



**National**

Issue 138

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## **2025 annual Award of Excellence in Nursing: Call for nominations**

The [Award of Excellence in Nursing](#) is presented to 3 exceptional nurses who provide care to First Nations and/or Inuit clients. Nominees will have demonstrated that they are committed to excellence in professional nursing practices serving First Nations and Inuit communities in Canada.

This award will be presented during [National Nursing Week](#) (May 12 to 18, 2025) at a ceremony held in Ottawa. Travel and accommodation expenses for each of the recipients will be provided by First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) to attend the award ceremony.

**The call for nominations for the 2025 Award of Excellence in Nursing is now open until February 14, 2025 at 4 pm Eastern Time.** All nominators and nominees will be notified in April 2025 of the results. We wish to thank everyone involved in the nomination process for taking the time to nominate an outstanding nurse providing direct front-line care in a First Nations or Inuit community.

For more information, including [eligibility](#) and [how to make an nomination](#), please visit the the [2025 annual Award of Excellence in Nursing](#).

## **New Canada Service Corps volunteer service opportunities for up to 20,000 youth**

On January 16, 2025, the Government of Canada announced [an investment of approximately \\$200 million to fund 85 projects](#) as part of the [Canada Service Corps](#) (CSC). As a result, over the next 3 years, up to 20,000 youth in Canada between the ages of 12 and 30 will benefit from new CSC-funded volunteer service opportunities across the country. These interesting and engaging projects will offer youth, including those from Indigenous and under-served populations, unique volunteer service opportunities focused on reconciliation, inclusivity, environmental preservation, civic and democratic engagement, and resilience.

CSC is a program that gives youth opportunities to practice leadership, learn new skills, and grow their personal and professional networks. Through community-focused volunteer service opportunities, youth gain valuable experience that can help them discover their strengths and motivate them to further their education or transition to the labour market.

Youth who want to apply for one of the new CSC-funded volunteer service opportunities can visit [Canada.ca/CanadaServiceCorps](https://Canada.ca/CanadaServiceCorps). New opportunities are added and updated regularly.

## **First Nations and Inuit Summer Work Experience Program**

The 2025 to 2026 call for proposals to support activities under the [First Nations and Inuit Summer Work Experience Program](#) is now open. The First Nations and Inuit Summer Work Experience Program is part of the [First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy](#). Projects under the First Nations and Inuit Summer Work Experience Program allow youth to learn about career options and earn an income that can contribute to a university or college education.

Funding is provided to eligible First Nations and Inuit communities, governments and organizations, as well as not-for-profit associations, private sector employers and schools and employers who then provide activities for First Nations and Inuit secondary and post-secondary students. **The deadline to submit a proposal in Manitoba region is March 14, 2025.**

For more information, including [eligibility](#) and [how to apply](#), please visit the [First Nations and Inuit Summer Work Experience Program](#).

**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](https://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**

**FOLLOW US**     

The **Indigenous Business Navigator** can help Indigenous businesses, organizations and communities connect with Government of Canada programs and services. Individuals can send an email to [navigator@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:navigator@sac-isc.gc.ca) with their business's information and a representative will help you find what best fits their needs.

Visit the [Indigenous Business Navigator](#) to learn more.




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## Canada Indigenous Loan Guarantee Corporation

As part of the federal government's efforts to advance economic reconciliation, the Government of Canada announced in Budget 2024 that it will provide up to \$5 billion in Indigenous loan guarantees to unlock access to the capital needed for Indigenous groups to make major economic investments. This commitment is a direct response to Indigenous entrepreneurs and businesses' calls for the government to address such barriers, specifically, the gap in access to affordable capital.

Loan guarantees work by providing a guarantee that the debt will be repaid by the guarantor (the federal government) should the borrower (Indigenous groups) be unable to repay. Loan guarantees will enable Indigenous groups to overcome historic barriers and to become meaningful equity partners and owners of natural resource and energy projects. Equity ownership in major projects will provide significant financial benefit and advance economic participation for participating Indigenous groups.

For more information, please visit the [Canada Indigenous Loan Guarantee Corporation backgrounder](#).

## Government of Canada to open new intake period for Youth Employment and Skills Program

On January 9, 2025, the Government of Canada announced that [applications will open for the Youth Employment and Skills Program \(YESP\)](#) on **January 27, 2025**. Supported by an investment of approximately \$13.5 million, the [Youth Employment and Skills Program](#) is an initiative aimed at helping young Canadians access employment opportunities and gain valuable work experience in the agricultural sector, while contributing to the growth of the agricultural community here in Canada.

Eligible applicants include producers, agri-businesses, industry associations, provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous organizations and research facilities. Applications from Indigenous employers will be prioritized for the 2025 to 2026 program year.

For more information, including [eligibility](#) and [how to apply](#), please visit the [Youth Employment and Skills Program](#).

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## CANADA HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

HOUSING PLAN IN ACTION!

 Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada  Logement, Infrastructures et Collectivités Canada



The federal government is investing \$1B to support critical infrastructure in communities across the country. Communities with infrastructure projects that support homes, such as drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and solid waste infrastructure, can [apply today](#).

**Indigenous applicants will have until May 19, 2025, 3 pm Eastern Time to submit their applications.**

## Regional

### Your Way Home: Manitoba's Plan to End Chronic Homelessness

The [Manitoba government has unveiled \*Your Way Home: Manitoba's Plan to End Chronic Homelessness\*](#), a strategy to ending chronic homelessness in Manitoba. The coordination of the new strategy will be led by Tessa Blaikie Whitecloud, the premier's new senior advisor on ending chronic homelessness.

Working with the City of Winnipeg on a 30-day timeline beginning in February, the new [Your Way Home](#) strategy will see the government move one encampment at a time into housing including 300 new social units that have been purchased and will be supported by non-profit organizations. As part of the strategy, encampments will only be moved once move-in ready housing is secured for every person.

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

### Intake announced for 2 community development grant programs

[The Urban/Hometown Green Team](#) program supports youth employment on community projects between May and September. Eligible applicants include municipal governments (excluding the City of Winnipeg), Northern Affairs community councils and non-profit organizations throughout Manitoba.

[From the Ground Up](#) grant program supports community capacity building in three categories: community economic development; well-being and recreation; and housing and safety co-ordination supports. Eligible applicants include municipal governments (including local authorities such as planning and recreation districts), Northern Affairs community councils and non-profit organizations in three streams.

**The deadline for applications for both programs is Tuesday, February 18, 2025.** For more information and applications, please visit [Manitoba Grants Online](#).

### Manitoba continues to reduce barriers through Manitoba Accessibility Fund

Manitoba [organizations can now apply for accessibility project funding](#) through the [Manitoba Accessibility Fund](#) grant program. Eligible organizations, including registered charities, non-profit organizations, local businesses, on-reserve entities and municipalities based in Manitoba, can apply to receive up to 100 percent of project costs, with a maximum of \$50,000 per application.

Projects must target accessibility standards under the [Accessibility for Manitobans Act](#) to improve customer service, employment or information and communication. **The deadline to apply is February 14, 2024.**

For more information, including [eligibility](#) and [activities funded](#), please visit the [Manitoba Accessibility Fund](#).

### Multi-year Infrastructure Investment Strategy details roadmap to improved highways, airports and water infrastructure for Manitobans

The [Multi-year Infrastructure Investment Strategy](#), which outlines planned capital investments for highway, airport, water-related and general infrastructure over the next 5 years, is now available. The strategy provides a comprehensive overview of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure's project priorities through to 2029 to improve transparency and provide advance notice to stakeholders and rightsholders, while still providing flexibility to accommodate emerging issues. Some multi-year project highlights include:

- \$600 million, conditional on a memorandum of understanding, to enhance flood protection to communities in the Lake Manitoba-Lake St. Martin area and to strengthen Manitoba's existing network of flood mitigation infrastructure
- progress toward construction of a new airport at Wasagamack Airport

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

### Aerial Wildlife Survey Program expanded

The [Wildlife Surveillance Program has been expanded](#) to more areas of the province to collect data that will inform critical decisions to manage wildlife populations. Announced last year, the Manitoba government entered a new contract that uses modern, innovative technology, including solar-powered, long-range drones and infrared cameras to conduct aerial surveillance. This technology allows surveys of multiple species at one time, including moose, elk and caribou, which provides important information for conservationists, Indigenous treaty rights holders, and all Manitobans.

The Manitoba government is investing a total of \$1.61 million to expand coverage for the 2024 to 2025 aerial surveillance program. Funding has quadrupled for this year to enable the collection of data from 8 game hunting areas, up from 2 to 3 areas covered in previous years.

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