Equity Assistance Grant - Call for Proposals

 Deadline for applications: July 17, 2015

NADF’s Equity Assistance Grant fund call for proposals is now open and will be accepting proposals/applications until July 17, 2015. A maximum of $10,000 can be approved for each applicant and the grant is non-repayable. The applicant will be required to contribute 10% of the costs in cash.

Qualifying applicants will be for-profit businesses such as sole proprietors, partnerships, and corporations who require assistance in building up its equity. The funds are available to assist the business in taking advantage of business opportunities, to create or take advantage of economic development opportunities, and to give it a greater chance to become profitable.

The purpose of the funding is to increase and support the number of Aboriginal-owned and controlled businesses in northern Ontario, with assistance in equity dollars, which will be non-repayable.

Applicants may be required to prove they fall within the NADF service area, as only applications from within NADF’s service area will be considered. This is the first call for proposals and depending on the amount of applications received and funds requested, there is a possibility that a second call for proposals/applications will be done in September.

**Eligible Activities**

* capitalization costs, capital costs, operating costs (no more than 6 months), marketing costs, costs of engaging consultants and other qualified professionals, training and development costs, and costs associated with providing financial and business services.

**The following business activities are not eligible for support:**

* Employee salaries, wages, benefits.
* Community infrastructure development unrelated to the development or expansion of commercial enterprise, such as public office buildings, recreation and friendship centres, gaming houses, and public halls.
* Direct alcohol production, marketing, distribution or sales
* Games of chance operations, casinos, bingo halls, small scale gaming operations etc.
* Sexually exploitive, materials, services, products, marketing, distribution and sales, and
* Pawn shops, cheque cashers, finance companies and others, making small, short-term, high interest rate loans that go by a variety of names: Payday loans, cash advance loans, cheque advance loans, post-dated cheque loans or deferred deposit cheque loans, and
* Projects which create a financial dependency on government programs.
* Projects not specifically related to economic and business development outcomes; that is, job creation, potential and/or immediate economic impact to eligible communities.

*Reporting*

A final report evidencing that the project activity has been completed along with proof the projected outcomes have been achieved is required prior to the disbursement of the final cheque. The successful applicant will be sent a letter of offer to sign to indicate acceptance of the terms.

In general, approved projects will be initially allocated 50-75% of the project costs with the remainder of the project costs paid once an acceptable final report is submitted. In all cases, supporting documentation such as invoices will be required in order to have the funds dispersed. We will make payments directly to the supplier/vendor/contractor.

Applicants who apply for this grant will not be eligible to apply to the Aboriginal Business Contribution Program (ABCP) for the same project.

Attached is a copy of the application form. Completed applications can be faxed or emailed.

Submit applications to:

Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund

 Financial Support Services

### 100 Anemki Drive, Suite 107

 Fort William First Nation, ON P7J 1J4

 Email: financialservices@nadf.org

 Fax: (807) 622-8271

Phone: (807) 623-5397

 Toll Free: 1-800-465-6821

Funding Provided by:

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APPLICATION CRITERIA:

Applications/proposals must outline the following:

1. Proof that 51% of the business is owned by Aboriginal people.
2. How the project will contribute to the businesses future success.
3. A timeline from beginning to completion. Projects should be completed by December 31st, 2015.
4. The amount of funding required.
5. Must identify how the project enhances the ability for the business to create new jobs and/or develops the businesses ability to create new jobs.
6. Must identify how the project creates an opportunity for new business and/or business expansion.
7. Must identify how the project introduces new technology and/or e-commerce into the business.
8. The application must include an evaluation mechanism for assessing the success of the project, for example, the amount of jobs created or the economic impact to the local economy or ability to produce an amount of product in the future.
9. If this is a start-up business, a business plan summary is required.
10. Proof the applicant has the required 10% cash contribution. For example, if the project cost is $10,000 the applicant will apply for $9,000 but will have to have the 10% of the project costs on-hand, i.e. $1,000.