



British Columbia
**Community
Forest**
Association

local people, local forests, local decisions



**Funding Opportunities for Landbase Investment
in BC Community Forests
March 14, 2020**

Table of Contents

1.0	<i>Introduction</i>	3
2.0	<i>Land Based Investment (LBI)</i>	3
1.1	Forests for Tomorrow	4
1.2	Fish Passage Restoration	5
3.0	<i>Habitat Conservation Trust Fund</i>	6
4.0	<i>Northern Development Initiative Trust</i>	7
5.0	<i>Community Resiliency Investment</i>	8
6.0	<i>Wildfire Risk Reduction</i>	9
7.0	<i>General Guidance on Funding Applications</i>	10
8.0	<i>Contacts</i>	11

1.0 Introduction

There are a range of funding opportunities available for Community Forests in BC to support investments on the Community Forest landbase. These are generally related to provincial funding agencies or organizations, but can also include other levels of government or non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The following discussion is not intended to be a comprehensive list and description of all possible funding opportunities. Its purpose is to highlight the key funding organizations that may align with Community Forests in BC. If you are aware of additional funding sources not discussed, please follow up with the contacts below and we will consider inclusion of these additional funding opportunities in future versions of this document.

It is important to note that this document provides a summary of conditions at the time it was developed. Individual funding groups and campaigns should be consulted directly for up-to-date deadlines, funding criteria and application processes, as these do change over time.

The following funds are discussed in more detail below:^{1,2}

- Land Based Investment (Forest For Tomorrow and Fish Passage)
- Northern Development Initiative Trust
- Community Resilience Investment

The BC Community Forest Association (BCCFA) will work to maintain this guide and related information in response to significant changes to funding opportunities, and will ensure that updated information is made available to Community Forests.

2.0 Land Based Investment (LBI)

The BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) is responsible for the Land Based Investment (LBI) program. The LBI program is in place to support investments on the provincial landbase to manage, conserve, or protect BC's natural resources. The program is administered by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and is driven

¹ The Forest Enhancement Society of BC has been a key funding partner for many community forests. Many community forests continue to implement FES funded projects that were approved under previous intakes. FESBC is not currently accepting new requests for funding. See discussion below regarding the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (as FESBC earmarked some of their funds to this program). <https://fesbc.ca/applying-for-funding.html>

² The 2019 Rural Dividend Fund intake was suspended. Potential for an additional intake is uncertain at this time. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/economic-development/support-organizations-community-partners/rural-economic-development/rural-dividend>

by an annual Land Based Investment Strategy (LBIS)³ that outlines the delivery cycle, planning and roles/responsibilities.

The LBI program includes 14 different [categories](#)⁴, with two that are more likely to be relevant to BC’s Community Forests: Fish Passage and Forests for Tomorrow (FFT).

Within the FLNRORD, regional Integrated Investment Specialists coordinate and support prioritization of landbase investments. They are an important contact when The Integrated Investment Plans are developed by the Integrated Investment Specialist, who work to coordinate investments on the land base, seek to link project proponents with potential funders but rarely fund projects directly. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the Integrated Investment Specialist in their region with questions about regional priorities or if/when exploring project ideas of their own.⁵

1.1 Forests for Tomorrow

The LBI’s Forests for Tomorrow (FFT) program focuses on maintaining or improving future timber supply and addressing risks to other forest values through the re-establishment of young forests and improvement of growth on land that would otherwise remain less productive. The program focuses on land that is primarily within the timber harvesting land base (THLB) yet outside of forest tenure obligations.

The BCCFA coordinates the engagement of the Community Forests in BC with the FFT program, and PwC administers the program on behalf of FLNRORD.

There are two main categories and associated project types in the FFT program:

Category	Project Type
Current Reforestation	Reforestation
	Repression Density Spacing
	Conifer Release
Timber Supply Mitigation	Fertilization
	Spacing

The FFT program focuses on maximization of productivity and

optimization of timber flow guided by a threshold ‘Return on Investment’ calculation. The focus of the current FFT funding for Community Forests is the rehabilitation of both wildfire and Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) affected stands. At the moment, FFT has approximately \$1.0 to \$2.0 million earmarked for Community Forests on an annual basis, a number that is subject to annual review/adjustment (recently closer to \$2 million in order to support reforestation of areas burned in the 2017 and 2018 wildfires).

³ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/land-based-investment>

⁴ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/land-based-investment/investment-categories>

⁵ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/land-based-investment/integrated-investment>

The program has a priority in place for the following stands:

1. Burned plantations (those without legal reforestation obligations)
2. Catastrophic killed plantations (those without legal reforestation obligations)
3. Defaulted legal reforestation obligations
4. Caribou mitigation openings
5. Catastrophic killed mature timber (uneconomic for current forest licensees)
6. Burned mature timber (uneconomic for current forest licensees)



The key document that outlines the *Stand Establishment and Treatment Standards* for the FFT program is available on the FFT [website](#)⁶. In addition, detailed FFT guidance including funding criteria can also be found on their [website](#)⁷.

Community Forest engagement in the FFT program is through the BCCFA. You will receive annual emails from the BCCFA requesting your interest in engaging in the program. In the interim, if you have questions on the program do not hesitate to contact us.

Key to your engagement in the program is also an understanding of the proposed treatments by FLNRORD staff, specifically those in your local Resource District. Note also the support of Integrated Investment Specialists and associated planning as noted above.

1.2 Fish Passage Restoration

Where there are stream crossings that are blockages to fish, there is an opportunity to engage with the Fish Passage Technical Working Group (FPTWG). Identification of possible stream crossing restoration sites must be completed following a series of other key steps, the completion of which could also be funded by the FPTWG where priority watersheds and fisheries values align with your Community Forest landbase. In general, the process includes:

1. Confirm priority of the watershed group based on known fisheries values (note fish values and priorities as indicated on the FPTWG website);

⁶ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/land-based-investment/forests-for-tomorrow/stand-establishment-and-treatment-standards>

⁷ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/land-based-investment/forests-for-tomorrow/guidance>

2. Watershed-based assessments of stream crossings across the entire watershed to ensure all blockages are identified and that priorities can be generated (i.e. estimated habitat gain, cost of replacement compared to benefits gained);
3. Habitat confirmation for the shortlisted sites;
4. Development of site plans/prescriptions for the proposed stream crossing replacement; and
5. Completion of the stream crossing replacement.

Where the blockage is on a permitted road there may be issues associated with the current tenure holders' obligations; strategic partnering could be used to address this administrative step.

Although the FPTWG has a structured watershed-based process through which priority stream crossing projects would be eventually identified, there may be opportunity to approach them with one-off fish passage restoration sites where there is significant known and documented benefits to fish within the context of fish habitat, streams and fish passage across the related watersheds.

There is no formal intake or application process with the FPTWG. They have some allied organizations (government and NGO) that help administer the program in different areas of the province. If interested, contact the FPTWG directly.

For more information see: [Fish Passage Investment](#)⁸.

3.0 Habitat Conservation Trust Fund

The Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (HCTF) is a registered charity established in 1981 to improve the conservation outcomes of BC's fish and wildlife, and the habitats in which they live. It is primarily funded through conservation surcharges on angling, hunting, trapping and guiding licenses. In addition, HCTF manages multiple endowments and uses the investment income to also fund conservation projects.

The HCTF funds a variety of conservation work, including:

- Projects to restore, maintain or enhance native freshwater fish and wildlife populations and their habitats; and
- Information, education and stewardship projects that enhance user's enjoyment of fish, wildlife and habitats, or that foster human attitudes and behaviours favourable to management and conservation.

⁸ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/land-based-investment/investment-categories/fish-passage>

Community Forests are eligible to apply for HCTF funds. Up to date information on HCTF can be found on their [website](#)⁹. The HCTF gives priority to activities and investments that:

- Are scientifically rigorous and relevant to HCTF’s mission;
- Provide clear and measurable outcomes; and
- Demonstrate multiple partners or other expressions of meaningful support.

In addition, projects eligible for HCTF funds must respond to or address one or more of HCTF’s stated priorities:

1. Native species and habitats;
2. Connection to nature; and
3. Climate change.

There are several grant types available, each with their own eligibility criteria, types of activities funded, and application deadlines. See their [grants page](#)¹⁰ for further details.

4.0 Northern Development Initiative Trust

Northern Development is an independent, non-profit corporation; a catalyst stimulating economic growth through investments in grassroots, community-led projects. Since its inception in 2005, Northern Development has approved and administered more than \$206.1 million in funding to more than 3,257 projects in central and northern B.C. communities driving nearly \$1.3 billion of investment. Northern Development is a regionally operated economic development funding corporation for central and northern BC. It operates independently from government and provides the funding and ability to identify and pursue new opportunities for stimulating economic growth and job creation within the region.

Funding objective – To support the diversification of the central and northern BC industrial sectors through new and innovative technologies that optimize natural and renewable resources, increase business competitiveness, stimulate new job creation or job retention, and create new opportunities for economic growth.

Eligible organizations are registered non-profit organizations whose sole purpose is to create jobs and economic benefit in the specified industrial sectors (i.e. Community Forests, industry associations) and are operating within the Northern Development Initiative Trust region (see map¹¹).

⁹ <https://hctf.ca/>

¹⁰ <https://hctf.ca/grants/>

¹¹ <https://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca/about/>

The source for funds available through this trust are associated with the Mountain Pine Beetle Recovery Account; as such there is a general focus on MPB-related projects. The program has a continuous intake with no specific deadlines for applications. The maximum grant amount available is \$50,000 with a maximum grant percentage of 50%.

Funded project examples include:

- Innovation or improvements in harvesting and gathering, extraction or manufacturing techniques.
- Advancements in site remediation.
- Investments in productivity improvements.
- Implementation of new technologies.

Prior to developing applications, it is recommended that you contact them at (250) 561-2525. Information is also available on their [programs page](#)¹².



5.0 Community Resiliency Investment

The Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) is a provincial program intended to address wildfire risk and mitigation for communities via their local government (First Nations, municipalities and regional districts) throughout BC. This program is a new iteration of the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) and is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

CRI is intended to cover land inside the local government's administrative boundary and the proposed activities are applied for and administered by the local government. Community Forests may provide technical leadership and form mutually beneficial partnerships with their local governments to support CRI projects and potentially benefit from CRI funding where CFA boundaries overlap with a local government boundary. Up to date information on CRI can be found on their [website](#)¹³. Eligible grant funding is 100% of the cost to a maximum of \$25,000 for applicants with a lower risk of wildfire, and a maximum of \$100,000 for applicants with a higher risk of wildfire. Wildfire risk may be determined through a previous planning process including Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) or supported by risk class mapping using the Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA) data. More information on wildfire risk can be found on the CRI website or through consultation with BC Wildfire Service.

Projects that are eligible for CRI funds must respond to or address one or more of CRI activities:

¹² <https://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca/apply-for-funding/>

¹³ <https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/community-resiliency-investment.html>

- Education;
- Planning;
- Development considerations, including re-zoning and bylaws;
- Interagency co-operation;
- Emergency planning;
- Cross training;
- FireSmart demonstration projects;
- FireSmart activities for Crown land; and
- Fuel and vegetation management.

Projects relating to CFA's and fuel and vegetation management may often directly overlap or connect with other funding agencies when on provincial crown land. Applicants should communicate with both UBCM and the BC Wildfire Service to determine project eligibility and administration.

6.0 Wildfire Risk Reduction

The BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) is currently moving forward with the integration of fire and fuel management as a key part of its mandate. A component of this work is the new Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR) funding source. This is a three-year program delivered internally by the provincial government. With up to \$25 million/year, it targets prescribed burning, as well as fuel management on areas of higher wildfire risk near communities or critical infrastructure.

While the CRI program's FireSmart Community Funding and Supports category provides funding for local governments (First Nations, municipalities and regional districts), the WRR category is coordinated and administered by Natural Resource Districts and is for work on provincial crown land. Guiding principles have been developed to guide the Regional and District teams in their planning, and protocols have been identified for prioritization and selection of opportunities.

There are opportunities for community forests to ensure their priorities for wildfire risk reduction treatments are incorporated into current planning for future years. The coordination of the Crown Land WRR category occurs at the District level. We recommend that you contact your



Natural Resource District to ensure that your interests and your priority wildfire risk reduction treatment areas are incorporated into the current planning and prioritization of treatments under the Crown Land WRR category. If you need additional information, we encourage you to engage with your local Natural Resource District or BCWS Fire Centre.

The BCCFA will be continuing to work with the BCWS to find common ground in the planning and implementation of this new initiative and to develop a long-term collaborative partnership to ensure community forest input is received and incorporated across the province. Community forests have a very important role to play in management of the wildland urban interface (WUI), and over the years community forests have developed local expertise and social capital in wildfire risk reduction. The goal of the BCCFA is to ensure that community forests continue to provide this service in their communities.



7.0 General Guidance on Funding Applications

The following statements are provided as general guidance and principles that Community Forests should consider when developing funding applications:

- Ensure that you are aware of the full requirements and criteria for the organization and/or specific funding campaign as you consider applying and as you develop your applications.
- Pay specific attention to the objectives, criteria and/or requirements provided by the funding agency as you confirm eligibility of the proposed activity and as you develop your application.
- Providing support funding or in-kind support is generally considered by the funding agency as a show of commitment to the proposed activity and may be a requirement. In some situations, this in-kind support could be the pre-planning needed to define and quantify the activity that you are applying for. Proposal or application development is

generally not considered eligible as an in-kind contribution. Although it may not be a requirement, financial support from the Community Forest (or in-kind contributions) may still be a significant factor in the adjudication of your application.

- FLNRORD, specifically at the District level, will likely play a role in the implementation of the activities being proposed; their awareness of and input into the proposed activity is recommended and may be a requirement.
- Do not underestimate the benefit of meaningful conversations and relationships with potential government agencies, potential implementation partners, stakeholders and First Nations as you apply for funds. This may also be a requirement for some funding agencies.
- Some funding organizations also appreciate joint funded projects where different components are funded by different organizations, in alignment with eligibility and focus of specific programs. This demonstrates how the individual funding dollars can be used to secure additional funding and/or facilitate more work being completed.
- Additional funding opportunities may exist that are more focused on environmental objectives, such as the BC Hydro Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP)¹⁴ as well as several federally funded fisheries programs and initiatives¹⁵. In addition, through collaboration or co-management with First Nations additional funding envelopes may be available.
- If you encounter additional funding sources or opportunities not described within this document, please bring them to the attention of the contacts below for consideration in future updates to this guidance document.

8.0 Contacts



BC Community Forest Association

Jennifer Gunter

Ph: 250-384-4110

jgunter@bccfa.ca



Forsite Consultants Ltd.

Randy Spyksma, MSc, RPF

Cell: 250-804-6305

rspyksma@forsite.ca

¹⁴ <http://fwcp.ca/>

¹⁵ <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/initiatives/index-eng.htm>