



FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL COUNCIL



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The First Peoples' Cultural Council receives \$4 million in CERIP funding to support Indigenous-led heritage infrastructure projects

First-ever Indigenous Cultural Heritage Infrastructure Grant from FPCC for B.C. First Nations

February 22, 2021 – WJOLELP, UNCEDED TERRITORY OF WSÁNEĆ NATION / BRENTWOOD BAY B.C.

– The First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) has received \$4 million in funding to support 11 Indigenous cultural heritage infrastructure projects from across B.C. The new FPCC program supports Indigenous communities in the province to safeguard, revitalize and celebrate heritage projects that include the conservation of structures, sites, landscapes, trails and archives.

The funding is part of the Province of B.C.'s Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP) that allocated a total of \$100 million to support economic development and recovery projects. FPCC was selected to deliver the CERIP funding as it is a provincial Indigenous-led Crown Corporation with a legislated mandate to revitalize Indigenous arts, languages and cultural heritage in B.C.

“Investing in these heritage and cultural projects supports Indigenous efforts to maintain and share their culture across B.C.,” said Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. “Projects like these are especially important as they celebrate aspects of culture that make us different while bringing us together as British Columbians. They also provide economic opportunities for First Nations communities.”

FPCC received 104 applications for shovel-ready projects in response to this new heritage funding opportunity, with requests totalling \$45.7 million. Of these applicants, 11 projects were selected to receive funding over a three-year period with project completion by March 2023. FPCC will also provide recipients with ongoing support for project management, the creation of work plans and knowledge transfer.

FPCC Cultural Heritage Manager Karen Aird emphasized that Indigenous Peoples in B.C. need long-term support for their own cultural spaces outside of the colonial constructs of museums. “As we all continue to move forward together towards meaningful equitable partnerships, our goal is that Indigenous Peoples will be recognized as the rightful authority over their cultural heritage with access to sustained funding to carry out this work,” said Aird. “We know there is tremendous need and opportunity from First Nations to revitalize their Indigenous cultural heritage, while also creating jobs and boosting the economy of our province at the same time.”

“Celebrating and supporting vibrant Indigenous cultures is vital to reconciliation in B.C.,” said Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. “This funding supports communities to create and renew cultural heritage sites as part of B.C.'s COVID-19 economic recovery plan, and we are grateful for the leadership of FPCC in working with Nations on these projects and many other projects across the province to revitalize and promote Indigenous languages, arts and culture.”

COMMITTED TO THE REVITALIZATION OF B.C.'S INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES, ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

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Supported by the Province of British Columbia

Projects vary from new initiatives to upgrades and improvements on existing spaces. The project proposals reveal the ways that the language, arts and culture are intertwined in every part of Indigenous life and speak to the significance of how these spaces will be used.

“The Haida Gwaii Museum would like to say a big haawa (*thank you*) to the Government of B.C. and the First Peoples’ Cultural Council for this incredible opportunity,” said Jisgang Nika Collison, Haida Gwaii Museum at Kay Lnagaay Executive Director. “The ICHIG grant will allow us to make critical upgrades to our museum and provide local employment in the process, which strengthens our ability to safeguard, revitalize and celebrate our Haida heritage. Indigenous languages, art and cultures are crucial contributors to the social, environmental, spiritual and economic health of all people. We are thrilled the Province understands the critical nature of these contributions and are grateful to FPCC for all the work they do to support Indigenous Peoples.”

“The Osoyoos Indian Band’s international, award winning Nk’Mip Desert Cultural Centre is vital to sharing and preserving our Okanagan (Syilx) culture and an essential vehicle for teaching Okanagan identity, culture and work ethic to our youth,” said Chief Clarence Louie, Osoyoos Indian Band, Chair of the Nk’Mip Desert Heritage Society. “Sharing our history and culture comes at a big cost. Financial support, like the Indigenous Cultural Heritage Infrastructure Grant we have received from the First Peoples’ Cultural Council and the Government of B.C., is necessary to move forward with the next phase of our centre’s growth to construct a traditional Pit House and a revitalized interpretive program that includes rich cultural and historical stories, conservation and connection to the land. In the spirit of Canada’s reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, I invite you to share our journey and work with us for our vision of the Nk’Mip Desert Cultural Centre as an exceptional experience for Okanagan visitors to learn and share our culture. Limlmt (Thank you).”

For more information on this grant and the full list of 2021 ICHIG recipients see the Media Backgrounder included below with this release.

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About the First Peoples’ Cultural Council: FPCC is a First Nations-led provincial Crown corporation with a mandate to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, cultures and heritage in British Columbia. The organization provides funding, resources and skills development, monitors the status of First Nations languages, develops policy recommendations for First Nations leadership and government and collaborates with organizations on numerous special projects that raise the profile of arts, languages and cultural heritage in B.C., Canada and internationally.

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Media requests for ICHIG recipients should be directed to Emmy McMillan.

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MEDIA BACKGROUNDER
February 22, 2021

FPCC Support of Indigenous Cultural Heritage

The Indigenous Cultural Heritage Infrastructure Grant (ICHIG)

ICHIG is funded by British Columbia’s Community Economic Recovery Program (CERIP) under the Unique Heritage Infrastructure (UHI) stream through the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operators and Rural Development (FLNRORD). The goal of this grant is to support Indigenous communities to safeguard, revitalize and celebrate their heritage through projects that include the conservation of structures, cultural heritage sites, landscapes, trails and archives.

FLNRORD allocated CERIP funding for UHI grants to two organizations – FPCC, which received \$4 million and Heritage BC, which received \$16 million.

This funding to FPCC is earmarked for Indigenous organizations in B.C. with a mandate or a focus that includes Indigenous cultural heritage. This can include First Nations bands, tribal councils and not-for-profit societies registered in B.C. in good standing, with more than half of their directors identifying as Indigenous, in addition to Indigenous-led museums and cultural spaces.

2021 ICHIG Grant Recipients

The 11 projects below received funding through the program. All funding is awarded by an external peer review process comprised of Indigenous experts in Indigenous cultural heritage. FPCC staff do not participate as members of the peer review committee.

Name	Location	Region	Description	Amount
U’mista Cultural Society	Alert Bay	Vancouver Island/Coast	Old is New Again: cultural centre upgrades	\$294,000
Kunsoot Wellness Society	Bella Bella	Vancouver Island/Coast	Construction of new infrastructure at health centre	\$400,000
Nk’Mip Desert Heritage Society	Osoyoos	Thompson/Okanagan	Construction of a traditional pit house	\$400,000
Fort Nelson First Nation	Fort Nelson	Northeast	Construction of Chalo Traditional Trades Centre and Cultural Education Centre	\$400,000
Tse’k’wa Heritage Society	Fort St-John	Northeast	Tse’k’wa Cultural Heritage Centre building upgrades	\$379,337
Tk’emlups te Secwepemc	Kamloops	Thompson/Okanagan	Upgrades to museum HVAC and electrical wiring	\$259,207
Dzawada’enux First Nation	Kingcombe Inlet	Vancouver Island/Coast	Traditional Bighouse restoration	\$135,660

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Nisga'a Lisims Government	New Aiyansh	North Coast	Nisga'a Museum: Safeguarding the Ancestors Collection. Upgrades to archival storage and HVAC systems	\$377,293
Haida Gwaii Museum Society	Skidegate	North Coast	Saahlinda Naay – Saving Things House: Museum upgrades and repairs	\$399,603
Ucluelet First Nation	Ucluelet	Vancouver Island/Coast	Yuuʔuʔiʔpath Cultural Center: Construction of a facility to house artifacts	\$400,000
Ehattesaht Chinehkint Tribe	Zeballos	Vancouver Island/Coast	Wisdom Bench – nawaayisim: Construction of an outdoor gathering space for transmission of traditional knowledge	\$304,500

FPCC Indigenous Cultural Heritage Resources:

[FPCC Cultural Heritage Program](#)

FPCC Policy Paper: [Recognizing and Including Indigenous Cultural Heritage in B.C.](#)

FPCC Report: [Recommendations for Decolonizing B.C.'s Heritage-Related Processes and Legislation](#)

About Community Economic Recovery Program (CERIP)

This announcement is part of B.C.'s \$10 billion COVID response, which includes the [StrongerBC](#) for Everyone recovery plan — a plan that protects people's health and livelihoods while supporting businesses and communities. CERIP is providing \$100 million in one-time infrastructure grants for shovel-worthy projects across B.C. CERIP's funding is distributed across five different streams managed by separate partner ministries: Municipal Affairs (MA); Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (TACS); Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operators and Rural Development (FLNRORD); and Children and Family Development (MCFD).

These projects will improve community economic resilience, develop tourism infrastructure, support unique heritage infrastructure and support economic recovery for rural communities.

- The Province of British Columbia allocated up to \$100 million through British Columbia's Community Economic Recovery Program (CERIP) to support community economic resilience, tourism, heritage, and urban and rural economic development projects.
- The Indigenous Cultural Heritage Infrastructure Grant (ICHIG) is part of CERIP under the Unique Heritage Infrastructure stream.
- CERIP supports projects for public use and benefit and that create jobs, support economic development and assist with the recovery from the impacts of COVID-19.
- By working with local governments, Indigenous governments and communities, not-for-profit organizations, and other sectors, CERIP projects will create new employment or re-employ laid off workers in local communities.

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- The program focuses on infrastructure projects that:
 - Provide critical upgrades to improve energy efficiency, accessibility, emergency preparedness, and resilience for communities
 - Contribute to sustainable communities
 - Support tourism sector recovery
 - Support urban and rural economic diversification
 - Safeguard and revitalize Indigenous cultural heritage
- The Program has a total funding amount of \$100 million distributed across five funding streams managed by separate partner ministries:
 - Community Economic Resilience \$30 million (MA)
 - Destination Development \$20 million (TACS)
 - Unique Heritage Infrastructure \$20 million (FLNRORD)
 - Rural Economic Recovery \$20 million (FLNRORD)
 - Aboriginal Head Start Land-based Project \$10 million (MCFD)

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