



BCFNJC Community-Based Justice Fund

Investment Overview

In partnership with the BC Ministry of the Attorney General, the BC First Nations Justice Council is pleased to support First Nations in advancing Strategy 15 and 24 of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy, through the creation of the Community-Based Justice Fund. Strategy 15 calls for support for community-based justice programming, with the goal that every community that seeks it has a justice plan. Strategy 24 calls for the establishment of a sustainable set of supports to increase the numbers of First Nations justice workers, to support and implement community-based justice programs, new protocols, and understandings to help First Nations have strategic plans and initiatives to move their internal work forward.

The Community Based Justice Fund has two streams of funding available to First Nations in the amount of \$42,000 per individual community. Note that if communities apply together at a Nation-level, the funding reflects the number of communities who apply (example: Syilx Nation, 7 communities x \$42,000 = \$294,000). First Nations may only apply to one stream. We acknowledge that communities need long term support, and currently this fund is but a one-time contribution, but we will continue to fundraise for sustainability as the Strategy envisions.

Stream One: **Community or Nation-based Justice Plans with a focus on Diversion**

This is an opportunity for First Nations to develop community or Nation-based justice plans. These plans would reflect a practical application of diversion at a local level and allow communities to engage with key justice partners, such as Crown, police, Native court workers, restorative justice programs, etc., to understand the current state of diversion strategies in their territory, and how to expand these to reduce overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the justice system.

What are the goals of BCFNJC with this funding stream?

- Communities have expressed the need to host local conversations with Elders and Knowledge Keepers, justice partners and members to learn how to bring the BC First Nations Justice Strategy to life within their territory.
- The cornerstones of the Justice Strategy are the presumption of diversion and self-determination in justice. These plans are a foundational step to develop a network of Nation-based diversion options and justice programming.
- To collate plan findings to develop a business case to government for ongoing funding.

- To ensure there are broader wrap-around services in communities that can be included in Gladue healing plans and provided to the courts.

Enhance referrals for Indigenous Justice Centre staff lawyers and Crown Attorneys.

How will BCFNJC support the outcomes of this stream?

BCFNJC will support communities in the development of their justice plans, with accompanying planning toolkits, dedicated planning staff, and support with in-community engagements (as budget allows).

Stream Two:

Funding to Support First Nations Justice Programming

This is an opportunity for First Nations to support existing or new justice programming. The short, low-barrier application will outline the goals of the project/program and how this advances diversion locally. For example, the four communities of the Ktunaxa Nation, may apply for \$168,000 to fund a Nation-based justice worker over two years.

What are the goals of BCFNJC with this funding stream?

Supporting Nations in advancing self-determination and their justice goals.

How will BCFNJC support the outcomes of this stream?

Relationship building and justice system capacity building.

Questions?

Details to access funding will be available on our website by May 1st, 2024, and shared with all communities via email. Information sessions will be held to allow communities to ask any questions. Please forward any questions to Christianne Kearns, Provincial Director of Community Based Healing at christianne.kearns@bcfnjc.com or (778) 795-0577