

Everything you need to know about the

Business Diversification & Sustainability Program

Northern Development Initiative Trust's
Rural and Remote Employment Initiatives Fund

September 2026

Canada



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

This program is funded by the Government of Canada
and the Province of British Columbia.



Agenda

- Background and program overview
- What we look for during assessment
- Tips and tricks for using the online funding portal
- Questions



About Northern Development



About the Trust

Service Region:

Northern Development's region covers approximately 70 per cent of the province of British Columbia, Canada. The region encompasses 39 municipalities, nine regional districts, one regional municipality and 89 First Nations communities.

The region is divided into four principal regions:

1. Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet
2. Northeast
3. Northwest
4. Prince George



Funding Program Details & Eligibility



Funding Program Background

The objective of the Rural and Remote Employment Initiatives Fund (RREIF) is to fund initiatives that support people, businesses, communities and the workforce navigate potential and realized impacts of tariffs and other economic impacts.

Broken into two phases, programming has been designed with the goal of addressing current economic gaps and potential economic impacts created by tariffs intending to help support people, businesses, communities and the workforce in rural and remote communities of Northern British Columbia.



Funding Program Background

- Under **Phase 1** of RREIF the Business Advisory Supports program allowed businesses to access third-party professional services in order to address specific tariff related impacts and to help sustain or create employment opportunities.
- With **Phase 2** we are offering the Business Diversification and Sustainability program to allow businesses to make necessary capital investments that help them address specific tariff related impacts and to help sustain or create employment opportunities.



Funding Program Overview

- **What is the funding opportunity?**

- The Business Diversification and Sustainability program is designed to enable businesses to make the necessary capital investments that allow them to diversify, expand their markets, offer new products/services, or be able to increase productivity due to new efficiencies created.

- **Eligible business can access...**

Up to \$200,000 in funding

**Towards a
maximum of 75%
of eligible costs**



Funding Program Overview

Eligible Applicants:



Small and medium-sized businesses that have been in business more than two years and have \$30,000+ in annual revenue



First Nation businesses in eligible industries



First Nation development corporations



Community contribution companies



Non-profit orgs whose sole purpose is to create jobs and economic benefit in their industries (ie. community forests)



Funding Program Overview

Applicants must be operating within one of the following Eligible Industries:

- Agriculture
- Aquaculture
- Distribution
- Energy
- Forestry
- Industrial supply chain (services and suppliers)
- Innovation/technology
- Manufacturing
- Mining
- Oil and gas
- Transportation



Funding Program Overview

- **What are some of the costs eligible under the program?**
 - Equipment, machinery and other capital expenditures
 - Technology development
 - Direct third-party project labour
 - Incremental third-party project management
 - Contractor fees
 - PST
 - Other costs directly associated with the project (to be approved on an individual project basis)



Program Timeline



Accepting applications from September 2, 2026 to October 15, 2026 at 4:00PM.



Application assessment and due diligence from October to December.*



Decisions provided to applicants in January 2027.*



Projects completed by end of 2027.



*Subject to change based on program application volume.

Application Review and Assessment



So, you hit submit....now what?

- **Our staff will start reviewing applications and will be looking for:**
 - Did the applicant submit all required attachments?
 - Are their quotes to support the budget?
 - What are the anticipated outcomes of the project (*ie. cost savings, revenue increases, job creation etc.*)?
 - Are there other funding partners identified (*ie. other grants*)? If so, have approvals been confirmed?



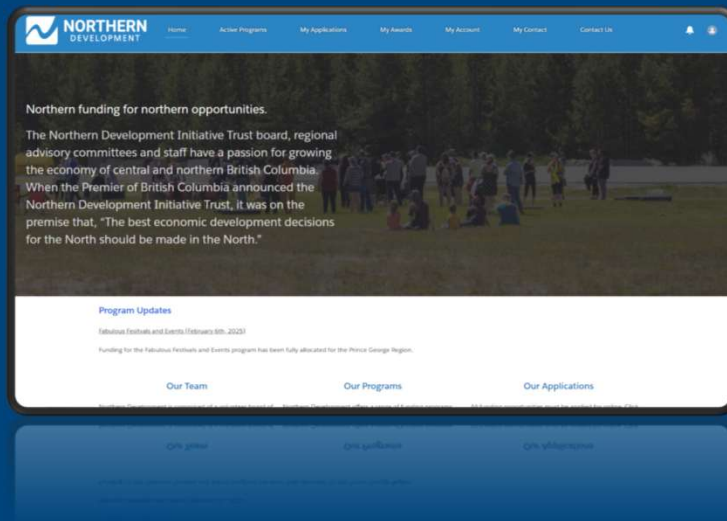
So, you hit submit....now what?

- **Our staff will start reviewing applications and will be looking for:**
 - Has the applicant clearly outlined the tariff related impact they are facing and how this project addresses that impact?
 - Has the applicant provided a detailed proposal and business plan document (ie. feasibility study, business plan etc.) that outlines how this project will address the challenges the business is facing as a result of tariffs?
 - Has the applicant outlined the employment opportunities that will result from this project? Will there be training or certifications required as a result?



Online Funding Portal

Northern Development utilizes an online platform for all programs:



Did you know, all the questions that you will be asked throughout the application are listed in the Application Guide?

Online Funding Portal

Some tips to help you navigate:

- Prepare your application ahead of time – write and save answers in a Google or Word doc so that you can copy and paste into the portal
- Have all attachments (quotes, financial statements, etc.) easily accessible to upload into the system
- Watch our 'Online Application Video Tutorial' to see a full walkthrough of the system
- You may not be able to go backwards in the system to a page you already completed. Don't skip a question with the intention to go back later.



Online Funding Portal

- **Biggest questions, issues, etc.:**

- I have an account but I can't get in
- Budget, funding request and other funding sources
- Saving a copy of your application once you submit
- Where do I upload....
- I submitted an application on behalf of another organization (grant writer) and now I can't see it? Did something go wrong?
- I got an error message
- I can't change the information about the business in my application



Other Northern Development Funding Programs



Other Funding Opportunities

Other business development funding programs include...

Competitiveness Consulting Rebate

Provides a rebate to small and medium-sized businesses in eligible industries for customized consulting services.

Small Business Recovery Consulting Rebate

Helps businesses reduce the barrier to accessing professional expertise and recover the costs of third-party consulting projects.

Northern Industries Innovation Fund

Provides incremental funding to support innovation projects that increase the competitiveness of local businesses in traditional industries.



Questions?

Have a question about the program?

Start with a conversation with Northern Development staff:

Contact Jordan Barrett, Manager, Partner Programs

jordanb@northerndevelopment.bc.ca or 250-561-2525



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