



Funding Approval Policy

Last updated on: May 12, 2026

Board approved on: June 16, 2026

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for Coastal Indigenous Prosperity Society's (the "Community Prosperity Fund", the "Fund") funding approval process. The policy encapsulates the parameters contained in the governing documents as well as recommendations for best practices.
- 1.2. There is a separate policy for Coast Conservation Endowment Fund Foundation (the "conservation fund").
- 1.3. Definitions are in Appendix A.

2. Sustainable Development and Community Prosperity Fund

Goals

- 2.1. The goal of the Community Prosperity Fund is to support sustainable conservation-based economic development as well as programs and infrastructure that support conservation, stewardship, culture, and community well-being for the participating First Nations. The fund will support activities and investments that:
 1. Respect the Nations' inherent rights to self-determination and encourage collaborative conservation based economic opportunities;
 2. Strengthen the Nations' marine governance and stewardship capacities including compliance, enforcement, and guardian activities;
 3. Promote the shift to more prosperous, diverse, equitable and sustainable regional economies;
 4. Create and sustain jobs, businesses and new conservation based economic opportunities for the Nations and other coastal communities;
 5. Promote investment certainty;
 6. Support healthy coastal communities;
 7. Promote partnerships with local governments, coastal communities, non-governmental organizations, private sectors, stakeholders, and coastal zone user groups; and
 8. Maximize leveraging of GBS PFP Funds for economic and community development investments, including federal and provincial program funds, philanthropy funds, impact investment funds and conventional finance.

Fund Allocation

- 2.2. The allocation of the federal contributions to CIPS between the participating First Nations is based on the Great Bear Sea Project Finance For Permanence Tier 1 Agreement Schedule 1 dated June 21, 2024.



3. Funding Approval Process

- 3.1. Funding will support and empower First Nation communities through a highly collaborative process, reflecting the belief that sustainable change is achieved through partnership and empowerment, not prescriptive solutions.
- 3.2. Funding may be approved for project-specific purposes, or as unrestricted contributions to the operating budget of a First Nation undertaking specifically identified projects eligible for funding.

4. Minimum Requirements

- 4.1. Eligible applicants include:
 - i) A participating First Nation (PFN)
 - ii) Delegated agent of a PFN
 - iii) An entity wholly or partially owned by the PFN, and
 - iv) Individual members of the PFN
- 4.2. Applications must be endorsed by the First Nation's band council, other acceptable governing body, or, in the case of an Economic Development Corporation (EDC) with delegated authority from the First Nation's band council for economic development, by the EDC's Board of Directors.
- 4.3. The endorsement must confirm the First Nation (or Board of Directors) has conducted an evaluation of the project with results that favourably confirm the viability of the economic development benefits that will result from the activities to be conducted with the funding. Projects must further the Fund's Community Prosperity Goals.
- 4.4. In circumstances where an application is submitted directly by the First Nation government, but formal endorsement by the Nation's band council or other acceptable governing body has not yet been secured, Coast Funds may proceed with its review provided that senior leadership of the First Nation confirms that a Band Council Resolution or equivalent written endorsement is forthcoming. No funds will be disbursed without receipt of this endorsement.
- 4.5. Projects may not be for ineligible activities. Appendix B provides a list of ineligible activities.
- 4.6. Projects must be environmentally sound and sustainable. The overall environmental impact of the project, including whether any use of natural resources involved will be reviewed. Economic development projects will ideally complement, and in any case must not be inconsistent with, the goal of conserving the integrity of ecosystems within the Northern Bioshelf region.
- 4.7. If funding is for a business, economic viability will be evaluated based on the submission of a comprehensive business plan and appropriate management in place to execute the plan.
- 4.8. If funding is for the development of infrastructure or business capacity, the project must have tangible and measurable benefits and appropriate management controls in place.
- 4.9. Projects must have appropriate technical assistance to ensure its success. 9. Projects must have received any required statutory permits or approvals.

5. Other Funding Considerations

- 5.1 Applicants are encouraged to utilize project commitments as leverage to attract additional funds from other sources.
- 5.2 Applicants are encouraged to maximize the value of each funding approval dollar by developing projects with regional value, replicability if applicable, and efficiencies that will catalyze and strengthen regional cooperation, leverage regional resources and maximize regional access and inclusiveness.
- 5.3 Applicants are encouraged to maximize the degree of positive environmental or social impact that will result from the project, directly and indirectly.
- 5.4 Multi-year funding commitments will be considered for projects, with disbursements made upon meeting pre-determined milestone targets.



- 5.5. Funding from the Community Prosperity Fund may also be used for planning and capacity development activities.
- 5.6. Applicants are encouraged to provide complete applications well in advance of the proposed commencement date for projects, to minimize the risk of incurring expenditure for a project that may not be approved. In exceptional circumstances the Board will approve retroactive funding for reasonable work plan expenditures incurred by applicants up to three months prior to the date the application is approved by the PRC or Board. In no event will funding be provided for expenditures incurred prior to the date a full and final application is submitted.
- 5.7. In general, applications for refinancing are not eligible for funding. However, the Board may at its discretion approve refinancing funding under exceptional circumstances.

6. Developing Project Applications

Project Concept

- 6.1. Staff will work closely with applicants from PFNs in the early stages of developing a project concept. Staff will confirm that a project concept meets the eligibility criteria to proceed to a full application. To determine a project's eligibility, applicants are encouraged to submit a Project Summary as early as possible during the project concept stage.

Funding Application

- 6.2. Staff will develop and maintain application guidelines which are readily accessible to the First Nations. All project applications must include:
 - 1. Name of applicant First Nation or other organization or individual applying for the funding approval (in which case, name of the Participating Nation that will endorse the application);
 - 2. Funding request;
 - 3. A brief description of the nature of the business, or if not a business, the goal of the project. In either case, an explanation of how it aligns with the goals of the Fund;
 - 4. If a business, a comprehensive business plan is required; and
 - 5. If not a business, explanation of the scope of work of the project, activities to be funded, along with specific deliverables of the work for which funding is being requested, and the project time period with start and end dates.
- 6.3. In some cases, significant resource constraints may limit a PFN's ability to develop an application. Funding from the CIPS resource and implementation support budget may be available, on a case-by-case basis, to support the development of an application.

7. Review and Approval

- 7.1. Staff will work with the applicant throughout the review and approval process and expediently address any concerns regarding project eligibility and viability. Recommendation for approval of all applications will be based on the following considerations:
 - 1. Meets all minimum requirements;
 - 2. The project's viability and reasonable likelihood of success, with success measurements clearly defined. This evaluation should include the identification and evaluation of all relevant risks associated with the successful undertaking of the project; and
 - 3. Whether the project presents notable opportunities or unacceptable risks for the Fund from a high level strategic, leveraging and relationship perspective.
 - 4. An understanding of the level of support by the Nation's band council or other acceptable governing body.
- 7.2. Staff will provide a recommendation to the senior leadership team to collectively approve or decline applications for amounts up to and including \$150,000 that relates to capacity, feasibility analysis or planning of projects. For applications exceeding \$150,000, staff will provide the Project Review Committee and the Board with a recommendation to approve or decline the application. Recommendations will include:
 - 1. Key issues and considerations;
 - 2. Conditions and estimated timeline for disbursement of funds; and



3. Interim and final reporting requirements.
- 7.3. If an application is not approved, due consideration will then be given to the feasibility of funding or otherwise facilitating the provision of technical support to the applicant, for the purpose of enabling the re-submission of a successful application.

8. Monitoring, Reporting and Project Evaluation

- 8.1. A funding agreement must be signed by CIPS and the applicant prior to disbursement of any funds. The funding agreement will address:
 1. Disbursements conditions and estimated timeline; and
 2. Reporting requirements.
- 8.2. The applicant will be required to submit regular reports that demonstrate appropriate monitoring and evaluation including the degree of success in achieving stated objectives as presented in the final project application.
- 8.3. Staff will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the terms of the funding agreement and evaluating the outcomes of all funded projects.

9. Other

- 9.1. A standardized procedural manual is followed by staff to ensure that consistent procedures are used for fair and equitable funding decisions.



Appendix A

1. Definitions

“Participating First Nation” means:

For the purposes of the federal contribution to CIPS, the North Pacific Coast Indigenous Nations who are signatories to the GBS PFP Closing Agreement and the MPA Network Agreement as of their effective dates.



Appendix B

1. Examples Of Activities Eligible and Not-Eligible

Projects and businesses that may be eligible for funding:

- » Aquatic plants and shellfish aquaculture
- » Fisheries and community fisheries infrastructure (e.g. refrigeration, boats, warehouses, smoking)
- » Technology and communications infrastructure (e.g. broadband internet) *
- » Wildlife viewing
- » Tourism, including cruises, trails, and strategic cultural/marketing infrastructure *
- » Economic development capital corporations that utilize funding standards consistent with the Fund's policies and guidelines.
- » Transportation infrastructure (e.g. airports, wharves, marinas, fuel docks) *
- » Small Business infrastructure (e.g. retail market space, small business or artisan incubator facilities) *
- » Cultural, administrative and emergency and operations centres supporting stewardship and conservation efforts.
- » Stewardship and community facilities, infrastructure and equipment that support the presence of Guardian programs in communities and remote areas. *
- » Stewardship and community facilities, infrastructure and equipment that support the stewardship efforts in line with MaPP and the MPA Network. *
- » Other infrastructure that will support any of the above projects and businesses. *

Funding will not be approved for any of the following activities:

- » Activities to promote British Columbia, Canada or the Philanthropy Donors, provided that this restriction will not prevent the Fund from acknowledging the contributions of British Columbia, Canada and the Philanthropy Donors;
- » Any activity inconsistent with GBS PFP Closing Agreement, or the MPA Network Goals and Design Elements or MPA Conservation Objectives or with MaPP objectives;
- » Any financial costs or obligations incurred by First Nations with respect to any consultations with any government or corporation concerning that government or corporation's duty to consult or accommodate, except in support of MPA management or other marine stewardship initiatives;
- » Costs associated with meeting statutory obligations of the provincial or federal governments or other entities, except in support of marine conservation capacity building for participating First Nations. This restriction is intended to prevent the off-loading of statutory obligations, or the costs of meeting statutory obligations, of the provincial or federal governments to First Nations. This restriction is not intended to preclude the funding of negotiations or discussions between Participating First Nations and the provincial or federal governments regarding the implementation of a conservation or stewardship project or an economic development Project;
- » Large-scale and/or industrial resource development or extraction projects including fossil fuel exploration, development, or transport facilities; extraction of subsurface resource including undersea mining; bottom trawling; open net-cage finfish aquaculture; or dumping of marine pollutants;
- » Political activities as defined by the Income Tax Act;
- » Any activity or expenditure for initiatives not consistent with provincial laws, permits, regulations, established policies, orders and/or approvals;
- » Any activity inconsistent with the Fund's constitution;
- » Federal Commercial Fishing licenses for species targeted for protection in support of the Conservation Objectives of a MPA or the Network Goals and Design Elements;
- » Trophy hunting for game;
- » Cetacean, Bear and/or carnivore hunting;

* Please note the following are required documents for infrastructure project funding applications:



All infrastructure applications must also include both of the following documents:

- » For an application proposing an infrastructure project to be considered eligible, applicants must submit one of the following documents that will be considered equivalent to a business plan:
- » A business plan for a business that will benefit directly from the infrastructure investment; or
- » A summary analysis of the projected direct economic benefits to existing businesses in the community, and the potential for creation of new businesses directly resulting from the infrastructure investment.
- » All infrastructure applications must also include both of the following documents:
- » A detailed capital expenditure budget for the infrastructure investment, including valid quotations for materials and construction; and
- » A detailed multi-year operating and maintenance (O&M) budget to support the infrastructure.