



# Funding Programs Update

## CNSC Staff Presentation

CMD 23-M23

Commission Meeting  
June 28, 2023

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E-doc #7063179 (pdf)



Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne  
de sûreté nucléaire

Canada



# Presentation Outline



Overview of the Participant Funding Program



Introduce the new Indigenous and Stakeholder Capacity Fund





# Participant Funding Program



Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission

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de sûreté nucléaire

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# Program Authority and Objectives

## Program Authority

Section 21(1) (b.1) of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* authorizes the Commission to **establish and maintain a participant funding program to facilitate the participation of the public in proceedings under this Act**

The Participant Funding Program's (PFP) objectives include:

- **Enhancing Indigenous, public, and stakeholder participation**, as well as consultation, engagement, reconciliation, with Indigenous Peoples and the public in environmental assessments and Commission proceedings
- **Helping Indigenous Nations and communities and the public bring value-added information to the Commission** through informed and topic-specific interventions

**What is value-added information?**

Distinctive and relevant information that contributes to a better understanding of the anticipated effects of a project.

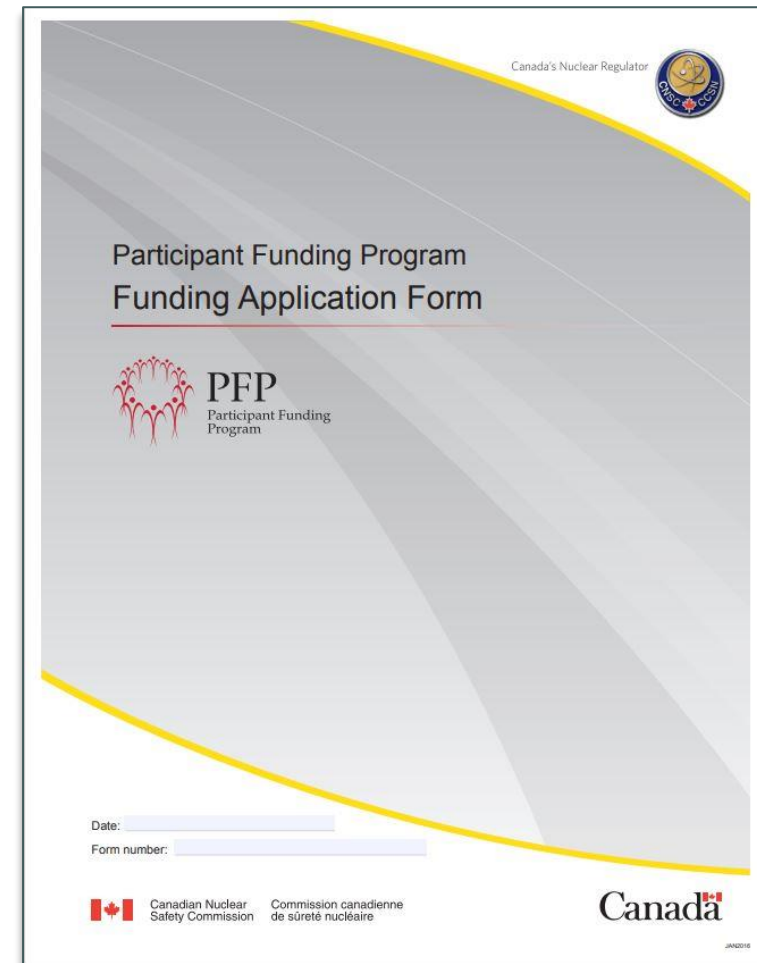




# Who Can Apply For PFP?

Indigenous Nations and communities, members of the public, and stakeholders that have one or more of the following:

- A direct, local interest in the project
- Indigenous knowledge and/or local community insight
- Interest in the impacts on treaty lands, settlement lands or traditional territories or related claims and rights
- Plans to provide value-added information relevant to the CNSC mandate and the specific matter before the Commission





# What Does PFP Fund?

## Eligible Expenses

- **Professional fees** (e.g. consultant, biologist, translator, lawyer)
- **Travel**  
(e.g. costs of travel and accommodations)
- **Other costs**  
(e.g. photocopying for a meeting, room rental, etc.)

## Eligible Activities

- Public Commission proceedings
- Environmental assessments under CEAA 2012
- New projects not designated under the Impact Assessment Act
- Regulatory Oversight Reports
- Meetings with communities related to specific projects
- Indigenous knowledge studies related to specific projects

All costs must be justified in the funding application form





# How Funding Is Awarded

## Rigorous management, oversight and review process:

- External Funding Review Committee (FRC) makes recommendations on applications, including funding amounts and objectives, based on the following criteria:
  - Completeness and relevance of each application
  - Total amount of funding available for each funding opportunity
  - Eligibility of the proposed activities
- All funding decisions are posted on PFP website

**Who is the external Funding Review Committee?**

Former public servants with experience in environmental assessment, licensing, CNSC licensed activities, and other PFPs





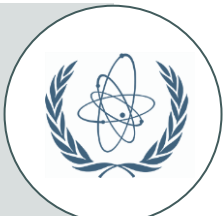
# Program Performance



CNSC staff review recipients' interventions to ensure they are meeting their contribution agreement objectives



CNSC staff monitor whether service standards are being met in order to ensure the PFP is meeting the needs of recipients



Program is recognized as an international best practice by:

The International Atomic Energy Agency Convention on Nuclear Safety

The Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management



CNSC staff implements the recommendations received from surveys, audits, and internal reviews to continually improve the program







# Program Outlook

- In December 2022, the federal government approved \$7M over six years to enhance the PFP
- CNSC staff are expecting the PFP to continue to be in high demand
- The PFP will continue to support transparency, regulatory excellence, and public engagement





# Indigenous and Stakeholder Capacity Fund





# Indigenous and Stakeholder Capacity Fund

- **CNSC listened and responded** to capacity needs expressed by Indigenous Nations and communities and stakeholders with the **Indigenous and Stakeholder Capacity Fund (ISCF)**
- The objectives of the ISCF are to:
  - **develop and support organizational capacity** of Indigenous Nations and communities and stakeholders
  - **support building relationships** with Indigenous Nations and communities and stakeholders





# Expected Results of the Program

## Short term

Increased capacity and knowledge around nuclear activities, technologies and regulatory processes

Increased collaboration between the CNSC and Indigenous Nations and communities and stakeholders

More input from Indigenous Nations and communities and stakeholders on identified REGDOCs, discussion papers, etc.

## Long term

More Indigenous Knowledge, environmental monitoring data, and traditional land use data incorporated into CNSC's work





# Launching the Program



ISCF was built using best practices and lessons learned from the PFP and other federal programs



CNSC launched the new program on May 1, 2023 – new ISCF webpage includes Application Guide and application forms



Program was announced with a News Release, social media posts and an email to CNSC subscribers



CNSC staff have been meeting with Indigenous Nations and communities and stakeholders to explain the new program and answer questions





# Available Funding

- Federal Government approved up to **\$3.8 M in grants and contributions funding** annually for 6 years starting fiscal year 2022-23 – announced in Fall Economic Statement 2022
- Total budget will be distributed between three funding streams

**Grants** are payments subject to eligibility criteria and there are typically no formal reporting requirements (**e.g.** educational and training activities, participation in CNSC’s Independent Environmental Monitoring Program)

**Contributions** are payments subject to performance conditions and reporting requirements (**e.g.** internal resource support, early and ongoing engagement activities)





## Indigenous Capacity Support

- **Purpose** is to **develop and support organizational capacity** for Indigenous Nations and communities (i.e. internal resource support, Indigenous Knowledge studies)
- **Funding targeted** to Indigenous Nations and communities
- Funding opportunities will be announced **annually** on the ISCF webpage and to CNSC information subscribers via email
- Current funding opportunity opened May 15, 2023 and closes June 30, 2023





# Stream 2

## Regulatory Policy Dialogue

- **Purpose** is to support Indigenous Nations and communities and stakeholders to participate in **the review of select CNSC regulatory documents (REGDOCs), regulations and policies**
- CNSC staff will identify potential funding opportunities based on the forward agenda for public consultation
- Funding opportunities will be announced on a **case-by-case basis** on the ISCF webpage and to CNSC information subscribers via email







# Stream 3

## Engagement and Collaboration Support

- **Purpose** is to support **engagement and collaboration activities** between the CNSC and Indigenous Nations and communities and stakeholders (e.g. educational and training activities, early and ongoing engagement, collaborative environmental monitoring)
- Funding opportunities will be identified on a **case-by-case basis** through ongoing engagement and collaboration work
- Recipients will still be required to complete a funding application to receive funding





# Forward Outlook

- CNSC staff will manage and administer the program with rigorous oversight according to Federal Government policies
- Funding decisions will be posted on the CNSC's website annually to ensure transparency
- CNSC staff will track the program's performance and progress toward objectives
- CNSC staff will incorporate feedback from recipients into the program to ensure continuous improvement



# Key Differences Between the PFP and ISCF



**Participant Funding Program**

**Project specific funding opportunities**  
(i.e., related to an environmental assessment or licensing process) – funds in support of a Commission Proceeding

**Indigenous and Stakeholder Capacity Fund**

**Not project specific**  
(i.e., not tied to a specific licensing decision, environmental assessment process, or proceeding)



# Key Takeaways





## Participant Funding Program

- PFP is an internationally recognized program that enhances participation in Commission proceedings
- PFP will continue to adapt to meet needs of recipients and the Commission



## Indigenous and Stakeholder Capacity Fund

- CNSC listened and responded to capacity needs expressed by Indigenous Nations and communities and stakeholders with the ISCF
- ISCF is a new program, but was built on best practices and lessons learned from the PFP and other federal programs
- Indigenous Nations and communities and stakeholders will have increased capacity and knowledge around nuclear activities, technologies and regulatory processes as a result of the ISCF



# Thank you!

