

Program Overview

The Canada-B.C. Workforce Tariff Response Forestry Grant – Forestry Training Fund is designed to support workforce needs by enabling the recruitment, training and retention of individuals with demonstrated labour market attachment, including those impacted by recent macro-economic transition. Funding for this program is provided [in part] by the Government of Canada through the Canada-British Columbia Workforce Tariff Response. This program guide outlines the framework for accessing funding and is restricted to tariff-impacted workers and the forestry sector. Funding is intended to deliver fast, targeted labour market intervention that protect workers, support employers and stabilize communities throughout the entire province of B.C. Program goals include:

- Rapid upskilling/re-skilling for workers to pivot to in-demand occupations
- Employer-driven and supported training that prevents layoffs and supports workforce retention. Enabling employers to retain or redeploy workers to pursue opportunities and remain competitive
- Targeted support for forestry contractors and small operators to diversify into larger scale and local infrastructure projects aligned with emerging opportunities

Funding Terms

Up to 85% of eligible applicant's staff's combined wage and training costs over the training horizon up to a maximum of \$50,000 per employee and up to a maximum of \$1,000,000 per organization.

Application Intake

Application information for this funding opportunity is now available. Northern Development requests that prospective applicants carefully review the scope and requirements of the available funding. Staff are available to work with interested applicants to address questions, such as about the specific reporting requirements, prior to submission of a project proposal.

The online submission portal will open July 14th, 2026. Project applications will be assessed by staff upon receipt and will be presented to the decision-making committee on an established schedule. Northern Development will communicate directly with applicants to seek clarification, if needed, on their applications and to inform them of the status of approval decisions.

Eligibility

Northern Development retains discretion over which projects and costs will be considered eligible and ineligible.

Eligible Applicants

All applicants must operate in B.C., demonstrate a clear labour market need or disruption, propose eligible activities, show capacity and capability to deliver and report on outcomes and support eligible participants. Businesses headquartered outside the province of B.C. may be eligible, provided their operations and the workers benefiting from the grant support are located within the province. Eligibility is based on both the organization and the individuals served.

- Indigenous organizations and First Nations
- Corporations of any size, public or privately owned and incorporated
- Not for profit organizations whose sole purpose is to create jobs and economic benefit in their industry (i.e. community forests)

Eligible Industries

- Forestry

Eligible applicants operating in other natural resource sectors that are hiring and training displaced forestry workers may be eligible.

Eligible Projects

Funding must support training, productivity, resilience, or business transition. The types of projects that may be eligible include, but are not limited to:

- Rapid retraining of displaced workers
- Employed workers at risk of job loss are eligible for employer delivered training via wage subsidies to offset the cost of wages, provided employees would be EI eligible:
 - Employment is insured
 - Has earned more than \$2,000 in insurable earnings **and** paid EI employee premiums on those earnings in at least 5 of the last 10 completed taxation years. The current tax year cannot be considered at this time. (**Note:** The 5 years do not have to be consecutive years).
- Transitional employment, job creation or skills bridging initiatives
- Training for workers shifting to adjacent or emerging sectors
- Short-term certifications or credentials linked to immediate employment opportunities

Eligible Costs

- Lost wages from time away from work to participate in training activities
- Training fees/tuition costs directly related to the training or certification program

Ineligibility

Ineligible Projects

- Activities that primarily benefit government operations
- Capital infrastructure or permanent asset creation
- Ongoing operational or maintenance activities not directly attributable to approved participant training or employment interventions
- Projects that do not demonstrate measurable participant-level labour market outcomes
- Activities that are not directly linked to eligible participants, their training, or employment outcomes
- Projects where the primary benefit accrues to the employer rather than to participants or the broader labour market

Ineligible Costs

- Ongoing operational and business expenses: (rent, utilities, regular payroll, general overhead not tied to project delivery)
- Capital expenditures: purchase of land or buildings, major equipment purchases, infrastructure development)
- Retrospective costs: (expenses incurred before project approval and pre-application costs)
- Debt servicing/finance costs: interest payments, loan repayments and financing charges
- GST

Application and Program Requirements

All applicants are required to confirm and/or submit the following information. Only applications that meet these requirements will be processed.

- Submit a complete Canada-B.C. Workforce Tariff Response Forestry Grant – Forestry Training Fund Application Form
- Verification of approval from other funding sources
- All applications must demonstrate a connection to tariff-impacted workers, sectors, or communities and alignment with one or more of the following priorities:
 - Mid-career and long-tenured individuals in the softwood lumber sector
 - Workers and employers directly or indirectly affected by tariffs and global market shifts
 - Equity-deserving and underrepresented groups, including persons with disabilities, women, youth, Black or other racialized/visible minority Canadians, Indigenous Peoples, and individuals with less work experience
- Certificate of Incorporation for corporate entities

- Society certificate of incorporation (required for not-for-profit applicants)
- Applications must provide clear training or transition plans, funding must not be used for short-term operational financial relief

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. Applications will first be assessed for applicant and industry eligibility. Project eligibility assessment will require Northern Development to contact eligible applicants and collect further personally identifiable information for employees. All projects are assessed and scored on the key deliverables, leveraging, and strategic factors identified in the funding application package.

Key Deliverables:

- Has the applicant demonstrated the key deliverable(s) that will result from the project?

Leverage:

- 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

Strategic factors:

- Strong alignment to labour market priorities and needs
- Clear and evidence-based problem definition
- Degree of innovation (new or improved approach)
- Potential for impact on workers, employers, or the system
- Scalability and transferability
- Clear public benefit vs private gain
- Consideration of equity and inclusion
- Realistic risk identification and mitigation

Northern Development will assess The Canada-B.C. Workforce Tariff Response Forestry Grant – Forestry Training Fund applications based on the projects ability to articulate the need and alignment with the program's funding objectives. The program funds time-limited, responsive interventions with a focus on workers and communities affected by tariff-related or trade adjacent impacts in the forestry sector.

Reporting

Applicants must submit a completed and comprehensive Northern Development reporting form along with the following required attachments:

- Copies of all invoices and proof of payment
- Evidence of work completed. Applicants must make project deliverables available to Northern Development to undertake quality assurance. All documents will remain confidential
- Evidence of ability to capture and report on a monthly basis the following key data elements along with identification of a key person to interact with on this reporting:
 - **Participant Identification:** Social Insurance Number, Date of Birth, E-Mail, Address, Phone number
 - **Participant Information:** Demographics, education, employment history, equity indicators (gender, Indigenous identity, visible minority, disability, immigrant status)
 - **Interventions/Activities:** Training or support provided, start/end dates, credentials earned, associated costs, and labour market alignment (including NOC/NAICS codes)
 - **Employment Outcomes:** Employment status, employer details, hours, pay rate, and follow-up at 6 and 12 months post-program completion

Employers must demonstrate data governance for personal and identifiable information. Reporting must be provided as a condition of fund release. Funding will not flow to organizations when reporting is not received. Organizations are responsible for providing internal capacity for this requirement.

How to Apply

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

Completed application forms with all supplementary materials are to be provided electronically through the [Online Application System](#).

Questions?

Northern Development Initiative Trust

301-1268 Fifth Avenue
Prince George, BC V2L 3L2

250-561-2525

info@northernddevelopment.bc.ca

www.northernddevelopment.bc.ca