



WORLD TRADE CENTRE®  
**WINNIPEG**

Serving all of Manitoba  
Au service de tous les Manitobains

# INDIGENOUS ENTREPRENEURS

## GUIDE

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UPDATED: July 2021

## BUSINESS LOANS, GUARANTEES AND GRANTS

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### **Aboriginal Arts - Grant Programs**

The Aboriginal Arts Office is committed to ensuring that the Canada Council's services and programs best meet the needs of Canada's First Nations, Inuit and Métis arts communities. There are a broad range of grants and services offered to professional Canadian artists and arts organizations.

Contact: [The Arts and Cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples - Grant](#)  
Canada Council for the Arts  
Toll free: 1.800.263.5588

### **BDC Indigenous Banking**

BDC Aboriginal Banking offers customized, long-term and flexible solutions specially designed for Aboriginal entrepreneurs. BDC is also involved in activities and initiatives that may be useful for Aboriginal entrepreneurs.

Contact: [Indigenous Banking](#)  
Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)  
Toll free: 1.877.232.2269

### **Business Contribution Fund**

The Business Contribution Fund (BCF) provides non-repayable contributions to eligible Aboriginal businesses in Manitoba which may be used towards the start-up, expansion or acquisition of a viable business.

Contact: First Nations Applicants:  
See First Peoples Economic Growth Fund Inc.

Métis, Non-Status Indian Ancestry, Inuit Applicants:  
See Louis Riel Capital Corporation

### **Communities Economic Development Fund**

The Communities Economic Development Fund (CEDF) is designed to provide Aboriginal people with financial assistance to start or expand small to medium-sized businesses in northern Manitoba or below the 21st township boundary in conjunction with federal assistance. CEDF is a provincial Crown Corporation.

Contact: [Communities Economic Development Fund](#)  
15 Moak Crescent  
Thompson, Manitoba R8N 2B8  
Phone: 204.778.4138  
Toll free: 1.800.561.4315  
Fax: 204.778.4315

### **Community Futures Program**

There are 16 Community Futures organizations (CFs) established throughout rural and northern Manitoba. The goal of each CF is to assist the communities in their region to develop their economic potential by providing business loans up to \$150,000 and assisting with business and community development.

Contact: [Community Futures Program](#)  
Toll free: 1.888.303.2232  
Phone: 204.943.2905

## First Peoples Economic Growth Fund Inc.

First Peoples Economic Growth Fund Inc. (FPEGF) offers a variety of financial programs and support to new and existing Manitoba First Nations entrepreneurs and First Nations based enterprises. Also see Business Contribution Fund

Contact: [First Peoples Economic Growth Fund Inc.](#)  
102 – 1075 Portage Ave  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0M6  
Phone: 204.942.6026  
Toll free 1.888.942.6026  
Email: info@firstpeoplesfund.ca

## Louis Riel Capital Corporation

Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC) finances the start-up, acquisition and/or expansion of viable Métis and Non-Status Indian controlled small businesses based in Manitoba. Also see Business Contribution Fund.

Contact: [Louis Riel Capital Corporation](#)  
340 – 150 Henry Ave  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0J7  
Phone: 204.589.0772  
Toll free: 1.800.387.6004  
Fax: 204.589.0791  
Email: info@lrcc.mb.ca

## Metis Economic Development Fund

Metis Economic Development Fund (MEDF) stimulates the economic development activities of the Métis people of Manitoba by providing equity and capital for Métis-controlled businesses. The fund will provide up to \$500,000 in equity and capital support to Manitoba Métis owned and controlled incorporated enterprises.

Contact: [Metis Economic Development Fund](#)  
340 – 150 Henry Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0J7  
Phone: 204.589.0772  
Toll free: 1.800.387.6004  
Fax: 204.589.0791  
Email: info@medf.ca

## Tribal Wi-Chi-Way-Win Capital Corporation

Tribal Wi-Chi-Way-Win Capital Corporation (TWCC) provides loans for the establishment, expansion or diversification of self-sustaining Aboriginal businesses in Manitoba.

Contact: [Tribal Wi-Chi-Way-Win Capital Corporation](#)  
419 Notre Dame Ave  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1R3  
Phone: 204.943.0888  
Toll free 1.800.568.8488

## BUSINESS SERVICES

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### Indigenous Business Development Services

Indigenous Business Development Services (IBDS), formally known as Aboriginal Business Service Network (ABSN) is committed to providing the Aboriginal business community with a wide range of information on government services, programs and regulations that are relevant, up-to-date and accurate. ABSN also sponsors an annual Business Plan Competition where winners receive \$5,000 towards starting their business.

Contact: [Indigenous Business Development Services \(IBDS\)](#)  
Community Futures Manitoba  
Phone: 204.943.2905, Ext. 3  
Email: [blavallee@cfmanitoba.ca](mailto:blavallee@cfmanitoba.ca)

### Indigenous Chamber of Commerce

The Indigenous Chamber of Commerce (formerly Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce) is a voluntary organization of the business community which lends itself to improving business and building a better community. It works to increase wealth and prosperity by facilitating the growth of existing businesses and fostering new ones.

Contact: [Indigenous Chamber of Commerce](#)  
Phone: 204.237.9359

### Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business

Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) programs and services support Aboriginal business entrepreneurs through the stages of education (financial support for high school and post secondary students); business development (mentorship with seasoned professionals); and leadership (recognition of lifetime achievers).

Contact: [Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business](#)  
Phone: 416.961.8663  
Email: [info@ccab.com](mailto:info@ccab.com)

### CESO

CESO is a national non-profit that provides services in the areas of strategic planning, business development, accounting and finance, organizational development, community development, governance, and production and operations.

Contact: [CESO](#)  
Toll Free: 1.800.268.9052

### Procurement Strategy for Indigenous Owned Business

This program helps Indigenous firms become more involved in bidding on government contracting opportunities. Indigenous owned businesses should register their firms with the online Supplier Registration Information Service or contact the information line at 1.800.811.1148.

<https://buyandsell.gc.ca/for-businesses/selling-to-the-government-of-canada/register-as-a-supplier>

Contact: [Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business \(PSAB\)](#)  
Indigenous and North Affairs Canada  
Toll Free 1.800.400.7677  
Email: [saea-psab@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca](mailto:saea-psab@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca)

### Tax Information for Indigenous Peoples

Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) provides information to Indigenous entrepreneurs regarding the tax benefits and requirements that apply to them. Indigenous people are subject to the same tax rules as other Canadian residents unless their income is eligible for the tax exemption under section 87 of the Indian Act.

Contact: [Tax Information for Indigenous Peoples](#)  
Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)  
Toll free: 1.800.959.8281

**For more information, please contact the World Trade Centre Winnipeg:  
204.253.4888 | 1.800.665.2019 | [info@wtcwinnipeg.com](mailto:info@wtcwinnipeg.com) | [wtcwinnipeg.com](http://wtcwinnipeg.com)**

*Note to reader:*

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