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Access to Justice Bundle Program





Program Overview

The Indigenous Peoples Resilience Fund (IPRF)'s Access to Justice Bundle Program is grounded in the vision and leadership of Indigenous communities across northern Ontario. It is designed to support community-led efforts that strengthen access to justice and further Indigenous rights, laws, and voices. This program is made possible through a partnership with The Law Foundation of Ontario (the Foundation), which includes a commitment of \$1 million from the Foundation.

The Foundation and IPRF have been walking together to engage with and learn from Indigenous peoples in northern Ontario. From August to November 2024, IPRF and the Foundation held four focus groups with Indigenous communities to listen to their access to justice stories and learn about their access to justice experiences. The learnings from these sessions informed the design of the Access to Justice Bundle Program. Read the report [here](#).

This Bundle Program provides funding to Indigenous organizations that are working to remove barriers, and to respond to their justice-related needs. It aims to invest in knowledge and services that will help Indigenous people in northern Ontario understand law and use it to improve their lives.

Funding decisions will be made in December 2025, and the funded activities can take place throughout 2026 and 2027. IPRF welcomes applications for funding for rights education, community-based legal supports, programs, or services rooted in western or traditional Indigenous legal systems and cultures to reflect the diverse ways Indigenous communities define and pursue justice.

The Access to Justice Bundle Program is a commitment to listen deeply, learn continuously, and walk alongside Indigenous communities in northern Ontario as they lead the way in defining and advancing access to justice.

To Apply

The Access to Justice Bundle Program uses a two-step application. First, applicants submit a short Letter of Interest (LOI) to confirm eligibility (**LOI Submissions: July 28 to September 19, 2025**). Those who qualify will receive a personalized link to complete a full application (**Application Deadline: October 27, 2025**), with support from the IPRF team.



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Access to Justice Bundle Program Objectives

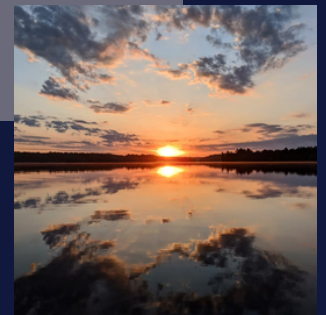
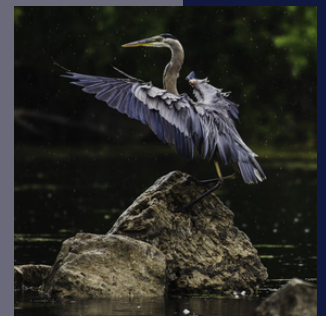
01 Strengthen Indigenous-Led Justice Pathways in northern Ontario

Support communities in reclaiming and revitalizing Indigenous legal systems, rights-based frameworks, and culturally grounded approaches to justice. This includes funding for community-led initiatives such as rights education, traditional law-making practices, land-based justice teachings, and Indigenous dispute resolution models.



02 Remove Structural and Systemic Barriers to Justice

Identify and address the systemic and colonial barriers that limit access to justice for Indigenous Peoples in northern Ontario. This includes supporting activities that enhance community-based supports, improve navigation of western legal systems, and advance and provide education around Indigenous rights and systemic biases within and beyond legal frameworks.



03 Build Community Capacity for Sustainable Justice Work

Invest in the long-term capacity of Indigenous communities and organizations to define, pursue, and sustain Indigenous visions of justice. This includes operational funding, skills-building, and leadership development to ensure that communities can continue this work beyond the funding period.

Two-step Application Process

IPRF is using a two-step application process for the Access to Justice Bundle Program:

Step 1: Letter of Interest (LOI)

The LOI is a short form that helps IPRF learn about the applicant's work and ensure it meets the eligibility criteria for this Bundle Program. This includes being Indigenous-led and serving, serving northern Ontario, and already engaged in work that strengthens access to justice. If the applicant organization meets the criteria, IPRF will follow up with a personalized link to complete the full application. **IPRF will only accept 1 LOI per organization.**

Step 2: Full Application

On October 1, 2025, IPRF will invite approved applicants to complete a full application. Applicants will be asked to share more details about proposed activities, their community, and how this funding could support their vision. The deadline to complete the application is October 27, 2025. The IPRF team will be available throughout the process if applicants need support or have questions. **IPRF will only accept 1 application per organization.**



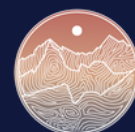
Eligibility Criteria | Organizations

Organizations should:

- **Be Indigenous-led and serving.** Organizations, groups, or collectives should be created, governed, and guided by Indigenous people. Indigenous leadership and knowledge should shape all levels of decision-making, ensuring that programs reflect community priorities, values, and worldviews. Organizations should primarily serve Indigenous Peoples and advance community wellness and resilience. At least 51% of formal Board, Council, or Committee members should be Indigenous.
- **Be ready:** Applicants should be actively engaged in work that supports access to justice in their communities. This may include early-stage initiatives, emerging programs, or ongoing efforts.
- **Be one of the following:**
 - A community group
 - A registered not-for-profit organization
 - A registered charity (qualified donee)
 - A community accepted and elected First Nation (band), Métis, or Inuit Council
- **Have a bank account** in the name of the organization or group.

The following organizations are ineligible:

Individuals, for-profit companies, non-Indigenous-led or serving organizations, provincial or federal government, organizations based outside of Canada or organizations that are not already engaged in work that supports access to justice.



Eligibility Criteria | Activities

The proposed bundle activities should:

- **Serve northern Ontario:** Activities should take place in and/or primarily serve communities located in northern Ontario. Northern Ontario encompasses the Territorial Districts of Algoma, Cochrane, Kenora, Manitoulin, Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Rainy River, Sudbury, Timiskaming, and Thunder Bay.
- **Align with program objectives:** The proposed activities should contribute to one or more of the program's core objectives.
- **Align with the program duration and have a realistic budget:** Funding for activities should take place over a period of up to two years (January 2026 – December 2027).

The following activities are ineligible:

This Bundle Program does not fund **advocacy, lobbying, or legal representation related to specific legal matters.**

Funding cannot be used to support activities that:

- Directly relate to a specific legal dispute or litigation
- Aim to advance or challenge a particular legal position, policy, or government decision

If applicants are unsure if their activities are eligible, they are encouraged to reach out to IPRF.



Take only what you need, use all of what you take, and share with others



In the spirit of communal sustainability, IPRF asks applicants to follow the principle of take only what you need, use all of what you take, and share with others. In total, this Bundle Program will disburse \$1 million to northern Ontario.

There are no set grant minimums or maximums for the Access to Justice Bundle Program.

However, it is unlikely that projects requiring over \$100,000 will be funded.

IPRF recognizes that many Indigenous communities are often asked to stretch limited or partial funding, and IPRF is committed to doing things differently.

Applications will not be partially funded, and proposals will be assessed based on the reasonableness of their budgets.

Timeline

July 28 to September 19, 2025 | LOI Submission Period

October 1, 2025 | Application Invitations Sent

October 27, 2025 | Application Deadline

November to December 2025 | Applications Reviewed

December 2025 | Applicants Notified of Decisions

December 2025 to January 2026 | Bundle Funding Disbursed

January 2026 to December 2027 | Bundle Activities Take Place

August 2027 to December 2027 | Bundle Learning and Reflections



Example Bundles

This list shows some examples of the types of activities that could be funded under IPRF's Access to Justice Bundle Program. But applicants know best what their community needs. These example bundles were informed by what we heard in the consultations with communities in northern Ontario. Please do not feel limited by this list.

- Revitalization of traditional dispute resolution systems and funding for Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and youth to collaborate on re-establishing these systems.
- Creation of land-based justice and healing programs that bring Elders, youth, and community members together to explore traditional teachings related to justice.
- Hosting public dialogues and forums on Indigenous justice issues.
- A digital archive of oral histories and Indigenous legal traditions led by Knowledge Keepers and communities.
- Hosting a regional gathering or summit to share Indigenous justice practices across nations.
- Workshops or toolkits for Indigenous youth and adults on their legal rights, treaty rights, and navigating the legal system.
- Programs to help Indigenous people obtain birth certificates, status cards, and other ID crucial for accessing legal supports and services.
- Culturally relevant legal support for community members dealing with child welfare, housing, or policing issues.
- Training sessions for judges, lawyers, and legal service providers on Indigenous laws, legal traditions, and anti-colonial approaches to justice.
- Core funding for an Indigenous organization advancing justice work in their community to stabilize staffing and infrastructure.
- Mentorship and leadership development programs that prepare young people to carry forward Indigenous legal knowledge.
- Strategic planning or feasibility studies for longer-term justice system transformation within a community.
- Projects that support Indigenous organizations in becoming qualified donees by providing legal resources and information.
- Research about the law or policies that impact an access to justice issue.
- Resources that may support access or participation in traditional or western legal services or systems, such as court and tribunal proceedings.

Evaluation Criteria

Alignment with Program Objectives	The proposed activities clearly advance one or more program objectives: Strengthen Indigenous-led justice pathways, remove structural and systemic barriers, and build community capacity.
Community Grounding	The proposed activities are deeply rooted in community knowledge, values, and participation. It is shaped by the voices and lived realities of community members.
Feasibility and Readiness	The proposed activities have a clear, realistic plan achievable within the two-year timeframe and a reasonable budget.
Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing	The proposed activities could strengthen long-term community capacity or share knowledge.

Reporting and Acknowledgement

1-Year Check-In

Around the halfway point, IPRF will connect with bundle recipients through a short call or survey. This check-in is an opportunity to share how things are going: what's working, any challenges, and whether the budget is on track. It's also an opportunity for IPRF to listen, learn, and provide support if needed.

Final Report

At the end of the funding period, IPRF will ask bundle recipients to complete a brief final report and may look to gather bundle recipients to share learnings and reflections together. The final report includes a review of the budget, reflections on successes and challenges, and any stories or learnings. IPRF knows reporting can feel burdensome, so IPRF aims to keep it simple, meaningful, and grounded in the recipient's experience.

Acknowledging Bundles

If recipients choose to speak publicly about their grant, through a press release or other communications, IPRF asks that recipients follow acknowledgement guidelines. (IPRF will provide the guidelines to bundle recipients.)



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Contact Us



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IPRF's Access to Justice Bundle Program is made possible through partnership with The Law Foundation of Ontario.

[Learn more about their work and other funding opportunities.](#)



**The Law
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Advancing access to justice