



## Indigenous Learning Opportunities Funding 2022-2024 Expression of Interest

### A. Funding Process

ECALA funds non-profit agencies to provide foundational learning opportunities for adults in Edmonton who face social or financial barriers to learning. Foundational learning focuses on basic literacy and the knowledge, skills, and abilities that help individuals take part as neighbours and citizens, pursue further learning, and have satisfying employment.

ECALA funding supports Indigenous literacy and learning programs that meet the unique needs of Indigenous learners. Eligible programming areas and requirements can be found in the [2022-2024 ECALA Indigenous Learning Opportunities Funding Guidelines](#).

In 2018-2019, ECALA adopted a best practice framework created by the ECALA Indigenous Advisory committee for evaluating future Indigenous program proposals. Through this collaboration, ECALA changed its funding guidelines to prioritize culturally relevant learning opportunities for Indigenous peoples. The Indigenous application funding recommendations of the Edmonton-based Indigenous Advisory committee include the following:

- Development of a review process incorporating Indigenous knowledge
- Obtaining community input to provide an opportunity for Indigenous communities to express their own literacy needs
- A Trauma-Informed approach to ensure the impact of Intergenerational trauma and later impacts on learning are addressed and supported in all learning opportunities
- Inclusion of cultural humility into the review process and funded learning opportunities
- Recognition of Indigenous oral tradition in the funding process



## B. Practitioner and Learning Opportunity Expectations

Learning opportunities and facilitators who receive Indigenous funding should ensure that Indigenous learning:

- Involves co-creation of content with Elders and/or Indigenous Community Knowledge Keepers
- Includes time with Elders and/or Knowledge keepers in the classroom
- Implements culturally grounded learning methods (i.e., storytelling, art, music, and language)
- Acknowledges the vast cultural diversity among Indigenous peoples: First Nations, Metis, Inuit
- Includes the application of daily cultural practice (i.e., smudging, sharing circles, spirituality)
- Incorporates [First People's Principles of Learning](#)
- Is Trauma-Informed and acknowledges the impacts of Intergenerational trauma
- Includes aspects of [The Truth and Reconciliation Commissions \(TRC\) Calls to Action](#) in relation to Education and Adult Literacy

Agencies that receive Indigenous Learning Opportunity Funding are required to develop a plan to support adult literacy training for instructors and facilitators supporting adult basic literacy for urban Indigenous people.

If you have a potential program that falls within the [2022-2024 ECALA Indigenous Learning Opportunities Funding Guidelines](#), please contact ECALA through **one** of the following methods:

**Oral Expression of Interest**— Email Debbie Clark at [ed@ecala.org](mailto:ed@ecala.org) or call 587-990-0762 to discuss the proposed learning opportunities. Agencies will receive confirmation from ECALA staff by **January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, if they are approved for an Oral Presentation.**

**Written Expression of Interest**— Send a one-page document using the questions in Section B above to [ed@ecala.org](mailto:ed@ecala.org) by **January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022.** Note: If you submit your request by January 21, 2022, there will be time for an ECALA staff to provide feedback on your submission.



## C. Expression of Interest Questions

1. Please tell us about your organization (i.e. mission, mandate, and how you plan to address Indigenous literacy if you are not an educational institution)
2. Briefly describe your program idea, include the unique need your program will try to address, and how you plan to attract adult Indigenous learners who may have multiple barriers to accessing programs.
3. Express your knowledge of Indigenous History and the current impacts this history has on Indigenous learning. What are your plans for incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing into the program? Non-Indigenous allies should be prepared to describe your role as you understand it and how you will continue your learning to best support Indigenous learners.
4. To the best of your ability, at this stage, please supply a draft budget for your project idea using our Proposed Budget template.

## D. Timeline of Indigenous Learning Opportunity Funding

**January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022**—Submit a written Expression of Interest or approval has been sent by ECALA that your Oral Expression of Interest if you are applying for a new program or making significant changes to a currently funded program

**February 15 and 16, 2022**—Oral Interviews and Review Meeting between applicants, ECALA, and the Indigenous Review Team

**March**—Applicants advised if Expression of Interest is approved and invited to give a full proposal

Please email Expressions of Interest to [ed@ecala.org](mailto:ed@ecala.org)

by

4:00 pm on Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022