

# NWT ON THE LAND COLLABORATIVE FUND PILOT REPORT



 Tides Canada



PEW INDIGENOUS  
LEADERSHIP  
INITIATIVE



THE J.W. McCONNELL  
FAMILY FOUNDATION  
LA FONDATION DE LA  
FAMILLE J.W. McCONNELL





# NWT ON THE LAND COLLABORATIVE FUND

[WWW.NWTONTHELAND.CA](http://WWW.NWTONTHELAND.CA)

The fund is a collaborative effort between:  
Tides Canada, Government of the Northwest Territories, J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, PEW Indigenous Leadership Initiative, Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation, TNC Canada and Community Advisors from across the North.

May 2016



# BACKGROUND

Governments (federal, territorial, and Indigenous), corporations, and philanthropic organizations in the Northwest Territories (NWT) all place significant emphasis on supporting on-the-land programming, particularly with Indigenous organizations and communities.

These various sectors fund and otherwise support on-the-land programming for a variety of specific reasons, including but not limited to:

- outdoor experiential education;
- cultural revitalization;
- arts;
- restorative justice;
- traditional economy;
- mental health and addictions, family wellness, and healing;
- youth engagement and capacity building; and
- environmental research, monitoring, and stewardship.

At a workshop in November 2014, over 70 representatives from these sectors agreed that whatever the reason for supporting on-the-land programming, outcomes across the economic, social, cultural, and environmental spectrum are intertwined and interdependent. It was further agreed that the actual programs being supported look

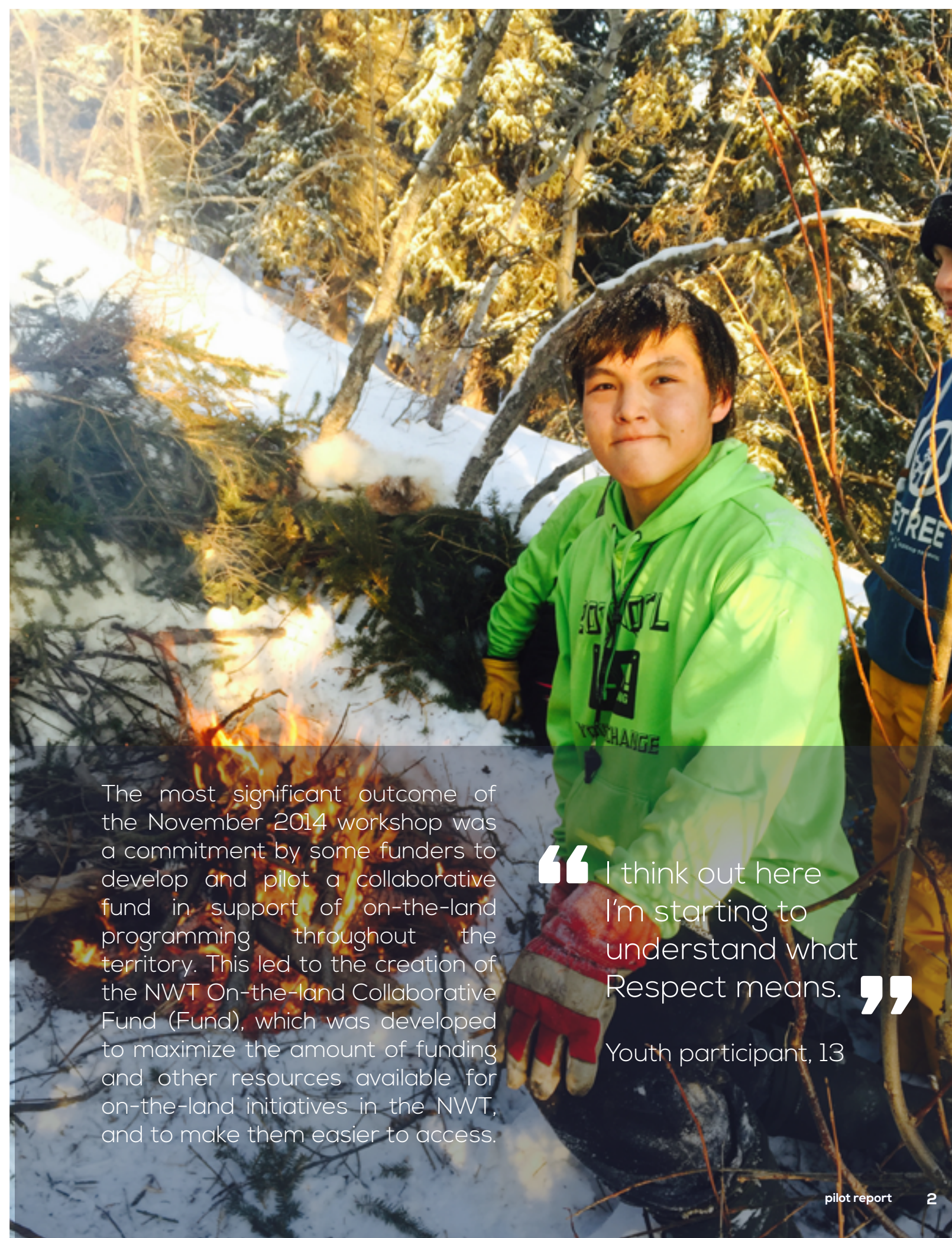
strikingly alike in their delivery – youth, land-users, elders, and families in camps renewing relationships amongst themselves and with their landscapes.

A clear outcome of the workshop was an identified need for better collaboration within and amongst all sectors to make best use of financial, human, and other resources to better support, evaluate, and deliver on-the-land programming in the NWT. From the perspective of the funders at the workshop, better collaboration could result in benefits such as:

- increasing available funding for on-the-land programming by leveraging amongst diverse sectors;
- increased efficiency in program delivery by minimizing administrative burdens; and
- shared learning and evaluation opportunities.

For those fundraising and delivering programs in the regions and communities of the NWT, better funder collaboration could result in:

- significantly more financial and human resources allocated to program delivery (as opposed to administering funding proposals, reporting, etc.);
- increased ability to deliver programming that acknowledges interconnectedness of social, cultural, economic, and environmental outcomes; and
- access to more funding through pooled or otherwise aligned funder resources.




The most significant outcome of the November 2014 workshop was a commitment by some funders to develop and pilot a collaborative fund in support of on-the-land programming throughout the territory. This led to the creation of the NWT On-the-land Collaborative Fund (Fund), which was developed to maximize the amount of funding and other resources available for on-the-land initiatives in the NWT, and to make them easier to access.

“ I think out here I’m starting to understand what Respect means. ”

Youth participant, 13





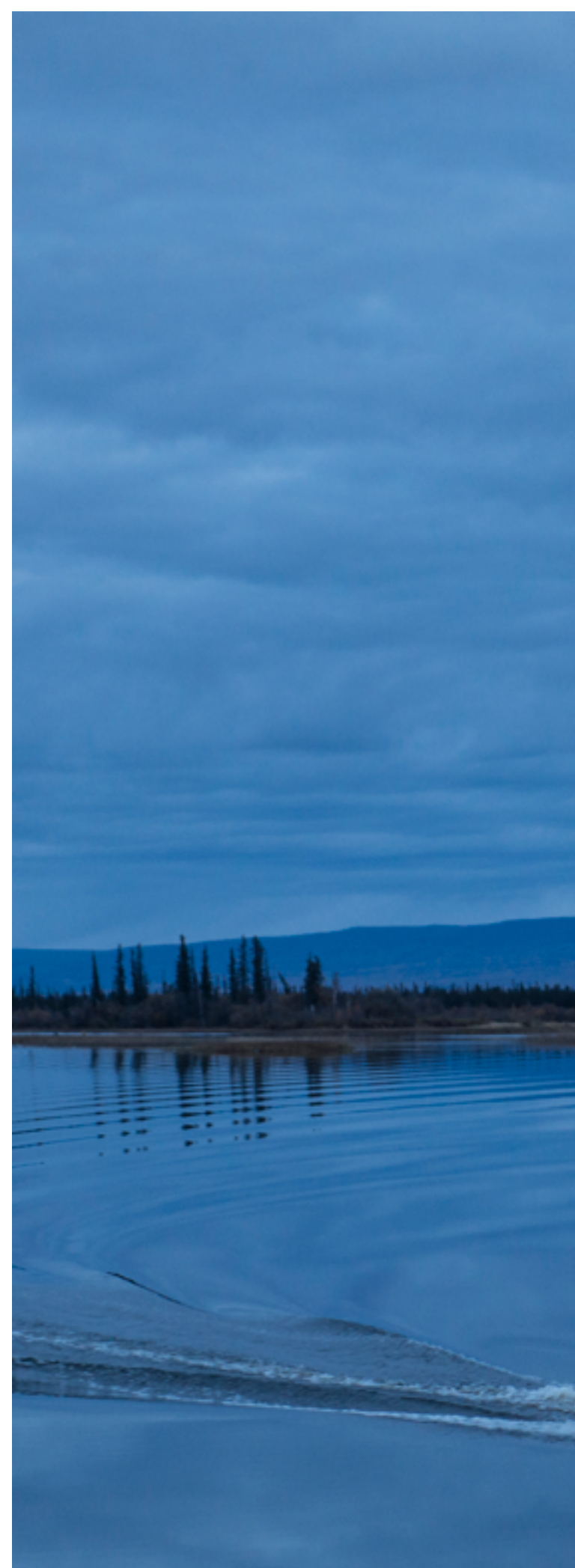
The Fund brings together government, charitable and other partners to combine efforts and pool resources – including funding, expertise, tools and equipment, and other supports.

Current Fund Partners (Partners) (Appendix A) include the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and Tides Canada, who jointly led the development of the Fund, along with Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation, the NWT Recreation and Parks Association, TNC Canada, the PEW Indigenous Leadership Initiative, the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, and Community Advisors from across the NWT. Community Advisors were nominated by regional Indigenous governments to provide local context and expertise to the development and implementation of the Fund. GNWT Health and Social Services, GNWT Environment and Natural Resources, and Tides Canada all provided significant in-kind administration and coordination staff support to the Fund.

The Partners met regularly throughout 2015 to learn about existing collaborative fund models from other jurisdictions, and to develop an approach that could work in the NWT. The Partners strategically designed a program and application process that would be user friendly and straightforward. The following were key design elements of the fund:

- Governance and decision-making
- Role of Community Advisors nominated by the Indigenous governments of the NWT
- Roles and responsibilities of the funding partners
- User-friendly inquiry and proposal process
- Communication of a call for applications

Following the development of these elements, the Partners decided to launch a pilot of the Fund in late 2015.



“ I love it out here at camp. I have not been in the bush since I was 13. First time skinning a beaver, seeing fishing under the ice. I am doing things I used to see as a kid and that I could not do because of Residential School. I’ve never seen my grandchild so happy. ”

Grandparent Participant



# 2015-16 FUND PILOT

A pilot call for applications to the Fund was issued in late November 2015 with an application deadline of January 31, 2016. Community Advisors played a crucial role in the design and implementation of the application process.



The application process was designed to be simple and supportive; a central support person was available, and the Community Advisors were designated for each region of the NWT to answer questions, review draft applications, and provide prospective applicants with any guidance or input they might require. Applicants were strongly encouraged to contact one of the Community Advisors prior to submitting an application and to access their ongoing guidance and support throughout the application process. Once submitted, applications were reviewed for completeness, and applicants were provided an opportunity to submit additional information or detail if required.

The Partners are committed to respecting local expertise by working

to accommodate projects as they have been designed and developed, rather than requiring projects to conform to funding program requirements. Accordingly, the limitations set out in the application process for the Fund were minimal. Applications were not open to for-profit initiatives; organizations from outside the NWT; political or partisan initiatives; or Federal or Territorial governments.

During the pilot call for applications, a total of 209 applications were received from across the territory, with requests for funding totaling \$10.9 million dollars. The Partners met in Yellowknife on February 9-11, 2016, to review applications and select funding recipients. The review process began by establishing criteria, based on their



interaction with projects throughout the application process and their initial review of submitted applications. The Partners agreed that given the amount of support which had been available throughout the application process, and the very large volume of applications received, no incomplete applications would be considered. The Community Advisors were instrumental during the review process by presenting their recommendations and regional insight on eligible applications to the funders. They met first on February 9th to

conduct an initial review of applications and prepare recommendations for the funders. All Partners, including the Community Advisors, met together on February 10th to discuss the results of the pilot process, the lessons learned, and to review the Community Advisors' funding recommendations. On February 11th the Funding partners met without the Community Advisors to make final decisions and allocations based on the recommendations presented to them by the Community Advisors the previous day. It was a unanimous decision by all the Partners that the role of the Community Advisors would not include making final decisions in order to allow for a more supportive and advisory role to applicants.



# ELIGIBILITY

The first call for applications set the minimum funding request at \$1000, but did not set a cap on the maximum. This was a strategic choice as the Partners hoped to gain an accurate picture of the need for on the land funding. Applications ranged from the minimum amount up to nearly \$1 million, far exceeding the amount of funding available to be granted. The Partners agreed that there should continue to be no cap on the amount that may be requested in future funding cycles, but that the call for applications should clearly articulate that the Fund itself has a finite amount of money to allocate.

The Partners had significant discussion about the eligibility of infrastructure and equipment costs. The Partners agreed that these costs should not be disallowed outright - it was acknowledged that infrastructure is sometimes essential to the sustainability of a program, and funding for infrastructure is often difficult to access. However, some applications proposed significant infrastructure investment

in order to begin a new on the land program where the actual program details were lacking and seemed under-developed. Many applications also included significant requests for new equipment which the Partners felt could be accessed through partnerships rather than duplicating resources within the community. Based on these discussions, priority consideration was given to applications that directly supported the action of getting out on the land, rather than the cost of infrastructure or equipment – though both will remain eligible expenses in future calls for applications.

The Partners also discussed the eligibility of arms-length government entities such as schools, educational councils and authorities, and health and social services authorities. The Partners agreed that these are important community partners for the delivery of on the land programs, and therefore their applications should be still considered. It was further agreed that government departments and central agencies were not eligible for consideration. This



is an important clarification of the original eligibility criteria which will be reflected in future calls for applications.

For-profit applications were not allowed, but individuals were not excluded from applying to the Fund. The Partners agreed that these criteria were difficult to assess; many applications included private business partnerships for program delivery, and among the applications received from individuals it was sometimes difficult to assess the broader impacts of the project within the community or region. The Partners agreed that the criteria should be refined to clarify that applications for profit or personal gain would not be considered, and this will be reflected in future calls for applications. Applications which included equipment or infrastructure for personal use were deemed ineligible based on these criteria.

In reviewing eligible applications, the Partners considered the potential impact of the project within the community, the number of participants who would benefit from the funding, and the potential for sustainability and lasting partnerships. Administrative costs were also excluded as an eligible cost and this will be clarified in future

application processes.

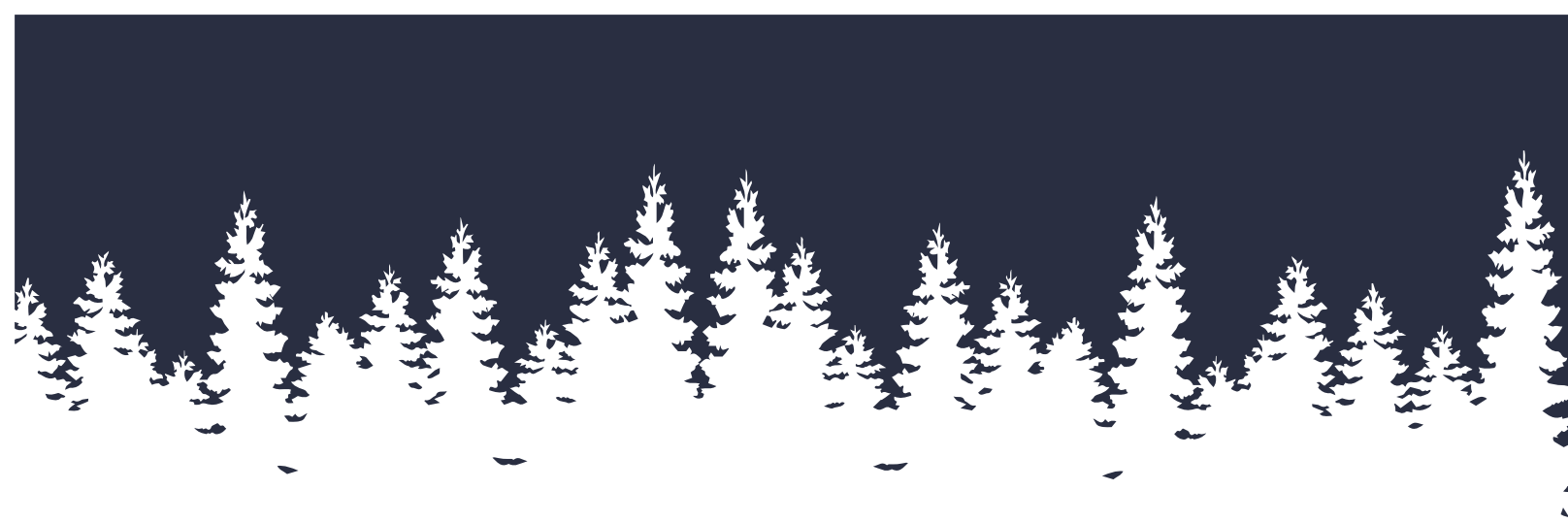
Through this first review cycle, Partners awarded almost \$400,000 to 35 exceptional projects, with recipients from every region of the territory (Appendix B). Projects ranged from small local projects, such as the new Nature Club in Hay River and the Women Coming Together initiative in Lutselk'e, to large regional and territorial programs such as the Northern Youth Leadership Society and the Foster Family Coalition's Camp Connections. In addition to direct funding of these projects, collaborative partners were able to use their networks and expertise to connect many other applicants with additional sources of support and referral. All applicants received a written response explaining whether their application was deemed eligible, and whether any funding had been approved. Applicants were provided with a summary of the review process and criteria used by the Partners in making funding decisions, and where appropriate feedback was provided to strengthen future applications. Applicants were also invited to contact the administrative leads for detailed individual feedback on their applications.

“ I’ve learned patience. You need patience to trap, set a net, do all these things. ”

Youth, Participant, 16

## BY THE NUMBERS

Applications received: 209  
Total funding requested: \$10,918,305.75  
Range of Amount Requested: \$1000.00 to \$899,000.00  
Applications Approved: 35  
Total Funding Approved: \$391,850



# NEXT STEPS

Building on the demonstrated success of the Fund approach to date, the Partners will focus on exploring opportunities to bring in new partners as well as increasing their own individual support for the Fund.

To support the sustainable growth of the Fund, the administrative partners will work to define and clearly articulate the roles of the Partners, both Funders and Community Advisors, though Terms of Reference, and outline the importance of a balanced approach to regional and organizational/sectorial representation. The specific roles and responsibilities of the administrative leads and support staff will also be defined.

Learning opportunities will be arranged for new and prospective partners. These will include a Learning Trip to visit one or more funded projects to experience firsthand their successes and challenges, and to learn about their hopes for the future. A workshop will be arranged

for current Partners to: explore new opportunities such as implementing a small grants stream and bringing in new Partners; review feedback from applicants; discuss the lessons learned; and prepare for the next round of applications by approving a revised information/application package, clearly defined evaluation processes, payment processes, and timelines.

An expanded website will be developed and maintained to provide easier access and more information to potential applicants and Partners. The website will also showcase funded projects and highlight the contributions of Partners to the Fund. Community Advisors and the Fund's administrative leads will provide ongoing support for successful applicants throughout the year to build relationships, assist as needed with project implementation and to ensure projects are successful in submitting their final reports.

## APPENDIX

# A

### Community Advisors

<b>Inuvialuit Regional Corporation:</b>	Meghan Etter
<b>Gwich'in Tribal Council:</b>	Susan Ross
<b>NWT Métis Nation:</b>	Kyle Napier
<b>Dehcho First Nations:</b>	Misty Ireland
<b>Tłı̨chǫ Government:</b>	John B. Zoe
<b>Sahtú Secretariat:</b>	Vacant
<b>Akaįtcho Territory Government:</b>	Vacant

### Funding Partners

<b>Tides Canada:</b>	Steve Ellis
<b>GNWT - HSS:</b>	Kyla Kakfwi-Scott Sabrina Broadhead
<b>GNWT - ENR:</b>	Erin Kelly Sarah True
<b>PEW Indigenous Leadership Initiative:</b>	Stephen Nitah
<b>TNC Canada:</b>	Michael Palmer
<b>NWT Recreation &amp; Parks Association:</b>	Jessica Dunkin
<b>Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation:</b>	Ora-Naja Wah-Shee Rebecca Plotner

# APPENDIX B

## funded projects

### APPLICANT

East Three School  
 William MacDonald School  
 École St. Patrick High School  
 Chief Julius School  
 Bompas School  
 Hamlet of Aklavik

Town of Hay River (Rec. Department)  
 Children's First Society  
 Hay River District Education Authority

The SideDoor Youth Centre  
 Trailcross  
 Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation with  
 Yellowknife Health Authority  
 Th̄çq̄ Research and Training Institute

Salvation Army Yellowknife  
 Fort Smith Community Justice  
 Th̄çq̄ Government - Whati

### PROJECT

Wood for Elders	School
Canoe Program (Hidden Lake)	School
Transition to Adulthood Camps	School
Winter Camp	School
Winter Culture Camp	School
OTL Program Eddie Greenland Camp	Municipal
Elders and Youth Nellie Arey Camp	
OTL Program Annie Gordon Camp	
Nature Club	Municipal
First Steps on the Land	NGO
Northern Studies and Learning About Trauma	School
Youth Experiencing Northern Ways	NGO
Feeding Our Spirits	NGO
T̄s̄ek̄wi Xandiel (Women Coming Together)	Aboriginal Organization
Reviving Trails Project: Trail to K'witi Canoe Trip	Aboriginal Organization
Outdoor Recreation Programming	NGO
Heals Wounds From Nature	NGO
Moosehide Tanning Camp	Aboriginal Organization

### TYPE

### COMMUNITY

Inuvik	Inuvik
Yellowknife	Yellowknife
Yellowknife	Yellowknife
Fort MacPherson	Delta
Fort Simpson	Dehcho
Aklavik	Delta
Hay River	Hay River
Inuvik	Inuvik
Hay River	Hay River
Yellowknife	Yellowknife
Fort Smith	NT
Lutsel K'e	Akaiçho
Whati	Th̄çq̄
Yellowknife	NT
Fort Smith	Fort Smith
Whati	Th̄çq̄

### REGION

### AMOUNT GRANTED

\$5,000.00  
 \$5,000.00  
 \$10,800.00  
 \$10,000.00  
 \$2,500.00

\$23,000.00  
 \$1,000.00  
 \$6,250.00

\$1,000.00  
 \$6,250.00  
 \$7,000.00  
 \$5,335.00

\$14,500.00  
 \$3,375.00  
 \$20,000.00  
 \$5,000.00



## funded projects

### APPLICANT

Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre  
 North Slave Métis Alliance  
 PWK High School  
 Elizabeth Mackenzie Elementary School  
 Foster Family Coalition of the NWT  
 Moose Kerr School  
 Ecology North  
 Tetlit Gwich'in Council  
  
 Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation  
 Terry & Daniel Freund  
 Tłı̄cho Łeàgı̄ Ts'ı̄lįį Kò  
 Sahtú Renewable Resources Board  
 Sambaa K'e First Nation  
  
 Deh Gah Elementary & Secondary School  
  
 Gwich'in Harvesting  
 Northern Youth Leadership  
 K'asho Got'ine Charter Community Council

### PROJECT

PROJECT	TYPE
Youth Camp	NGO
Cultural Camp at Old Fort Rae	Aboriginal Organization
Sweetgrass Landing Culture Camp	School
OTL Trips	School
Cultural Coordination	NGO
Fall Geese Camp	School
OTL Environmental Adventure Camp	NGO
Tetlit Gwich'in Cultural Revitalizing Camp	Aboriginal Organization
Lutsel K'e OTL	Aboriginal Organization
Winter Trail Maintenance	Individual
OTL Healing for the Homeless	NGO
Sahtú Youth Network Culture Camp	NGO
Youth Leadership Expedition Along Our Ancestors Trails	Aboriginal Organization
Experimental Culture-Based Education OTL	School
Traditional Medicine and Recipes	Individual
2016 Girls Leadership Canoe Trip	NGO
Passing On Our Culture and Traditions	Aboriginal Organization

### COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY	REGION
Inuvik	Inuvik
Yellowknife	North Slave
Fort Smith	Fort Smith
Behchokó	Thçhò
Yellowknife	NT
Aklavik	Delta
Yellowknife	NT
Fort MacPherson	Delta
Lutsel K'e	Akaitcho
Fort Smith	Fort Smith
Behchokó	Thçhò
Tulit'a	Sahtú
Trout Lake	Dehcho
Fort Providence	Dehcho
Fort MacPherson	Delta
Yellowknife	NT
Fort Good Hope	Sahtú

### AMOUNT GRANTED

\$20,000.00  
 \$5,660.00  
 \$18,650.00  
 \$5,500.00  
 \$5,500.00  
 \$10,000.00  
 \$8,350.00  
 \$8,650.00  
 \$15,000.00  
 \$10,000.00  
 \$20,000.00  
 \$2,500.00  
 \$20,000.00  
 \$15,000.00  
 \$25,000.00  
 \$35,000.00  
 \$20,000.00



# APPENDIX

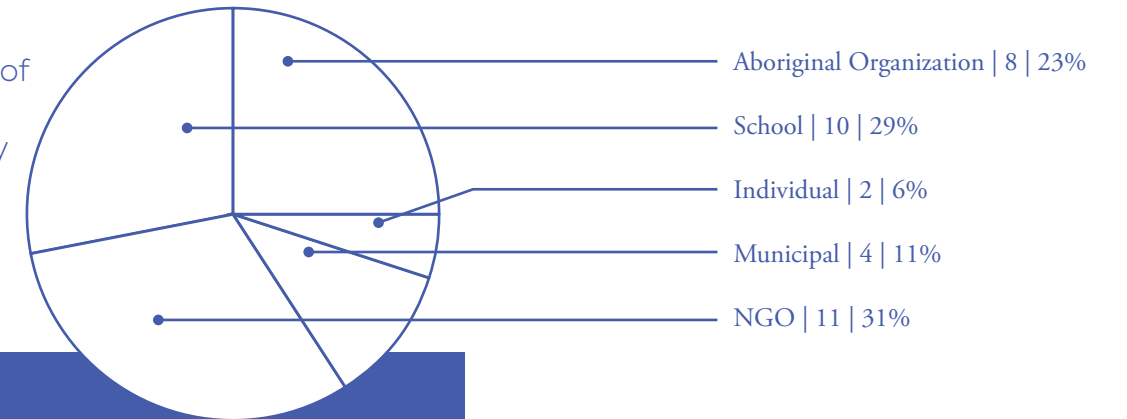


## 2015/16 Financial report

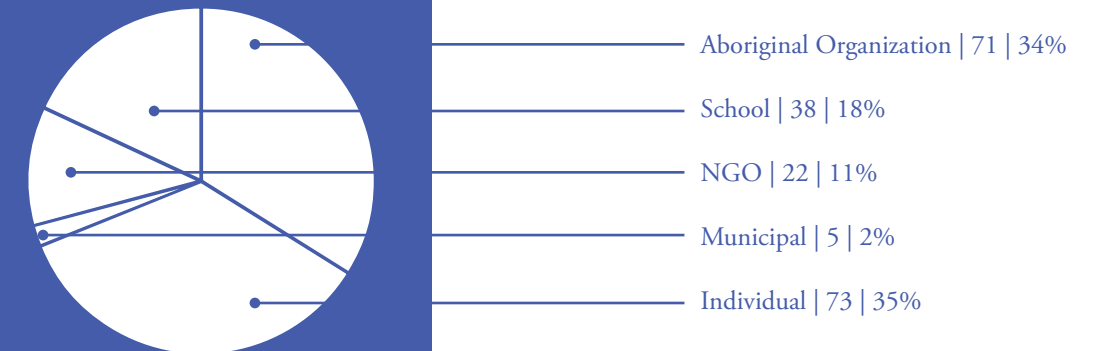
### TYPE

TYPE	# OF APPS	%	AMOUNT REQUESTED	%	# APPROVED	%	AMOUNT GRANTED	%
Aboriginal Organization	71	34%	\$4,402,367.65	40%	8	25%	\$109,535	29%
Individual	73	35%	\$3,781,643.89	35%	2	6%	\$7,500	2%
Municipal	5	2%	\$45,283.00	<1%	4	11%	\$24,000	6%
NGO	22	11%	\$1,005,279.90	9%	11	31%	\$142,085	37%
School	38	18%	\$1,683,931.31	16%	10	28%	\$98,730	26%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$10,918,505.75</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$381,850</b>	<b>100%</b>

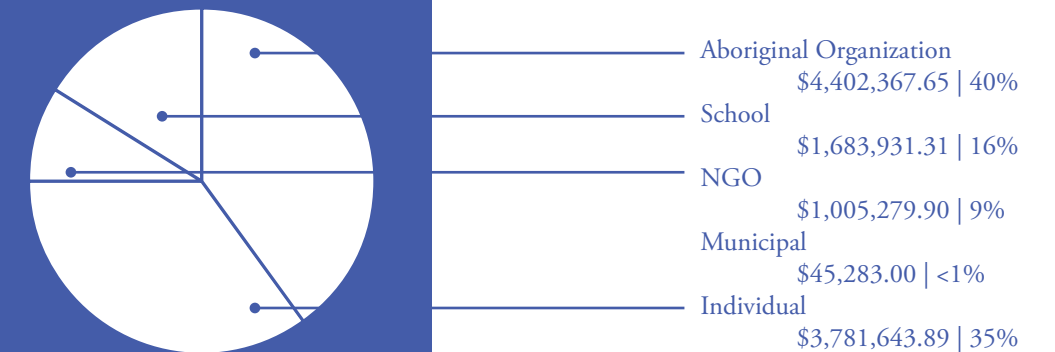
amount & percentage of applications approved by type



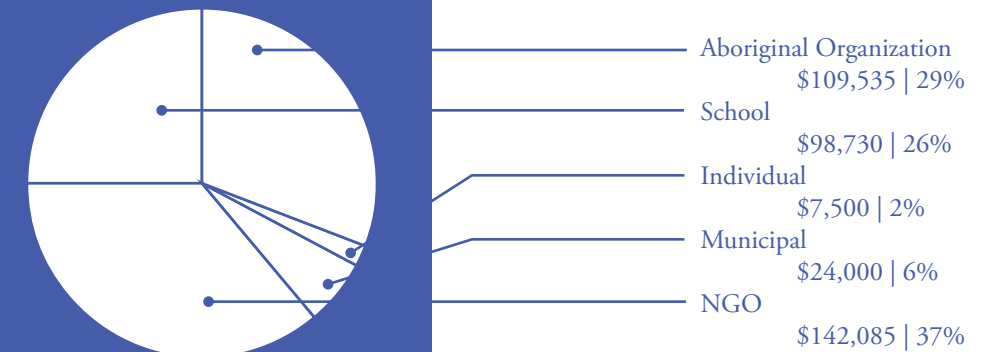
amount & percentage of applications received by type



amount & percentage requested by type



amount & percentage of granted by type

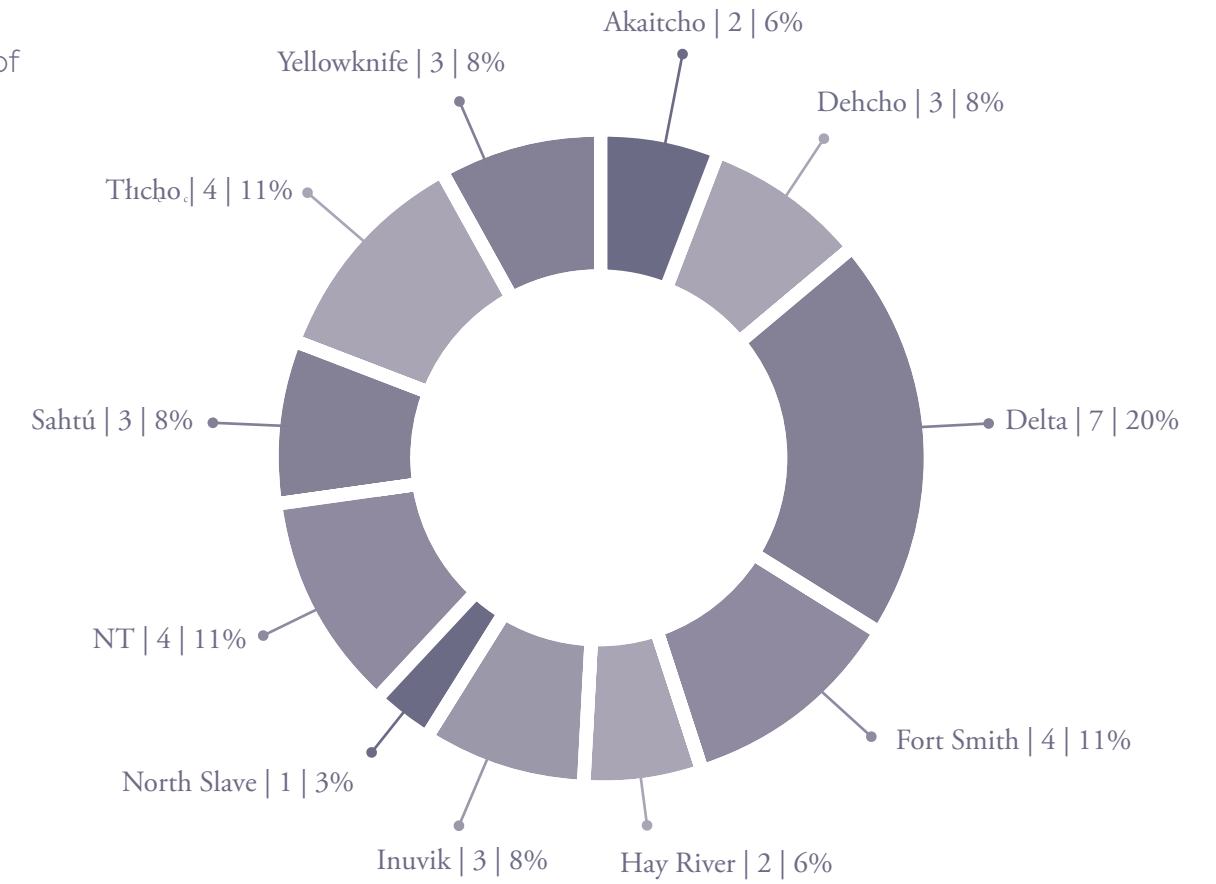




## REGION

REGION	# OF APPS	%	AMOUNT REQUESTED	%	# APPROVED	%	AMOUNT GRANTED	%
Akaiicho	11	5%	\$381,978.96	3%	2	6%	\$23,375	6%
Dehcho	17	8%	\$2,904,350.99	27%	3	8%	\$62,500	16%
Delta	76	36%	\$2,736,338.20	25%	7	20%	\$56,650	15%
Fort Smith	14	7%	\$311,307.80	3%	4	11%	\$42,500	11%
Hay River	14	7%	\$390,703.82	4%	2	6%	\$8,000	2%
Inuvik	17	8%	\$451,425.00	4%	3	9%	\$29,900	8%
North Slave	4	2%	\$113,536.00	1%	1	3%	\$5,500	2%
NT	10	5%	\$552,609.90	5%	4	11%	\$42,350	11%
Sahtú	18	8%	\$1,691,426.08	15%	2	6%	\$35,000	9%
Tlicho	16	8%	\$604,820.00	6%	4	11%	\$55,660	15%
Yellowknife	12	6%	\$779,809.00	7%	3	9%	\$20,415	5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$10,918,505.75</b>		<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$381,850</b>	<b>100%</b>

number & percentage of applications approved by region



number and percentage of applications requested by region

amount and percentage requested per region

amount and percentage approved per region

