

REFBC Grants & Indigenous Community Planning

The Real Estate Foundation of BC, created through provincial legislation, is a funding organization that works to advance sustainable land use.

We do this in two ways: by making grants to communities and non-profits, and by partnering on projects that fill gaps in knowledge and collaboration.

Since 1988, REFBC has granted over \$90 million for work that strengthens communities, protects our shared land and water, and supports sustainable real estate practices.



Learning about traditional land management along the banks of the Columbia River / Ktunaxa territory. (Photo: Wildsight)

REFBC's Grants Program

What We Fund

REFBC's grants program supports projects that contribute to sustainable land use and real estate practices.

Grants can support:

- Applied research
- Public and professional education
- Policy analysis and law reform

Grant dollars can be used for project-related costs, including staffing and program delivery, project coordination, communications, consultant fees, workshops, and travel.

Grant dollars cannot be used for capital costs (buildings, land, equipment), partisan advocacy, or activities that primarily provide financial benefits for individuals.

Interest Areas

Through grants and other projects, REFBC works to advance sustainable practices in five interest areas:

- Land use
- Built environments
- Fresh water
- Food lands
- Real estate profession

To learn more about these interests and current funding priorities, visit refbc.com/interest-areas.

Eligibility

To apply for funding, the lead applicant must be a registered non-profit organization or community contribution company (C3). We accept applications from:

- Charities, societies, and non-governmental organizations
- Professional and trade associations
- Colleges and universities
- First Nations
- Local and regional governments
- Social enterprises registered as C3s

If you're unsure about whether your organization is eligible, please email us at grants@refbc.com.

For more details about timelines, budget guidelines, and eligibility, please visit refbc.com/grants/faqs.

Examples of Projects We've Supported

District of Fort St. James

For a housing action plan guided by sustainable land use principles and the needs of people in Fort St. James and Naklazdli First Nation. (2016 | \$20,000) ●

Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council

To develop and publish a community-based Land Use Planning Handbook to support First Nations land governance and planning. (2016 | \$50,000) ●

Okanagan Nation Alliance

To gather Syilx (Okanagan) traditional ecological knowledge and apply learnings (laws, practices, responsibilities) to the watershed planning process for the Kettle River. (2017 | \$60,000) ●

Okanagan Nation Alliance

To develop community watershed management plans and pilot an implementation plan based on Indigenous (Syilx) knowledge and policies. (2016 | \$50,000) ●

Skidegate Band

To use video and web tools to share their Comprehensive Community Plan with community members and other Nations. (2017 | \$7,500) ●

Sumas First Nation

To develop a Water Wise program to identify issues affecting the Fraser River watershed. Program leaders will work with local farmers to develop strategies for conserving water and mitigating agricultural impacts on the watershed. (2018 | \$17,090) ●

Tahltan Band Council

To support a Land Code Working Group in developing, reviewing and sharing a community-created Land Code. (2017 | \$35,000) ●

Tahltan Central Government

To support land use planning - including community consultation, mapping, and data review - for the Tahltan traditional territory. (2016 | \$92,700) ●

Tsawwassen First Nation

For consultation with members on a comprehensive housing strategy and development of a Tsawwassen First Nation Housing Authority. (2020 | \$76,400) ●

Tseshah First Nation

To engage community members in land use planning for the territory, reserve lands, and fee simple lands. (2019 | \$50,000) ●

Tsleil-Waututh Nation

To conduct research on traditional and western models of land tenure, and their impacts on the Nation's territory. (2019 | \$50,500) ●

Tsleil-Waututh Nation

To develop a community climate change resilience plan, which will include policies for managing resource and development consultations in their territory. The Nation will also create resources to support other communities to develop resilience plans. (2017 | \$150,000) ●

Village of Telkwa

To conduct a comprehensive review and rewrite of its zoning bylaw in order to incorporate smart growth principles. (2018 | \$37,075) ●

Wilp Luutkudziwus Education and Economic Society

To map lands, waters, and resources within their territory to inform land use planning, educate community members, and establish a framework for land stewardship and reconciliation. (2019 | \$66,500) ●



Storytelling beside
Lake Nicola / Syilx
(Okanagan) territory.
(Photo: REFBC)

For a complete list of grants made by REFBC, visit refbc.com/funded-grants.

Resources for Local Governments

REFBC Publications

The Real Estate Foundation of BC has commissioned public opinion research on land use, the built environment, fresh water, and local food systems.

LAND USE

➔ bit.ly/SLUpoll

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

➔ bit.ly/SBEpoll

FRESH WATER

➔ bit.ly/water-poll-2018

FOOD LANDS

➔ bit.ly/REFBC-food-poll

With input from local government experts and community planners, the Real Estate Foundation of BC examined trends in land use across BC and made recommendations to improve sustainability and increase community collaboration.

BEYOND THE HORIZON

➔ bit.ly/SLU-report

In partnership with the Smart Growth Task Force, the Real Estate Foundation of BC examined the strengths of BC's Climate Action Charter and built a case for closer integration of land use and transportation planning.

GROWING SMARTER

➔ bit.ly/growing-smarter

Grant-Funded Resources

BC Tomorrow is an educational tool for students to test land use scenarios and model their impacts on land, water, ecosystems, and local economies.

➔ bctomorrow.ca

The **Canada Green Building Council** is working with building owners and local governments to improve building retrofit practices in BC through energy benchmarking, training, and policy recommendations.

➔ bit.ly/CAGBCretrofits

The **Community Energy Explorer**, developed by the UBC Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning, includes maps, teaching tools, and other resources for community energy planning.

➔ energyexplorer.ca

The Community Energy Association's **CEEP Quickstart Community of Practice** provides coaching and training on Energy Step Code implementation for BC communities with < 75,000 people.

➔ bit.ly/CEA-CEEP

New Commons Development has prepared a **Community Developers Toolkit** outlining the steps needed to develop affordable housing.

➔ bit.ly/NCD-toolkit

The **Community Lifecycle Infrastructure Costing (CLIC) Tool** helps local governments understand the long-term costs associated with different development and land use scenarios.

➔ bit.ly/CLICtool

The **Fair Mining Collaborative** has created resources and guides to help communities considering or affected by resource development.

➔ fairmining.ca

Through the **Green Shores** program, the Stewardship Centre for BC works with local governments, developers, and property owners on eco-friendly shoreline solutions to sea level rise, erosion, flooding, and habitat conservation.

➔ bit.ly/green-shores

The **Institute for Sustainable Food Systems** at KPU has created a searchable, online database of local food system policies in BC.

➔ kpu.ca/isfs/foodpolicydatabase

The **Municipal Natural Assets Initiative** helps communities assess the value of natural assets that provide infrastructure services.

➔ mnai.ca

The **POLIS Water Sustainability Project** team has created a handbook for water champions, which includes first steps, best practices, and models for community watershed governance.

➔ bit.ly/POLIShandbook

The **Rental Housing Index**, developed by the BC Non-Profit Housing Association, is a detailed map of rental housing in a community, with information on prices, affordability, and housing needs.

➔ rentalhousingindex.ca