



Métis Cultural Development Fund (MCDF)

Application deadlines: October 31, 2020

Please read the Guidelines carefully before starting the grant application. There have been a few changes to note that can be found on our website, under 'COVID-19 Notice', by clicking [here](#).

The Métis Cultural Development Fund supports community-based cultural activities and initiatives that preserve, strengthen and transmit Métis culture and traditions.

Objectives

The MCDF program objectives are to:

- Support and strengthen Métis culture and communities through arts and heritage activity in Saskatchewan;
- Mentor and build cultural leadership skills in Métis Communities;
- Increase employment opportunities for Saskatchewan-based Métis arts and heritage resource peoples;
- Support engagement in Métis cultural activity at the individual, group, and community level;
- Support the development of Métis identity through research, documentation and/or sharing;
- Benefit children through skills development, mentorship, and having fun; and
- Encourage gathering, sharing, learning, celebrating and developing Métis culture in Métis communities aimed at building long-term cultural awareness and pride.

Priority will be given to project that:

- provide significant opportunities to meet the purpose of the MCDF grant;
- deliver relevant cultural activities based on cultural impact, accessibility and service to communities;
- have significant youth involvement and/or contribute significantly to participation in intergenerational cultural activity;
- demonstrate strong partnerships and community support;
- take place in the province's northern and/or rural or otherwise underserved communities; and
- are supported by clear project plans and budget detail.

If you are unsure whether your project fits the purpose of this grant, please contact the consultant, or see a list of successful applicants and project descriptions at the bottom of this [webpage](#), under 'Past Recipients'.

Contact

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Applicant Eligibility

Eligible Applicants are:

- **Registered Non-Profit** organizations in Saskatchewan with priority to Métis-led organizations. Organizations that are not Métis-led may still apply, but they should emphasize and provide evidence of relationship and partnership with Métis peoples for a project. All non-profit organizations must:
 - have a primarily cultural mandate in Arts, Heritage, Multiculturalism or Cultural Industries as defined by [SaskCulture's Cultural Policy](#), or otherwise demonstrate significant engagement in cultural activity;
 - be in existence as a registered non-profit for at least one full fiscal year. If your organization has been incorporated for less than a year, please contact the SaskCulture consultant to discuss options.
 - be in good standing with Information Services Corporation (ISC) and have no outstanding grant follow-ups due to SaskCulture; and
 - provide a copy of the organization's signed annual financial statement that was most recently submitted to the Information Services Corporation (ISC) to show evidence of good standing as a non-profit organization in Saskatchewan.
 - Note: Organizations receiving Annual Global Funding are not eligible to apply.

Or

- **Municipality.** The applicant must:
 - be in good standing with the Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Program; and
 - have no outstanding grant follow-ups due to SaskCulture.

Ineligible Applicants:

If your organization does not meet the eligibility requirements contact the SaskCulture Outreach Consultant to discuss what alternate project funds might be available to you. Unincorporated community groups may consider forming a partnership with an eligible organization to meet the eligibility requirements for this grant program. Or, use SaskCulture's "Find a Grant" tool to connect with other options - <https://www.saskculture.ca/programs/funding-programs/find-a-grant>.

Project Eligibility

- Projects must directly address the purpose and priorities of this funding program.
- All funds are to be used for the benefit of Métis cultural development in Saskatchewan and for residents in Saskatchewan.
- Applicants can access only one MCDF grant at a time.
 - If the applicant already has an outstanding/overdue SaskCulture grant, a second proposal will not be considered until the current one is reconciled.
 - If the applicant's current MCDF grant is wrapping up during the time of application for another deadline, contact SaskCulture for options.
- Applicants may not apply to multiple SaskCulture funding programs to support the same activity for the same time frame.
- Eligible projects must start no sooner than eight (8) weeks after the application deadline, and must end within twelve (12) months of the project start date. Projects that commence sooner than 8 weeks after the deadline will not be considered.

Eligible Expenses

The MCDF grant can cover direct costs to the development and delivery of a cultural project. When submitting a proposal, please ensure that only Eligible Expenses are included.

The **maximum request amount is \$10,000.00** towards eligible project expenses.

In-kind contributions are not eligible expenses. Contact the consultant if there is any uncertainty on what is eligible and ineligible.

Eligible expenses for the MCDF grant include:

- Wages, honorarium and contract agreements for Métis cultural resource people who are offering their skills and expertise for the term of the project. This does not replace wages for the core job responsibilities of existing staff;
- Travel expenses for program participants. This includes gas, rental of vehicles, bus transit and airfare. While the primary cultural activities must take place in Saskatchewan, travel outside of the province is eligible if it is to bring resource peoples in locally to conduct work;
- Material expenses related to the cultural activity;
- Facility costs would only be considered eligible in situations where additional space is required for the project to move ahead. The existing space/facility of an applicant organization is not eligible and would be considered as an in-kind contribution - i.e. rent, utilities and office overhead.
- A recommended maximum of 20% of the total grant award can support food expenses that are a part of the cultural experience that is being offered for participants. A strong rationale would need to be provided to exceed this amount.
- A recommended maximum of 10% of the total grant request can be utilized for advertising and promotion cost for the project. A strong rationale would need to be provided to exceed this amount.

All expenses must fall within the indicated start and end date of the grant. Expenses incurred before or after the grant period will not be eligible.

Ineligible Expenses

The following items are ineligible for MCDF funds:

- Capital expenses such as construction, renovations or repairs or purchase of major equipment such as computers, video camcorders, power tools, etc.;
- Cash prizes, gifts, or the purchase of alcohol;
- Activity that exclusively promotes definable religious or political viewpoints;
- Contributions of volunteer hours;
- Food or food-related costs are generally ineligible. However, up to 20% of the grant may be used for nutrition if these costs can be directly attributed to the cultural activity;
- Allowances, wages or personal expenses for program registrants and participants;
- Salaries and expenses of existing staff of the applicant organization – except when they are hired to perform the duties of a cultural worker;
- Office and administration fees including utilities, rent and/or rental of an applicant organization facilities; and
- In-kind contributions (donations for food, goods, services, equipment, waiving rental fee, etc.) do not replace eligible expenses.

Application Process

Applications are due April 30 and October 31 each year. Late applications will not be considered for funding.

- Applicants are encouraged to consult with SaskCulture prior to submitting an application. There are opportunities for early submissions to get feedback to help improve aspects of a submission that are unclear or ineligible in advance of a deadline, but this is not a guarantee.
- SaskCulture will review applications to confirm basic eligibility requirements have been met prior to submitting all grants to the funding assessors. **If a submission is ineligible, the applicant will be notified.**
- Eligible applications are evaluated by assessors who are unpaid Métis volunteers who have credible knowledge and experience that relates to the purpose and priority of this funding program.
- Applicants can expect to be informed of funding results within eight (8) weeks of the application deadline. Funding decisions are final and will not be revisited or appealed.
- Successful applicants receive 75% of their total grant allocation upon grant approval and the remaining 25% upon SaskCulture's acceptance of a recipient's properly filed follow-up report.

Application Assessment

The funding adjudicators will assess applications based on the following criteria:

- The extent the project addresses the objectives and priorities of the MCDF grant;
- The quality and clarity of the application;*
- The extent of accessibility for Métis populations;
- The resourcefulness of the applicant, including strong partnerships (when applicable) and leveraging other resources; and
- The quality of the budget and a realistic and responsible use of resources.
- Returning or otherwise annual projects funded by SaskCulture will have their most recent project follow-up report provided to assessors as part of the assessment process.

*Note: The quality of writing and attention to detail will definitely benefit an applicant's chances of success. However, we understand not everyone who is applying for funding is a professional grant writer or even whether English is the primary language of the person applying. If an applicant is struggling with the application, please remember, SaskCulture consultants are here to assist you.