

# Jubilee Fund

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The Jubilee Fund is a project of *Mennonite Central Committee Canada* and *Mennonite Church Canada* that attempts to address in a small way the imbalance of wealth and power between people of Indigenous (First Nations, Metis, Inuit) descent and Canada’s settler population.

The Jubilee Fund comes out of a desire to pursue justice and eliminate oppression. The biblical “Year of Jubilee”, as described in Leviticus 25, was a celebration that God commanded the Israelites to fulfill every 50 years. It was a time for the land that was sold within the previous 50 years to revert back to its previous ownership, and any person enslaved within that 50 years would be freed. People would return to their family property and clan. As a result, no one would be placed in a permanent state of poverty, enslavement, landlessness or disconnection from their family.

Through the Jubilee Fund, Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Central Committee Canada provide their constituencies with the opportunity to participate in a culturally sensitive holistic witness to Jesus Christ in a broken world. This fund is a symbol of God’s healing and hope for a better world; a world in which bridges are built so that newcomers to this continent and the Original Peoples can live together in communities of grace, joy and peace. This fund was created through networking of Mennonite Church Canada, Mennonite Central Committee, Indigenous partners and community groups.

## **The grant aims to:**

- Directly benefit grass roots or non-profit Indigenous organizations/groups/communities in Canada.
- Promote an experience of jubilee for Indigenous people.
- Address injustice related specifically to land.

## **Geographical Target Area:**

- Jubilee Fund issues grants to grass roots or non-profit Indigenous organizations, groups and/or communities in Canada.

## **What we fund:**

- Projects related to land, including, but not limited to: initiatives involved in reconnecting people to their traditional land base, protection and reclamation of sacred sites and traditional or treaty land, sustainable land use, environmental justice initiatives.

**We do not fund:**

- Individuals
- Non-Indigenous organizations
- Fundraising projects

**Criteria:**

- Groups or organizations applying for grants must have local Indigenous leadership.
- Project must be rooted in the Indigenous community within which it will take place, and take direction from the Indigenous community it serves.
- Priority will be given to groups who lack access to federal/tribal funding.
- Priority will be given to groups who incorporate the leadership of women, elders and children into their project.

# Jubilee Fund Grant Application

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The Jubilee Fund is a project of Mennonite Central Committee Canada and Mennonite Church Canada that attempts to address in a small way the imbalance of wealth and power between people of Indigenous (First Nations, Metis, Inuit) descent and Canada's settler population.

## How to Apply for a Grant:

### 1. Proposal—a 3-5 page document including the following information:

- **Describe your organization or group, your community and project.** Include a list of staff, the group that gives direction to your work and organization (board, council, accountability or advisory group), community representatives, tribal affiliations and contact information.
- **Where are you located?** Describe the community in which your project will be carried out. What is its relationship to the issue you are working on?
- **Describe the needs you plan to address, and the actions or project you plan to carry out.** What do you plan to do with assistance from the grant? What are your goals?
- **Describe your project.** What activities and strategies are you planning to use to meet your goals?
- **Describe the timelines for your project?** What is the start date? When do you plan to complete the work? When do you require the grant funding?

### 2. Attachments

- Proof of non-profit status. If you are working through a fiscal sponsor, include a letter from them describing their relationship with you.
- List of staff, paid/volunteer, board of directors, advisory or other form of accountability group including each person's Indigenous affiliation (ie: Band membership/Tribal status)
- Itemized budget for project of focus in your grant application
- List of committed and pending revenues for the project

Please do not send materials other than what is requested above. We will contact you if more information is needed. Faxed proposals are not accepted.

### 3. Annual Proposal Deadline:

Proposal deadline is February 15. You will receive notification of the result by March 30. If your application was successful, you will receive your grant by April 30.

### 4. Submission of Grant Proposal

Please submit your proposal via mail or electronically to **one** of the following addresses:

Indigenous Neighbours Program  
Mennonite Central Committee Canada  
134 Plaza Drive  
Winnipeg Manitoba  
R3T 5K9  
[indigenousneighbours@mcccanada.ca](mailto:indigenousneighbours@mcccanada.ca)

**OR** Indigenous Relations  
Mennonite Church Canada  
600 Shaftesbury Boulevard  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3P 0M4  
[jneufeld@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:jneufeld@mennonitechurch.ca)

### NOTE TO APPLICANTS:

The grant monies available for disbursement each year will depend on the amount of interest earned by the endowment fund. No grant allocations will exceed \$5000.00.