

Introduction

This document has been prepared to provide a preliminary description of the Aboriginal Aquaculture in Canada Initiative (AACI) Project Funding to facilitate wide communication to First Nations, Aboriginal groups and organizations about the funds that are available during 2017-18 to support eligible activities that contribute to the development of Aboriginal aquaculture in Canada.

It is imperative that Aboriginal communities and entrepreneurs and potential private-sector partners (both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) wishing to submit proposals to apply for funding through the AACI Project Funding begin to prepare those proposals immediately to ensure that they can complete project activities and spending on or before March 31, 2018.

Amount of Funding Available During 2017-18

A total of \$650,000 is available during the 2017-18 fiscal year.

Process for the Review of Proposals and Rendering of Funding Decisions

Proposals will be judged based on a competitive process. This process includes the following:

- Proponents should submit their proposal to the [AACI Aquaculture Business Development Team](#) for their respective service area.
- The proposals received will be subjected to a preliminary screening process by the regional AACI Management Committee in place within each respective region. Proposals that are deemed as being worthy of funding consideration will then be recommended to the AACI National Steering Committee.
- Date for proposal submission deadline is June 2, 2017 with an expected date for decision on June 26, 2017. Leverage of other funding sources may increase the chances for success.

Eligible Projects:

Activities and costs eligible for funding under the AACI Project Funding include:

- Equity funding for projects classified as 'flagship' business development projects due to their relevance to the AACI's main objectives. In addition to the criteria listed in the Proposal Evaluation Matrix, proposals of this type will be judged on the number of sustainable jobs created as a result of the new aquaculture business developed (or growth of an existing business);
- Early engagement activities involved in helping the community understand the available opportunities and allowing them to determine whether its members have interest in further investigating and developing a given opportunity in the aquaculture sector;
- Cost incurred in the development of partnerships or joint ventures with private sector companies that are necessary to take advantage of highly technical, large scale, capital intensive opportunities;
- Strategic planning, pre-feasibility and feasibility studies;
- Activities that support the growth of existing Indigenous aquaculture businesses, improve market access, reduce production costs or address an issue affecting the operations of the business;
- Pilot projects necessary to demonstrate 'proof of concept' to establish investor confidence.