



CIER
Centre for Indigenous
Environmental Resources



The Indigenous Water Allyship

launches the Indigenous Youth, Art and Water Initiative

APPLICANT GUIDE

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1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 Indigenous Youth

An Individual (First Nation, Métis, and Inuit) aged 18 to 35 will participate in the project's proposed activities.

1.2 Young Water Ambassadors

Each organisation that proposed a social art project will be asked to select one leader to represent the project and participate in project activities with other Young Water Ambassadors. These ambassadors must be First Nation, Inuit, and Métis individuals between 18 to 35 years old.

1.3 Grantees organization

Grantees organization are applicants that would implement the social project with *Indigenous Youth* and select a *Young Water Ambassador* to participate in the project.

1.4 Indigenous Communities

Indigenous Peoples are Canada's original inhabitants, including First Nations, Inuit, and Métis. The term "First Nations" refers to the various Indigenous groups that existed before the arrival of Europeans, and it includes over 600 distinct nations. The Inuit are Indigenous Peoples who live in the northern regions, and the Métis are people of mixed Indigenous and European ancestry.

1.5 One Drop Foundation

The One Drop Foundation is an international philanthropic organization created by Cirque du Soleil and Lune Rouge founder Guy Laliberté with the vision of a better world where all have access to living conditions that allow empowerment and development. Its mission is to ensure sustainable access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene for communities facing extreme barriers through innovative partnerships, creativity, and the power of art. In the long term, One Drop Foundation aims to improve access to safe water by partnering with Indigenous communities on an ongoing basis up to 2030 (new *Indigenous Water Allyship Program*) as they work to achieve their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Youth, Art and Water Initiative is the starting point in this movement.

1.6 Center for Indigenous Environmental Resources

Founded in 1995, the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) is Canada's first Indigenous-directed environmental non-profit organization with charitable status based in Winnipeg, MB. CIER envisions a nation with environmentally and socially sustainable Indigenous communities with the capacity to address the environmental issues they face. CIER works with Indigenous communities across Canada to educate, conduct research and build

skills to solve the environmental problems that affect their lands and waters. The CIER is the implementing partner for this initiative.

1.7 Indigenous Traditional Knowledge

Traditional knowledge is a cumulative body of knowledge, know-how, practices and representations maintained and developed by people with extended histories of interaction and relationships with all living beings. These sophisticated understandings, interpretations and meanings are part and parcel of a cultural complex encompassing language, naming and classification systems, practices, ritual, spirituality and worldviews. Traditional knowledge is dynamic, holistic, intergenerational, and linked to experience on traditional lands, and the integrity of the knowledge depends on maintaining the “integrity of the land itself.” Knowledge and their relationality process: **ways of knowing** are essential to cultural diversity, biodiversity stewardship. This knowledge and ways of knowing shape distinct unique systems (laws, water stewardship, etc.)

1.8 Water Stewardship

This ethical value embodies the responsible planning and management to provide water with responsible use and protection. It involves the active participation of rightsholders in a community to identify their water issues and create solutions.

1.9 Community-based Approach

A transformational process relies on community participation and engagement in decision-making, management and local knowledge systems to identify communal problems and their solutions. It aims to engage participatory approaches to improve a community's living conditions and implement effective means to respond to local issues.

1.10 Social Art

A participatory creative art process is realized by collaborating with individuals, groups, and communities to bring about a positive environmental, economic, or social transformation. Social Art methodologies and art forms can be a tool of transformation where participants are the active protagonist in decision-making and mobilize different actors for system strengthening. Social art is created with, by and for the people affected by the reality needing to be transformed and offers excellent tools to address complex societal issues.



1.11 Water Issues

Water issues are multidimensional. In Canada, we understand water issues such as poor water quality, unsafe drinking water, boil water advisories, and water source deterioration and restoration challenges exist. Significant water challenges include inadequate sanitation and hygiene, leading to increased disease and deteriorating health. Water issues also include natural and climate disasters (such as floods, drought, wildfire, etc.). It also integrates issues such as water inequity, including water rights, frameworks (jurisdiction, legislation challenges), and other challenges around gender equity. Challenges are unique to every territory and region. Feel free to inform this initiative of other water challenges you face.



2. APPLICATION GUIDE

Welcome to the *Indigenous Water Allyship*. You are taking your first steps to contribute to impactful water governance to enrich perspectives, relationships, and knowledge around freshwater in Canada. This program seeks to engage Indigenous Youth in creating an impactful social art project in response to water-related issues and inequalities in Canada. Are you passionate about collaborative opportunities that unite individuals, communities, and systemic actors from different sectors to address water issues? If you have the creative will to promote Indigenous Knowledge Systems and value the sacredness of water in your community, region and beyond, and if you are curious about social art, then this is for you!

2.1 The Indigenous Youth, Art, and Water Initiative



The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) and the One Drop Foundation share a common long-term vision to contribute towards the improved living conditions and health of First Nations, Métis and Inuit in Canada through increased knowledge and equitable access to clean water for all living beings. Both organizations are launching the Indigenous Water Allyship and co-designing the Indigenous Youth Art and Water Initiative to achieve this vision. This initiative aims to promote the capacity and leadership of

Indigenous Youth to express their own creative perspectives and firsthand experiences on water-related inequities in Canada as well as influence water governance in their communities and beyond. In doing so, this initiative will mobilize *Indigenous Youth* through training and mentorship to implement social art projects that promote the importance and fundamental role of water in the survival, wellness, culture, spirituality, and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples and all living beings.

CIER will manage and oversee the *Indigenous Youth Art and Water Initiative*. This initiative was co-designed with the support of the One Drop Foundation, which looks to contribute positively to safe water access in partnering Indigenous communities. The *Indigenous Youth Art and Water Initiative* enhances intergenerational and intersectoral relationships through community art-based approaches. It intends to connect with communities' unique relationships with water and to celebrate specific water-related knowledge. It will support innovative ideas that will help place young Indigenous People at the center of the social and cultural awareness of the environment and foster a sense of belonging for many years to come.

For more information on financial support for this initiative, please visit: <https://www.onedrop.org/en/projects/the-indigenous-water-allyship/>

2.2 Background - Why it was created?

Since time immemorial, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, laws, culture, and Indigenous People have contributed to sustainably protecting water and its recognized sacredness as a living entity. Today, despite living in one of the most water-rich countries, many Indigenous People in Canada continue to be disproportionately affected by water-related issues and numerous historic and ongoing inequities, such as recurring drinking water advisories, increased exposure to contaminants in water sources which could result in waterborne illness, and long-term health impacts worsened by the rise of climate hazard. These challenges are complex and persist due to infrastructure gaps, legislation/jurisdiction issues, capacities gaps, the failure to engage communities actively and the lack of incentives to engage and recognize the capacity of Indigenous Youth to impact water governance. We genuinely believe that recognizing rights and title holders, relationships, and supporting young Indigenous individuals to engage with community-based approaches and creative intersectoral collaborations can break silos, positively impact water challenges, strengthen systems, and ultimately create sustainable solutions. This initiative is part of a long-term vision: the *Indigenous Water Allyship Program* (2023-2030).



3. OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

Support and encourage commitment and development of *Indigenous Youth* by funding social art projects from **September 2023 to September 2024**.

- Involve *Indigenous Youth* in creative, innovative social art processes to actively influence long-term visions and improve living conditions and health of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Canada through increased/recognition of knowledge and equitable access to clean water for all.
- Enhance Indigenous and intergenerational cultural wisdom on water-related issues.
- Recognize the importance of Indigenous Knowledge Systems on water protection and climate solutions.
- Increase and foster the recognition of the capacities of *Indigenous Youth* to effectively influence* the current situation on water-related issues in their communities (*including skills such as artistic, leadership, public speaking, and entrepreneurship)
- Promote the inclusion and involvement of *Indigenous Youth* by offering them the opportunity to be directly involved in their community and to take charge, according to their abilities, in developing and implementing solutions.
- Encourage *Indigenous Youth* self-determination and perseverance to foster the recognition of their culture, improve and sustain their well-being, and leverage access to new opportunities in the water governance and social arts sectors.
- Creating a consortium of organizations and *Young Water Ambassadors* dedicated to making positive changes related to water issues in Indigenous communities.

4. ELIGIBILITY

4.1 Grantees Organization Commitment

- Conduct their social art project centring Indigenous Youth at the heart of every step of the process.
- Grantees Organizations and Young Water Ambassadors must be prepared to document their social art process with innovative storytelling tools.
- This initiative will require a 13-month commitment from the Grantees Organizations and the Young Water Ambassadors (September 2023 – October 2024).
- Grantees Organizations must participate in impact result monitoring and evaluation processes.
- Grantees Organizations must be available to collaborate with One Drop Foundation and CIER during their project's design and implementation.
- Grantees Organizations must ensure the participation of a Young Water Ambassador to be actively engaged through the entire process of the project.
- The *Grantees Organizations* project can be shorter than a year.

4.2 Young Water Ambassador Commitment

- Represent their projects at the *Young Water Ambassadors* gatherings. Two in-person gatherings will occur in September 2023 and September 2024. The initial gathering in 2023 will be at the University of Calgary Barriere Lake Field station – Biogeo Institute in Alberta Sept 17th to 22nd. The

final in-person gathering will be held in Montreal, Quebec. Both gatherings include various leadership capacity development, including workshops on social art, storytelling, hands-on experience with experts in videography, participation in discussions regarding applicants' projects, reporting impacts, etc.

- Attend and participate in monthly virtual meetings with all *Young Water Ambassadors* from the different *Grantees Organization* selected. (mandatory)
- Ensure the social and creative process is implemented in their communities and is documented in some form of storytelling (video, photo, etc.). CIER and its partners will provide training and mentoring to strengthen these capacities.
- Ensure that Indigenous Youth are fully engaged in the art project process (research, design, execution and lessons sharing)
- Provide follow-up information/sharing (6h) for one year following our program to understand the impact of this program.
- Share their storytelling documentation of the process with the community and broader audiences at the closing gathering and beyond!



4.3 Eligible applicants

Individuals who want to submit a project must be supported by an organization that will be accountable for the delivery of the project.

- Non-profit organizations or institutions that provide services to Indigenous Youth.
- Non-profit Indigenous organizations, institutions, or the equivalent.
- Indigenous Nations communities and Northern villages (First Nations, Métis, Inuit)
- Cultural organisations and cultural centers (publishers and producers; arts service organizations)
- Youth services organisations and Youth Councils
- Educational institutions (Boards of education, post-secondary, research chair, schools, etc.)
- Indigenous governments and departments: Bands, First Nations, Tribal Councils, local, regional, national, territorial, and traditional Indigenous governance entities.
- Indigenous and non-Indigenous Provincial Territorial Organizations (PTO)
- Indigenous associations and friendships centers
- Indigenous or non-Indigenous Media
- Indigenous Department - Environmental, Water, Resources/land management, health Department, etc.)
- Language Revitalization and Cultural Immersion programs and organizations
- Water sector organizations, entities and/or authorities.

4.4 Individual artists

- Individual artists applicants must be partnered with communities or organizations – no individuals can apply. We require that the partnering organizations have a finance department/structure to

manage the funding, as the grant cannot be transferred to an individual or minor bank account. The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) can suggest whom to approach. If you are a particular artist seeking an organization to pair with, please reach out, and CIER may be able to direct you in the right direction. CIER has already developed a community database in Canada on water issues specifically for this project.

4.5 Ineligible applicants and activities

- Promotion of political parties.
- Militaristic project or depiction of mass violence.
- Abuse of the environment, people, and animals.
- Human trafficking, child labour, and other governance violations projects.
- Any other criminal activities.
- Individual applicants/artists.
- Corporate and/or for-profit applications.

4.6 Examples of eligible projects

Projects should be completely realized between the 1st of September 2023 and to 30 of September 2024.

Examples of eligible social art projects around water issues and relationships to Water:

- Community-based storytelling about water or the ancestral connection to water in your communities (theatre, movie, documentary, circus show, music, literature, virtual reality. Radio-theater podcast, performance, immersive installation, photovoice projects)
- Creating art to mobilise communities and systemic actors around water issues (mural, book, illustration art exposition, sculpture, augmented reality, etc.)
- Mobilisation of a Youth Council addressing water issues through artistic expression and social art methods
- Art-based awareness campaign on water issues in Indigenous communities
- Communicating methods of sustainable solutions through a community-based creative approach.



4.7 Required information and support material to apply

Filling out the application form {NEED LINK WHEN DONE}.

The online application form includes the following:

- Description of your organization and mission
- Copy of the Questions (See Annexe I)
- Draft detailed budget and timeline, respecting eligible costs.

- If non-Indigenous applicants apply, they must provide a mandatory letter of consent/support from partnered Indigenous communities.

5. ASSESSMENT – HOW PROJECTS WILL BE SELECTED?

Your application will be reviewed and evaluated by a multidisciplinary and intergenerational jury:

5.1 Jury member's details.

1. Two members from CIER and two members from One Drop
2. Five external members recognized as being experts in the field. This may include:
 - a) Indigenous professional artists and cultural leaders with experience with cultural protocols/community engagement and social art
 - b) An Indigenous Elder
 - c) An Indigenous Youth
 - d) A member from the water sector



Gender equity will be applied in the selection of the jury members.

5.2 Selection criteria

Your project will be evaluated following these criteria:

- Relevance of involvement of multiple significant community members and collaborator's perspectives
- Relevance of proposed project to create social impact relating to water
- Demonstration of the importance of water/climate issues and water perspectives
- Demonstration and clarity of engaging Indigenous Youth
- Demonstration of creativity and uniqueness
- Demonstration of understanding of social art and community engagement
- Demonstration of the Importance of Knowledge Transferring
- Demonstration of creativity in documenting the process, sharing Knowledge and Capacities
- Demonstration of a feasible budget timeline, capacity, and experience of partners to manage the project and process to completion
- Demonstration of accessibility sensitivity (gender equity, Elders' access, access to people with disabilities, including Indigenous languages, etc.)
- Demonstrating the mechanisms to respect cultural protocols and cultural safety, reciprocity with contributors.
- A complete application will include all the required files as indicated.

6. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Financial assistance will be a grant from \$10,000 up to \$50,000 per organization.
- Please note: all transportation, food and lodging cost associated with the participation of the *Young Water Ambassadors* at Water Ambassadors Gatherings are covered. **Do not need to be included as part of the budget for the grant submission.**

6.1 Eligible Expenses.

The following expenses are eligible:

- Equipment, materials needed for the project, rentals, and transport of materials.
- Artists, facilitators, and community workers related to the project honorarium.
- *Water Ambassadors* honorarium to attend virtual workshops, training
- Cultural community ceremonies cost (meals, space, etc.) and get-togethers associated with the social art project.
- Travel (mileage, gas money) and accommodation expenses relating to the project – Can refer to the National Joint Council (NJC-CNM) to provide realistic rates and allowances. Must not exceed automobile and mobile rates permitted for travel on government business for 2023.
- Elder honorariums, reciprocity gifts (e.g., ceremonial tobacco)
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Creative knowledge transfer and training on youth implication in the water sector
- Diffusion and Communication directly related to the project
- Space rental related to workshops of the project
- Professional consultant fees directly related to project delivery
- Special measures expenses related to accessibility for participants with disabilities
- Language accessibility costs, such as translation and interpretations costs
- Administrative fees for organisation (max 13%)

6.2 Ineligible Expenses

- Illegal activities
- Gatherings not related to the project.
- Capital expenditure, unless explicitly eligible
- Self-promotion, advertising related to other projects
- Financial assistance for individuals

7. FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING

Grants will be awarded after an announcement to an organization whose project has been selected. This will be accompanied by a letter setting out the reporting procedures, which include a report that must contain the following:

- Completed report of activities carried out.

- Collection of qualitative information: testimonies, documentation of the process, stories of change, etc. – it can be shared creatively.
- Description of the results achieved about the objectives set.
- The financial report of the project. This document shall be accompanied by a financial statement and supporting documents explaining the use of the grant. Reporting template to be provided by CIER.
- Grantees Organizations must be open to hosting a site visit (2 days) to their community with CIER and/or One Drop Foundation at a meaningful project step.

8. HOW TO SUBMIT A PROJECT

- All application should be received by June 11th at 11h59 pm.
- If looking for support or if you have questions, please include **Youth and Water Initiative** in your subject heading when emailing.
- For support or questions in filing out the application, creating a budget and timeline, or if you have any difficulties, you can contact either Reiley Terbasket (rterbasket@yourcier.org) or Thomas Mckay (tmckay@yourcier.org) at CIER.
- An acknowledgement of receipt will be sent to all organizations having submitted a project. Only accepted eligible files presenting all the required documents will be evaluated.
- At the end of the selection process, an email and letter will be sent to all organizations that have submitted a project to inform them of the decision on their application. Applicant will receive an answer by the June 26th, 2023.
- Applicants who are not successful can request a follow-up with CIER to offer feedback.
- We understand many communities face barriers to applying (such as a digital fracture or lack of internet); if you need alternative ways to send your proposal or face specific barriers, please let us know.



ANNEXE I

Applicant form questions

2023-2024

Indigenous Youth, Art, and Water Initiative
Application Form

1. Are you an organization or an individual applying with an organization?
2. Contact Person, e.g. name, address, phone, email
3. Languages spoken (preferred language first):
4. Details on your organization/Entity/Sector/Community.
5. What is your status as an organization? (Ex: NGO, Indigenous Government, Institution, governmental, social corporation, social entrepreneurship.)
6. Specify if Indigenous or Non-Indigenous
7. What does water mean to your organization? What art form(s) or field(s) will you engage with?
8. How are Young Indigenous People actively engaging and target groups in your project? We want to ensure youth and young people have decision-making steps throughout the project process; what mechanism will be implemented to ensure their voice is leading the art social project?
9. How will you involve in your project a diversity of perspectives of the different community members in the creative process? (Elders, leaderships, intergenerational, other sectors than art, etc.)? Who will you collaborate or partner with during this process – feel free to propose an interdisciplinary or intersectoral collaboration.
10. What water issues and perspectives/relationships connected to water do you wish to address in your project?
11. What social or systemic impact, related to water are you targeting to achieve?
12. Do you have creative ideas on how to document the process of this project to share back the results and the process steps with your community and broader audience? How would you like the final diffusion to look?
13. What capacity, expertise, lived experiences or mechanisms do you have to complete this project successfully?
14. How will you ensure cultural protocols, safety, and reciprocity are respected during the process?
15. Do you have any accessibility mechanisms to integrate an inclusive process (e.g., gender equity, inclusion for people with disabilities, translation to include Indigenous language speakers - Elders, etc.)
16. What ideas, skills, practices, and knowledge would you like to share with other participating organisations?
17. What support other than financial would you like to receive in this journey?
18. Any complimentary details you would like to provide us?

Make sure you read the applicant guide and selection criteria. Max 500 words per question