



Northern Conservation Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This FAQ addresses common inquiries related to the Northern Conservation Program (2024). We encourage you to refer to [the Program Details](#) document for more in-depth information. If you have any project-specific questions, please contact us directly via email.

Who is the Foundation's main contact for the program?

Applicants who have questions about the program or wish to discuss specific project details can reach out to Dr. David Bysouth at northern@westonfoundation.ca.

What is the application timeline?

Letters of Intent (LOIs) are due via email to northern@westonfoundation.ca by 3:00 pm ET on November 26th, 2024. Applicants who are successful at the LOI stage will be invited to submit proposals to the Foundation by 3:00pm pm ET on February 18, 2025 (estimated date).

When will applicants be notified of awards?

Award notification is expected in Spring of 2025; however, the Foundation may change the timeline of the application process should there be unforeseen circumstances or delays. The Foundation will make every effort to broadly communicate any timeline changes.

How long can projects be?

Research projects must start in 2025 and may extend for up to three (3) years. For this program, applicants may apply for funding from 2025 until Q1 of 2028. For example:

- 2025 -or- 2025/26 (Year 1)
- 2026 -or- 2026/27 (Year 2)
- 2027 -or- 2027/28 (Year 3)

Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible for funding, a project must be led by:

- An Indigenous governmental institution or agency mandated to have an interest in terrestrial and/or ocean conservation by existing legislation (e.g., the Indian Act, other legislation, modern-day Treaties), or by an Indigenous community organization mandated by the community to pursue the conservation or stewardship project; or
- An organization (which may include, but is not limited to, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), industry, academic institutions, etc.) that can demonstrate that all necessary inputs to and participation in the project by relevant Indigenous communities and institutions are in place and supported by a mutually agreed upon partnership arrangement between the Indigenous community and the organization (i.e. organizations should be prepared to provide letters of support from Indigenous community leadership).

The project must include a Principal Applicant (institution) that is a qualified donee in accordance with the Canada Revenue Agency and Income Tax Act.

Does the applicant need to be a “Qualified Donee” according to the CRA?

Yes, the Principal Applicant is required to be registered as a “Qualified Donee” as defined by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). For more information on qualified donees, view the CRA’s [guidance](#) on this subject. Non-qualified donees may be listed as collaborators on the project.

Typically, qualified donees we fund are registered charities, a registered municipal or public body performing a function of government in Canada, or academic institutions. If you’re unsure, [search for your organization here](#).

Is matched funding (cash or in-kind) required or expected for this program?

No, matched funding is not expected for this program. However, in order to receive funding through this program, if the total project costs necessary to complete the project exceed the amount being requested from the Weston Family Foundation, evidence must be provided that the remaining funds have been secured prior to the start of the project.

Can an applicant hold additional grants for their proposed project?

Yes, so long as the activities outlined in the application are distinct from those in other funded grants. If additional funds are secured to complete the same work as proposed through this program, the Weston Family Foundation must be notified in writing. Decisions on how to proceed will be determined by the Foundation in consultation with the grantee.

How many grants will the program fund?

The Foundation is aiming to fund approximately 10 projects between the minimum amount of \$450,000 and maximum of \$1,500,000 per research project per funding cycle. The Foundation is aiming for projects in the \$750,000 range. However, the review committee may recommend funding more or less than 10 projects depending on the quality and suitability of applications received.

What types of costs are eligible?

All costs must be project-related and may include, but are not limited to:

- Salaries;
- Consulting or third-party expertise;
- Materials (large capital expenditures or infrastructure development must be explained);
- Travel expenses;
- Workshop/event expenses;
- Training expenses;
- Outreach and communications expenses;
- Honoraria;
- Training;
- Permits;
- Environmental assessments;

If you have a cost that you are unsure about, please reach out to northern@westonfoundation.ca.

Please note that if you offer an Honorarium exceeding \$500, you will likely be required to issue a T4A.

Can an applicant submit more than one application?

Organizations may submit one (1) application in each program stream (i.e. protect/conservate and manage/steward). Where an organization has multiple chapters (i.e. in different geographical locations), each chapter may submit one (1) application.

Where multiple different organizations are collaborating in the same project/geographic area, only one application should be submitted on behalf of the collaborative.

Are letters of support required at the Letter of Intent (LOI) phase?

Letters of support are only required at the Proposal phase.

What expertise is on the review panel?

The review panel consists of a group of arms-length experts from across varied geographic regions covering a range of different fields of study relevant to northern and Indigenous-led conservation.

Can I use any of the funding for overhead costs?

Yes, up to 10% of the total budget may be allocated for overhead/administrative costs.

What if I have a great project idea to submit but I'm not a qualified donee? Will you help connect me to one?

At the LOI stage, if you are looking for a qualified donee principal applicant, the Foundation may be able to put you in touch with one or several organizations that work in the same geographic area. However, there is no guarantee that these organizations will be able to assist with your LOI.

At the proposal phase, the Foundation will provide those who are invited to submit proposals with capacity support for proposal writing. Please indicate to Foundation staff if you would like to take advantage of this service.

How do I showcase that the location for my project is an area of high value for biodiversity?

The Foundation is open to multiple forms of evidence that utilize the best available combination of Traditional Knowledge and western science to showcase that the proposed location of the project is of high value for biodiversity.