

Land Use Planning Development Initiative: 2026-27 Program Overview

The purpose of this initiative is to provide funding and assistance to up to ten Operational or Developmental First Nations for the development of their individual Land Use Plan (LUP).

The overall intent of the Land Use Planning (LUP) Development Initiative is to assist planning and lands governance processes that are community-driven, where the First Nation and the Lands Department play a lead role and are supported by a professional planner. The funding initiative encourages unique planning approaches that build on and advance good governance under Land Code. Completing and implementing a Land Use Plan requires considerable commitments of time, effort, and the capacity to work collaboratively to reach consensus as a community.

- **Land Use Plan (LUP)** – A community-driven process that informs good governance and decision-making on First Nation Lands. Using technical studies as well as community guidance, planning supports First Nations Lands Staff and Committee Members to determine whether land should be developed, protected, or remain as is.
- **Funding for Participating First Nations** - Contingent upon the receipt of funding from Canada, the Resource Centre will provide **\$125,000** in funding for participating First Nations, based on the completion of project milestones for eligible project costs. Once the LUP is complete, participating First Nations will be eligible to apply for an additional **\$175,000** in funding to support their first year of LUP implementation.
- **Scheduling** - LUPs take approximately 2 to 3 years to complete. All milestones and reporting requirements for the 2026-27 LUP Development Funding Initiative must be fulfilled before March 31, 2028, unless otherwise agreed to by the Resource Centre and participating First Nation.

Eligible First Nations

To be eligible for this funding initiative, First Nations must:

- Be an Operational or Developmental First Nation;
- Not have a LUP in place or have an outdated LUP that requires significant revisions (i.e., LUP older than 5 years); and
- Not already be receiving LUP funding from another source (i.e., Indigenous Services Canada, National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association).

- **RC Contacts** – For more information about this special funding initiative, please contact the Resource Centre’s LUP Advisors, Hilary Black at Hilary.Black@labrc.com or Andrew Smith at Andrew.Smith@labrc.com.