



NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST  
INVESTING IN FIRST NATIONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

# NATION GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE GUIDELINES

## GOVERNANCE CAPACITY

### GOVERNANCE CAPACITY INITIATIVE DESCRIPTION

The New Relationship Trust (NRT) – ***Nation Governance Initiative*** – assists First Nations in British Columbia (BC) to complete “Nation Building” projects. NRT will provide the following funding support:

- A maximum of \$25,000 per project will be available where one (1) First Nation is involved.
- A maximum of \$50,000 per project will be available where two (2) First Nations are involved.
- Projects must identify a minimum of 25% equity (own or other sources) to support total project costs.

The *Nation Governance Initiative* supports First Nations to complete Nation-building and self-determination projects to research, explore, and practice First Nations rights and title and their authority and jurisdiction to decide over their lands, waters, resources, citizens, and services in a modern era context. As an outcome of the *Nation Governance Initiative*, NRT will place electronic copies of completed project documents on the *First Nations in BC - Resource Portal* ([www.fnbc.info](http://www.fnbc.info)) so that the information will be shared with other First Nations.

The application process for the *Nation Governance Initiative* requires the completion of the full application as well as supporting documents before the closing date. Feedback will be provided on applications and a chance for edits will be provided until the closing date. Only those applicants who have submitted all supporting documents with final edits will be considered and evaluated. Applications will be evaluated against the *Nation Governance Initiative* eligibility guideline. First Nations that have not been funded by NRT previously will be given priority.

### ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS

#### First Nations

- First Nations in BC - single First Nations or First Nations working in partnership to complete projects.
- No more than one (1) project per First Nation can be open at a time. First Nations are required to complete existing or current projects with NRT before applying for new funding.
- Band Council Resolutions for the project must be signed by Chief and Council.
- First Nations that meet the criteria and that have not been approved for NRT funding in previous years will have a higher priority than applicants that have recently been approved for NRT funding.

#### Tribal Councils

- Tribal councils are only eligible to administer a project on behalf of 2 First Nations that form a partnership.
- Tribal councils are required to identify which First Nations will form the partnership. Partnering First Nations are each required to provide their own signed Band Council Resolutions regarding the project.
- Only Band Council Resolutions will be accepted as confirmation of project support. Letters of support are not acceptable as confirmation of project support.
- Tribal councils can be contracted to complete work on behalf of the First Nations only when tribal council capacity and resources are needed.



## INELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS

- Consultants cannot be the applicants. NRT requires that First Nations are the project applicants.
- Non-profit societies, development corporations, associations, Friendship Centers, committees, collectives, and other similar organizations are ineligible.
- First Nations will not be eligible for NRT *Nation Governance Initiative* funding until they are up to date with reporting requirements from projects previously funded by NRT.

## ELIGIBLE PROJECT CATEGORIES & TYPES

The *Nation Governance Initiative* will support projects that are relevant to the following categories and types:

- Facilitating how to enact traditional laws in modern era
- Process to draft and approve laws
- Monitoring and enforcement of laws (e.g. addressing infringements)
- Ratifying community engagement protocols
- Developing citizenship codes
- Territory and natural resource management codes / laws / taxes
- Defining territory / shared territory
- Defining relationship with other First Nations and governments (e.g. BC, Canada)
- Dispute resolution (e.g. fund independent arbitration with other First Nation)
- Assertion of title and rights practices
- Negotiating Nation to Nation agreements
- Creating leasing review / approval processes

## ELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS

- Hosting workshops, community forums, that will produce tangible deliverables or specific outcomes
- Professional and consulting fees (up to 75% of total eligible costs)
- Communications costs such as newsletters, documents, surveys (up to 25% of total eligible costs)
- Mentorship / Work Experiences
- Supplies / Materials (up to 25% of total eligible costs)

## INELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS

- Administrative and overhead costs
- Corporate / business projects
- Business planning
- Honorariums
- Attending conferences, workshops
- Capital asset purchases, computer hardware
- Advertisements, promotion, marketing, or entertainment costs
- Existing staff wages or salaries (on-going program costs)
- Travel expenses
- Operating costs for new or previous programs that are ongoing, year after year.



## REPORTING & FINAL DELIVERABLES GUIDELINES

NRT funding agreements will include Terms and Conditions for financial and project reporting. In addition, recipients will be asked to contribute deliverables that can be shared with other First Nations to promote Nation building. All Project Reports and Deliverables are public information that NRT may publish on the *First Nations of BC Resource Portal* ([www.fnbc.info](http://www.fnbc.info)).

## SUBMIT APPLICATION ASAP

Email: Matt Cook-Contois  
mattcookcontois@nrtf.ca

Fax Number: 1-604-925-3348

Mailing Address: New Relationship Trust  
Attn: Matt Cook-Contois  
3188 Alder Court  
North Vancouver, BC V7H 2V6