

BC Hydro Peace Agricultural Compensation Fund

Supporting the Peace Region's opportunity for agricultural production and agrifoods economic activity

Intake 1 – Summer/Fall 2019

Application Guide



Fund Overview

The BC Hydro Peace Agricultural Compensation Fund was established to provide support to Peace Region agricultural producers, industry associations and other eligible non-profits to support the region's opportunity for agricultural production and agrifoods economic activity. The fund is governed by a board of directors that broadly represent the agriculture industry in the Peace Region, administered by Northern Development Initiative Trust and overseen by BC Hydro.

The fund is managed as a sustainable endowment, which means only a portion of the total endowment's funds will be made available for grant programs each year to ensure the fund is managed in perpetuity for the benefit of the Peace Region. It is anticipated that total grant funding in 2019 and 2020 will be somewhat limited due to the startup nature of the fund. The first intake of 2019 has a total funding allocation of \$250,000.

Features and benefits of the fund:

- Supports a broad range of organizations whose work directly benefits agriculture in the Peace Region
- Flexible project eligibility guidelines to reflect the complex and diverse needs of the agriculture sector in the Peace Region
- Regional decision-making leverages local knowledge and the best information available to acknowledge the Peace Region's agricultural strengths, needs, challenges and opportunities
- An efficient approval process for complete and well documented applications

Objectives

The purpose of the fund is to support the Peace Region's opportunity for agricultural production and agrifoods economic activity. Distribution of the agricultural fund will target activities that will enhance agricultural lands, operations or agrifoods economic activity in the B.C. Peace River Region (as defined by the boundaries of the Peace River Regional District). Funding decisions will be made by the fund's board of directors, which consists of 10 appointees who broadly represent the agriculture industry in the Peace Region.

Application Intake Deadlines

Given the startup nature of the fund, the agricultural fund will only have one intake in 2019. **The intake deadline for applications is September 30, 2019.**

Application intake deadlines and details are publicly posted on the [Northern Development website](#).

Program Eligibility

Eligible Organizations and Criteria

The BC Hydro Peace Agricultural Compensation Fund will provide grants to eligible applicants that best meet the program criteria:

- Corporations, cooperatives, individuals and/or partnerships active in agriculture in the Peace Region (including new agricultural industry entrants and young agricultural operators)
- Registered non-profit agricultural organizations in the Peace Region
- Peace Region industry associations, agencies, boards and councils
- Educational institutions undertaking research directly related to the Peace Region

Ineligible Organizations

- Local governments
- Provincial and Federal Government
- Political organizations
- Third party fundraisers

Eligible Project Categories

The agriculture fund may consider a broad range of project categories to allow for consideration of projects that can provide maximum benefit to the agriculture sector. Eligible project categories for 2019 are as follows:

- Research and development to directly benefit agriculture in the Peace Region
- Market development for the agricultural sector
- Training and education used to engage youth and support new entrants into the agricultural industry and new agricultural enterprises
- Capital investment for agriculture industry infrastructure
- Transportation and supply chain improvements for agriculture

Eligible Project Types

Projects must address one or more of the following criteria related to agriculture in the Peace Region, to be eligible:

- Land productivity (such as new crops and technology)
- Capital investment for agriculture industry infrastructure
- Land base management (such as shelterbelts or windbreaks, weed management programs and improvements to grazing capacity)
- Land base improvements and infrastructure (such as livestock watering facilities, fencing for wildlife control and irrigation)
- Market access and infrastructure (such as regional value-added initiatives, institutions and services)
- Infrastructure and transportation improvements (such as cleaning and packing, warehousing and storage and distribution facilities to support the vegetable industry and new agricultural commodities)
- Sustainability (adoption of green and alternative technologies)
- Climate change response (on-farm responses and adaptations)
- New product and practice viability (studies, demonstrations to test new products and methods)

Ineligible Project Types

The following activities are ineligible for funding:

- Core activities of government or non-government agencies or programs, including lobbying activities
- Development of policy related to land or agricultural management
- Administration of government regulations
- Engagement in enforcement and compliance activities
- Multi-year funding projects will be considered in future years based on investment returns

Ineligible Costs

- GST
- Costs incurred (work started and/or deposits paid) prior to approval

Funding Terms and Reporting

After a project has been approved, the applicant will be required to enter into a formal contribution agreement with Northern Development. Once the agreement is signed, the applicant may request advance funding up to 90% of the amount approved for the project. The remainder of the funding will be held until the project is completed and final reporting is submitted and approved by Northern Development.

If a successful proponent does not request an advance, project costs will be reimbursed up to the maximum amount approved once the project is completed and final reporting is submitted and approved by Northern Development.

The applicant must submit all invoices along with the final report (using Northern Development's reporting form) describing how the funds supported the Peace Region's opportunity for agricultural production and agrifoods economic activity.

Review Process

Northern Development will review the application to ensure completeness, eligibility and fund availability. Northern Development may contact the applicant if any questions arise from the applications to provide clarity to the decision-making committee.

Applications that have a second funding contribution source will receive additional consideration during the evaluation process.

Applications that meet eligibility requirements will be provided to the BC Hydro Agricultural Compensation Fund board for final review and funding approval decision.

Successful applicants will receive an approval letter and instructions to contact Northern Development staff to enter into a contribution agreement. Unsuccessful applicants will also receive written notification and information on future intakes.

To Apply

Please review all program documents in detail as incomplete applications will not be reviewed by the board.

Completed application forms with all supplementary materials should be provided electronically to Northern Development by email.

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Questions?

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