



## **INDIGENOUS YOUTH SPORT LEGACY FUND - GUIDELINES**

*Deadline: Applications will be accepted until 5:00 pm PST on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026*

### **OBJECTIVE:**

The Indigenous Youth Sport Legacy Fund was created to assist amateur athletes of Indigenous ancestry, including athletes with a disability or disabilities, in their pursuit of excellence in sport. The grant seeks to relieve some of the financial costs associated with high performance sport, including registration, travel, equipment, and coaching expenses. Grants are awarded to athletes competing in any sport, with priority given to athletes participating on regional, provincial, and national teams.

This fund was established as one of the shared legacies of the agreement between The Province, Squamish Nation, Lil'wat Nation, and the Vancouver 2010 Bid Corporation. The administration of this fund is grounded in respect for Indigenous athletes and communities, and diverse pathways in sport.

The program is funded by the Province of British Columbia, supported by Odium Brown, and administered by viaSport in partnership with the West Vancouver Community Foundation.

### **WHO CAN APPLY:**

Applicants eligible to apply must be:

- A Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident of Canada
- Of Indigenous ancestry
- Between 13 and 30 years of age at the time of application
- Currently living and training in B.C. (exceptions may be made in cases where an applicant is required to reside elsewhere for training purposes)
- Able to demonstrate a strong history of participation in amateur sport and a demonstrated potential to achieve provincial level (or higher) performance results





## REVIEW CRITERIA AND SELECTION PROCESS:

Grant funding is allocated through a competitive application-based process. Eligible applications are evaluated by a review panel consisting of high-performance sport experts and Indigenous organizations. The panel members are chosen to ensure balanced representation. The panel bases their recommendations and funding level based on the eligibility and assessment criteria described in these guidelines. viaSport reserves the right to recommend an application that falls outside of these guidelines in consideration of individual athlete circumstances and non-linear development pathways.

### OVERARCHING ASSESSMENT:

- Merit of application
- Availability of funding
- Equitable geographic or demographic distribution

### GRANT SPECIFIC ASSESSMENTS:

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- A. Demonstrated commitment to athletic development
- B. Sport performance objectives are defined
- C. History of participation in Indigenous sport programs or teams
- D. Sport achievements to date and demonstrated potential towards future performance
- E. Funding request and expenses are connected to applicants' development
- F. Level of financial need
- G. Letter of support/reference from a coach, mentor, or community leader that can speak to the applicant's athletic ability and commitment to sport

Consideration will be given to athletes from rural and remote communities, as well as those facing systematic barriers to accessing high-performance sport pathways.

### POSSIBLE USE OF FUNDS:

Possible use of funds may include, but are not limited to:

- Registration fees
- Travel costs
- Equipment
- Coaching expenses
- Strength and conditioning support
- Sport science services





**BUDGET:**

Eligible applicants are invited to apply for funding up to \$2,000, depending on their eligibility, for expenses between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2026 and December 31, 2026.

Applications with requests outside their levels of support will not be considered for funding.

The table below provides examples to better define the levels of eligible support:

Level	Examples of Supporting Criteria	Maximum Funding Eligibility
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receiving Sport Canada Carding support (SR-1, SR-2, SR, C-1, D)</li> <li>• Own the Podium Tier 1 Athlete</li> <li>• On a Senior National Team</li> <li>• On a Junior National Team</li> <li>• Identified as a NextGen Athlete</li> </ul>	\$2,000.00
Provincial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nominated by their Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) or Disability Sport Organization (DSO) as an identified performance athlete (or Targeted Athlete)</li> <li>• On an Indigenous Provincial Team</li> <li>• Tracking towards or participating in BC Indigenous Provincial Championship</li> <li>• Tracking towards or participating in BC Games</li> <li>• On Team BC</li> </ul>	\$1,500.00
Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tracking towards or participating in BC Indigenous Provincial Athlete Development Camps</li> <li>• Tracking towards or participating in zone trials or regional championships</li> </ul>	\$1,000.00





## TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

All applicants must become familiar with the following:

- The applicant ensures all the information contained in the application is true and complete.
- Applicants may be asked to provide additional supporting information at the discretion of viaSport staff or review panel.
- Successful candidates may be required to submit a post-grant report or survey.
- Successful applicants may be asked to participate in interviews on their experience receiving this funding or agree to participate in follow-up communications at the discretion of the viaSport grants team to support program learning and to better understand the impact of funding on athlete development.
- The Province of BC and viaSport may publish the applicant's name.
- Successful candidates may be required to properly acknowledge viaSport and government support, more information available here: <https://viasport.ca/press-kit/>
- Under normal circumstances, approved awards will be paid via direct deposit (EFT) after the grant letter is signed by the intended recipient.
- Athletes must be currently training and competing (if appropriate) in the sport indicated upon receipt of assistance.
- Athletes who receive funding under this program are subject to the terms and conditions set out in the Canadian Anti-Doping Program. Any athlete found to be in violation under this program (and as a result, penalized), must return the full amount of the grant award received under this program. Any athlete already penalized under the Canadian Anti-Doping Program will not be eligible to apply for funding through this program.
- If an athlete receiving assistance through this program is prevented from continuing with their competition or training for a period greater than 60 days resulting from illness, injury or other circumstances, the athlete shall disclose this to the selection Committee. The athlete may be eligible to retain the funding upon agreement to adhere to the following provisions:
  - Make every reasonable effort to rehabilitate to prior athletic status;
  - Demonstrate long-term commitment to return to high-performance training and competition goals; and
  - Provide in writing from their coach that they have the capacity to return to prior athletic status;
  - Athletes who receive funding under this program and who choose to withdraw from sport participation, will be responsible for returning the full award, or a percentage thereof, as determined by the selection committee;
  - Violations of the program guidelines, terms and conditions may result in forfeiture of eligibility and/or support.





## HOW TO APPLY:

- Complete the online application form here: <https://viasportgrants.smapply.io/>
- You are required to create an account to apply for the grant. If you have applied for any grants through our online portal before, please use your existing account.
- You are able to save your application and return to it at a future time. Please be reminded to review your application prior to submission as you will not be able to modify your application after.
- Upon submission, please look and save a notification email confirming your submission. viaSport is not responsible for reviewing any unsubmitted applications.

Applications must be received by **5:00 pm PST on July 10, 2026**.

## Contact

If you wish to discuss your proposal and its eligibility prior to applying, please contact: [grants@viasport.ca](mailto:grants@viasport.ca)

If you wish to learn more about how we are transforming and scaling the impact of sport in our province, upcoming grant opportunities, and the latest sport and physical activity news in BC:

- Sign up for our [monthly newsletter](#)
- Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#)
- Visit [viaSport.ca](http://viaSport.ca)





## APPENDIX A:

### Application Questions:

- Athlete Information
  - Name, Contact Details, Age, Email, Community and Location.
- Proposal Details
  - Nation/Community Name and supporting documentation.
  - Sport, Club Coach and/or Reference Details and Letter.
  - What level are you interested in applying for?
- Sport Performance (max. 150 words each)
  - Describe your sporting achievements to date. What are your best results or finishes?
  - Describe your sport performance objectives for the upcoming 12 months. What are your personal and/or team goals in the short-term?
  - What are your long-term goals?
  - How would this grant help you achieve your goals for the next 12 months and beyond?
  - If the funds were to be awarded, please briefly describe how they would be allocated and outline the importance of the expense.
- Budget Proposal
  - Total funds requested and breakdown