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NWT On The Land Collaborative 2017 Report



NWT On The Land Collaborative

www.nwtontheland.ca

The Collaborative is a collective of diverse partners including: Tides Canada, Government of the Northwest Territories, NWT Recreation and Parks Association, J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, Indigenous Leadership Initiative, Dominion Diamond Corporation, TNC Canada, Diavik Diamond Mine, The Gordon Foundation, and Community Advisors representing Indigenous governments from across the territory.



Background

Governments (federal, territorial, and Indigenous), corporations, and philanthropic organizations in the Northwest Territories (NWT) all place significant emphasis on supporting on the land programming, particularly initiatives delivered by Indigenous organizations and communities. These various sectors fund and otherwise support on the land programming for a variety of reasons, including:

- outdoor experiential education;
- cultural revitalization;
- arts;
- restorative justice;
- traditional economy;
- mental health and addictions, family wellness, and healing;
- youth engagement and capacity building; and
- environmental research, monitoring, and stewardship.

On the land programming is valued because it produces interdependent outcomes across economic, social, and environmental spectrums. In light of this interconnectedness, supporters have recognized the need for better collaboration amongst all sectors to make the best use of resources to fund, deliver, and evaluate on the land programming in the NWT.

In 2015, founding partners created the NWT On The Land Collaborative (Collaborative) to maximize the amount of funding and other resources available for land-based initiatives in the territory and make it

easier for organizations and communities to access these supports. The Collaborative brings together government, charitable, industry, and other partners to combine efforts and pool resources, including funding, expertise, tools, and equipment.

The Collaborative is committed to the following principles:

- consensus governance amongst all partners, including Community Advisors nominated by Indigenous governments;
- simple and user-friendly inquiry, proposal, and reporting processes;
- few limitations on proposals to encourage innovation and respect local needs; and
- “one-stop shop” for accessing on the land programming supports.

Through the Collaborative, partners aspire to produce the following results:

- increased available funding for on the land programming by leveraging amongst diverse sectors;
- increased efficiency of program delivery by minimizing administrative burdens;
- improved ability to deliver programming that acknowledges the interconnectedness of social, economic, and environmental outcomes; and
- maximized shared learning and evaluation opportunities.



Collaborative Process

An annual call for applications to the Collaborative is issued late in the calendar year, with the intention of disbursing financial and other supports early the following year. Community Advisors are designated for each region of the NWT to promote the Collaborative, answer questions, and review draft applications.

There are few limitations on the type of applicant, other than being closed to for-profit initiatives, organizations from outside the NWT, political or partisan initiatives, and the federal and territorial governments.

Following submission, applications are reviewed for completeness and applicants are provided an opportunity to submit additional information if required. Once the application deadline has passed, the partners meet to review applications and select grant recipients.



Carolyn DuBois
The Gordon Foundation
Representative

“The Collaborative facilitates connections between funders and on the ground programming. It allows grantees to focus on delivering high-impact on the land programming, rather than on piecemeal fundraising. For funders, the Collaborative is an invaluable way to learn about and support the full breadth of grassroots initiatives underway in the Northwest Territories.”



Susan Ross
Community Advisor
Gwich'in

“It is important to go on the land to learn about my cultural identity and ensure my children and grandchildren know their traditional knowledge to survive and live off the land.”



2017 Highlights

Grant Cycle

The Collaborative learned a lot during the pilot year, and some important changes were made for the 2017 Grant Cycle.

In the pilot year, Community Advisors were available to all applicants as an optional support throughout the application period. Many of the applications deemed ineligible for funding had not been reviewed by a Community Advisor prior to submission. To address this issue and in the hopes of eliciting stronger applications, the application process was revised for 2017. This year, all applications were submitted to Community Advisors for an initial review focused on quality and eligibility. Eligible applications were then forwarded to the Collaborative Administrator as the final step in the application process.

Community Advisors agree this process worked very well. 103 applications were received this year, down from more than 200 in 2016. The new review process also resulted in fewer applications from individuals and many more community and group applications. Applicants appreciated the revised application process, in particular the quick and direct communication about project eligibility. Some applicants were able to revise their applications based on feedback from the Community Advisors before the deadline.

During the application review process, Community Advisors collectively identified their preferred projects within each region. Funders then met with the Community Advisors to discuss their insights about the application process and recommendations for the final list of approved programs. Finally, Funders independently reviewed all eligible project applications and the Community Advisors’ recommendations. Funders had final responsibility

for approving projects and allocating dollar amounts to each.

It is a core value of the Collaborative to support programs as they have been envisioned by communities to meet community priorities. The Collaborative therefore has few restrictions on eligible expenses. There are some criteria to help prioritize funding decisions given that at present the demand for funding far exceeds available resources. In the pilot year, capital costs and administration fees were not funded. This year, as a result of increased funding, it was decided that capital expenditures would be considered on a case-by-case basis. The Collaborative continues not to fund administration fees. However, this year the Partners agreed to hold a small reserve for projects that need an administrative partner in order to receive their funding; in such cases administrative fees will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Salaries for internal staff continue to be an ineligible expense. However, we will fund salaries for new staff hired specifically to support the project. Programs that are explicitly for hunting and trapping activities, such as trapper training or community hunts, are not eligible for funding, though these activities may be incorporated into broader programs as important elements of land-based programming.

Determining what qualifies as “on the land” continues to be an area of discussion for the Collaborative. In general, the Collaborative would like to see projects that take place beyond municipal limits. However, we recognize there are a number of factors (i.e. safety, type of group, equipment, and funds) that can restrict organizations from doing this. Understanding “on the land” in the context of the applicant and the people they are serving is essential.

Sustainability of projects is another important consideration. Collaborative Partners agree that applications should present a long-term plan for their project/program. However, targeted support is available for applicants that don’t currently have the capacity to ensure long-term sustainability.

Innovations

Health Canada, via the GNWT, has committed multi-year funding to the NWT On The Land Collaborative to support the development of a Mental Wellness Team approach in the Northwest Territories. This will allow the resource and support network established by the Collaborative to enhance and expand existing mental health programs administered on the land throughout the territory, while maximizing impact and leveraging additional funding. Of the 35 projects supported by the Collaborative this year, seven projects were selected for Mental Wellness Team funding beginning in 2017 and carrying forward through 2018.

Four projects identified for Mental Wellness Team funding share an approach, target group, and desired outcome, namely they seek to engage youth and young adults who are disenfranchised or at risk for homelessness, addiction, or interaction with the criminal justice system in immersive land-based programs that will build self-esteem, cultural awareness, and sense of purpose through interactions with elders, clinical supports, and the land itself. The projects are largely focused on young men, for whom a particular need for traditional skill development has been identified in order to support the reclamation of their roles as providers and caretakers within their communities.

Beginning in 2017, Collaborative Partners will



Winter Haley
Diavik Diamond Mine
Representative

“The last application review process brought programs to our attention that we weren’t aware of before. The Collaborative helps us to identify and better respond to needs in the communities we work with.”



Kyle Napier
Community Advisor
South Slave

“Our relationship to the land is as important as our relationship to ourselves and those around us — these deep relationships begin with respect and lead to intimate understanding of how the world works around us.”

establish a Community of Practice to support effective program design and implementation, maximize the use of support resources, and allow opportunities for shared learning. Projects within the Community of Practice will be mentored as a cohort with various experts and best practices at the planning, delivery, and evaluation phases of the programs. Established projects from other regions that have demonstrated success with similar programs—for example Going Off, Growing Strong in Nain, Nunatsiavut, and Ilisaqsivik from Clyde River, Nunavut—will be used as peer mentors. Training in camp design, safety and risk management practices, and youth programming will be provided, along with best practices related to research and knowledge dissemination. Mental Health Programming support will be provided along with resource people and partnership development to secure ongoing services such as aftercare. Evaluation components will be integrated into each program to allow individual and team metrics of success to be tracked and reported. Additional community projects may be invited to join the Community of Practice as it becomes more established.

The Community of Practice is the first effort of the Collaborative to coordinate additional supports—beyond funding alone—to build connections and collective impact across communities and regions in the NWT. It will provide a structured opportunity for Partners to work directly with grant recipients to advance mutual priorities and maximize results. Learnings from the first year of the Community of Practice will inform potential expansions of similar supports in future years.

Learning Trip

Learning trips are an important feature of the NWT On The Land Collaborative. Successful collaboration depends on good relationships, and good relationships are built through face-to-face interactions and shared experiences. Learning trips

connect Partners with grant recipients, helping funders to better understand the places and people they are supporting and allowing recipients to provide direct feedback. Learning trips are also a good way to engage prospective partners.

The Collaborative’s first learning trip took place over three days in early September 2016. A group of 12 Partners – representing government, non-profits, industry, and charitable organizations – visited four projects that had received support from the fund: Camp Connections, Edehzhzeh (Deh Gáh School’s Willow Lake Camp), Salvation Army, and SideDoor. The group paddled canoes, picked berries, chopped wood, learned simple words and phrases in Dene Zhatie, and shared food with project leaders and participants. They experienced a range of different on the land programs, developing a better understanding of the objectives, activities, and needs of grant recipients.

The learning trip was an opportunity to see the impact of the Collaborative on the ground, while also gathering feedback for future work. Learning trips will be an annual feature of the Collaborative, visiting different projects and regions each year.

New Partners

The Collaborative welcomed three new Partners this year!

Diavik Diamond Mine officially joined the Collaborative in 2016, having been involved as an observer since 2014. Diavik has assisted community programs centred on cultural activities, education, arts, wellness, and safety in the NWT and Western Kitikmeot through their Community Contribution Program since the mine opened in 2003. Supporting land-based programs that promote cultural revitalization and sustainability fits well with the company’s broader commitment to being a responsible and respectful operator in the NWT. The Collaborative provides another venue for the



Diavik’s efforts and supports information-sharing and awareness across projects and partners.

The Gordon Foundation is a philanthropic organization based in Toronto that seeks to amplify Northern voices and promote collaborative stewardship of freshwater resources. Founded in 1965, the Foundation’s programming includes the Jane Glassco Northern Fellowship, a policy and leadership development program for Northern youth and Mackenzie DataStream, an open access platform for sharing community water data, among other initiatives. The Collaborative provides an opportunity for The Gordon Foundation to connect with and support meaningful community-driven land-based projects in the NWT.

Health Canada is supporting the Collaborative through Mental Wellness Team Funding that is provided to the GNWT and allocated to the Collaborative. Administering Mental Wellness Team funding through the Collaborative allows the resource and support network established by the Collaborative to enhance and expand existing mental health programs administered on the land throughout the NWT. This year, the funding is being used to support seven projects and to establish a targeted Community of Practice with support from the Collaborative Partners.



Diane Giroux
Community Advisor
Akaitcho

“We need to work together to provide solutions to promote healthy choices and wellness in our communities. The Collaborative is important because it is a way to support on the land programming for the wellbeing of all peoples of the North. It is also a way to educate Northerners on the values we hold for our environment. The Collaborative supports the transmission of knowledge from Elders to our youth about our land, waters, history, and culture to ensure they are prepared for their roles as future stewards.”

FEATURED 2016 PROJECT

Edehzhkeh

Willow Lake, Horn Plateau | Dehcho

\$15,000

Objective: To provide an opportunity for whole families to spend an extended amount of time on the land practicing a healthy, traditional lifestyle.

Description: Edehzhkeh (Willow Lake Camp) is an initiative of Deh Gáh School in Fort Providence. Under the guidance of principal Lois Phillip, the school has prioritized land, language, and culture. Edehzhkeh bring these three things together in the form of a month-long language and culture immersion program for community members of all ages from small children to Elders. In addition to developing their language skills, participants at the camp hauled wood and water, set nets and cleaned fish, made dry fish, gathered medicines, caught and skinned beaver, and harvested berries.

Successes: Camp leaders observed positive changes in all of the participants. Youth, in particular, seemed more grounded and willing to help. They were proud of the skills they gained. It took time for the participants to settle into the rhythm of the camp and to detoxify their bodies (the camp was drug, alcohol, and sugar free), suggesting a shorter experience would not have had the same degree of effect. Beyond learning the language and traditional skills, the camp was an opportunity for younger participants to learn about their history, including the devastating impacts of residential schools. The organizers believe that this kind of programming is essential in healing their community.



FEATURED 2016 PROJECT

Wood for Elders

Inuvik | Beaufort Delta

\$5,000

Objective: To teach youth how to safely harvest good wood and provide Elders in the community with wood to heat their homes.

Description: During the winter months, many households in Inuvik heat their homes with a wood stove. Some Elders are unable to gather wood on their own. Through this program, the youth at East Three Secondary School ensured that Elders in their community had enough wood to keep their houses warm through the winter.

Successes: Students in the Wood for Elders program took ownership of the process of providing local Elders with wood. They developed a step-by-step process for harvesting and distribution, acquired the necessary equipment, mapped out routes, and performed administrative work, such as acquiring licences and permits. The Wood for Elders program allowed students to spend time on the land with a purpose. It not only enhanced their cultural knowledge and skills, it also allowed them to give back to their community. In the process, students developed skills useful on the land, at home, and in their school/work lives.



FEATURED 2016 PROJECT

Nature Club

Hay River | South Slave

\$1,000

Objective: To encourage kids in the community to be active, enjoy the outdoors, and learn more about the environment.

Description: Nature Club is a free after-school drop-in program in Hay River for children ages 10-13. It is jointly delivered by the Town of Hay River's Recreation Department, the NWT Centennial Library, and Ecology North. This year, Nature Club met every other week for fun outdoor activities that included dogsledding, compass orienteering, snowshoeing, kayaking, and survival skills.

Successes: In addition to having fun in the outdoors on a regular basis and spending time with their friends, participants in the program learned important skills like how to read a map and compass and how to manoeuvre a kayak. For children in the community, Nature Club is a welcome complement to the sport activities already on offer in Hay River. Nature Club is also an example of a successful partnership between three organizations that ensures quality programming is available for Hay River youth.



FEATURED 2016 PROJECT

Feeding Our Spirits

Fort Smith | NWT

\$7,000

Objective: To provide youth in treatment and their families with the opportunity to strengthen relationships and reconnect with traditional lifestyles and skills on the land.

Description: Youth from Trailcross and their families spent five days on the land at a local trapline. Guided by local Elders, the youth and their families learned traditional skills, such as setting fish nets, snares, and traps; skinning beavers and rabbits; filleting fish; and gathering medicine. The youth and their families also participated in daily sharing circles, which provided them with opportunities to learn about the histories of their families and their communities, including the impact of residential school.

Successes: The camp allowed youth to explore their cultural heritage and learn in a traditional way: by doing, guided by Elders and knowledge holders. The youth demonstrated pride in their Indigenous heritage and a desire to learn more about it. They also felt a sense of accomplishment with their newfound skills and knowledge. The camp was equally powerful for some of the family members, including a grandmother, for whom the camp was the first time she had been in the bush since she was 13. The youth not only learned from the adults present, they also shared their knowledge with others at the camp. Through time spent on the land, the youth became a cohesive group that supported one another and assisted the Elders.



Dene Ts'ı́lį School

Dəocha | Sahtú

\$2,500



Objective: To provide a safe on the land experience in which youth can explore their Dene or Métis identity, learn from Elders and knowledge holders, and develop their leadership skills.

Description: Youth from across the Sahtú travelled to Dəocha (Bennett Field) on the Sahtú Də (Bear River) for a two-week winter land camp. This was the first camp of its kind sponsored by ʔehdzo Got'ı́ne Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board). While at the camp, youth participants worked with Dene Elders and knowledge holders, learning how to gather wood, set nets and snares, sew, haul water, tan hides, travel by skidoo and snowshoe, and skin and prepare rabbits. They also participated in a painting workshop, completed gun safety training, and piloted the new NWT hunter education curriculum. A digital storytelling workshop at the end of the camp helped the youth to reflect on the meaning of Dene ts'ı́lį (being Dene).

Successes: The camp gave youth participants the opportunity to work alongside and learn from Sahtú Elders and knowledge holders, as well as non-Indigenous instructors in a cross-cultural context. In addition to developing their on the land skills, the youth participants developed a greater awareness of the diverse histories, cultures, and forms of governance in the Sahtú. The camp provided youth participants with an opportunity to reflect on their identities and futures as Sahtú Dene and Métis. The camp was also an important learning experience for the organizers and instructors in the possibilities and challenges of delivering cross-cultural programming.

Outdoor Recreation Programming

Yellowknife | Akaitcho

\$3,375



Objective: To promote community inclusion and create opportunities for participants to connect with the land and their culture.

Description: The mission of the Salvation Army's Mental Health Support Services is to inspire clients to have maximum quality of life, independence, and a strong community engagement. They do this, in part, through recreation programming. Much of this programming takes place indoors. In 2016, support from the Collaborative allowed Mental Health Support Services to expand their recreation programming to include outdoor activities, such as fishing, hiking, gardening, dog sledding, and camping.

Successes: The outdoor activities offered were very well attended and participants were enthusiastic and engaged, a significant success given that motivation is often a barrier to participation for people with chronic mental illness. Staff observed that participants were more relaxed and open during these activities, sharing childhood stories and information about their cultural backgrounds. In addition to building and strengthening relationships within and between staff and clients, the outdoor recreation program gave participants an opportunity to demonstrate skills and knowledge that others were not aware of, such as building fires and fishing. The garden, in particular, enabled participants to share the fruits of their labour with others at the Salvation Army, including shelter clients.

FEATURED 2016 PROJECT

Reviving Trails Project:
Trail to K’witi Canoe Trip

Tłıchǫ Territory | Tłıchǫ
\$14,500



Objective: To revive and maintain the network of traditional trails in the ancestral territories of the Tłıchǫ.

Description: In August 2016, 18 people from the four Tłıchǫ communities travelled more than 500 kilometres by canoe from Behchokǫ along the Mowhi Trail to the barrenlands and back to Wekweètı. The trip was organized by Dedats’eetsaa (Tłıchǫ Research and Training Institute). In recent years, the traditional trail system has been infrequently used. Reviving the trails is about both physical and cultural maintenance. Over the course of three weeks, participants revitalized the trails by cutting down new growth and remarking portages. The trip also provided an opportunity for Elders to tell stories about the trails and the places passed on route to the other participants.

Successes: The Mowhi Trail has seen very little travel in the last 70 years. Drawing on Elders’ memories and hand-drawn maps, the groups identified, marked, mapped, and recut more than 60 portages along the route. This was no small feat. Forest fires and lack of use made it extremely difficult to identify trails and camps. In addition to reviving the old trail, the trip provided an opportunity to document traditional knowledge about the trail and the cultural sites along the way. Reviving the language, knowledge, and oral traditions of the trail network in the collective memory of the Tłıchǫ is part of ensuring the future of the Tłıchǫ way of life. Participants also took pride in completing a long and technically difficult trip.

Appendix A Partners

Community Advisors

Inuvialuit Regional Government
Gwich’in Tribal Council
Sahtú
Tłıchǫ Government
Akwıch’ın Territory Government
Dehcho First Nations
NWT Métis Nation

Meghan Etter
Susan Ross
Vacant
John B. Zoe
Diane Giroux
Misty Ireland
Kyle Napier

Funding Partners

Tides Canada
GNWT – HSS

GNWT – ENR

NWT Recreation and Parks Association
Indigenous Leadership Initiative
TNC Canada
Dominion Diamond Corporation
J.W. McConnell Family Foundation
Diavik Diamond Mine
The Gordon Foundation

Steve Ellis
Kyla Kakfwi-Scott
Sabrina Broadhead
Erin Kelly
Sarah True
Jess Dunkin
Steven Nitah
Tracey Williams
Rebecca Plotner
Nicole McDonald
Winter Haley
Carolyn DuBois

Appendix B

Funded Projects

FUNDED PROJECTS

Applicant	Project	Type
P.W.K. High School	Grade 9 Canoe Trip	School
Hay River Library Committee	Hay River Outdoor Leadership Program: On The Land Connections	Municipal
Side Door	Northern Ways 4 Youth	NGO
Chief Paul Niditchie School	Youth Canoe Excursion	School
East Three School	Wood For Elders	School
?ehtseo Ayha School	Enhancing Learning by Being Connected to the Land	School
Inuvik Youth Centre Society	Youth on the Land	NGO
YWCA	Youth Leadership Traditional Camp	NGO
Łutsel K’e Women’s Group	Łutsel K’e Annual Hide Tanning Camp	NGO
Yellowknife District Girl Guides	Camp Dechinta Improvement	NGO
Łutsel K’e Dene Band	Back on the Land Together	School
West Point First Nation	Yaat’a Goghagots’enehte (Universe Teaching)	Indigenous Organization
Chief Julius School	Nitso Nankat Tr’iqwandaih/ Land of the Midnight Sun	School
Moose Kerr School	On the Land Training/ Mentorship Program	School
Métis Cultural Institute	Slave River Expedition	Indigenous Organization
Tłıchǫ Government Presence Office - Wekweètì	Healing Program	Indigenous Organization
Inuvik Community Corporation	Land Programs	Indigenous Organization
Northern Youth Leadership	NYL 2017 Summer Leadership Camp	NGO
TrailCross - Wood’s Homes	Finding Balance	NGO
École St. Patrick’s High School	Coming of Age Camp - Leadership & Resiliency Camp	School



Community	Region	Amount Granted
Fort Smith	South Slave	\$3,000
Hay River	South Slave	\$4,070
Yellowknife	Akaiicho	\$4,200
Tsiigehtchic	Beaufort Delta	\$5,000
Inuvik	Beaufort Delta	\$5,000
Déline	Sahtú	\$6,700
Inuvik	Beaufort Delta	\$7,000
Yellowknife	Akaiicho	\$10,000
Łutsel K’e	Akaiicho	\$10,000
Yellowknife	Akaiicho	\$10,000
Łutsel K’e	Akaiicho	\$10,000
Hay River	South Slave	\$10,000
Fort McPherson	Beaufort Delta	\$10,000
Aklavik	Beaufort Delta	\$10,000
	South Slave	\$10,000
Wekweètì	Tłıchǫ	\$10,000
Inuvik	Beaufort Delta	\$14,000
	NWT	\$15,000
	NWT	\$15,000
Yellowknife	Akaiicho	\$17,375

FUNDED PROJECTS

Applicant	Project	Type
Tłıchǫ Government - Department of Culture and Lands Protection	Tłıchǫ dǫtaàts'eedı (Tłıchǫ distribute food among the people)	Indigenous Organization
Ecology North	Environmental Adventure Camps	NGO
Pehdzeh Ki First Nation	Traditional Learning	Indigenous Organization
ǰehdzo Got'ıne Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)	Sahtú Dene Ts'ıłı School	Indigenous Organization
Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation	Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation Youth Camp	Indigenous Organization
Tłıchǫ Government Presence Office	Sahdeh Youth Boating Program	Indigenous Organization
Yellowknives Dene First Nation	Dechita Naowo - Environmental Monitoring and Traditional Knowledge Application in the Digital Age	Indigenous Organization
Łı́ıdlı Kúę First Nation	LKFN Cultural Revitalization Creative Camp	Indigenous Organization
Smith Landing First Nation	LKFN Cultural Revitalization Camp	Indigenous Organization
Deh Gáh Got'ie First Nation	Mentoring Youth on the Land Project	Indigenous Organization
Jean Marie River First Nation	Revist and Reconstruct Historical Site	Indigenous Organization
Tuktoyaktuk District Education Authority	Trails on the Land/ History of our Ancestors	School
Fort Norman Métis Land Corp.	Kelly Lake Cultural Camp	Indigenous Organization
Denımu Kúę First Nation	Youth Healing on the Land	Indigenous Organization
K'asho Got'ine Charter Community	Back to the Land Cultural Camp	Municipal



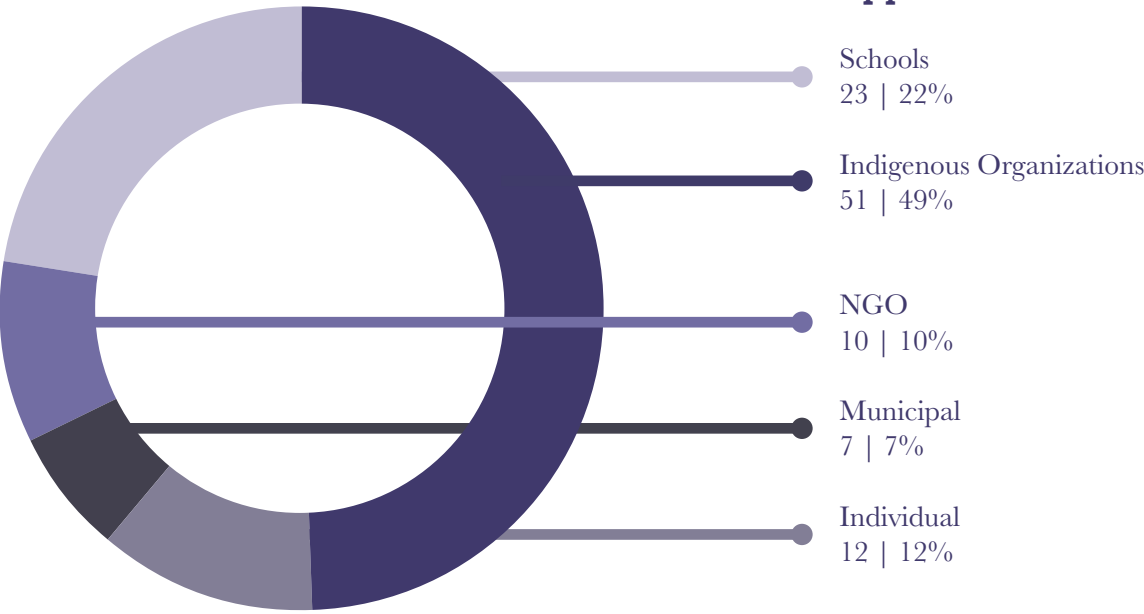
FUNDED PROJECTS

Community	Region	Amount Granted
	Tłıchǫ	\$18,500
	NWT	\$20,000
Wrigley	Dehcho	\$20,000
	Sahtú	\$20,000
Kakisa	Dehcho	\$20,000
Behchokó	Tłıchǫ	\$20,000
Dettah/N'dilo	Akaiicho	\$25,000
Fort Simpson	Dehcho	\$25,000
Fort Smith	South Slave	\$25,000
Fort Providence	Dehcho	\$30,000
Jean Marie River	Dehcho	\$35,000
Tuktoyaktuk	Beaufort Delta	\$40,000
Tulıt'a	Sahtú	\$40,000
Fort Resolution	Akaiicho	\$50,000
Fort Good Hope	Sahtú	\$60,000

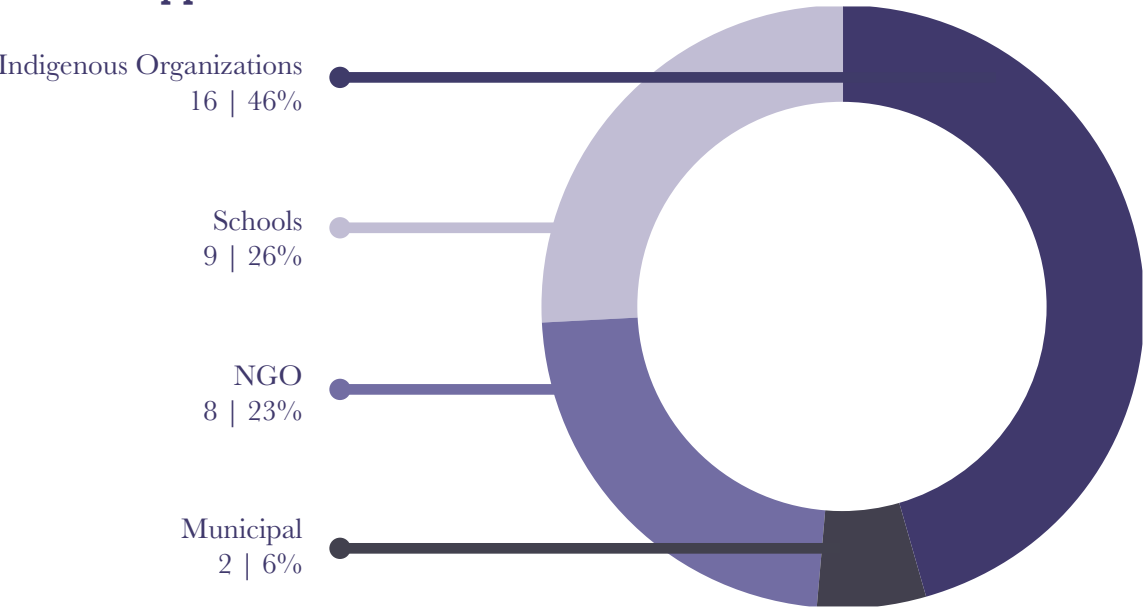
Appendix C The Numbers

By Applicant Type

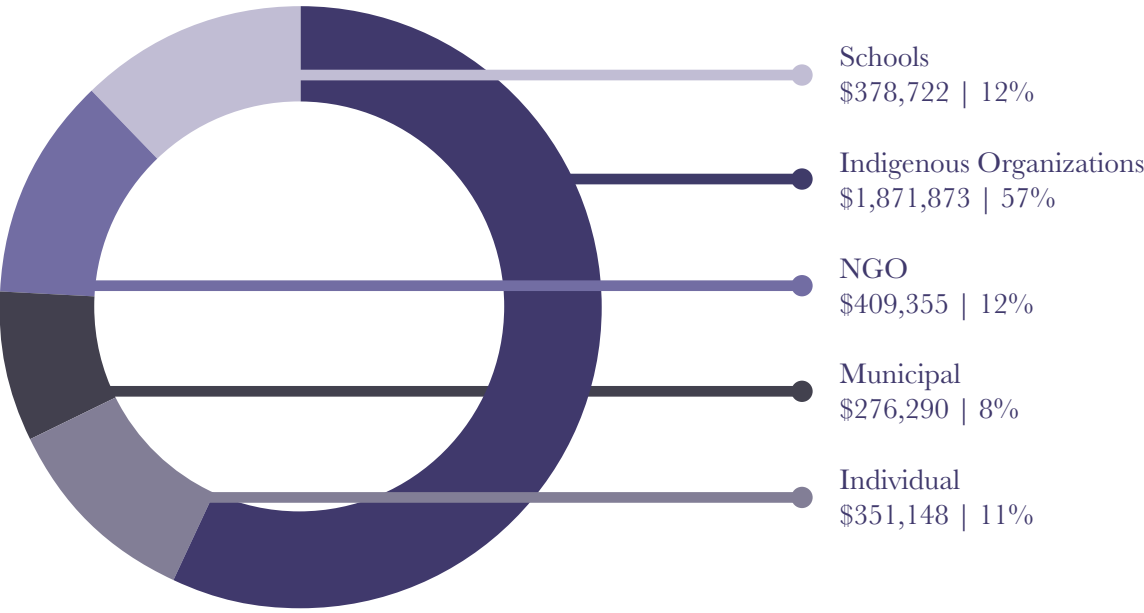
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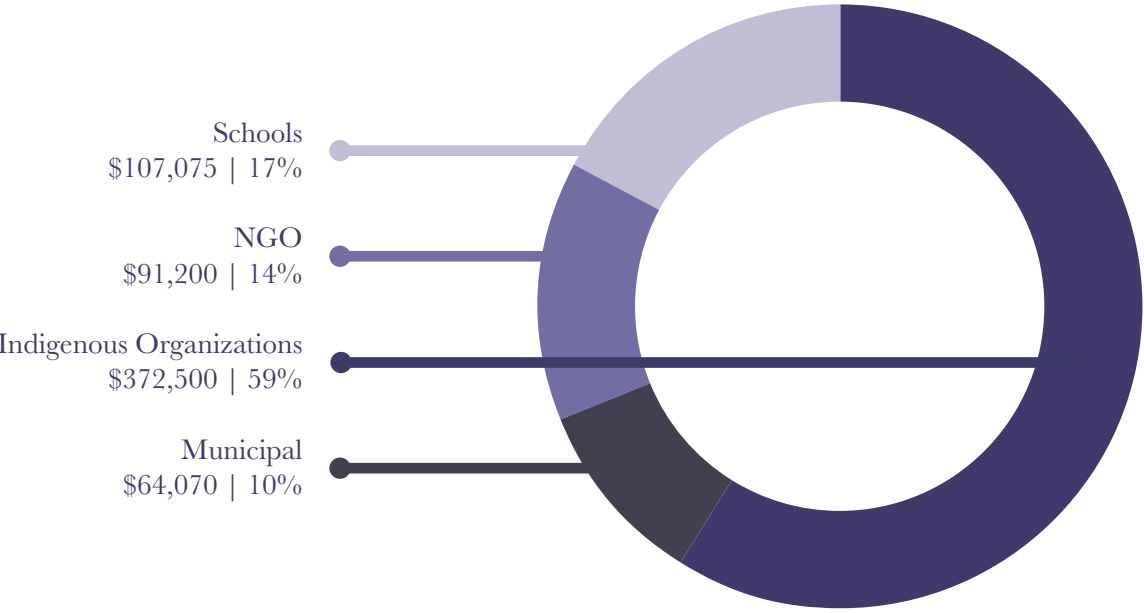
Applications Approved



Amount Requested



Amount Granted



By Region

