous communities in Alberta or corporate entities owned by Indigenous communities located in Alberta:

- Communities must own and control 51% or more of the proposed business or joint venture
- Corporate entities must be in good standing
- Applicants must be in compliance with the terms and conditions of any previous Indigenous Relations funding

An Indigenous community may submit only one ABIF application in any given funding year.



Project Eligibility

- Intended for capital projects that are close to starting operations and breaking ground within the funding year: “shovel ready”.
- Capital costs are associated with getting, building or improving significant fixed assets like buildings, equipment and other tangible assets. Projects must demonstrate long-term impacts such as:
 - Increasing the number of Indigenous-owned businesses
 - Increasing the number of employment opportunities for Indigenous peoples
 - Creating local revenue streams for the community
 - Strengthening the economies of Indigenous communities

ABIF Facts

Since 2014, the ABIF program has provided more than \$40 million in funding to First Nations, Metis Settlements, and Indigenous organizations for capital projects.

The program has supported more than 75 Indigenous community-owned businesses and created 646 permanent full-time jobs for Indigenous Peoples.

Grant contributions range from \$150,000 to \$500,000 maximum.

Budget 2023 increases ABIF funding by 50 per cent, from \$5 million to \$7.5 million per year to ensure more Indigenous communities will benefit from the program.

ABIF has Supported Numerous Agribusiness-related Projects

Project	Community	Description
Kainai Forage (2020-2021 and 2022-2023)	Blood Tribe	The funding has supported new storage facilities to store timothy hay year-round to meet the growing demand in international markets.
Lac Ste. Anne Metis Greenhouse (2020-2021)	Lac Ste. Anne Metis	The funding has supported an enhanced vertical greenhouse to support tree seedlings and shrubs to address the demand arising for reforestation and reclamation projects in Alberta.
Montana First Nation Greenhouse (2021-2022)	Montana First Nation	The funding has supported the development of a commercial greenhouse to address food security for the Nation and further expand sales to surrounding areas.



New Funding – Reconciliation Initiative

- Alberta Indigenous Relations announced \$3 million in additional funding in this year's budget for a new reconciliation initiative.
- This includes a set aside for economic reconciliation.
- We will share more information about this new program soon.

Questions?



Additional Questions: IR.economicdevelopment@gov.ab.ca