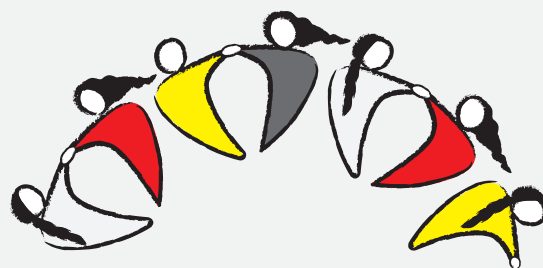


CONTINUING OUR JOURNEY
NIB Trust Fund



2016-2017 Annual Report



CONTINUING OUR JOURNEY
NIB Trust Fund

Message from the Chair

This has been a very dynamic year for the National Indian Brotherhood (NIB) Trust Fund as the organization continues to grow and develop. The continued progress of the Trust was made possible through the consideration and forward-thinking ideologies of our Board of Trustees who focused their attention on strategic planning, investment management and granting decisions that reflect our values.

With the residual funds from the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement, this year, the NIB Trust Fund was able to invest in a wide variety of community-based education programs and advance over 1,200 First Nations and Métis individuals education and personal development aspirations. This includes education endeavours at university, college, trade or training schools and programming that focus on the preservation, reclamation, or increased understanding of First Nations or Métis history, cultures and languages.

This year, the Board of Trustees collectively developed and approved our vision and mission. Throughout this process we reflected on the impact that the NIB Trust Fund seeks to achieve and should be guided by when working with our beneficiaries. The vision of the Trust focuses on the preservation and revitalization of our languages, culture and ultimately improving the quality of life of First Nations.

In our commitment to our sustainability and to ensure our investments are handled equitably, we focused much of our energy on the selection of appropriate investment managers. Now that we have selected our investment portfolios and invested our funds, we continue to observe and monitor the growth of our investments in order to maintain the longevity of the Trust.

Our accomplishments and funding opportunities are vital to reaching our vision and mission; both have not been quick or easy. Our goal at the NIB Trust Fund is to ensure that former students of Indian Residential Schools, their families and all First Nations and Métis have access to support for their education endeavours over many years.

Behind the developments of the year, there is an 11-member Board of Trustees. I would like to thank the entire Board of Trustees for their hard work and service to date.

We look forward to another year of investing in First Nations education.

In Friendship,

Phil Fontaine, Chair
NIB Trust Fund

Message from Program Director

I am very pleased to provide the annual report for the activities that took place in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. As I reflect on the past year, I recognize how much progress has been made largely due to the contributions of the Trustees, staff and supporters. I would like to express my appreciation to the Trustees and the staff who all played a part in achieving our results. It is a privilege to be part of the NIB Trust Fund and endeavour to implement the important mission and vision of the trust.

The NIB Trust Fund awarded \$7.1 Million in scholarships, bursaries and awards to First Nation and Métis individuals to support their educational pursuits. In addition, we continued to support 89 group projects. The projects have engaged in language revitalization projects; innovative media projects; and many cultural projects related to medicinal knowledge, curriculum development, healing and returning to the land.

The creation of the strategic plan is the result of many months of reflection, engagement and

expertise of the Trustees and our governance consultants. The plan will further our goals and address four key areas: partnerships, measurable outcomes, meaningful investments and communications.

In this annual report, we include a series of success stories from individuals and groups who were directly impacted from our funding. The positive impact the NIB Trust Fund has had on successful individuals and our communities. It was immediately evident from this research and we are proud to support education programs aimed towards healing and reconciliation.

I look forward to sharing our journey as we continue to invest in our communities and people.

In Friendship,

Nicole Callihoo, MPA
Program Director



About the NIB Trust Fund

The NIB Trust Fund was established as a trust in 1975 and in the same year obtained charitable status. The NIB Trust Fund was originally created to complete research, communicate and propose First Nation solutions to our priorities and increase our quality of life. The original objectives of the Trust Fund were:

- a) To study in conjunction with First Nation representatives from the various parts of Canada the problems confronting First Nations in today's society;
- b) To do research into the economic, social, and scientific problems of First Nation communities with a view to proposing solutions to these problems;
- c) To do research into the historical and cultural aspects of First Nation communities with a view to assisting in retaining First Nation culture and values;
- d) In order to further carry out the foregoing objects, to obtain and disseminate information to First Nation groups and others concerned with the quality of First Nations life;

Over the past decade, the Trust Fund carried out these objectives by administering the Language and Literacy Fund, the Youth Healing Fund, the Research Sponsor Fund and the Heroes of Our Times Fund.

In 2009, the NIB Trust Fund updated its objectives to enable the Fund to provide financial assistance for educational goals and the provision of healing and reconciliation programs. The following objectives were added to our mandate:

- e) To provide educational programs and related services and initiatives that provide assistance to First Nations peoples including the provision of financial assistance to attend education institutions at all levels; and,
- f) To provide healing and reconciliation programs, services and initiatives for First Nations peoples as required as a result of the intergenerational impacts of the IRS system.

Today, the NIB Trust Fund supports education programs aimed at healing, reconciliation and knowledge building. For the purposes of the NIB Trust Fund, educational programs are those provided by education institutions, cultural centres, organizations, communities and individuals/groups, whether short- or long-term, informal or formal, or certified or noncertified.

Educational Programs include, but are not limited to, those that:

- Strengthen education and employment training;
- Promote First Nations and Métis languages and cultures; or,
- Foster community and personal development, including access to counselling and other programs to heal communities from harms caused by the Indian Residential Schools.

Funds are available to First Nation and Métis individuals and organizations through a competitive application process.

The goal of the NIB Trust Fund is to help First Nations and Métis people, organizations and communities address the long-lasting impacts of the Indian Residential Schools system, and to offer support for education programs over many years.

Vision

Grounded in the preservation and revitalization of First Nations language, culture and way of life, the NIB Trust Fund provides resourcing to create meaningful opportunities that improve the quality of life for First Nations*

Mission

The NIB Trust Fund is devoted to creating meaningful opportunities to have a positive impact on the lives of First Nations people by:

- Cultivating a spirit of healing and reconciliation by providing resources to projects that focus on the preservation and revitalization of culture, language and ways of life; and result in greater recognition and respect for cultural diversity and First Nations autonomy.
- Supporting and promoting educational programs / services / resources and opportunities that will revitalize and protect our diverse First Nations languages, cultural practices and traditions as an integral part of enriching the lives of our First Nations people.
- Facilitating collaborative partnerships with First Nations governments, institutions, community members, as well as private and public sectors as to develop and propose projects that will mobilize greater opportunities across all regions.

**a percentage of resources are allocated to the use and benefit of Metis Nations.*

Governance of NIB Trust Fund

The NIB Trust Fund is governed by an 11-member Board of Trustees comprised of a Chairperson and ten regional representatives. The NIB Trust Fund maintains its transparency and accountability as a results-based organization. The annual audited financial statements will be made available to the public after the Assembly of First Nations Annual General Assembly scheduled in July.

The current Board of Trustees were appointed at various times with a mandate to fulfil their roles as Trustees and work towards our mission, establish stable governance and an operating structure for the future. The Board of Trustee members at the end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year were:

Phil Fontaine, Chair

Jaime Battiste, Co-Chair (Nova Scotia/Newfoundland) (ended July 15, 2017)

Chief Matilda Ramjattan, Trustee (New Brunswick/PEI)

Daniel Nolett, Trustee (Quebec/Labrador)

Charles Weaselhead, Trustee (Alberta) (Ended July 15, 2017)

Cara Faye Merasty, Trustee (Saskatchewan)

Tim Catcheway, Trustee (Manitoba)

Chief Rebecca Harris-David, Trustee (British Columbia)

Wallace McKay, Trustee (Ontario)

Bertha Rabesca Zoe, Trustee (Northwest Territories)

Edward Taylor, Trustee (Yukon)

We wish to thank our Trustees for your passion, commitment and leadership throughout the year.

The 2016-2017 Year in Highlights

- ☼ Approved \$7.1 Million in individual funding
- ☼ 1070 Residential School Legacy survivors supported to reach education goals
- ☼ Supported 661 post-secondary students
- ☼ Approved \$1.29 Million to individual cultural and language education goals
- ☼ Approved \$5.07 Million in organization funding activities
- ☼ Over 7,300 Indian Residential school survivor participated in NIBTF funded activities
- ☼ 0.69% of our entire portfolio was spent on operating costs
- ☼ 2016-2017 investment income was \$6.7 Million

2016-2017 Year of Expansion

The majority of the focus for NIB Trust Fund throughout the 2016-2017 fiscal year was to strengthen and develop our strategic plan along with the issuance of our first individual call for applications.

NIB Trust Legal Advisor

The NIB Trust Fund continues to engage Kelly Santini for our legal advice services. During this time, we have utilized the expertise of Kelly Santini for advice on a number of matters related to governance and administration.

NIB Trust Investment Manager Search

Throughout the year, Morneau Shepell assisted the NIB Trust Fund in the search and selection of our investment managers. The investment manager search focused mainly on performance, investment ethics, and experience. Based on advice, consultation and extensive interviews, the Board of Trustees selected CIBC Investment Management and CGOV.

Communications

The NIB Trust Fund communications activities since April 1, 2016 have been very active. We have created a series of videos for our applicants, published a number of print media advertisements and released several individual and group success stories.

Staffing

During the last quarter of the year, the NIB Trust Fund welcomed several new members to the team:

- Junior Program Officer, Amsey Maracle
- Junior Program Officer, Meredith Webb (bilingual)

- Program Officer, Monica Poirier (bilingual)
- Junior Program Officer, Dakota Creeley
- Executive Assistant; Kirsten Iserhoff (trilingual)

Governance Development

During the year, the Trustees worked with the Seven Feathers Consulting Firm to develop a 3-year strategic plan for the NIB Trust Fund. An integral component of the strategic plan was the development of a vision and mission statement for the Trust. The strategic plan also focuses on partnerships, measurable outcomes, meaningful investments, and a communications strategy.

Administration

During this time the NIB Trust Fund has refined our procedures, clarified the competition process and developed an online platform for the application process. During the refinement, we continued to develop our contribution agreements and our reporting framework and we also created an orientation for new NIB Trust Fund staff members.

Online Application Platform

The NIB Trust Fund has engaged FluidReview to establish an online platform for applications, administration and evaluation.

This platform was released on May 16, 2016 to the public and since its release, approximately 50% of the individual applicants and 100% of group applications are using the online platform to submit their applications. This has reduced the data entry quite substantially for our team while allowing for additional time for the evaluation process and timely decision making.

Group Projects

2017-2018 Group call for applications

The NIB Trust Fund released the second Call for Group/ Organizations Applications. We received over 200 applications from across Canada before the deadline. The total request from all projects was over \$85 Million. This was a highly competitive process as the NIB Trust Fund budgeted \$7.9 Million for program funding for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

The Call for Group/Organization Applications closed on January 13, 2017; applicants were informed of the funding decisions in mid-April 2017.



2016-2017 Successful Group Projects

The NIB Trust supported and monitored several community lead projects in 2015-2016. The NIB Trusts committed investment to First Nation Education, it is proud to highlight several cultural and language revitalisation projects.

Whitecap Dakota First Nation

Whitecap, Saskatchewan Whitecap Dakota Language Revitalization Program

The funding provided from the NIB Trust Fund were used to integrate Dakota values into language teachings at Whitecap Dakota First Nation's Charles Redhawk Elementary School. Whitecap's Dakota language strategy included community workshops on the Dakota language. A Dakota Values workbook and a children's language book has been developed by community Elders and educators as an educational tool for sharing Dakota cultural teachings and language with students. These booklets were printed to be used by teachers and students in the community. Students are able to take the language booklets home and share the knowledge with their families.

"It's important to pass on language and cultural teachings to future generations through education. These books will be excellent tools for kids to look at and think about, and they and their families will enjoy learning in this way."

– Vivian Anderson, Dakota Elder and language and cultural expert

Northern Nishnawbe Education Council

Sioux Lookout, Ontario Language and Culture Enhancement Initiative

The goals of this community-based program were to enhance Indigenous language in the classroom and provide cultural/traditional teachings to students from two high schools that each service 24 remote First Nations communities in Northwestern Ontario. The N.I.B. Trust Fund provided an opportunity for N.N.E.C. to purchase necessary materials and to host special guest speakers, which helped to significantly improve the development of language programming at each of the two schools. This program also helped to support and expand an Elder's Program which allows for the sharing of many cultural and traditional teachings, as well as providing extra supports for students while they are far away from home. Lastly, funding from the N.I.B. Trust enabled students to participate in a number of opportunities to learn off the land. During these outings with Elders, students fished, hunted, trapped, and learned songs, legends and other traditional teachings which have helped to start them on their own journey towards healing.

"Funding allowed the expansion of cultural/traditional and language programming that allowed our students to immerse themselves in ways that wouldn't have been achievable."

Grand Prairie Regional College (GPRC)

Grand Prairie, Alberta Strengthening Indigenous Education Programming at GPRC

The NIB Trust Fund provided a vital opportunity to enliven Indigenous Studies at GPRC. The pilot of a technology enhanced land-based learning course was created and facilitated that strengthened participant's diverse sense of rekindling reconnection to the land, survival skills, and to ceremonial life. In addition, several experiential workshops were delivered within the community that facilitated the experiencing of Indigenous renewal. These experiences provided the participants with a sense of community and ignited a spark to learn and engage more in the regeneration of Indigenous ways of life.

"Connection, knowledge, respect. Teaching awareness and relating to the land. Learning about ceremonies, the spirit world and the connection and energy between all things. Learned more survival training and living off the land which is important."

Holmalco First Nation

Campbell River, British Columbia Aupe Qayimixw

This community-based program was implemented to increase traditional knowledge, practices and language for all community members. Elders and residential school survivors mentored youth in a series of workshops and a Culture Camp where youth were taught cultural and ceremonial traditions. A booklet was produced based on the teachings the youth learned and shared with the community.

For more success stories please visit the NIB Trust website at www.nibtrust.ca.

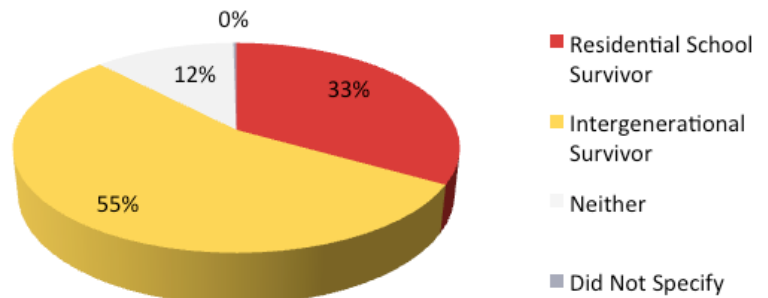
"We now have planted the seed in the community with the cultural activities. Our people have a better sense and understanding of our cultural practices during the different seasons and they are wanting to learn more."

2016-2017 Individual Call for Applications

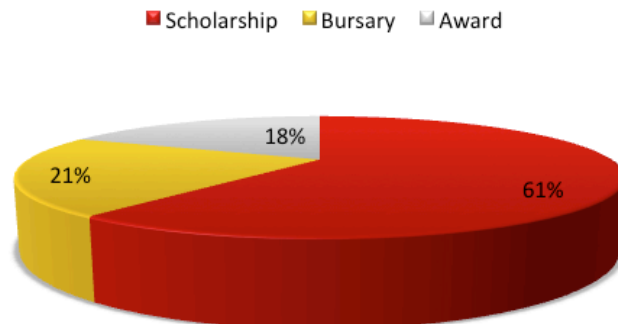
We received a total of 7,452 applicants in the 2016-2017 Individual Call for Applications; 6,706 applications were submitted across Canada before the deadline and there were 1,039 applications that were started but never completed online. The total funding amount requested from all individuals was over \$68 million. This was a highly competitive process as the NIB Trust Fund budgeted \$7.1 million for education funding in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

The NIB Trust Fund awarded 1,219 individuals from the 2016-2017 Individual Call for Applications with funding. Of the 1,219 approved applicants, 1,102 were First Nations, 117 were Metis, 405 were Indian Residential School Survivors, and 665 were Intergenerational Survivors. The NIB Trust Fund approved and supported 287 Awards (i.e. cultural and language learning activities), 271 Bursaries (i.e. certification and training), and 661 Scholarships (i.e. Post-Secondary education). The following figure depicts the statistics outlined above.

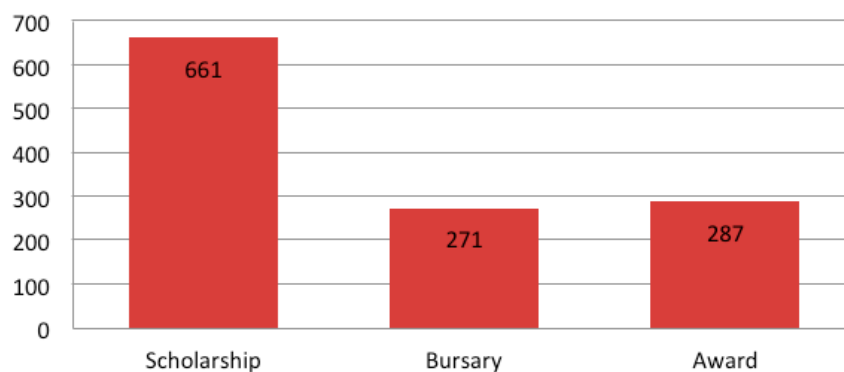
Approved Individuals



Funding Distribution (\$)



Total Individuals Approved by Category



2016-2017 Successful Individual Applicants

The NIB Trust Fund supported a number of individual to achieve their education goals. Over this year, we came across a number of student success stories that we would like to recognize. Below are a few of the students highlighted on our Success Stories.



Charles Gladstone

Blood Tribe First Nation, Alberta

Bursary – Heavy Equipment Operator

"The NIB Trust Fund helped me become a crane/ heavy equipment operator. Without the funding, I would not have been able to cover the tuition. I am so grateful that I was selected for funding. I want people to know that there are more ways other than the traditional routes to get funded. Without this training I would not have gotten my present employment."



Marcia Martin

Mosakahiken Cree Nation, Manitoba

Award – Culture & Language

Residential School Survivor

"I was very happy, because being a student can be very stressful financially. It helped me bring myself closer to my education dream of becoming a teacher. I truly believe that when a student receives help financially, it makes them feel good inside. I am very thankful for receiving the scholarship."

**Paul Ottereyes**

Cree First Nation of Waswanipi, Québec
Awards – Wild Mushroom Picking
Residential School Survivor

“I pick mushrooms in the community of Chisasibi where the population is 5,600. I’ve shown people how to pick them up and cook them, with amazement they all were in awe what grows in their surrounding community. Now there’s talk about doing a Wild Matsutake Festival in Chisasibi in September 2017 which the picking season is from September 1st to 30th.”

**Eric Michael**

Beardy’s and Okemasis First Nation, Saskatchewan
Scholarship – Executive MBA

“As an intergenerational survivor of the residential school, this scholarship has tremendous personal significance as I reflect on the residential school survivors in my family and community. A business education will allow me to make a meaningful contribution to the economic development in my First Nation community as well as allow me to fulfill my desire to discover new collaborative relationships in the domain of social enterprise to advance the aspirations of Indigenous sovereignty, nationhood, and reconciliation.”

**Dexter James**

Canadian Métis Council, British Columbia
Scholarship – MD Program

“When I first got into medical school my two biggest fears was having to move away from my family and the impending financial stressors of medical school. NIB Trust Fund has helped to ease this burden. I cannot express how grateful I am to have received support from this fantastic organization as it helped me to achieve my educational goals. I hope to one day have the necessary skills to give back to my community.”

For more success stories please visit the NIB Trust website: www.nibtrust.ca.

2017-2018 Activities

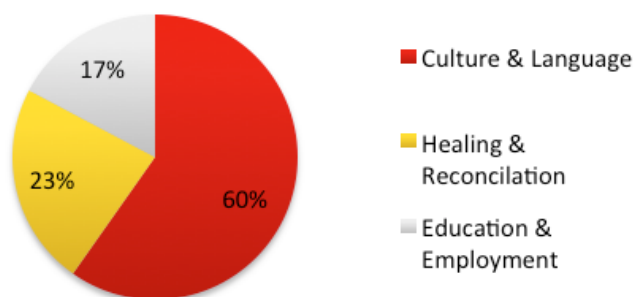
Each fiscal year comes with new challenges and opportunities. Since April 1, 2017, the NIB Trust Fund has completed a number of activities related to our programs, finance, and communications.

Group Call 2017-2018

The NIB Trust Fund notified all organizations of funding decisions related to the 2017-2018 Group/Organization Call for Applications in April. The NIB Trust Fund team has been busy preparing the contribution agreements and releasing first payments to the successful organizations. The NIB Trust Fund approved a \$7.9 Million investment in group/organization projects and was able to fund 87 projects across Canada. This included 52 projects focusing in the area of Culture and Language; 20 projects focusing on healing and reconciliation; and 15 projects focusing specifically on education and employment. **Figure 1** reviews the investment by project type and notably demonstrates the majority of investments provided to culture and language programs.

Figure 1

Type of Projects Approved by % - Group 2017-2018



2017-2018 Individual Call for Applications

The Call for Individual Applications was released on April 11, 2017 with a deadline of June 2, 2017 at 5:00 PM EST. In the weeks leading up to the deadline, there were between 70-150 applications being submitted daily and at the time of writing this report, the NIB Trust received over 1,700 applications in total.

The NIB Trust Fund will be reviewing the applications, evaluating and preparing the completed submissions for Trustee review and approval. We hope to notify all applicants as soon as we can; however this is dependent on the amount of applications we receive and the time it will take to data enter, complete the review, evaluate and make funding decisions.

Online Application Platform

During the 2017-2018 Individual Call for Applications, the NIB Trust Fund only accepted applications via the online platform, email, and mail. It is important to note that all Scholarship and Bursary applications were only accepted through the online application website.

The NIB Trust Fund receives a high volume of applications and cannot guarantee confirmation of receipt if the application is submitted by mail.

Finance

The NIB Trust Fund has recently added two finance positions to its team; a finance officer and finance clerk. We welcomed Lily Ji, Finance Officer (0.4) and Tom Rogers, Finance Clerk (0.6) to the team in April 21, 2017 and June 5, 2017 respectively. Lily Ji has a Master's Degree in Financial Accountability and is in the process for obtaining her Chartered Professional Accounting designation (CPA) within the next few years. Tom Rogers earned a Diploma in Business Accounting and comes from Aamjiwnaang First Nation where he was a Finance Clerk for 1.5 years.

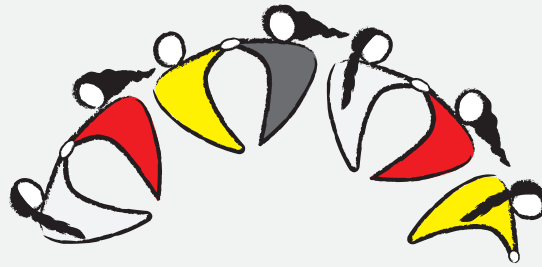
The NIB Trust Fund has successfully completed the financial audit for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. These documents are available at the AFN AGA and on our website at www.nibtrust.ca.



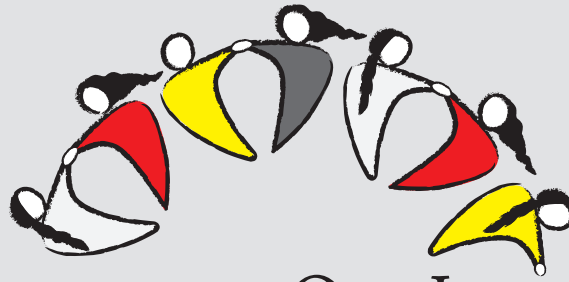
Communications

The NIB Trust Fund continues to improve our communications. The 2017-2018 communication plan seeks to continue national information broadcasts to all First Nation communities and our national print advertising campaign. Over the next year, we anticipate redesigning our website and launching a NIB Trust Fund Facebook page. With the addition of several bilingual team members, we are better able to serve applicants across the country in both official languages.





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NIB Trust Fund

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