

Annual Report
2022/23



NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST
Empowering First Nations in British Columbia



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Foreword

As the New Relationship Trust embarks on a time of profound transformation, we reflect on the 2022-2023 fiscal year as a pivotal waypoint in our journey as an organization.

Since the NRT’s creation in 2006 we have worked tirelessly to empower First Nations communities in BC in their own journeys, and to steward the initial funding of \$100 million in a way that delivers immediate impact and security into the future.

In those 17 years our board of directors and dedicated staff have honed our program delivery, built trusted relationships, delivered on partnerships and laid the guiding strategies to steer our organization’s course and meet the self-determined priorities of the Nations we serve.

The initial funding retains nearly its full value, and is now managed as a perpetual fund that will continue to support First Nations in our core program areas of Nation Building, Economic Development, Education, Language, Youth and Elders. In 2022-2023, this translated to 35 Nation-building projects; funding for 79 entrepreneurs and communities to support their businesses through equity matching grants; 12 education projects for kindergarten to Grade 12; 272 post-secondary scholarships and bursaries awarded through the NRT Foundation; and 99 youth, Elder and language projects.

NRT also made great strides in further developing our strategic partnerships to administer funding across an array of initiatives.

As we transitioned out of a global pandemic, the NRT was honoured to work with the Government of British Columbia and the Vancouver Foundation to deliver funding to 23 Indigenous non-profits

disproportionately impacted by the pandemic to support their process of recovery and resilience building.

Our success in administering clean energy funds on behalf of the provincial government under the BC Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative laid the groundwork for the Clean Energy Diesel Reduction funding partnership, to further support remote Nations reliant on diesel for energy generation. We also delivered provincial funding to advance Indigenous participation in the federally and provincially regulated cannabis sector.

These strategic partnerships herald the beginning of a rapid expansionary phase for the NRT that will redefine our organization. We are pleased to announce we have been entrusted to administer more than \$400M in the coming years on behalf of the

provincial and federal governments to support Indigenous communities and organizations in BC across multiple, deeply impactful fronts. These historic investments will support Indigenous food security and sovereignty, enable First Nations’ participation in BC’s implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and allow First Nations to play a pivotal role in advancing BC’s clean energy economy, among others.

NRT is honoured to serve as a proven conduit to deliver these transformative changes alongside our core commitments to empowering First Nations in BC to build thriving, resilient communities on their own terms. ■



NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST

Empowering First Nations in British Columbia

NRT is a capacity building catalyst for First Nations in BC. We are committed to providing tools and funding opportunities to our clients that advance their nation-building initiatives and establish resilient, healthy, and vibrant communities.



Vision

Empowered, healthy, resilient, and thriving First Nations communities for all generations.



Mission

To be a partner and catalyst in supporting capacity development transformation across First Nations in British Columbia.



Values

ACCOUNTABILITY

We continuously work on behalf of First Nations, demonstrating accountability and transparency through meaningful engagement, ongoing evaluation, and reporting.

INTEGRITY

We build and sustain trust through fairness, honesty, and professionalism that reflects the best interests of First Nations.

HUMILITY

We observe, listen, and have empathy in collaborating with all our partners to find new and better ways to serve First Nations.

RECIPROCITY

We seek opportunities to share, learn and draw upon the unique cultures, customs, and wisdom of First Nations in delivering relevant, responsive, and innovative programs.

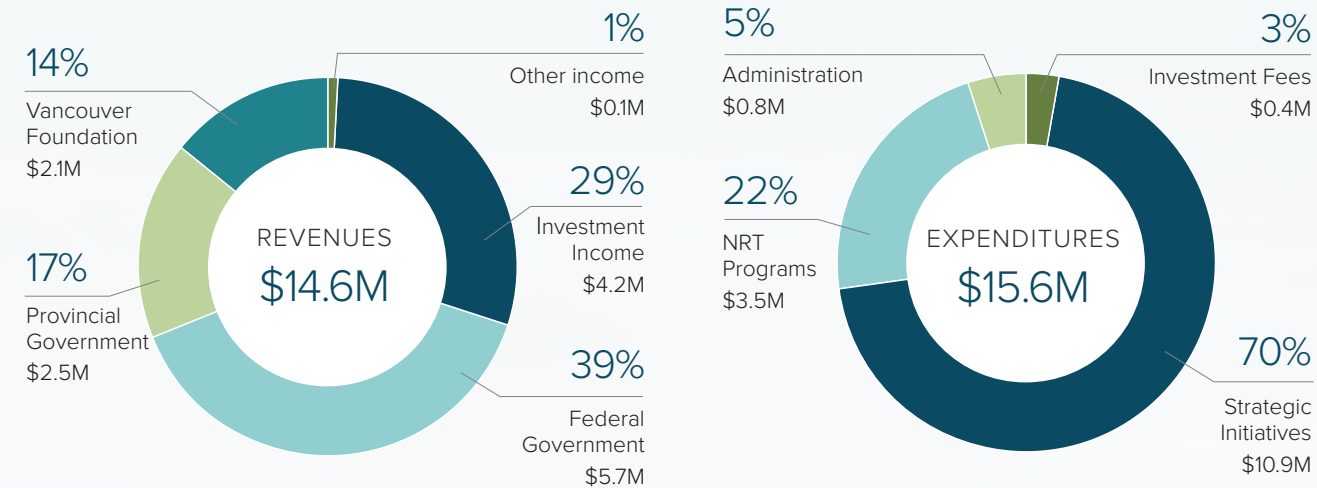
RESPECT

We make decisions that respect the unique circumstances, goals, and aspirations of each First Nation.

2022/23

Fiscal Year in Highlights

Net Activity



Program Delivery

35	Projects linked to Nationhood initiatives funded	\$13M	Funding grants to First Nations
26	Clean energy projects funded	\$6.6M	Financial leverage raised through equity matching grants
23	Indigenous-led nonprofits supported	0.76%	Administration costs as % of investment fund

17 YEARS of NRT Funding

Highlights Since Inception

Over the last 17 years we have invested

\$78M







across NRT programs and

\$116M

in total grant funding across

7,708

projects.

 NATION BUILDING \$31,978,422	 EDUCATION \$20,822,785	 CLEAN ENERGY \$31,978,422
 LANGUAGE, ELDERS & YOUTH \$17,190,994	 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT \$8,471,633	 OTHER STRATEGIC INITIATIVES \$15,193,571



UNYA Resilience Grant



The Urban Native Youth Association (UNYA) is one of 23 Indigenous-led nonprofits funded by NRT through the Indigenous Recovery and Resilience (IRR) grant in 2022, thanks to a transformational partnership between the BC Government, the Vancouver Foundation and the United Way to support nonprofits disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

The IRR offered timely support in overcoming ongoing challenges in recovery in the post-pandemic era for the UNYA, which provides advocacy, preventative and support services for Indigenous youth in urban settings by empowering and amplifying their voices, creative spirits and personal journeys.

“Indigenous youth are one of the fastest-growing demographics,” says Lucas Riedl, Director of Youth Engagement for UNYA. “We really want to make sure that they are put in a position to succeed. We always say that

youth lack the opportunity, not the ability. And we’re here to provide those opportunities.”

Riedl emphasizes that UNYA’s approach is about ensuring their programs fit the needs of Indigenous youth, not the

other way around. “So we’re all about listening to them, taking feedback from them, and working in the areas that they want us to work with them in.”

He is grateful not only for the funding to bolster the wrap-around care UNYA provides at

such a critical time, but also the ease NRT brought to the funding relationship.

“Funders like New Relationship Trust are really helpful coming out of the pandemic,” he says. “We have security in this program now for the next three years moving forward, and it gives me time to do some more administrative work and some more relationship building and networking with new funders and seeking out new opportunities to get funding moving forward.” ■

We always say that youth lack the opportunity, not the ability. And we’re here to provide those opportunities.

Katzie First Nation

Nation-building can take many forms, depending on the unique needs of each First Nation. For the Katzie Nation, through a years-long process in partnership with the New Relationship Trust, it meant advancing the community’s vision for itself.

The partnership launched in 2018 with the first of three Nation Building grants, which provided funding to develop and implement an Environmental Management Plan and Subdivision Development Law. These two initiatives were significant in allowing the Nation to fulfill their obligations under the land code.

Following these major advances, the community received funding support to conduct a broad restructuring of their corporate entities, paired with the development of an Economic Development Guidebook.

Stacey Goulding, Chief Administrative Officer for the Katzie Nation, notes that the guidebook was instrumental to “the chief & council, board of directors, myself and executive staff under the development corporation in understanding what their roles are, and further initiatives that they would want to work towards in the future to support sound business practices.”

In 2022, the Nation launched an overhaul of their Human Resources Manual with funding support from the NRT, including a manager’s guidebook, that would prove vital to supporting a culturally aware and sensitive work environment.

“Since then, and through the process,” explains Goulding, “we identified the need to hire an internal HR manager,

and this project has helped support this HR manager with understanding the difference with working outside a First Nation and working inside a First Nation when it comes to administrative culture.”

For First Nations early in their Nation-building journey, Goulding recommends beginning with a comprehensive community plan or strategic plan as a good starting point.

“It brings the community together,” she emphasizes. “It demonstrates their voice matters and their voice can be carried through in all the initiatives that the administration plans to take on to better support them.” ■

For First Nations early in their Nation-building journey, Goulding recommends beginning with a comprehensive community plan or strategic plan as a good starting point.



Partnerships

NRT establishes and maintains partnerships with First Nations, public and private organizations that share common goals and values in order to leverage funds and minimize administrative costs.

NRT’S CURRENT PARTNERS ARE:

- PacifiCan
- Province of BC
- All Nations Trust Company (ANTCO)
- Nuuchahnulth Economic Development Corporation (NEDC)
- Tale’awtxw Aboriginal Capital Corporation (TACC)
- Tribal Resource Investment Corporation (TRICORP)
- Community Futures Development Corporation of Central Interior First Nations (CFDCIFN)
- Stó:lō Community Futures Development Corporation
- Native Fishing Association
- Vancouver Foundation
- Coast Funds
- Barkley Project Group
- Sustainable Projects Group
- BC Assembly of First Nations
- Health Canada
- Indigenous Services Canada
- BC Hydro
- Natural Resources Canada
- Coastal First Nations – Great Bear Initiative
- First Nations Summit
- First Nations Public Service Secretariat
- National Consortium for Indigenous Economic Development

TARGET	2022-2023	STATUS
At least one strategic funding partnership is established annually for the delivery of programming linked to self-determination and Nationhood initiatives.	3 strategic funding partnerships established.	Achieved
At least one strategic partnership that promotes an innovative approach for moving economic reconciliation forward within First Nation communities in BC is supported.	3 strategic partnerships supported.	Achieved
Collaborate with at least 30 First Nations and strategic partners each year on challenges, needs, priorities, and ideas to develop new ways of supporting First Nations in BC.	34 collaborations undertaken.	Achieved
Achieve at least one strategic relationship per year that enables NRT to leverage an external organization’s capabilities in Nation building.	2 strategic relationships established.	Achieved

NRT Funding Program

Nationhood Grants

NATION BUILDING GRANTS

\$1,705,157 INVESTED IN 2022-2023

In 2021, three funding programs related to First Nation governance initiatives (Direct Support, Nation Governance, and Tribal Council Policy) were amalgamated into a new and streamlined initiative: Nation Building.

The NRT now provides funding opportunities for First Nations, Indigenous organizations under the authority of a First Nation, and Tribal Councils in BC, to support Nation-building activities according to their self-determined priorities. Eligible projects can receive up to \$50,000 to strengthen the institutional, governance, and community capacities in reclaiming and rebuilding resiliency, self-determination and sovereignty within each Nation’s own context.

REBUILDING NATIONHOOD INITIATIVE

\$1,000,920 ADMINISTERED IN 2022-2023

In 2020, the NRT, in partnership with the First Nations Summit, First Nations Public Service Secretariat and the National Consortium for Indigenous Economic Development launched a pilot program to develop a First Nation-led strategy that provides assessments, hands-on mentorship, and guidance to BC First Nation communities to enhance their governance policies and systems, with UNDRIP and the needs and aspirations of First Nations in BC as its organizing framework. The second phase of this initiative is now under way to further develop the learning program while also implementing the pilot program in communities.

TARGET	2021-2022	STATUS
At least 20 First Nation projects linked to Nationhood initiatives are funded each year.	35 First Nation projects linked to Nationhood initiatives funded.	Achieved
New Nationhood funding guidelines and funding platform are implemented.	Nationhood funding guidelines and funding platform implemented in 2021-2022.	Achieved

Economic Development Grants

ENTREPRENEURS EQUITY MATCHING INITIATIVE AND COMMUNITY EQUITY MATCHING INITIATIVE

\$550,000 INVESTED IN 2022-2023

NRT has partnered with the various BC Indigenous Financial Institutions (IFIs) to offer an equity matching initiative intended to assist BC Indigenous entrepreneurs and First Nation Businesses with equity-matching funds to support, modernize or expand a business in BC.

NRT provides equity match funding of up to \$5000 for First Nations entrepreneurs and \$25,000 for First Nations businesses to reduce the cash burden for entrepreneurs in meeting their equity requirements of a business loan. Funds are administered by the partner IFIs.

INDIGENOUS RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY GRANT

\$1,947,000 MILLION ADMINISTERED IN 2022-2023

The Indigenous Resilience and Recovery (IRR) Grant provided funding to Indigenous nonprofit organizations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and facing ongoing funding and operational challenges in their post-pandemic recovery. Multi-year grants of up to \$72,000 per year were available to Indigenous-led nonprofits with annual revenues of more than \$1 million.

The IRR Grant was funded and developed in partnership with the BC Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction through the Vancouver Foundation and United Way BC – Lower Mainland.

BC INDIGENOUS CANNABIS BUSINESS FUND

\$310,000 ADMINISTERED IN 2022-2023

The Indigenous Cannabis Business Fund (ICBF) provides non-repayable funding contributions to First Nation communities and businesses and Indigenous entrepreneurs in BC that want to participate in and receive supports to advance economic development opportunities in the federally (production, distribution, and retail) and provincially (non-medical retail sales) regulated cannabis sector.

Funding of up to \$12,000 is available for Community Planning and Engagement activities, and funding of up to \$250,000 is available for business planning, design and capital costs.

The ICBF initiative was developed in partnership with the BC Assembly of First Nations, the network of BC IFIs, Health Canada and Indigenous Services Canada’s Strategic Partnership Initiatives, and the Province of BC through the BC Cannabis Secretariat.

Clean Energy Grants

BC INDIGENOUS CLEAN ENERGY INITIATIVE

\$7,175,383 ADMINISTERED IN 2022-2023

NRT administers funding on behalf of the Government of Canada’s Pacific Economic Development Canada (PacifiCAN) and the Province of BC to deliver the BC Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative (BCICEI).

Funded through the federal government’s Strategic Partnerships Initiative (SPI) and the BC provincial government’s CleanBC plan, BCICEI provides up to \$500,000 in support and capacity-building funds to Indigenous communities developing clean energy projects, helping to bridge the gap in early-stage funding and assisting some remote communities in reducing their dependency on conventional diesel power generation.

COMMUNITY ENERGY DIESEL REDUCTION PROGRAM

\$2,209,173 ADMINISTERED IN 2022-2023

The Community Energy Diesel Reduction (CEDR) Program was developed in 2022 partnership with Coast Funds and the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation as part of the Ministry’s Remote Community Energy Strategy to achieve the CleanBC goal of reducing diesel electricity generation and heating in remote communities by 80% by 2030.

Eligible, off-grid remote communities that rely on diesel fuel for electricity generation can receive funding through three streams:

- Community Energy Planning (up to \$95,000)
- Demand Side Management (up to \$300,000)
- Renewable Energy Generation (up to \$2,000,000)

TARGET	2022-2023	STATUS
At least five annual funding opportunities are established and delivered to Indigenous Financial Institutions in BC to support viable community-based business projects.	6 annual funding opportunities established and delivered.	Achieved
New and innovative criteria and funding streams are established and implemented, accessible to Indigenous entrepreneurs through the network of Indigenous Financial Institutions in BC.	New criteria and funding streams established and implemented.	Achieved

Language, Elders & Youth Grants



ELDERS & YOUTH GRANTS

\$312,000 INVESTED IN 2022-2023

The NRT BC First Nation Elders Grant Initiative provides grants up to \$5000 for groups, communities and organizations representing First Nation Elders in BC to develop and deliver community programs that benefit and build capacity for Elders, including storytelling, culture camps and participation in events and gatherings.

The NRT BC Youth Grant Initiative provides grants up to \$5000 for capacity-building projects in areas such as leadership, mentorship, team building, language and traditional cultural activities. NRT also provides funds to the BC Association of Friendship Centres to support the annual Gathering Our Voices Aboriginal Youth Conference.



LANGUAGE GRANTS

\$ \$122,700 INVESTED IN 2022-2023

The Language Grant program provides funding opportunities to First Nation communities in British Columbia for initiatives that revitalize First Nation languages and supports activities that build capacity to encourage and create new fluent speakers.

Grants of up to \$5000 per year are available to BC First Nations and First Nation Language Groups for activities such as language lessons, language camps and immersion programs.

TARGET	2022-2023	STATUS
At least 20 Youth, Elder and language projects are funded each year.	99 Youth, Elder and language projects funded: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 36 Youth Projects• 37 Elder projects• 26 Language projects	Achieved

Education Grants



\$807,800 INVESTED IN 2022-2023

Education is a key to strength for First Nations. Assisting First Nations individuals to pursue and complete their education and training goals is a high priority for NRT, achieved through the following components:

Supporting K-12 Initiatives

The K-12 Education Grant program supports First Nations students from kindergarten to Grade 12 in their transition to healthy, engaged and productive young adults, empowering students to aspire to higher educational outcomes through increased opportunities.

Grants up to \$8000 per year are awarded to eligible BC First Nation schools and BC school classrooms with majority First Nation students. In 2022-2023, NRT invested **\$107,800** for 12 projects in K-12 learning environments that create connections to First Nation culture and traditions, building the capacity, confidence and motivation for students to be secure in their First Nation identity.

NRT Scholarships & Bursaries

NRT invested **\$700,000** towards scholarships and bursaries to assist First Nations students in achieving post-secondary education and training goals. This initiative awards funding based on qualification criteria and the student's proposed contribution back to First Nations communities.

Partnerships

NRT supports the NRT Foundation to create funding partnerships with First Nations, corporations, organizations, and public and private scholarship organizations to increase the capacity of BC First Nations through investments in education. These partnerships enable the NRT Foundation to award more scholarships and bursaries each year.



The NRT Foundation is a charitable non-profit society that was created by the NRT to advance the education goals of Indigenous students in BC through fundraising and the distribution of scholarships and bursaries.

Our mission is to assist Indigenous Peoples in BC separately and collectively to meet their education goals, and to support the educational components of Indigenous language revitalization.

To date, the Foundation has leveraged more than **\$6.8M** in support from new partners, and **3,659 scholarships and bursaries** worth **\$16.6 million** have been distributed.

The NRT Foundation was created in 2011 to seek additional funding partners for education awards and to issue tax receipts to companies and individuals that contribute funds, allowing the Foundation to use its charitable status to attract additional support for NRT's education initiatives.

Today, the NRT Foundation oversees NRT's education initiatives and is leveraging donations with the goal of building an endowment fund of \$30 million to offer Scholarships and Bursaries in perpetuity.

“ My [PhD] research looks at Indigenous communities here in Canada, and the impact of extractive projects and different forms of agreements on their community wellness indicators in the short and the long-term. In doing so I really hope to help communities in their decision-making processes and support their movements toward self-determination. [The scholarship] been a really invaluable support in not only supporting my academic outcomes and goals but also in creating some balance and space for myself to connect with others, with family and my community.

My idea of success is not necessarily tied to academic measures that we would normally think of. I'm more interested in supporting the other Indigenous students...but also recognizing that I've learned a little bit about one specific thing and I would love to be able to bring that back to my own community and help community members outside of a university. I hope that Indigenous students will see themselves in the classroom material that I teach, in the world views that I bring, and see that academia is a place where they can belong and feel seen as well. ”

Emily Salmon, Cowichan Tribes
– 2022 scholarship recipient



The NRT Team

2022/23

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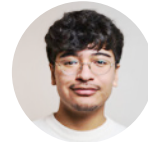
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