

Mi'kmaw Cultural Activities Program

Guidelines 2026 – 2027



Introduction

Cultural traditions and language preservation are a sustaining factor for Mi'kmaw communities. Opportunities to explore, revitalize, share, and experience Mi'kmaw culture, both traditional and emerging, are vital to the long-term vitality of communities.

Program Objectives

- Support activities that contribute to the long-term continuance of Mi'kmaw culture.
- Encourage more cultural activities that explore and/or celebrate Mi'kmaw culture, both traditional and emerging.
- Develop new and strengthen existing relationships among groups and organizations engaged in Mi'kmaw cultural activities.
- Encourage more participation in and access to Mi'kmaw cultural activities by all Nova Scotians.

Our Commitment to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility

- Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage supports our communities to thrive by promoting active living, tourism, and Nova Scotia's diverse culture, heritage, and languages. We pride ourselves on helping to grow communities and organizations by providing programs and services that support these areas.
- We are committed to ensuring that our programs and services are free of discrimination and barriers, and value equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA). By applying this lens and ensuring it is a core value in our programs and decision-making processes, we are taking steps to address the long-standing systemic barriers that impact many communities in our province.
- Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage is committed to advancing equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility across Nova Scotia, and we support partners who share in this commitment.

Eligible Applicants

- Only Nova Scotia-based Mi'kmaw bands, groups, or organizations are eligible to apply.
- Partnerships with non-Mi'kmaq organizations are permitted; however, the lead applicant must be a Mi'kmaw band or organization.

Eligible Projects

- The program is intended to assist special or one-time projects.
- Cultural activities that explore and/or celebrate Mi'kmaw culture, both traditional and emerging.

Ineligible Projects and Expenses

The following activities and expenses are not eligible for support:

- Fundraising events,
- Capital building or development, major equipment purchases and print publications
- Activities that occur prior to the application deadline date.
- Costs incurred or commitments made prior to the receipt of an application.

Funding Levels

Tier 1

- **For requests of \$5,000 or less.**
- Applicants are not required to make a cash contribution.

Tier 2

- **For requests of \$5,001 to \$10,000.**
- Applicants must contribute a **minimum of 25%** towards eligible project costs. This includes a **minimum of 10% cash** from the project applicant. The remaining **15%** can be In-kind if it relates directly to the expenses of the project (please see FAQs for definition of in-kind and a sample budget on page 5).

Please consider accessibility and the environment when planning your project or event. For more information visit [Accessibility resources - Government of Nova Scotia, Canada](#).

Application Process

Applicants are strongly encouraged to speak with the Program Officer to discuss their proposed activity well in advance of the deadline and before applying.

- Applicants must complete the application in full.
- All projects must have defined start and end dates.
- Relevant support materials such as photos and support letters are encouraged.
- Completed application forms must be signed and dated.
- Applications can be emailed (preferred), delivered by hand, courier, or sent by regular mail (post marked on or before the deadline).

Requirements

Applicants are required to submit the following documents:

- Project Overview
- Project Budget
- Applicable supporting documents (e.g. letters of support, photos)

A. Project Overview Document

This document forms the core of your application. Please address the following areas:

1. Organizational Overview

Provide a brief description of your organization. Please include your mandate and primary purpose

2. Project Description

Provide a detailed description of your proposed project or event, including:

- Key activities
- Target participant/audience
- Who was engaged/consulted in project planning?
- Project personnel (including names, roles and responsibilities)
- Project's goals or objectives, including if you have undertaken this project before
- Partnerships: are you collaborating with other organizations? If so, who are they, describe their role(s) and attach letters of support.

3. Project Alignment:

Clearly explain how the project's goals or objectives align with one or more of the themes of this program (as listed on page two) and explain how you aim to achieve these goals or objectives.

4. Impact

Describe the anticipated impact of your project/event on the community. Who will benefit and how?

5. Workplan

Provide a detailed work plan for the project/event, including key milestones in project planning. Dates can be tentative. See Frequently Asked Questions for a sample work plan

6. Evaluation

What does success look like? Explain how you will evaluate the project and include applicable evaluation documents (e.g., surveys, questionnaires, reports).

7. Acknowledgement

If your application is successful, how will you acknowledge the Province of Nova Scotia (e.g., social media, website, print).

B. Project Budget

Applicants must submit a **detailed project budget** that includes the following components:

- Total Project Costs
- Revenues and Expenses

Funding contribution requirements correspond to the tier of funding requested:

Tier 1

- Applies to funding requests of \$5,000 or less.
- Applicants are **not required** to provide a cash contribution.

Tier 2

- Applies to funding requests between \$5,001 and \$10,000.
- Applicants must provide a **minimum of 25%** of eligible project costs.
 - Of this amount, at least **10% of the total project cost** must be a cash contribution from the applicant organization.

Please Note:

- Ensure all contact information is accurate and that listed contacts can be reached.
- A program officer may contact you using the information provided in your application.

Application Deadline and Project timelines

- Applications are accepted and reviewed once a year on **May 15th**. Applications must be received no later than **11:59 p.m. on the deadline date**. Applications postmarked on the deadline date are acceptable.
- Projects can start **no earlier than the application deadline date**. Activities that occur prior to the deadline date are ineligible.
- If a deadline date falls on a weekend or holiday, applications that are received or postmarked for the following business day will be accepted.

Application and Evaluation

Applications are reviewed by a committee that includes two external representatives from the Mi'kmaw community, along with program staff. The committee provides funding recommendations to the Minister for final approval.

Applications are reviewed with the following considerations:

- **Program Goals:** the extent to which the project relates to the program's goals.
- **Collaboration, Partnership and Interchange:** demonstrate partnership, promotes the interchange of knowledge and other resources within the Mi'kmaw community.
- **Quality:** reflects a clear organization, methodology, and project management structure.
- **Context and Goals:** are clear, realistic, and achievable. Proposed evaluation methods adequately measure outcomes.
- **Costs:** A complete and reasonable budget that aligns with expected results. Sources of other financial support are confirmed.

Please note: it can take up to 12 weeks for applications to be reviewed and results communicated.

Conditions of Funding

Applicants who are approved for funding will receive a letter outlining the terms and conditions of their funding. Funding recipients must meet the following conditions:

- Payments are made in the name of the organization or group shown as the applicant on the application form. Payments cannot be made to individuals.
- Payments are made at **100% of amount recommended funding.**
- Funds must be used for the activity described in the approved application.
- The department must be notified **in advance** of any changes in the activity, including start and end dates, location, or any other significant changes.
- If the project is not undertaken after funding is issued, the recipient must return the funds to the department.
- Funding recipients must submit a **final report within 30 days of the project end date.** If a final report becomes overdue, no funds can be released for any subsequent grant approved through the departmental or Arts Nova Scotia programs until the overdue report has been received.
- Funding recipients are subject to provincial audit. Please retain all receipts.

Please note: if the **Final Report** becomes overdue, no funds can be released for any subsequent grant approved through either the departmental or Arts Nova Scotia's programs until the overdue report has been received.

For more information, contact the Community Supports and Infrastructure Team:

Telephone: (902) 424-5793

E-mail: CommunitiesNS@novascotiaca

Courier: Communities Nova Scotia

Homburg Building

Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism & Heritage

1741 Brunswick Street, 3rd Floor Halifax, NS B3J 3X8

Mailing Address: Communities Nova Scotia

Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism &

Heritage PO BOX 456

Halifax, NS B3J 2R5

Does your project need volunteers?

VolunteerNS.ca, is a free searchable database that connects non-profits with skilled volunteers in Nova Scotia and nationwide. Volunteers can also easily search for opportunities, while organizations create profiles and receive support to fill vacancies, fostering community connections.

Visit: <https://www.volunteersns.ca>



Frequently Asked Questions

Are public schools eligible to apply?

- Applications from public schools may be eligible if:
- Project/activity takes place outside of regular school hours and is not part of regular school-based programs.
- Proposed activity meets at least one of the program goals and aligns with program principles.
- Project costs are eligible.

What is an in-kind contribution?

- An in-kind contribution is the provision of goods or services that does not involve a cash payment.
- In-kind contributions must be directly related to the project and have a corresponding expense identified in the project budget.

Here is an example: *An applicant is contributing the use of its meeting space to the project. If the room wasn't being used for the project, it would be available for other activities or for rent.*

Project Expenses	
	Cost
Supplies	\$150
Facility Rental	\$150
Professional Fees	\$200
Totals	\$500
Total Expenses =	\$500

Project Revenues			
	Amount in Cash	Amount In-Kind	%
Donation	\$50		10%
Applicant (use of room)		\$150	30%
Funding Request	\$300		60%
Totals	\$350	\$150	100%
Total Revenues =	\$500 (350+150)		