

## Request for Project Possibilities Related to Indigenous Language Technology

The National Research Council's Indigenous Languages Technology (ILT) project has a core mandate to develop language technology for Indigenous languages in Canada in collaboration with Indigenous stakeholders.

We are soliciting proposals to fund projects related to language technology for Indigenous languages spoken in Canada. The funding may be applied to a broad range of projects. Some eligible examples are refining existing technologies for Indigenous languages in Canada, developing new ones, collecting data to support these technologies, and assisting communities in the development of language learning methodologies and assistive technologies.

Each successful proposal will show potential for a positive impact in the short or long term on the use by communities of at least one Indigenous language spoken in Canada. This application is not designed for projects of a purely theoretical nature – there must be a practical aspect.

It is anticipated that most successful proposals will receive funding in the range \$100,000 - \$300,000, though proposals of exceptional merit requesting funding outside this range may be considered. The funding period is short: it begins one month after issuance of this request and ends on March 31, 2020.

### Criteria

Priority will be given to:

- Projects carried out by Indigenous organizations, and to Indigenous-led or governed projects
- Projects with the potential for high impact on the stabilization, revitalization and reclamation of at least one Indigenous language in Canada.
- Projects focusing on development of wide-reaching, replicable and/or scalable language technologies
- Applicants who can demonstrate that they are ready and able to launch the project quickly if/when their proposal is accepted (due to the short time scale).

Ideally, projects funded under this request will show potential for beneficial long-term effects after the funding period has ended: i.e., these projects should aim at strategic capacity-building. Thus, additional weight will be given to proposals that include a plan for training community members in language-related technologies.

Greater merit will also be awarded to proposals that suggest how the funding requested could help support community activities in this area even after the end of the project. For instance, if a proposal requests funding for equipment to carry out the project, it will be worth clarifying in the proposal how the equipment in question will be useful for future language-related activities.

Proposals may include the planned hiring and payment of non-residents (e.g., language speakers or other community experts who are not Canadian citizens) on the condition that the proposal itself is aimed at benefiting an Indigenous language with some speakers residing in Canada. A typical situation where this might arise is for language communities that span the Canada-US border: it would be unfair to deprive a project of valuable expertise just because some of the language experts happen to be placed outside Canada by a boundary determined by historical accidents.

We encourage collaborative proposals. We also encourage “aggregated proposals”: proposals submitted by more than one language community, provided that they share a common goal.

## Examples of Proposals that could be funded

The list that follows is intended to suggest possible themes for proposals. However, it is not intended to discourage other themes applicants may come up with – innovative proposals that satisfy the criteria above but that don’t resemble anything on the list are welcome!

- Digitization of existing non-digital language materials; development of archives and archival processes
- Strategic and purposeful recordings of spoken language (e.g., recordings of interviews with Elders in an Indigenous language) – applicants to explain how these complement or fill a need outside of existing recordings
- Adaptation of existing learning materials for additional/new technological platforms (e.g., porting online courses to mobile devices)
- Development or extension of online resources, such as websites, that foster functional language learning
- Development of online, technology-assisted language surveys
- Development of videos and streaming podcasts that will assist the stabilization, revitalization and reclamation of Indigenous languages
- Research aimed at developing technologies that will assist the stabilization, revitalization and reclamation.

The ILT project web page describes several technologies underway that the NRC and its partners are already working on and gives an overview of the project as a whole: [https://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/solutions/collaborative/indigenous\\_languages/index.html](https://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/solutions/collaborative/indigenous_languages/index.html).

## Application Process

1. Fill out the questions on the following pages
2. Send the form by simultaneous email to the following three people:
  - Roland Kuhn (head of the ILT project at the National Research Council of Canada), [roland.kuhn@cnrc-nrc.gc.ca](mailto:roland.kuhn@cnrc-nrc.gc.ca)
  - Heather Souter (Chair of the Indigenous Advisory Committee for the ILT project), [hsouter@gmail.com](mailto:hsouter@gmail.com)
  - Glenn Morrison (Recording Secretary of the Indigenous Advisory Committee for the ILT project), [glenn.morrison@canada.ca](mailto:glenn.morrison@canada.ca)

Applications must be received by April 31, 2019. Proposals will be evaluated by the NRC project team and the Indigenous Advisory Committee on the basis of the criteria described above. Decisions will be sent to applicants by May 20, 2019.

NOTE: if you are interested and have questions about the process, we encourage you to get in touch with the three people above **before** you submit your application. They will be happy to answer your questions.

## Application

Applications must be received by April 31, 2019. Proposals will be evaluated by the NRC project team and the Indigenous Advisory Committee on the basis of the criteria described on the first page of this application. Decisions will be sent to applicants by May 20, 2019.

## Contact

**Name of Organization(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Applicant(s) :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address :** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Summary

**Please provide a short summary of the project (300-500 words)**

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## Project Details

Please answer each question in 50 - 150 words.

**Is this project led by an Indigenous organization? If not, how does this project involve Indigenous communities and organizations?**

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**What impact might this project have on creating more Indigenous language speakers?**

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**How are the knowledge, resources and/or technology created by this project scalable or transferable to other Indigenous languages?**

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**Describe the deliverables of your project.**

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