

Healing Programs Working Group

Origin: National Indigenous Council

Approved April 8, 2019

For transmission to the 2019 National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering.

Vision Statement

The National Indigenous Organization envisions whole and balanced Indigenous communities with strong leadership bolstered by their education, original teachings and languages.

Mission Statement/Mandate

The National Indigenous Organization will realize its vision by providing grants for education, culture, and language initiatives for healing and leadership development. The National Indigenous Organization, in collaboration with the Indigenous Justice Working Group, will also support communities through advocacy on matters related to Indigenous issues and justice.

The National Indigenous Organization will designate a Healing Programs Working Group to receive and discern applications for the following grants: Healing Fund, Alvin Dixon Memorial Bursary Fund, Dorothy Jenkins Estate Fund and the Endowment Fund for Indigenous Post Secondary Education.

The Healing Programs Working Group and Healing Programs Coordinator shall engage Indigenous communities in a relational manner that follows the sacred seven teachings of respect, love, bravery, humility, wisdom, honesty and truth in all aspects of community involvement.

The Healing Programs Working Group will carry forward priorities set by the National Indigenous Organization, and as such will provide support and guidance to the Healing Programs Coordinator on matters of advocacy to Indigenous issues and justice.

The Healing Programs Working Group is accountable to the National Indigenous Organization and provides annual reports to them. The Healing Programs Working Group also provides an annual report on all grants, except the Healing Fund, to the United Church of Canada Foundation.

Membership

The Healing Programs Working Group (the Working Group) membership will encourage a broad representation of the United Church Indigenous community from across Canada. The Working Group will also actively seek members such as youth/young adult, Two-Spirit, Elders, strategic thinkers, knowledge keepers, keepers of history and urban Indigenous. The Healing Programs Coordinator and Program Assistant will support the Working Group.

- a) Representation and term of appointment will include:
 - Up to six (6) individuals will serve a three (3) year term, renewable, with a maximum of six years.
 - A representative of the National Indigenous Elder's Council will be invited to the upcoming meetings to provide spiritual guidance and consultation with the Working Group.

- b) Expected Members Gifts/Experiences:
 - Preferably a residential school student and/or a second or third generation family member of a residential school student.
 - Preferably individuals with a deep commitment to education and leadership development.

- c) The Working Group members will have an awareness of and willing to receive training on:
 - United Church Policies and the ethos, structure and practices
 - Indian Residential School history
 - The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
 - The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action
 - Previous project application review and discernment experience
 - First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, culture and traditions
 - Ability to use Video and telephone conference technology
 - Is comfortable interacting in diverse communities
 - Interest in fundraising

- d) Members may from time-to-time be identified to attend a funded project within their region for recording and promotion purposes.

Meeting

The Working Group will attend meetings on a regular basis. If a member requires being absent from a meeting, notice is required at least two weeks in advance.

1. All six (6) members will be needed for decision-making. However, three (3) members is enough for quorum or the meeting will need to be rescheduled.
2. All members providing advance notice of absence will submit their applications scores and comments before the meeting in order for the meeting to run.
3. Meetings will take place twice (2) a year (Spring and Fall). There will be one (1) face to face meeting per year at the General Council Office in Toronto in the Spring for two days with travel days as necessary. The Fall meeting will take place via telephone/video conference.
4. Monthly meetings will take place, when necessary, via telephone/video conference to make decisions, processes and resource sharing.
5. When a member misses two consecutive meetings, the resource staff person will seek a new representative.
6. If a member cannot complete or wishes to resign from the Working Group before the term is completed, the member will submit a resignation letter two months in advance of the next meeting.
7. If a member receives a travel advance but does not attend a meeting, the member will repay the travel advance within thirty (30) days.

Discernment Process

The Working Group shall be provided with applications at least one month prior to the meeting to review and rate applications.

1. Members will review and rate applications prior to the meeting that is based on the following:
 - a. Sacred teachings of humility, bravery, honesty, wisdom, truth, respect, and love;
 - b. The Calls to the Church; and
 - c. Principles, norms and standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
2. Applications for bursaries and scholarships will be reviewed using a blindfold process, meaning that the names of the applicants will not be shown to the Working Group.
3. Majority of the members will approve applications by consensus led by a rotating Chair.
4. Members will decide on the award amount for scholarships and bursaries each cycle in consultation with the United Church Foundation.
5. Priority will be given to first time applicants.

Conflict of Interest

The Working Group members shall declare conflict of interest in the cases where:

1. There is direct relationship as a family, community member and/or affiliation between the member and the committee/board of the project organization.
2. The member assisted in the preparation/writing of the application.
3. Where it is learned that a member has failed to declare conflict of interest, the application shall become void.
4. Upon declaring a conflict of interest the member shall leave the room while discernment is in process. The member, with permission, may voice comments prior to leaving the room.

Promotion

Primarily, the promotion will be on the United Church of Canada website and the United Church of Canada Foundation. From time to time, additional promotional activities may be requested such as attending fundraising events.

Funding Criteria

The funding criteria for all funds will be found in the following appendices.

Appendices

- A. Healing Fund Criteria
- B. Dorothy Jenkins Estate Fund Criteria
- C. Alvin Dixon Memorial Fund Criteria
- D. Endowment Fund for Indigenous Post Secondary Education Fund Criteria

These terms of reference can be reviewed and amended by the National Indigenous Organization as deemed necessary. The National Indigenous Organization will report these changes to the Executive of General Council.

A copy of these Terms of Reference will be forwarded to the new National Indigenous Organization once finalized at the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering 2019.

Healing Fund Terms of Reference

Background

The Healing Fund was established by The United Church of Canada to live out its Apologies (1986, 1998) for the harms committed in the operation of Residential Schools and the harms experienced by the former students in those schools. The Healing Fund supports Indigenous communities to continue healing from the ongoing impacts of the Residential School System, systemic racism, intergenerational trauma and contemporary colonial violence.

In moving forward, the Healing Fund will promote a decolonized and relational approach to supporting Indigenous communities to restore their cultures and languages and achieve healing using the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework.

The Healing Fund will focus on providing grants of \$15,000 for each self-determining Indigenous communities and organizations to create healing, cultural and language initiatives.

Criteria

1. Applications will be specific to addressing the ongoing impacts of the residential school system and intergenerational trauma through innovative healing, cultural and/or language projects.
2. Priority will be given to first time applicants. Applicants in good standing may apply after three years.
3. Applicants will be an Indigenous group (First Nations, Métis or Inuit), community (urban, rural or remote) or agency.
4. Applications will be part of a community-based program or grass roots initiative.
5. All applications will request an amount for their project up to a maximum of \$15,000 to utilize within the year starting from June 1st or December 1st.
6. Applications will have a letter of support from a local agency and a member of the community.
7. Applications will include trauma informed practices to promote emotional safety for participants when necessary.
8. Indigenous applicants may apply with non-Indigenous applicants. We encourage Indigenous and non-Indigenous applicants to follow the principles, norms and standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) <<https://www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/un-declaration-rights-indigenous-peoples>> as a guide in your work together.

The Healing Programs Working Group will not consider applications that:

- Are from or for the benefit of an individual.
- Are to reduce accumulated capital or operating deficits, or to retire debt.
- Are for general operating costs not linked to a project that meets our granting criteria.
- Are for building projects.
- Are for furniture or capital equipment purchases.
- Are for salaries or wages.
- Are for non-Indigenous churches/ministries.
- Are for education tuition.

Applicant Type

There will be three types of applicants: General applicants, multi-year applicants and Indigenous communities of faith applicants.

- **General applicants:** Priority will be given to first time applicants. These applicants, if approved, may receive up to a maximum of \$15,000 per project for one year starting June 1st or December 1st. Applicants who complete their projects in good standing may apply again after a three-year period unless approved for multi-year funding.
- **Multi-Year Applicants:** When a project is completed, applicants will receive the same amount or similar amount they received the previous year up to a maximum of \$15,000 per year. Funding may continue for an additional two years if the applicant continues to provide reports and maintains the original vision of the project. Potentially, the applicant could receive up to four years of funding. Once the four years of funding are exhausted, applicants may re-apply with a new project after three years.
- **Indigenous communities of faith applicants:** Indigenous communities of faith who partner with Indigenous Ministries will have access to funds every year for two projects in the Spring and two projects in the Fall up to maximum of \$15,000 per project. Each application will follow the Healing Fund criteria. Priority will be for youth and young adults.

Multi-Year Funds Allocation

The Healing Fund grant gifts \$300,000 annually to Indigenous communities, grass roots initiatives and/or agencies. The grant will be dispersed in the following ways.

The Healing Programs Working Group will disperse \$180,000 in grants annually for first time applicants from Indigenous communities or grassroots projects that closely align to the Healing Fund criteria.

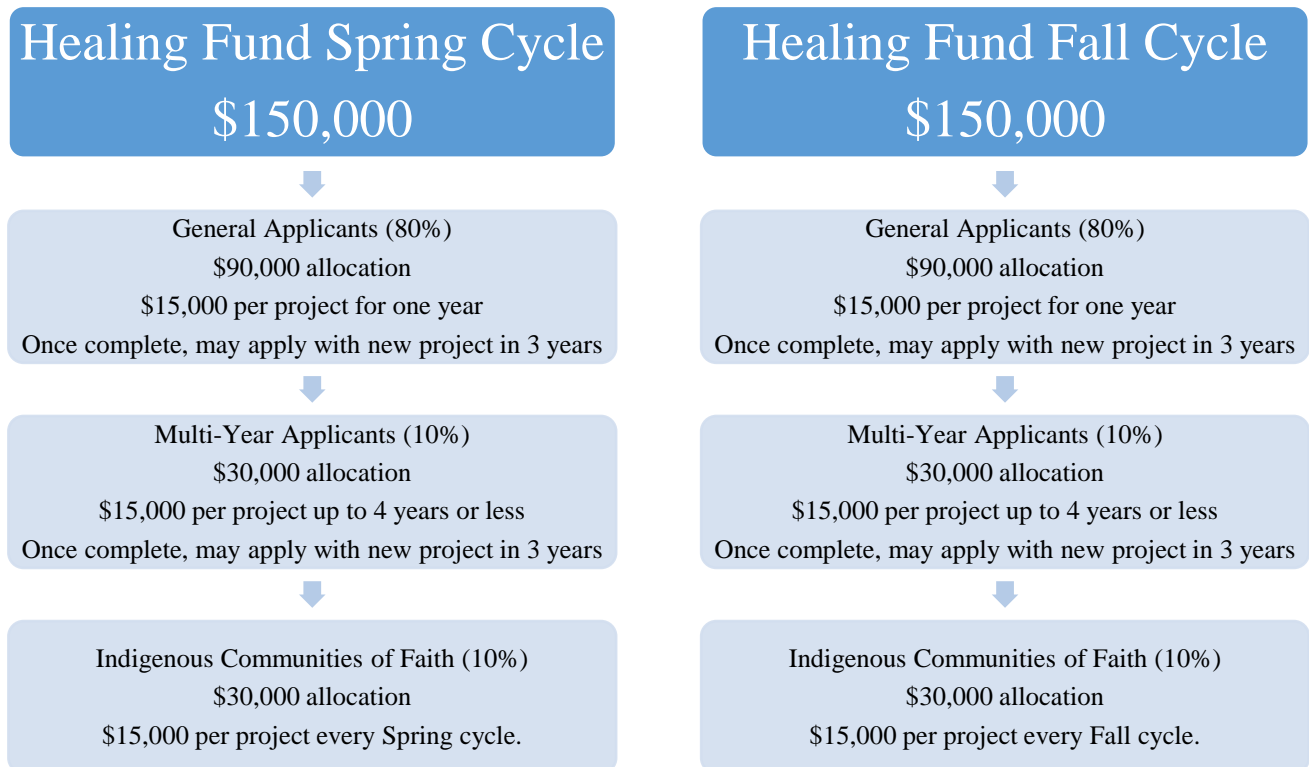
The Healing Programs Working Group will disperse \$60,000 in grants annually for projects that qualify for additional funding by allocating \$30,000 in the Spring and \$30,000 in the Fall. Each applicant may request a maximum of \$15,000 per project until the four years of funding are

exhausted. The Healing Programs Working Group will base approvals for additional years of funding by reviewing the details in the applicants final report such as need, impact, benefits, outcomes, reporting and a recommendation from the Healing Programs Coordinator.

In addition, the Healing Programs Working Group will disperse \$60,000 in grants annually for projects from the Indigenous communities of faith by allocating \$30,000 in the Spring and \$30,000 in the Fall for the Indigenous communities of faith who partner with Indigenous Ministries.

At anytime, the Healing Programs Working Group may provide less funding from the previous years or discontinue funding if the applicant does not provide reports and other supporting documents in a timely manner.

Healing Fund Model



Appendix B: The Dorothy Jenkins Estate Fund

Dorothy Jenkins Estate Fund Terms of Reference

Background

The Dorothy Jenkins Estate trust account has been held by the United Church of Canada. In a document dated August 31st, 1995, the terms of the Will are stated as follows: “To divide the rest and residue of my estate into three (3) equal shares and to pay...the third share to The United Church of Canada for charitable work among our native peoples.” The National Indigenous Organization animates “charitable work” in today’s context of justice and right relationship. And in doing so, recognize the movement toward financial choice and responsibility.

The Dorothy Jenkins fund will support initiatives that focus on the priorities named by the Indigenous communities of faith served by the National Indigenous Organization: Financial and economic prosperity; education/teachings; human resources; youth; stewardship; pastoral care; traditional models.

Therefore, the Healing Programs Working Group of the National Indigenous Organization will consider funding projects that have an emphasis on leadership in the following areas:

1. Building a strong spiritual base in Indigenous Communities of Faith by engaging Elders, youth, Two-Spirit and urban Indigenous peoples in the community. Together they will vision and build capacity in leadership and self-worth;
2. Maintaining a strong complement of Indigenous ministry personnel, lay leaders, governing bodies, and theological schools, thus continuing to build capacity within Indigenous communities;
3. Training, education, and developing culturally appropriate resources reflecting the diversity and gifts of the Indigenous community;
4. Promoting healing, compassionate, appropriate, and supportive pastoral care to Indigenous Communities of Faith and Regions;
5. Planning for financial sustainability;
6. Promoting community development strategies, healing models and processes that reflect the wisdom, tradition, teachings, and values of Indigenous Christian spirituality that may be used in community and the world towards truth and reconciliation, healing the spirit, and building right relations.

Disbursements from the Fund:

An annual maximum disbursement is \$3.5% on the fund balance
January, 2014 – Fund Balance is \$846,307.

Appendix C: Alvin Dixon Memorial Fund

Alvin Dixon Memorial Bursary Fund for Education Terms of Reference

Background

Alvin William Dixon was born on June 10, 1937 and grew up in and near Bella Bella, also known as Waglisla, on the eastern side of Campbell Island along the central British Columbia coast. He was raised by a grandmother who lived off the land in the traditional way.

Alvin was taken to the Alberni Indian Residential School on Vancouver Island when he was 10 years old. When he graduated, he enrolled at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver as one of six First Nations students at the school. He majored in English and took teacher's training. He paid for his degree by working summers as a fisherman.

He was a strong activist and held roles with the Native Brotherhood of British Columbia and, especially, within the United Church, beginning as a member of British Columbia Conference Staff, and supporting the BC Native Ministries Council. At the time of his death, he was serving as the BC Conference lay representative to the Executive of the General Council (GCE). As a member of GCE, he was also appointed to other committees such as the Moderator's Advisory Committee and the Theology and Faith Committee. He was one of the founders of the Native Ministries Consortium and the Native Ministries program at the Vancouver School of Theology. Alvin was the first Indigenous chair (2005-2014) of the Residential Schools Steering Committee (renamed in 2011, as the Committee of Indigenous Justice and Residential Schools).

Alvin died of cancer on July 20, 2014 in Vancouver. His two sons, two daughters, six grandchildren, two sisters and a brother survive him.

Throughout his life Alvin quietly worked behind the scenes to improve the lives of First Nations people in many areas including those involved in the First Nations fishery and First Nations youth, as well as raising awareness with Canadians about the experiences of Indigenous children in residential schools, especially through working with the BC Indian Residential Schools Survivors Society.

In honour of Alvin's life and his dedication to the United Church and to education, an endowed fund at The United Church of Canada Foundation is established in his memory. The Foundation welcomes gifts of any amount to the Fund.

The Alvin Dixon Memorial Bursary Fund will support initiatives that focus on multi-year academic education programs for Indigenous students.

Eligible Criteria

1. Applicant will be considered for financial need.
2. Applicant will have good academic performance with a minimum of 2.50 grade point average.

3. Applicant must prove enrolment in an accredited Canadian and/or international post-secondary educational institution of their choice for full time studies. Including public universities e.g. University of Ottawa, colleges e.g. Centennial College, and technical institutes e.g. University of Ontario Institute of Technology, OCAD, etc.; The individual may be registered in any course or program of study that suits their chosen career path.
4. Priority will be given to theological and spiritual studies programs e.g. at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, Vancouver School of Theology, Atlantic School of Theology, Emmanuel College, St. Andrew's College, St. Stephen's College, Montreal Union Theological School, Centre for Christian Studies.
5. Must be of Indigenous (First Nation-status/non-status, Inuit, or Métis) descent.

Other Details

The scholarship may be awarded in multiple years to the same individual(s) provided they are continuing their post secondary education. The Working Group will discern in any given year whether the scholarship will be awarded to one individual or multiple people based on the applications it receives and the funds available. At least annually the Foundation will provide the Council with reports on grants made and available monies for granting.

Appendix D: Endowment Fund for Indigenous Post Secondary Education

Terms of Reference Endowment Fund for Indigenous Post Secondary Education

History

In March of 2010, Griffith and Christina Lloyd established an endowment fund to help support Indigenous youth seeking to enter or continue post-secondary education. Through annual contributions, the Lloyds have brought the fund to its granting threshold and the Fund will accept its first round of applications for fall 2019.

Terms

As per the terms of the Fund agreement, the Foundation will make annual grants to provide support to Indigenous students seeking post secondary education at an accredited college or university.

Eligible Criteria

- Applicant will be considered in financial need.
- Applicant will have good academic performance with a minimum of 2.50 grade point average.
- Applicant must prove enrolment in an accredited Canadian and/or international post secondary educational institution of their choice for full time studies (including public universities e.g. University of Ottawa, colleges e.g. Centennial College, and technical institutes e.g. University of Ontario Institute of Technology, OCAD, etc.); the individual may be registered in any course or program of study that suits their chosen career path.
- Applicant must be between the ages of 18 – 29.
- Applicants must be of Indigenous (First Nation-status/non-status, Inuit, or Métis) descent.

Other Details

The scholarship may be awarded in multiple years to the same individual(s) provided they are continuing their post secondary education. The Council will discern in any given year whether the scholarship will be awarded to one individual or multiple people based on the applications it receives and the funds available. Once a scholarship recipient turns 29 years old, the recipient will remain eligible for funding until education program is completion.

At least annually the Foundation will provide the Council with reports on grants made and available monies for granting.