



National

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## First Nations Baseline Assessment Program on Health and the Environment

The [First Nations Baseline Assessment Program on Health and the Environment](#) (BAPHE) is a research program that brings together First Nations communities, principal investigators and scientists to gather baseline data on human health and the environment. A baseline is a measurement of select human health and environmental indicators and can be used to show changes over time. Projects supported by BAPHE must include both a human health and an environmental baseline.

BAPHE supports 2 types of projects:

- **Primary research:** Community-based research to collect and analyze data on human health and the environment directly through questionnaires, surveys, interviews and sampling.
- **Knowledge integration:** Community-based research that compiles, integrates and analyzes existing community information and scientific data on human health and the environment.

The call for proposals is now open. **The deadline for submission is November 1, 2024.** For more information, including examples of primary research and knowledge integration projects, as well as eligibility and how to apply, please visit [First Nations Baseline Assessment Program on Health and the Environment](#).

## New intake for clean electricity program with \$500 million in additional funding

On October 10, 2024, the Government of Canada [announced up to \\$500 million in funding](#) for the [Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways program](#) (SREPs) [Utility Support Stream](#) (USS). SREPs supports clean electricity infrastructure, such as renewable energy technologies, energy storage and grid modernization technologies, that strengthen the electricity grid.

The request for Expression of Interest (EOI) under the Utility Support Stream is now open and **will be accepting applications until December 13, 2024, at 11:59 pm Pacific Time.** The EOI is in anticipation of a request for project proposals to be launched in the first half of 2025.

For more information, including [eligibility](#) and [application process](#), please visit [Utility Support Stream](#) and the [applicant guide](#).

## Funding available to support documentary heritage organizations

On October 8, 2024, the Government of Canada [announced that documentary heritage organizations across the country can apply for funding](#) for the 2025 to 2026 cycle of [Library and Archives Canada](#) (LAC) [Documentary Heritage Communities Program](#) (DHCP). Every year LAC provides close to \$1.5 million to community organizations to promote their collections and make them more accessible, while strengthening their capacity to preserve Canada's documentary heritage.

Visit the [DHCP web page](#) for more information, such as [eligibility criteria](#), the [application form](#), and [tips for filling out an application](#). **Eligible organizations are invited to submit their application by January 9, 2025, at 11:59 pm Pacific Time.**

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

## Statement by Minister Anandasangaree on the introduction of legislation to establish a new Commissioner for Modern Treaty Implementation

On October 10, 2024, the Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, issued the following statement to mark the introduction of legislation to establish a new Commissioner for Modern Treaty Implementation:

“We have introduced legislation to establish a Commissioner for Modern Treaty Implementation as an independent Agent of Parliament. This follows an extensive co-development process between Canada and Indigenous Modern Treaty partners. [...] In developing Bill C-77, we engaged with over 130 groups, including Indigenous Modern Treaty partners, Indigenous groups negotiating Modern Treaties, Self-Government Arrangement holders, Sectoral Agreement holders, National Indigenous Organizations, and colleagues in provincial and territorial governments.”

To continue reading, please visit the [full statement](#).

**HELP IS AVAILABLE  
WHENEVER YOU  
NEED IT.**

**Immediate support is available 24/7  
for all Indigenous people in Canada.**

Hope for Wellness Help Line and Chat  
**1-855-242-3310 or [www.hopeforwellness.ca](http://www.hopeforwellness.ca)**

Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line  
**1-866-925-4419**

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women  
and Girls Support Line  
**1-844-413-6649**

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The Government of Canada has announced [recruitment and retention allowances to triple through to 2025 for Indigenous Services Canada nurses in remote and isolated communities](#).

Become a northern community nurse in a First Nations community and build relationships that will last a lifetime!

Visit Indigenous Services Canada's website to [find out more and apply](#) and read [testimonials](#) from nurses with experience working in First Nations in Canada.

## Canada strengthens protection of freshwater with launch of standalone Canada Water Agency

On October 16, 2024, the Government of Canada [announced the establishment of the Canada Water Agency](#) as a standalone federal entity headquartered in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The new, independent agency will strengthen freshwater management in Canada by providing leadership and improved coordination and collaboration federally, with provinces, territories and Indigenous Peoples.

As a standalone entity, the Canada Water Agency will work closely with partners to deliver major elements of the Freshwater Action Plan, build a strong approach to freshwater protection and help address transboundary freshwater challenges and opportunities. The agency will administer freshwater funding programs in 8 waterbodies of national significance: the Great Lakes; Lake Winnipeg; Lake of the Woods; Lake Simcoe; St. Lawrence River, Mackenzie River, Fraser River, and Wolastoq/Saint John River.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

## Government of Canada renews historic funding for Indigenous health research from coast to coast to coast

On October 9, 2024, the Government of Canada announced an investment of \$37.6 million over 5 years, through the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#), for the renewal of the [Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research](#) (NEIHR). This investment will support health researchers who are studying ways of improving Indigenous health.

Across the country, NEIHRs bring together researchers, Indigenous leaders and community members to support community-based health research grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing. These networks work to address significant health disparities and train and mentor the next generation of First Nations, Inuit and Métis health researchers.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

## Parks Canada launches Indigenous Stewardship Policy, strengthening Indigenous connections to protected lands, waters and ice

On October 15, 2024, the Government of Canada [announced the launch of the Indigenous Stewardship Policy](#). The [Indigenous Stewardship Policy](#) will strengthen the connections between Indigenous Peoples and the protected lands, waters and ice located within their traditional territories, treaty lands and ancestral homelands.

The new policy is grounded in 4 key principles:

1. Respect for Indigenous Rights, duties, and responsibilities
2. Foster ethical spaces
3. Nurture healthy, respectful relationships
4. Ensure continuity of Indigenous culture and language

This policy will apply to all places Parks Canada plays a role in administering, including national historic sites, national parks, national marine conservation areas, and other protected heritage areas.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

## Government of Canada announces support for Indigenous-led climate solutions in remote Indigenous communities

On October 6, 2024, the Government of Canada [announced Phase 2 of the Indigenous Off-Diesel Initiative \(IODI\) Cohort 2](#). Ten Energy Champion teams from remote Indigenous communities and Nations will receive up to \$500,000 to conduct community engagement, complete training and develop their Community Energy Plan.

The [Indigenous Off-Diesel Initiative](#) is a clean energy training and funding program that supports Indigenous-led climate solutions in remote Indigenous communities that currently use diesel or fossil fuels for heat and power. [Cohort 2 of the IODI](#) is part of the \$300 million announced in [Canada's Strengthened Climate Plan](#) to support clean energy projects in Indigenous, rural and remote communities.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).