

# Community Places Application Guide

## Program Overview

Northern Development's Community Places Program supports the creation, restoration or enhancement of community spaces not attached to educational institutions. Community places projects will strengthen the social and cultural fabric of communities, enhances community pride, supports a culture of civic engagement and creates a draw for tourism marketing and business retention and expansion.

## Funding Terms

Up to **\$30,000** to a maximum of **70%** of the eligible project budget.

## Application Intake Deadlines

Northern Development approves Community Places projects on a quarterly basis.

Applications must be received prior to midnight on the intake deadline day to be eligible for consideration in that funding cycle.

In fairness to all grant applicants, applications that are received after the deadline will be moved to the next funding cycle.

## Eligibility

### Eligible Applicants

\*All applicants must be located within Northern Development's service region.

- Local governments
- Registered not-for-profits
- Registered First Nation bands

### Eligible Projects

Eligible projects are community oriented and promotes opportunities for community gathering, is accessible to all members of the community and is not limited to a private membership. Individual project eligibility is determined by the Trust at its sole discretion. The types of projects that may be eligible include, but are not limited to:

- Community hall/event space renovations
- Clubhouse building improvements
- Public washrooms
- Outdoor multi-use plaza/pavilion
- Community gardens
- Parks/playgrounds/pavilions
- Dog parks
- Local government managed trails and walkways
- Free of charge outdoor recreation facilities ex. skating rinks, tennis courts, basketball courts, skate parks

## Eligible Costs

- Capital expenditures considered to be direct and necessary for the successful implementation of an eligible project
- Contractor fees
- Incremental third-party project management
- Rental of tools and equipment for construction work
- Wages for direct project labour
- PST

## Other Eligible Costs (In-Kind Volunteer Labour, Internal Equipment Use, and/or Monetized Donations)

- In-kind (volunteer) labour contributions, internal equipment use (heavy equipment or machinery owned by the applicant to be used during the project), and/or monetized donations (donated materials, equipment, or services from third-parties) may be considered
  - *When noting in-kind (volunteer) labour contributions in the budget and under other funding sources in the application form, applicants must attach a breakdown of the calculation used for the in-kind amount. For valuing volunteer labour as an in-kind contribution to the project, the following rates are eligible:*
    - *\$15/hour for volunteer labour*
    - *\$30/hour for volunteer skilled labour (trades requiring specialized ability or training)*
    - *In-kind (volunteer) labour contributions must be documented once projects commence (volunteer time logs for labour with name, date, and hours) in order to verify volunteer contributions*
  - *When noting internal heavy equipment use in the budget and under other funding sources in the application form, applicants must attach a breakdown of the calculation used for that amount*
    - *A maximum rate of \$75/hour may be used*
    - *Internal equipment use must be documented once projects commence (log with equipment type, date, hours, and hourly rate) in order to verify*
  - *When noting monetized donations in the budget and under other funding sources in the application form, applicants must attach confirmation of the committed donation(s)*
    - *Monetized donations must be documented once projects commence and receipts must be obtained*

## Ineligibility

### Ineligible Costs

- GST
- Subsequent applications that are determined to be phasing of, or, an incremental improvement of a previously approved project that achieves a similar purpose. (e.g. applying for swing set after receiving funds to put rubber surface at the same playground)
- Costs incurred (work started and/or deposits paid) prior to signing an agreement with Northern Development
- Regular or routine repair and maintenance
- Administration costs related to the project
- Costs related to planning, design, engineering and environmental reviews
- Purchases of construction equipment or tools
- Real estate and other fees related to purchasing or leasing land, buildings, or facilities
- MERCs (CPP, EI, vacation pay, WCB) and other benefits
- Renovations to spaces that are not available for public use
- Costs associated with programming

- Projects and/or project activities that may displace any level of government from its core obligations are not be eligible for funding (*including infrastructure costs such as paving, sidewalks, sewer/water*)

## Application and Program Requirements

Only applications that meet these requirements will be processed.

- Complete Application Form
- Detailed project budget using Northern Development's Project Budget Template (*required; in excel format*)
- Verification of approval from other funding sources (*e.g. approval letter or contract; required prior to approval, except in the Northeast*)
- Applicants are responsible for securing a resolution of support and must provide a copy to Northern Development.
  - The appropriate government agency is determined based on the location of the project. For example:
    - A project within a First Nations community/reserve requires a band resolution of support
    - A project within the municipal boundary requires a resolution of support from the municipality
    - A project outside the municipal boundary that is not within a First Nations community requires a resolution of support from the regional district
  - Sample Resolution: *THAT, the (insert appropriate government name) supports the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust from the (insert applicant organization name) for the (insert project name).*
- Society certificate of incorporation (*required for not-for-profit applicants*)
- Before photo(s)
- Most recent annual financial statements
- If applicable: Detailed quotes
- If applicable: Letters of support from community organizations
- If applicable: Lease agreement/or user agreement
- If applicable: Business case or other market research
- If applicable: Asset management plan
- If applicable: Community alignment document (*OCP, council priorities, strategic plan, economic development plan etc.*)

## Application Assessment

Northern Development staff undertake comprehensive due diligence of each funding application received, which may include contacting relevant agencies and organizations as part of the review process.

All projects are assessed on the strength of the application, requested funding percentage, applicant contribution, and strategic factors identified in the funding application package.

Strategic factors:

- The extent of Northern Development's financial contribution to the eligible project budget
- The extent of the applicant's financial contribution to the eligible project budget
- Has the applicant provided quote(s) supporting the entire project budget?
- Will the project utilize contractors/labour from within the Northern Development region?

- Is the applicant making a non-financial contribution to the project (in-kind volunteer labour and/or internal equipment usage)?
- Will the project take place in an unincorporated community or municipality with a population of 1,000 or less?
- Will the project take place in community with a population between 1,001 to 5,000?
- Has the applicant provided evidence of broad based support from multiple stakeholders?
- The applicant has demonstrated how ongoing operating and maintenance will be managed over the asset's life span?
- Will the project result in reduced operation/maintenance/related costs over the life-cycle of the asset?
- Will the project result in a reduced environmental footprint?
- Has the applicant provided a copy of the organization's asset management plan/strategy?
- Does the project demonstrate alignment with a larger community strategic document (e.g OCP)?
- Will the project address health and safety concerns at the facility?
- Will the project improve accessibility for people who experience disabilities?
- Has the applicant provided relevant market research/business case for the project?
- Will the project result in resident/workforce attraction or retention in the community?
- The project supports a multifunctional space/amenity and provides multiple uses (e.g. a sports field that will be used for soccer, field lacrosse, and track and field).
- Does the project foster cultural awareness and contribute to inclusivity?
- Does the project improve the physical appearance, character, or natural environment in the community?
- Does the project create spaces that offer ancillary uses for revenue generation?

## Reporting

Applicants should be aware that there are reporting requirements for this program and should be prepared to meet them. Projects supported through the Community Places Program must be evaluated and verified following the completion of the project prior to releasing funding. A project is considered complete when photos of the completed project have been taken and all related expenses have been invoiced and entered in the applicant's accounting software. There are no ongoing key deliverable reporting requirements for this program.

## To Apply

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

Completed application forms with all supplementary materials should be provided electronically to Northern Development by email to [info@northerndevelopment.bc.ca](mailto:info@northerndevelopment.bc.ca).

## Resources

- [Important Dates](#)  
Intake deadlines, Regional Advisory Committee Meeting and Board Meeting schedules.
- [Funding Program Matrix](#)  
Available funding programs and eligibility criteria.
- [Application Process](#)  
Details on the process of applying and getting approved for Northern Development funding.
- [Post-Approval Process](#)  
Process and responsibilities for successful funding applicants.

## Questions?

### **Northern Development Initiative Trust**

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