

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Rural and Northern Communities Outcome and Project Examples

Guidance on Aligning with Outcomes and Program Requirements

For the *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program*, Infrastructure Canada uses an “outcomes based” approach as opposed to considering applications under various categories. So instead of applying under categories such as “drinking water” or “wastewater”, applicants must ensure that their project will support one of the federal program outcomes for it to be eligible.

The following types of projects would generally be eligible under the program. This document has been created by BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff to give applicants an idea of what projects are eligible. It is not intended to be a comprehensive list of eligible projects. The project must also meet other program requirements and criteria.

Rural and Northern Communities (RNC) CORE Outcomes

Outcome 1: Improved Food Security

All projects must increase the food security in the rural community. The definition for this program will be as follows: Food security – UN definition - exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Household food security is the application of this concept to the family level, with individuals within households as the focus of concern.

1. Storage assets:

- freezers – installing a walk in freezer into a community kitchen to allow for storage for the public
- warehouses – construction of a warehouse facility for a food bank.

2. Production assets:

- Greenhouses – construction of a greenhouse in order to produce vegetables for the community
- Aquaponics – purchase and installation of a closed system in order to grow a food fish in conjunction with a crop in the same space. Tilapia and leafy vegetables are examples of products grown in aquaponics.

3. Food Preparation Assets

- Community kitchens – construction of a facility that is open to the public to can their own products such as fish or to learn methods of food preparation to assist with food security.

Outcome 2: Improved Access to and More Reliable Road, Air and/or Marine Infrastructure

The desired outcome is to increase the access to rural and northern communities through improvements or expansion of road, air and marine infrastructure. Please keep the desired Outcome in mind when answering the questions in this section.

1. Road

- Road improvements that that will reduce instances of the road being closed by regular flooding that cuts off a community for a portion of the year.
- Road improvements that ensure access to the community is increased, such as creating a secondary access.
- A highway or trade corridor owned by the applicant that leads to a community that does not currently have year-round access.

2. Air

- Increased capacity at a local or regional airport through improvements to a runway or facilities such as terminals, which will enable more passengers to be moved to and from the community.

3. Marine

- Improvements to a dock in order to accommodate year-round access to an isolated community. This could include communities with water only access or no year-round road access.
- Improvements to docks/wharves that improve access to the community.

Outcome 3: Improved Broadband Connectivity

The desired outcome of the broadband connectivity stream is to increase the number of households that have access to the highest broadband range in their jurisdiction. Transmission or last mile projects are eligible within the stream. The program requires that at the completion of the project, service provides a minimum speed of 50 megabits per second when downloading information and 10 megabits per second when uploading information. (50/10 Mbps) to the community.

1. Internet backbone connecting broadband to a community.

- Projects in communities that do not have reliable internet service.
- Projects that increase the speed of available broadband to the community

2. Last mile connecting the broadband backbone to individual households.

- Projects to enable an increased number of household to gain access the community backbone.

Outcome 4: More Efficient and Reliable Energy

The desired outcome of the stream is to increase the efficiency of electricity that is generated by a community, as well as creating energy through cleaner alternative methods.

1. Energy generated from clean sources in communities that do not have access to the continental grid or rely upon a less efficient and clean energy source (e.g. diesel):
 - Alternative energy sources could include:
 - a. Biomass /Biofuels- creation of energy from wood or agricultural waste or use of landfill gas.
 - b. Geothermal resources – construction of a geothermal system that includes a heat pump to reduce energy consumption in public facing community buildings.
 - c. Wind - creation of a wind turbine powered community system or backup system.
 - d. Solar – solar array to replace diesel generators for temporary backup power
 - e. Recovered heat energy from one facility utilized to heat another part of the facility or different facility. Arena Ice system producing heat for the gym in the facility.

Outcome 5: Improved Education and Health Facilities (Must benefit Indigenous peoples by advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action as approved by Canada)

The desired outcome of the category is to improve the education and/or health facilities to benefit Indigenous Peoples by advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Call to Action.

1. Health Facilities
 - Health/Mental Health Clinic – a facility to deliver telehealth programs to communities without fulltime care, through telephone or video and would supply counselling, remote patient monitoring and education and training when necessary.
2. Education Facilities
 - Alternative Secondary School Facility within a Friendship Centre.

Rural and Northern Communities (RNC) ALTERNATIVE Outcomes

Community, Culture and Recreation Outcomes for RNC

Outcome 6: Improved Access to and Increased Quality of Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure for Canadians, including Indigenous peoples and vulnerable populations.

1. Community

- **Community Facilities (Estimated Grant Amount \$2,000,000):** The project will increase access to community and culture through the construction of a new community hall which will include a large meeting/event space, washrooms, a kitchen and a mechanical room. The project will provide a larger and more functional space to accommodate a range of types and sizes of community events.

The project works will include:

- i. construction of approx. 3,120 sq. ft new hall;
- ii. kitchen;
- iii. washrooms; and,
- iv. lobby.

- **Community Centre (Estimated Grant Amount \$10,500,000):** The project will construct an approximately 25,000 sq. ft community centre which will include a gathering space, fitness centre, meeting rooms, kitchen. The project will provide space for community gatherings, fitness programs, courses, training, cultural programs and activities in the communities.

The project works will include:

- i. construction of main hall;
- ii. kitchen;
- iii. fitness room;
- iv. art space;
- v. climbing wall; and,
- vi. meeting rooms.

2. Culture

- Cultural Facility (Estimated Grant Amount \$675,000): The project will increase access to community and culture by reconstructing a cultural arbor which has been a gathering place for the community for many years.

The project works include:

- i. construction of replacement arbor and stage;
- ii. installation of new washrooms;
- iii. purchase of bleachers and public announcement sound system; and,
- iv. children's play area.

- Performance Space (Estimated Grant Amount \$185,000): The proposed project will construct a multi-use outdoor amphitheatre; the park has been identified as an ideal location for a central gathering place for the community. The new amenity will provide a space for outdoor concerts and performances.

The project works include:

- i. construction of a bandshell including foundation, performance platform; and,
- ii. upgrade of existing park trails and pathways leading to the facility.

3. Recreation

- Community Recreation (Estimated Grant Amount \$575,000): The project will increase access to community and recreation by constructing a skatepark. The new park will allow youth to have improved recreational activities.

The project works will include:

- i. construction of an approximately 1800 sq. metre skate/bike park;
- ii. installation of covered structure and wooden benches; and,
- iii. construction of new trails to connect to the bus stop and surrounding neighbourhoods.

- Recreational Trails (Estimated Grant Amount \$ 2,500,000): The project will increase access to community and recreation by making improvements to a local trail. The improvements will allow residents and visitors to have improved recreational activities.

The project works will include:

- i. construct three secondary trailheads including directional signage and safety signage, gravel seating area, and seasonal trail closure gates;
- ii. construct three rest/viewpoints with gravel area, interpretive signage and seating; and,
- iii. reconstruct and realign 2900m of trail to a 'rustic standard' (native materials – stone, wood) complete with improved drainage, surfacing and steps as required, ecological enhancements and trail definition.

Green Infrastructure – Environmental Quality Outcomes for RNC

Outcome 7: The project will increase the capacity to treat and/or manage wastewater

The desired Outcome of the Wastewater (sewage) category is to increase the capacity to treat or manage wastewater (sewage).

1. Where the federal Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulation (WSER) is applicable and where the effluent discharged from the wastewater system does not currently meet that regulation:
 - Wastewater treatment facility improvements which result in compliance with the federal Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulation
2. Where the wastewater effluent discharged by the system already meets the Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulation or where this federal regulation does not apply:
 - Wastewater collection infrastructure improvements or renewals
 - Asset renewal or upgrades within wastewater treatment facilities
 - Resource recovery with wastewater (such as heat or energy generation, nutrient recovery, re-use of effluent or biosolids)

Outcome 8: The project will increase the capacity to treat and/or manage stormwater

The desired Outcome of the Stormwater (drainage) category is to increase the capacity to treat or manage stormwater (drainage).

1. Facilities or systems that improve the quality of the stormwater:
 - Wetlands
 - Sediment traps
 - Raingardens
 - Diversion
 - Daylighting
2. Stormwater conveyance system upgrades or renewals that improve the reliability of the system (such as capacity improvements where surcharge has occurred)

Outcome 9: The project will increase access to potable water

The desired Outcome of the Drinking Water category is to increase access to potable water. For example, the level of treatment may be improved to resolve drinking water quality issues or potable water may be made available to more people.

1. Where drinking water quality does not currently meet provincial drinking water quality standards:
 - Drinking water treatment facility upgrades that result in compliance with drinking water quality standards
2. Where drinking water quality currently meets or exceeds all applicable provincial drinking water quality standards:
 - Drinking water distribution system upgrades or renewals that improve reliable delivery of or increase the number of people receiving potable water

Outcome 10: The project will increase capacity to reduce and/or remediate air pollutants (through solid waste diversion)

The desired outcome of the Solid Waste Diversion category is to divert materials from entering landfills in order to reduce air pollution and to create increased capacity to process the diverted materials within the solid waste stream.

1. Solid waste diversion projects that result in a measurable increase in the quantity of material diverted from disposal, such as: recycling facilities, composting facilities
2. Projects that result in a measurable increase in the quantity of material diverted from disposal and in addition include components of gas or heat capture or reuse

Outcome 11: The project will increase capacity to reduce and/or remediate soil pollutants

The desired outcome of the Remediation category is to reduce soil and air pollution and to increase capacity to reduce or remediate soil and/or air pollutants through brownfield remediation. Note that the purchase of land is not an eligible cost under the program.

1. Site remediation on properties contaminated, as confirmed by a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (if there is existing infrastructure on the land which will continue to be used following remediation (not abandoned/removed), it must be infrastructure for public benefit)

Green Infrastructure-Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Outcomes for RNC

The desired results of the Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation outcomes submitted under the RNC program is to fund projects that will help rural communities prepare for the impacts of climate change and associated natural hazards/ events/disaster that may result. The projects will help local populations prepare for or mitigate impacts of an event on the environment and communities. The outcome will also support projects that reduce contributions to climate change from human activities.

Structural mitigation assets enable communities to be built along waterways and coastal areas. The definition of structural for this outcome includes the construction of man-made facilities such as dams, levees, and other structures. Natural- Refers to the use of naturally occurring resources or engineered use of natural resources, to provide adaptation or mitigation services to the gradual and/or sudden impacts of climate change or natural hazards.

Outcome 12: Increased structural capacity and/or increased natural capacity to adapt to climate change impacts, natural disasters and/or extreme weather events.

Types of events/hazards that the project might target to create increased structural capacity to adapt to climate change impacts, natural disasters and extreme weather events include: increased overland flooding, increased rainfall, increased snow loads, increased wind speeds, or wildfires.

1. Improvements to or creation of natural assets that will increase the capacity to adapt to climate change impacts, natural disasters and extreme weather events, such as:
 - Infrastructure that facilitates stormwater management through construction of wetlands that act as a natural buffer to protect from the impact of natural disasters by collecting and holding waters during floods, or releasing water in times of drought.
 - Shoreline vegetation – addition of plants to combat erosion caused by a rise in sea levels.
2. Engineered/structural infrastructure that will increase the capacity to adapt to climate change impacts, natural disasters and extreme weather events, such as:
 - Dikes – raising of a dike as increased spring freshet occurs in the community
 - Seawalls and breakwaters – decrease shoreline erosion, wave damage and protect from flooding from storm surges.

Public Transit Outcomes for RNC

Projects eligible under the Rural and Northern Communities Program, Improved Capacity of Public Transit Infrastructure Outcome are for public infrastructure (capital assets) owned by a Local Government, an Indigenous Ultimate Recipient or Not-For-Profit organization. The projects will improve the capacity of public transit systems within the community and work towards increased use. Please keep this desired outcome in mind when answering the questions in this section.

Outcome 13: Improved capacity of public transit infrastructure

The projects will improve the capacity of public transit systems within the community and work towards increased use, such as:

- Bike/Pedestrian lane or trail that connects transit services
- Community bus service facilities

Outcome 14: Improved quality and/or safety of existing or future transit systems

The projects will improve the quality and/or safety of existing or future transit systems, such as:

- Barriers
- Lighting at stations or stops
- Transit shelters
- Passenger drop-off

Outcome 15: Improved access to a public transit system

The projects will improve the access of public transit systems in the community and work towards increased use.

- Active transportation support facility that connect to public transit
- Park and Rides that serve public transit
- Bike parking/storage adjacent to public transit