

SUPPORTING FUTURE GENERATIONS

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



Our communities

have witnessed many painful truths uncovered over the past years. Investigations into former Indian Residential Schools have yielded frequent truths of unmarked graves and evidence of harms suffered by the children forced to attend them. We honor the work of First Nations and Métis Survivors, communities, and their descendants, who have courageously stood up for justice and continue to be the leaders, voices, and advocates for truth and action. As this crucial work continues, we are united and determined to forge a path ahead.

There is still much more to be done in communities across Turtle Island to address the long-term harms of Residential Schools. The NIB Trust Fund is committed to building a foundation for future generations by supporting First Nations and Métis programs promoting the preservation and revitalization of healing, ceremony, language, cultural identity, traditions, and education pursuits.



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Message from **Our Chair**



“The Fund is a stable source of support for individuals and organizations pursuing healing, cultural, language and education-based programming.”

Over the past six years, I have had the opportunity to watch the NIB Trust Fund (“Fund”) employees and trustees grow, change, and adapt to challenging situations, while continuing to deliver funding focused on advancing the well-being of our beneficiaries. While we know healing from our collective and individual Indian Residential Schools System traumas will not be easy, the extraordinary accomplishments of our People and Communities made possible with funding from the Fund is encouraging.

As we look back on the past year, Survivors of the Indian Residential Schools System were significantly impacted by the many discoveries of unmarked graves. To address the negative impacts of these discoveries, the Fund committed to support important healing work with continued financial supports offered from the Continuing Their Journey (CTJ) programming.

While positive development and healing for beneficiaries of the Fund is our primary focus, the oversight and management of the capital that pays for the grants to individuals and groups is critical to the success of the Fund. Managing the capital for the

long term is key to sustaining the support needed to overcome generations of harm. The annual disbursements can only continue to help beneficiaries accomplish their goals, if we protect and grow the capital we have been entrusted to oversee.

The Trustees of the Fund continue to seek independent investment advice and engage accomplished investment professionals to protect and grow the capital of the Fund. Despite a global pandemic, rising interest rates and the resulting ups and downs of capital markets, the Funds capital has performed well over the long term and remains on track to deliver financial support to beneficiaries over the period intended.

The Fund is a stable source of support for individuals and organizations pursuing healing, cultural, language and education-based programming. In the year ended March 31, 2023, NIB Trust Fund awarded \$12,262,024 in funding to 69 groups and 1,205 individuals. Our team of qualified staff and Trustees are dedicated to meeting new challenges head-on and are continuing to explore ways to support beneficiaries. One such

innovation was the CTJ program which supports Survivors and communities with a commitment of \$12.5 million to projects related to the healing needed in the ongoing recovery of unmarked burials and graves.

The accomplishments of the Fund are because of a group of dedicated People who believe in the mission of the organization. I would like to thank all the staff for their tireless work and commitment to the beneficiaries of the Fund. It is a great source of honor to serve as the Chair of our Board of Trustees and I am pleased to also work with dedicated Trustees who are accomplished leaders of the Indigenous community across the country. We have Trustees who are committed to the sound governance and oversight of the NIB Trust Fund.

I would like to thank Norman Yak’e ula, outgoing Trustee for the Northwest Territories, for his four and half years of devoted service and dedication to the Fund. As a Residential School Survivor, Norman was a tremendous force for progress and was instrumental in keeping this organization focused on leveraging

positive impacts that improve the lives of First Nations and Métis peoples and communities. The Board would also like to thank Chief Sacha Labillois-Kennedy, outgoing Trustee for New Brunswick/Prince Edward Island for her contributions and service. The Board is excited to welcome Karalyn Menicoche and Jasmine Pirie as the new trustees for Northwest Territories and New Brunswick/Prince Edward Island, respectively, and we look forward to working with them.

As we look forward to another year, the NIB Trust Fund Board of Trustees will strive to continue be a constant, steady support for First Nations and Métis individuals, communities, and organizations, now and for generations to come.

Kinanâskomitinawa, Mîkwêc,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Martell'.

**Keith Martell, Chair
NIB Trust Fund**

Message from **Executive Director**



“The NIB Trust Fund has a team whose passion for people and community has manifested in the hard-work and dedication that drives the funding to beneficiaries across Turtle Island.”

I am honored to continue my role as Executive Director, and I look back with pride at what we have accomplished together this year and am excited for the future. I thank our beneficiaries, elders, our team, the board, and our partnerships for all the teachings, inspiration, and support.

The past year continues to be fraught with news of unmarked grave recoveries at and around the sites of former Indian Residential Schools across Turtle Island. The feelings of heartache and trauma these events have resurfaced for our people and communities have propelled the NIB Trust Fund to take action. The “Continuing Their Journey” (CTJ) Program, was launched to directly support Survivors, families, and communities following the announcements of unmarked graves and this year we awarded \$1.65M funding to ten Survivor-community-led projects addressing community healing initiatives.

The NIB Trust Fund has a team whose passion for people and community has manifested in the hard-work and dedication that drives the funding to beneficiaries across Turtle Island. We continue to support a diverse range of programs of healing, language, culture, youth, family reconnection, education, and employment for First Nations and Métis communities and individuals. A few of the programs we have supported over the past year include the Cree Nation of Wemindji “Maintaining and Strengthening Our Language” project, a three-year endeavor to promote Cree language and literacy skill development among community members; The Circle Project, a community-based organization offering harm-reduction and cultural services to at-risk individuals in Regina; and the Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve “TTR Youth Training Camp” Project, which supported youth in a Manitoba First Nation to achieve their wildlife safety, backcountry and hunting guide certifications.

Our organization continuously works to support our beneficiaries in the process of applying for NIB Trust funding. We offer virtual sessions on how to apply, how to become a qualified done, and support with required for reporting. Our dedicated staff answer all inquiries within three business days to ensure the Trust is always reachable. This year also marked a change to our operations including a move of our Ottawa office to 1545 Carling Ave and thank the AFN for their support throughout our tenancy for the last five years.

The NIB Trust Fund continues to grow and develop its relationships within our Survivor organizations and build relationships with corporate sponsors and independent donors alike. The generosity of benefactors like DCG Philanthropic Group, Nutrien, Canadian Western Bank, Laurentian Bank, Connor, Clark & Lunn, Beutel Goodman & Co., Suncor, Hudson Bay Foundation, and countless others has allowed the NIB Trust Fund to continue delivering life-changing programming to thousands of beneficiaries

this year. Creating and maintaining these allyships provides space for the NIB Trust Fund to engage in the persistent work of building a foundation for future generations to achieve success.

As we leave the past year behind and welcome the new one ahead, we must continue to work together to strengthen and support First Nations and Métis people and communities in self determined projects, creating a more equitable future for our people. I am looking forward to another year collaborating with our beneficiaries, and partners.

Kinanâskomitin, Maarsii, Merci, Thank you.

Naomi Racette, Executive Director
NIB Trust Fund

About the **NIB Trust Fund**

The NIB Trust Fund is working to strengthen and empower future generations. The organization was established in 1975 as a trust and a charity by First Nations leaders with the objectives to:

- Study in conjunction with First Nation representatives from the various parts of Canada the problems confronting First Nations in today's society;
- Do research into the economic, social, and scientific problems of First Nation communities with a view to proposing solutions to these problems;
- Do research into the historical and cultural aspects of First Nation communities with a view to assisting in retaining First Nation culture and values;
- 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;

As the needs of First Nations and Métis people evolved, our objectives were adapted to include:

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



Over
250,000
people have participated in
programming supported by
NIB Trust Fund since 2015.

The NIB Trust Fund is committed to building a stronger foundation for future generations by supporting First Nations and Métis people, organizations, and communities in addressing the long-lasting impacts of the Indian Residential Schools System and to support self-determined education programs aimed at healing, reconciliation, and knowledge building over many years.

With constant efforts to improve and offer our beneficiaries support in a comprehensive and innovative way. We are led by a 100% First Nation Board of Trustees, who are deeply knowledgeable, skilled and invested in the affairs and wellbeing of their communities and our peoples. Through initiatives such as our "Awards" funding for individual applicants, and the "Continuing Their Journey" Program, the Trust has demonstrated a commitment to the continued preservation and revitalization of Indigenous cultures, languages, traditions and Survivors support. The NIB Trust Fund is committed to making our funding more accessible to potential applicants, seeking out better ways of delivering funding to beneficiaries, raising more funds to fill the needs of our beneficiaries and reaching more First Nation and Métis people, communities, and organizations across Turtle Island.

MISSION, VISION, PURPOSE AND VALUES

The NIB Trust Fund provides resourcing to create meaningful opportunities that improve the quality of life for First Nations and Métis people, communities, and organizations. We are committed to supporting the ongoing work to address the long-lasting impacts of the Indian Residential Schools system and to support healing and reconciliation for present and future generations.

We aspire to build a foundation for future generations to be grounded in languages, culture, and a way of life that will foster a strong Indigenous identity, and resiliency.

By informing our approaches using traditional Indigenous knowledge, such as the Seven Grandfather Teachings of Truth, Respect, Honesty, Humility, Courage, Wisdom, and Love, the NIB Trust Fund supports individuals and organizations in reaching their healing and education-related goals in a culturally compassionate way. The NIB Trust Fund honours our history and cultural teachings and is committed to building on our objectives to provide innovative funding strategies for communities, and outcomes for Indigenous people across Turtle Island.

Our Team

Board of Trustees



TOP ROW – LEFT TO RIGHT: Chief Lynda Price (British Columbia), Jeremy McKay (Manitoba), Haskan Sioui (Quebec), Armand LaPlante (Saskatchewan), Lynda Trudeau (Ontario)

BOTTOM ROW – LEFT TO RIGHT: Mindy Denny (Nova Scotia/Newfoundland), Odessa Epp (Yukon), Keith Martell, Chair, Chief Roy Fox (Alberta)

NOT PICTURED: Chief Sacha Labillois-Kennedy (New Brunswick/PEI), Norman Yake’ula, outgoing trustee (Northwest Territories), Karalyn Menicoche (Northwest Territories)

***NIB Trust Fund** expects all trustees to actively participate in all Board and Board Committee meetings and adheres to a policy of attendance of 75% for board duties. If a Trustee fails to meet the attendance requirements, the Governance Committee may request their voluntary resignation as they have not fulfilled their commitment to beneficiaries or their respective region.

Attendance may be influenced by personal circumstances and absences may occur due to other board-related commitments or business engagements. To respect privacy, detailed information or reasons for absence or partial attendance are not disclosed in attendance reporting. As a collective, the board of trustees has achieved an overall attendance rate of 83%.

Staff



TOP ROW – LEFT TO RIGHT: Graham Stollery, Program Officer, Lorie Casimir, Program Officer, Naomi Racette, Executive Director, Mahlon Smoke, Program Officer, Dakota Creeley, Program Coordinator, Dwight Bero Jr., Program Manager

BOTTOM ROW – LEFT TO RIGHT: Goldwine Brizard, Executive Assistant, Christine Garneau, Bilingual Program Officer, Calista Mawakeesic, Junior Program Officer, Meara Belanger, Communications Officer, Callan Buckshot, Finance Officer, Lily Ji, Finance Manager

ADVISORS: Joe Connolly, Investment Consultant, Don Burke, Legal Counsel, Bonnie M. Cole, Legal Counsel

Applications

Accessing funds from the NIB Trust Fund involves submitting applications through three separate channels: the Call for Applications for Groups/Organizations, the Call for Applications for Individuals, and the Continuing Their Journey Program. Funding provided by the NIB Trust Fund is dedicated to supporting a wide range of initiatives, including culture, language, education, employment, healing and reconciliation, youth and family programming, as well as efforts to recover missing children and address unmarked graves at former residential school sites.

Group/Organization Applicants

The NIB Trust Fund accepts applications for funding from groups and organizations for a wide range of programming. The NIB Trust Fund supports First Nation and Métis communities and organizations as a priority. We encourage all cultural centres, friendships centres, educational institutions, societies, foundations, and charities who support Indigenous programming for positive change to apply.

The annual Call for Applications for Groups/Organizations opens in November and closes in January. To be considered eligible, applicants will require proof of qualified donee status or a registered charitable number from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Funds are awarded through a competitive application process. Funds are limited and funding is not guaranteed.

Individual Applicants

To be eligible to access grants in our Call for Applications for Individuals, all applicants must be a member of a First Nation or Métis community, be at least 18 years of age and have a valid Social Insurance Number (SIN).

The NIB Trust Fund grants funding to individuals in the form of:



Scholarship (Post-Secondary)

Scholarships are money awards that are distributed to assist with the costs of post-secondary education studies (i.e. University and College level studies).



Bursary (Training/Certification)

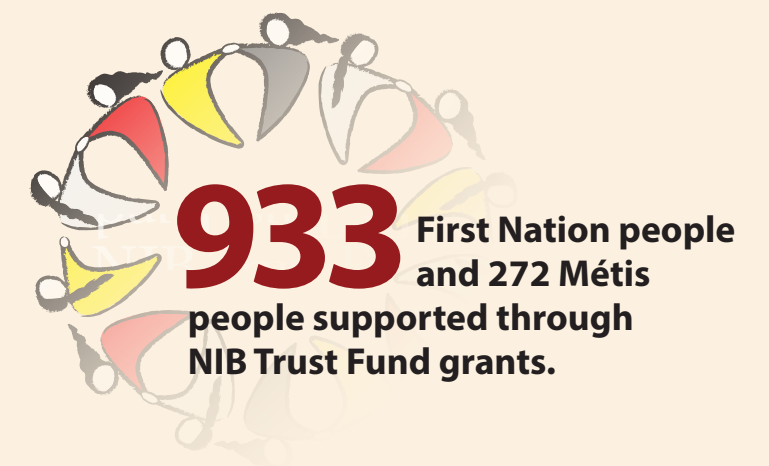
Bursaries are money awards that are distributed to assist with the costs of certificate programs and training from continuing education programs and institutions.

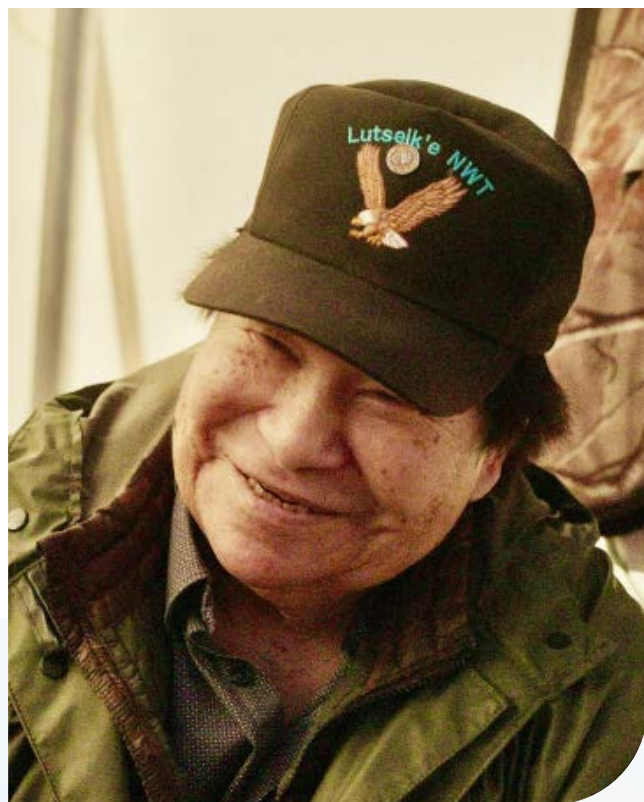


Award

(Healing / Cultural / Language / Traditional Knowledge Building) Awards are for individuals who wish to pursue learning activities related to healing, culture, language or traditional knowledge building. This could include life skills programs, learning a language or acquiring land-based skills under the guidance of an expert or Elder, or learning traditional ceremonies, etc.

The Individual Call opens annually in April and closes in early June. Funds are awarded through a competitive application process. Funds are limited and funding is not guaranteed.





Continuing Their Journey Program

The “Continuing Their Journey” (CTJ) Program accepts application from First Nations communities, organizations, and Survivor organizations as they pursue projects of healing, ceremony, research, and memorialization in the recovery of children from former residential school sites. The Continuing Our Journey Program is available to support the following types of programs: work related to burial sites, field surveys, archaeological investigations, on-site ceremonies, healing circles, mental health supports, memorialization, commemoration, research, engagement, and knowledge gathering.

The application process for the CTJ Program is ongoing annually as funding permits. Deadlines for the CTJ Program are approximately every four months. To be eligible for the CTJ Program, applications must have written support from leadership and Survivor involvement. The CTJ Program is an NIB Trust Fund Program.

For more information about all NIB Trust Fund program applications, visit our website at <https://nibtrust.ca/help>



\$7.52
million was awarded to
69 Group projects providing
culture, language, and
healing education programs.

The Beyond Reconciliation \$100M Fundraising Campaign

**The largest campaign led by and for Indigenous peoples in this country's history.
The most significant fundraising campaign in the journey of reconciliation.**

Grounded in the commitment to the organization's vision and mission, the NIB Trust Fund is responding to the increasing demand and subsequent shortage of available annual funding.

Together with DCG Philanthropic Services Inc., a national firm that has worked extensively with Indigenous communities and organizations across the country, the NIB Trust Fund has been actively forming meaningful reciprocal relationships within the corporate community across the country and pursuing support for the campaign.

Funds raised will be non-restrictive and unbound by the terms of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement providing the sovereignty for the NIBTF to invest and allocate funds accordingly—and to create meaningful tailored and impactful partnerships with donors.

Watch for details of the public launch scheduled for Fall, 2023.

**Exercise your influence.
Create Connections.
Gift your time, talent,
and resources.**

To get involved, contact
campaign@nibtrust.ca

Community Voices in Action: Leading Our Fundraising

In serving the NIBTF as a former board of Trustee, I have been honored to witness the transformation of growth and impact it has had within the lives of several individuals and communities across Canada.

It's definitely a unique Trust Fund that positions itself to assist communities in ways that help projects move forward without having a cookie cutter approach because of the understanding. In knowing and understanding the history of the trust fund, the spirit of the good work continues to have a rippling effect of Honoring residential school survivors in assisting projects of education, language and healing in communities.

I welcome everyone to take a look at the success stories of individuals and communities that have been life changing and hearing their experience because of opportunity they have been given through the NIB Trust Fund.

The NIB Trust has been instrumental in providing assistance across the country and continues to build momentum in reaching communities far and wide.

Respectfully,

Rebecca David
Chief of Pauquachin First Nation



"My philosophy, my mantra, has always been the spirit of peace and friendship. First Nations peoples are all about forgiveness. We're about the spirit of peace and friendship."

How do we heal and how do we move forward as a country from what happened at Indian Day Schools and Indian Residential Schools? We must do so together in peace and friendship. There is deep courage when speaking our truths and so there must be honour when listening to build relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of Canada. People are still hurting a great deal. We're looking ahead but we have a long way to go. We have a chance to impact our collective future in a good way, and we can change things. We can come together to listen, learn, heal, grow, and support one another. Support of the largest funder of Indigenous peoples' initiatives, the NIBTF, is one way to support steps on a path forward.

Through the funding of the NIBTF, First Nations peoples are reconnecting to traditional cultural teachings, reclaiming their voice, and pursuing individual endeavours and group programs that matter to them, to those who came before them, and to those who will come after." (The next seven generations)?

Roger Augustine,
Survivor, Chief and leader

As a past member of the Board of Trustees, I can speak to the dedication, operations, and solid reputation of the NIBTF, and to the importance of funding that is creating outcomes for, and celebrating the resilience, creativity, and leadership, of Indigenous peoples.

As a survivor, I am coming to terms with who I am. Residential School made me #153. But I walk the path of reconciliation in a good way, the Indigenous way. In doing so, it has led me back to ME. I am inspired by those who walked the difficult road with me. I am strengthened by those who came before me. Mahsi Granny. I am grateful for those who journey with me now. I am hopeful for those who will come after.

As a member of the delegation to Rome, I witnessed a coming together that strengthened my belief in the good in people. As a country, we have made steps forward on the path of reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, but much remains for each of us to do. I believe people want to do good things if given the opportunity, and support of the NIBTF gives that opportunity to do very good things.

We must stand humble, yet strong. We must lead. The NIB Trust Fund is leading the way forward. It is serving a unique and important role in supporting the many opportunities and initiatives for Indian Residential School Survivors, their descendants, and First Nations and Métis people across Canada.

CHUT CHUT.

Norman Yak'e ula
(YAKELEYA)
Leader



Programs

Group/Organizations 2022-2023

The NIB Trust Fund 2022-2023 Call for Applications for Groups/Organizations opened on Nov. 12, 2021, and closed on Jan. 14, 2022. There were 140 applications submitted from across Turtle Island with a total funding request of \$22.4 million.

Funding decisions were released on March 25, 2022. A total of \$7.5 million was awarded to 69 organizations from across Turtle Island for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Groups/Organizations applied with funding proposals that were Local, Provincial, or National in scope and ranged in focus including culture, healing and reconciliation, education and employment, language, youth, and family connection.



Funding was distributed to Groups/Organizations in the following categories:

- 29 Healing and Reconciliation projects
- 12 Culture projects
- 11 Language projects
- 10 Education and Employment projects
- 5 Youth projects
- 2 Family Connections projects

More than 128,000 Indian Residential School Survivors and their descendants have benefited from programming supported by the NIB Trust Fund to-date.

The NIB Trust Fund has awarded \$49.9 M to 603 Group Beneficiaries to provide language and cultural revitalization programs, back to the land programs, teaching circles, youth camps, traditional kinship connections, student support, certified training, and scholarship programs.



2022-2023 Organizations Funding

\$1.2 million

16%

Education and Employment



\$0.5 million

7%

Youth



\$2.9 million

39%

Healing and Reconciliation



\$1.6 million

21%

Language



\$1.1 million

14%

Culture



\$0.2 million

3%

Family Connection



In 2022-2023, more than 128,000* First Nations people benefited from the NIB Trust Fund resourcing via the programs supported.

*This number will increase as final reporting is submitted.

69 Projects
\$7.52M

Programs

Individual 2022-2023

The NIB Trust Fund 2022-2023 Individual Call for Applications opened on April 16, 2022 and closed on June 3, 2022. There were 1,758 applications submitted from across Turtle Island with a total funding request of \$14.3 million.

Funding decisions were released on September 29, 2022. A total of \$4.74 million was awarded to 1,205 individuals for education programs and cultural knowledge building for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Recipients included 933 First Nation and 272 Métis individuals. 89 are Indian Residential School Survivors and 898 are Intergenerational Survivors.

Funding was awarded to these
Individuals in the following categories:

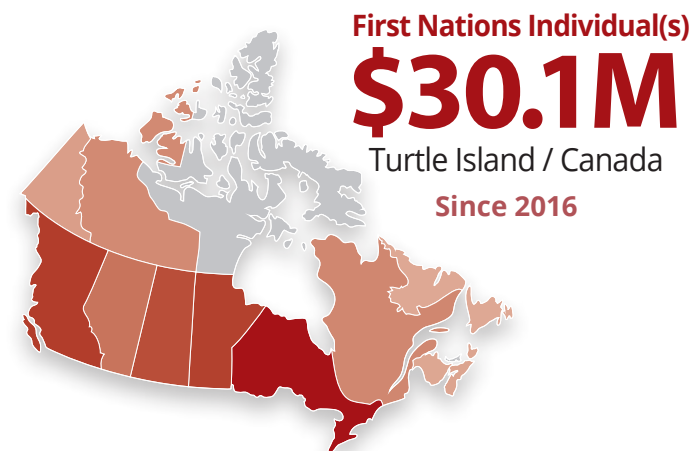
-  **115 Awards \$405,291**
-  **84 Bursaries \$254,463**
-  **1,006 Scholarships \$4,075,884**

Individuals applied for one of three funding categories dependent on their area of study: awards, for healing, cultural, language or traditional knowledge building; bursaries, for certificate programs and training from post-secondary and other continuing education institutions; and scholarships, for post-secondary education studies.

To-date, the NIB Trust Fund has awarded \$30.1M in funding to 7,131 First Nation and Métis individuals engaged in cultural learning, post-secondary education, or training and certification.

Support from the NIB Trust Fund is helping First Nation and Métis individuals achieve success through self-determined means to build a strong foundation for future generations. The NIB Trust Fund provides funding for beneficiaries pursuing pathways to success across Turtle Island. Past recipients of NIB Trust Fund grants have learned traditional languages and obtained cultural teachings through on-the-land engagement with Elders and experts, pursued educations in the trades, obtained certifications in professional fields, and completed post-secondary educations. The NIB Trust Fund is proud to support the future generations of Turtle Island.

To apply visit nibtrust.ca



2022-2023 Individuals Funding

1,205 Individuals awarded
\$4.74M

- 84 Bursaries \$254,463**
- 115 Awards \$405,291**
- 1,006 Scholarships \$4,075,884**

- 85 Certificates \$290,267**
- 111 Culture-Language-Healing \$393,791**
- 74 Doctorate \$427,496**
- 89 IRS \$443,838**
- 183 Diploma \$624,278**
- 188 Graduate \$901,810**
- 564 Undergraduate \$2,097,996**
- 898 Intergenerational \$3,593,514**

Thank You

BENEFICIARY MESSAGES

I was speechless when I saw I had been awarded a scholarship by the NIB Trust Fund. I had dreamed of becoming a physician since I was a young child. I am grateful beyond words for your generous support. The scholarship I received has allowed me to focus on my schooling. I am grateful I get to be part of the change that needs to happen.

With gratitude; Wela'lin

Thank you for the incredible honour of being awarded this wonderful gift in support of my education. Obtaining an MFA has been a goal of mine for many years, and I can't thank you enough for your support. Thank you for your kindness and generosity, I am grateful to you for helping me reach my goals.

This scholarship is such good news and takes the pressure off me and allows me to focus on my studies! Chi miigwetch!

This award is going to allow me to focus solely on law school. With such a generous award, I will be able to fully pay off my bar and licensing fees and exams; this is a requirement for me to become a lawyer. I'm attending law school because I feel as if I have an obligation to my Nation and my people to help, and hopefully one day, be in the position to generously donate to other Indigenous students, like you.

Made possible in part by contributions from donors like these:



Strategic Priorities

Create an environment of collaborative partnerships that includes and supports First Nations communities and organizations.

Take innovative approaches to support First Nations and Survivor initiatives.

Be a unique funder that fills the gaps in support for traditional, cultural, and language education.

Make meaningful investments and ensure fund stability to have lasting impacts for beneficiaries.

Practice good governance ensuring transparency, independence, responsiveness, efficiencies, and compliance to regulatory structures.

Inform, educate, and generate greater awareness of residential schools, programming, and beneficiaries.

Be an employer of choice for Indigenous people with a culture of professional development.



SUCCESS STORIES



Edward Martin Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation, QC

Edward Martin is an Intergenerational Survivor from Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation who, with the help of an NIB Trust Fund scholarship, is currently studying to receive his Bachelor of Social Work degree from the University of Victoria.

During his early adulthood, Martin experienced many of the challenges that other young Indigenous men face but had the addition of coming out as gay. This tumultuous time in his life was compounded by the pain of witnessing Survivors of the Residential Schools System, including his own mother, begin to come forward and tell their stories. Although Edward wished to pursue a higher education to help his people, the anger he felt prevented him from doing so.

Without a formal education, Edward had limited opportunities for career development and upward mobility and in 2018, he left his employment as a Veterans Services agent. Determined to be successful and to keep performing the work he loved, Edward decided to pursue post-secondary education. He earned his Diploma of Indigenous Studies from Camosun College in Victoria, British Columbia, in 2020.

In 2022, Edward applied for, and was awarded, a scholarship through the NIB Trust Fund, which would help him pay for his Bachelor of Social Work Degree at the University of Victoria – something which he describes as a 'huge relief'.

With the help of his NIB Trust Fund scholarship, Edward entered a paid practicum in December 2022, and continues to achieve good grades in his program. Edward is excited to walk across the graduation stage in fall of 2023, and says he is grateful for the support of the NIB Trust Fund, his mother and family, his "rockstar" husband, his professors, and Listuguj First Nation.

"This scholarship made me cry," says Edward. "Literally, I was laying in bed when I received the email, and I jumped out of bed and fell back down and the tears just fell."



Delwiliah Brown Ermineskin Cree Nation, AB

Delwiliah Brown is finishing up her fourth and final year of the Bachelor of Education Program at the University of Alberta, where she majors in Social Studies and Indigenous Pedagogy and Curriculum. She is a member of the Ermineskin Cree Nation in Maskwacis, Alberta.

An Intergenerational Survivor, Delwiliah's parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents attended both Residential Schools and Day Schools. She is the first person in her family to attend post-secondary school, and one of the first people in her family to obtain a high-school diploma. Determined to achieve her educational goals, Delwiliah has commuted 200 km every day for the past four years from her home in Maskwacis to Edmonton to attend classes.

Delwiliah grew up in her community, where she strives to be a positive role-model for other young members who aspire to learn. Through her work as a youth mentor, Delwiliah has learned to share her experiences – both positive and negative – with everyone she meets, as she believes it can teach others how to manage obstacles and give them the tools to "know what to do." Delwiliah has also helped her community in the planning and construction of homes and through volunteering to cook food for feasts and ceremonies.

Delwiliah says that NIB Trust Fund grants have offered her a lifeline that has been instrumental in her educational journey. With the help of funding from the NIB Trust Fund, Delwiliah will graduate from the University of Alberta in June 2023 and aspires to become a high school teacher in her home community.

"From the bottom of my heart, thank you. I never would be where I am without your help. I am so grateful beyond words"



Dylan Pinette

Métis, MB

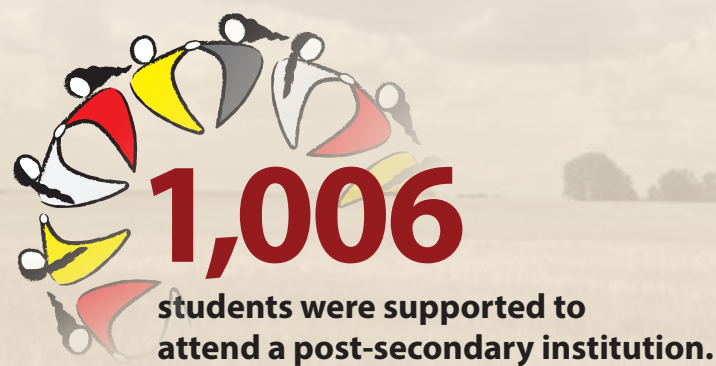
Dylan Pinette is a young Métis from Manitoba who moved away from home in 2022 to pursue their love for music at the University of Ottawa.

Dylan has always known that they would one day turn their fervor for music into a career. As a young person, Dylan played Métis fiddle music and in the eighth grade they started playing the oboe. This new instrument sparked a deep passion and love for an instrument and music.

Dylan is actively involved in their Métis community by participating in ancestry meetings hosted by the Manitoba Métis Federation and through studying traditional Indigenous teachings. Dylan's ultimate goal is to help change the face of orchestral music on Turtle Island by playing Métis music and the music of other underrepresented peoples in classical music spaces.

With the help of the NIB Trust Fund, Dylan was able to purchase a new oboe for their studies at the University of Ottawa and completed their third year of a Bachelor of Music Performance. Dylan is scheduled to graduate from university in spring 2024 with plans to pursue a Master's degree and eventually become an orchestral oboist.

Dylan's ultimate goal is to help change the face of orchestral music on Turtle Island by playing Métis music and the music of other underrepresented peoples in classical music spaces.



Kasandra Migwi

Behchokò, NWT

Kasandra Migwi is a mother of three from the Tłı̨chǫ-Dene community of Behchokò in Northwest Territories. A student of the Native Studies and Education program at the University of Alberta, Kasandra is using NIB Trust Fund grants to support her educational journey and make her community and children proud.

Kasandra was raised by a single mother who earned a university degree under challenging circumstances. Kasandra is following in her mother's footsteps, taking steps to provide better opportunities for her children by attending post-secondary education. In 2019, Kasandra made the difficult decision to move away from her home community to Edmonton to study in a five-year program at the University of Alberta.

As part of her program at the university, Kasandra passed a Cree language course, and learned traditional Indigenous beadwork. As someone who comes from a strong line of beaders, Kasandra is proud that she can now pass these skills to her children, as well as other youth and adults in her home community.

Prior to leaving for school, Kasandra volunteered within her community's local sports and recreation activities. She remains an active participant in sports activities when she returns home for breaks and enjoys being a part of her community living healthy, active lifestyles. Kasandra visits home when ever she can and shares the knowledge she has learned at school with her community by creating beading kits for post-secondary students. Kasandra's leadership has been noted in her home community, where she is viewed as a role-model for honouring the languages, culture and traditions of her people, and for sharing this knowledge and encouraging others to learn. Kasandra's example is encouraging other community members to consider and pursue post-secondary education.

Kasandra is due to graduate in spring 2025 and wants to continue to pass along Indigenous knowledge to the youth of tomorrow as an educator.

Kasandra's leadership has been noted in her home community, where she is viewed as a role-model for honouring the languages, culture and traditions of her people, and for sharing this knowledge and encouraging others to learn.

Benjamin Van der Sloot
Métis Nation, AB

The help that Benjamin received from the NIB Trust Fund ‘relieved a lot of stress’, which he says allowed him to focus more on his studies, and less on his means of paying for school.

Benjamin Van der Sloot is a proud member of the Métis Nation of Alberta who, with the help of an NIB Trust Fund scholarship, is studying to achieve his Bachelor of Science in kinesiology at the University of Calgary.

After graduating from high school, Benjamin followed his older brothers – who he describes as both his competitors and role-models – and pursued post-secondary education. Benjamin was awarded funding from the NIB Trust Fund to help meet his education goals in 2022.

Benjamin was born and raised in Medicine Hat among many siblings, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Throughout his life, Benjamin has maintained a connection to his Métis roots through his grandmother and older brother and their work within the Métis community.

Benjamin continues to explore his culture in new ways. As a violinist, Benjamin hopes to explore Métis jigging – both dancing and playing – and he says that for the first time this past year, he voted on his Métis rights.

The help that Benjamin received from the NIB Trust Fund “relieved a lot of stress”, which he says allowed him to focus more on his studies, and less on his means of paying for school. Benjamin’s ultimate goal is to open his own physiotherapy practice, and take a more active role in his Métis community.

Benjamin wants to encourage other young Indigenous people to access the resources available to them, to be proud of their ancestry, and to give back to their communities when given the opportunity.

Marlena Fiddler
Waterhen Lake First Nation, SK

Marlena plans to spend the rest of her life working to help Indigenous people who are impacted by the traumas of colonialism, the Indian Residential Schools System, the 60’s Scoop, and Day Schools.

Marlena Fiddler is a member of Waterhen Lake First Nation in Saskatchewan with mixed Cree and Métis heritage.

Marlena raised her son as a single mother, obtaining two post-secondary degrees while simultaneously working to and provide for her family. Marlena made ambitious strides in her education, achieving a Bachelor of Arts in Cree Linguistics from the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College in 1997, followed by a Bachelor of Education from the First Nations University of Canada in 2004. Marlena is using NIB Trust funding to complete her Master of Social Work at the University of Toronto.

A Residential School Survivor, Intergenerational Survivor, and a Survivor of the 60’s Scoop, Marlena is determined to make a positive impact on present and future generations of Indigenous children. Marlena plans to spend the rest of her life working to help Indigenous people who are impacted by the traumas of colonialism, the Indian Residential Schools System, the 60’s Scoop, and Day Schools.

Marlena is currently working in her community as a student services teacher, offering support to students with intensive physical, mental, and emotional needs. Marlena is due to graduate from her studies in June 2023.

Carmen Poitras
Whitefish Lake, AB

Carmen envisions supporting distance education in Indigenous communities, eliminating the need for youth to leave their homes and families for education.

Carmen Poitras is a single parent of three who is working hard to achieve her master’s degree in distance education from the University of Athabasca.

Born to a Métis mother and First Nation father, Carmen grew up on the Kikino Métis Settlement until she was sent to St. Michael’s Indian Residential School, six hours away from her home, at age 16. After St Michael’s closed, she was moved to the Lebreton Indian Residential School in Fort Qu’Appelle, SK, even farther away from her family.

The trauma of attending Residential School, along with her other experiences with grief and abuse, presented many challenges throughout Carmen’s life. Driven by a desire to help others and provide a better life for her children and community, Carmen pursued a career in psychology, enrolling in post-secondary studies and becoming a high-school counsellor.

Carmen furthered her education and obtained her bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Alberta in 2020, before moving on to study for her master’s degree in distance education at the University of Athabasca. “Distance education” is when education takes place where the students and teacher are physically separated by distance, and it usually involves online education.

Carmen currently resides in Frog Lake First Nation and works as a third-grade teacher. Carmen wants to be part of a systemic change in the educational landscape for First Nation youth living on-reserve. Carmen’s vision of the future includes supporting distance education programs in First Nation and Métis communities so that youth will no longer have to leave their homes, families, and support networks to get the education they want. Carmen is due to graduate in June 2023.



ORGANIZATION SUCCESS STORIES



The Circle Project

**Ka Wasenakwan (It Will Be Bright)
Drug and Alcohol Harm Reduction Program**

SASKATCHEWAN

The Circle Project is a Regina-based charity and community center that was founded in 1988 to offer life-saving harm-reduction, counseling, and outreach services to at-risk members of the Indigenous community.

The center serves First Nation and Métis people living in the Regina area, many of whom are Survivors or Intergenerational Survivors. The Circle Project accessed funding from the NIB Trust Fund to launch the “Ka Wasenakwan (It Will Be Bright) Drug and Alcohol Harm Reduction Program”,



a new community addiction treatment model, which increased the capacity of their existing addiction services.

Over the past year, The Circle Project expanded accessibility to a drop-in area where clients are offered addiction support, cultural support and resources, elder teachings and a lunch program that distributes bagged lunches. During the first six months of the program, the lunch program provided over 6,730 bagged lunches to nearly 2,000 drop-in clients visiting the centre.

The Circle Project’s drop-in centre fosters trust among vulnerable community members by providing vital necessities including a safe space to rest and healthy meals. Providing a safe space with culturally relevant resources for visitors has been an essential asset for The Circle Project and its clients.

The Circle Project is looking forward to the continued expansion of the Ka Wasenakwan Program with the addition of a certified addiction counsellor and community-based Knowledge Keepers.

To learn more about The Circle Project, visit their [website here](#).

First Nations Education Foundation (FNEF) – Lutsel K’e Dënë First Nation

Lutsel K’e Dënë – Healing through Language & Culture Revitalization

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

The Lutsel K’e Dënë First Nation is a small community nestled on the southern shoreline of Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories.

“Healing Through Language & Culture Revitalization” is an ambitious project of creating a written account of Dënë Sųłıñê yati involved engaging the community’s Elders, knowledge keepers, and remaining fluent language speakers to contribute to a written and oral language archive. Using rapid word collection tools, the teachings from this archive were converted into dictionary software which was used to guide the activities during the rest of the project.

Members of the community were actively involved in creating videos that incorporated elements of traditional daily life and Dënë cultural ways, Elder teachings, on the land harvest skills, and much more.



Healing Through Language & Culture Revitalization is not only a way to ensure that Dënë Sųłıñê yati continues to be spoken for generations; it’s a measure for community members to regain a sense of cultural knowledge, self-empowerment, and pride in identity.

Crowshield Lodge

Indigenous Land-based Healing & Education Lodge

ONTARIO

The Crow Shield Lodge is an organization based in Cambridge, ON that offers healing and education supports to the urban-Indigenous and non-Indigenous community through land-based cultural knowledge and teachings of traditional wellness.

The work of the Crow Shield Lodge is based on four principles: education, healing, reconciliation, and land-stewardship. The lodge implements these teachings in every element of its programming, with the belief that connecting community members to the land is the foundation for fostering healthy connections to oneself and to others. In

2022, the Crow Shield Lodge received support from the NIB Trust Fund to launch the Indigenous Land-based Healing & Education Lodge program, which would expand access to existing program activities to more people in the community.

The Indigenous Land-based Healing & Education Lodge program opened doors for Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members to more land-

based and cultural healing and education activities such as medicine walks, gardening, harvesting, crafting, ceremonies, storytelling, and song and dance. Through learning the teachings of the Medicine Wheel and the Seven Grandfather Teachings from Elders and mentors, participants learn the importance of being stewards of the land and the significance of this role for each individual. The fall and spring on-the-land fasting camps, which featured sweat lodges, fire keeping ceremonies, tipi making, Elder teachings, offered participants the opportunity to connect with the land and one another in a healthy, positive, and constructive way.

Crow Shield Lodge invites people from all nations to join in learning about healing rooted in First Nation and Métis beliefs, opening doors to all members of the community to learn, grow, and heal by providing the opportunity to connect through ceremony, tradition, and land. The Crow Shield Lodge is creating the community new pathways towards reconciliation.

To learn more about the Crow Shield Lodge, visit their [website](#).

Start2Finish Canada

The LIT Project (Indigenous Literacy Enhancement)

NATIONAL

The Start2Finish LIT (Indigenous Literacy Enhancement) Project is a two-tier national program aimed at advancing education, language, and culture through literacy development for First Nation and Métis children across Canada.

Aided by funding from the NIB Trust Fund, the LIT Project has helped increase accessibility to literature for Indigenous children by providing indigenous “book vending machines” to four friendship centres and schools across the nation. In the first year of the project, the machines were supplied with enough books for 200-250 children at each location to take home one book per month.

Developed in collaboration with Indigenous partnership and based on the Seven Grandfather Teachings, the curriculum of the Indigenous LIT

Program carries an emphasis on well-being and the challenges of low literacy, providing children access to culturally relevant literature that offers a connection to traditional storytelling, personal identity, and a sense of self-pride.



The LIT Project also works to advance Indigenous storytelling and First Nation and Métis people working in the writing and publishing industries by promoting books from Indigenous authors, illustrators, and other artists who have contributed to Indigenous literature. In the next four years, the LIT Project endeavors to expand the program to more schools and friendship centres by purchasing and donating additional machines and filling them with books authored by Indigenous writers.

To learn more about the LIT Project, [click here](#).



Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve 292

TTR Youth Training Camp

MANITOBA

The Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve is an Anishinaabe First Nation nestled in the forests and prairies near Roblin, Manitoba. The community's total population is just under 1,500, with 670 people living on-reserve.

The small community is close to many idyllic feats of nature, including the Duck Mountain Provincial Forest, making it the perfect place for hikers and those seeking a connection with the land. Over the summer of 2022, the Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve hosted a project called the "TTR Youth Training Camp" with the help of funding from the NIB Trust Fund. The project trained 17 youths to become registered hunting and backcountry guides.

Seeing the potential to be stewards of the land and the opportunities it would bring for its young people living in community, the program offered a pathway for youth to build a career in the wilderness industry. The program sought knowledge from Elders

and traditional on-the-land teachings to guide the curriculum. Participants were given the opportunity to partake in the Manitoba Hunting Safety Course, wilderness safety, survival training, wildlife awareness, predator safety training, and on-the-land training.

Through fostering a deeper connection between the community's youth and Elders, and a combination of traditional knowledge and modern safety practices, the TTR Youth Training Camp project opened pathways for youth to achieve their goals and earn their certifications.

Thanks to the program's teachings, many of the community's youth can see themselves building a future and a career in Tootinaowaziibeeng, lending their new-found expertise to visitors and future generations for years to come.

To learn more about the TTR Youth Training Camp, visit the [website here](#).



Blood Tribe – Kainai First Nation

Strengthening Niitsipowahsin II

ALBERTA

The "Strengthening Niitsipowahsin II" Project is an initiative to strengthen, maintain, and protect the traditional Blackfoot Language, Niitsipowahsin and culture.

Strengthening Niitsipowahsin II is a multi-faceted project, delivered by the Blood Tribe in consultation with the Blackfoot Confederacy to capture traditional and significant accounts of historical events to be transformed into recordings. The project is intended for educators to inform audiences about the culture and history of the Blackfoot people, to create lesson plans and a curriculum for future students. The project engaged youth in learning their languages, culture, traditional ways of being and connecting to Elders.

The videos were recorded in Blackfoot and contained English subtitles, and the subject matter focused on ceremonies, songs, historical and ancestral accounts of the Blackfoot as land-protectors and knowledge keepers on traditional Blackfoot territory, and traditional Blackfoot



cultural knowledge. During the making of the recordings, youth participants experienced on-the-land learning with Elders and Knowledge Keepers, and several participated in Blackfoot naming ceremonies.

The project will be shared with learners in collaboration with Blackfoot Knowledge Keepers, Elders, and youth at a language symposium hosted by the Blackfoot Confederacy on their home territory.

Investment Update

The NIB Trust Fund diligently manages its assets to support First Nation communities, organizations, and individuals, through long-term management of the assets for growth, while ensuring sustainable disbursements from the Fund. With the assistance of qualified, independent advisors, the NIB Trust Fund Board of Trustees has established an Investment Policy and spending policy and continues to monitor the investment strategies to ensure the commitment to beneficiaries and the long-term investment management strategies remain balanced.

Our current asset allocation mix includes fixed income, Canadian equity, international equity, and real estate. Each asset class is managed by specialized, high-performing investment managers, with their performance evaluated against the benchmark for each asset class and for the fund as a whole with asset class weighting equal to the NIB Trust Fund.

The 12-month investment returns as of March 31, 2023, totaled \$5.74 million. In the last fiscal year, the markets continued to experience volatility, but the NIB Trust Fund portfolio performed in line with the benchmark overall. The return on investment (ROI) produced an annual positive return of approximately 3.8% during the 2022-2023, which surpasses with the performance benchmarks return of 0.3% over the same period. (Figure 1).

The NIB Trust Fund's investment returns for the year-to-date ending March 2023 ranked in the top 5% among funds with similar asset mixes (Figure 2). Despite market challenges, including the post-pandemic recovery, interest rate hikes, banking sector crises, and international conflicts, our investment managers have weathered the market better than their peers. The total Fund outperformed the benchmark by 3.5% and finished the fiscal year positively. Over the last three-year period, the NIB Trust Fund has outperformed its benchmark by 1%.

On March 31, 2023, NIB Trust Fund investment portfolio was \$242.8 million, including fund balances for the Legacy Fund: \$141.8 million, Education Fund: \$98.8 million and Métis Fund: \$1.78 million.

The total investment returns include both realized income and unrealized income. In the 12 months ending March 31, 2023, the NIB Trust Fund total investment income was \$5.7 million, comprising realized net investment income of \$18.2 million and unrealized loss on assets held of \$-12.5 million.

Although total assets decreased by \$6.87 million in 2022-2023, which is due to the investment returns, less the operating expenses and disbursements to beneficiaries, we remain committed to the long-term objectives of protecting the value of the Fund while providing a reasonable return on investments. The NIB Trust Fund remains focused on meeting the long-term spending objectives and empowering our beneficiaries.

2022-2023 NIB Trust Fund Total Fund Performance

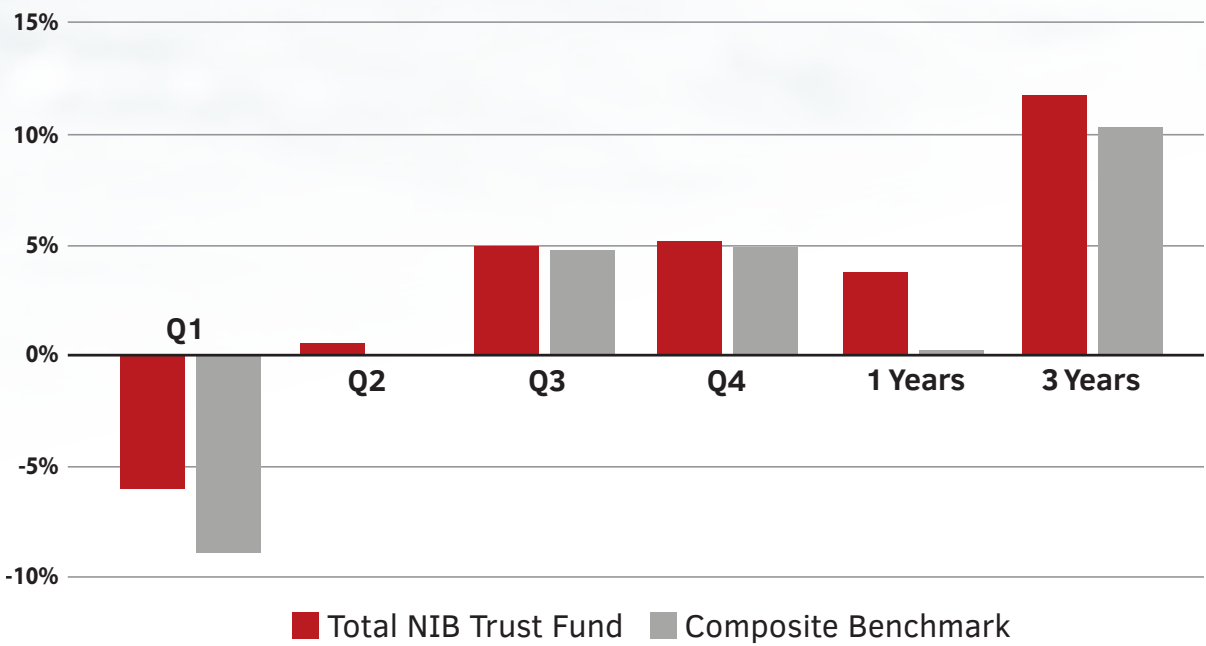


Figure 1: Illustrates the NIBTF fund performance in each quarter and yearly, comparing it to the composite benchmark.

Performance vs. Universe

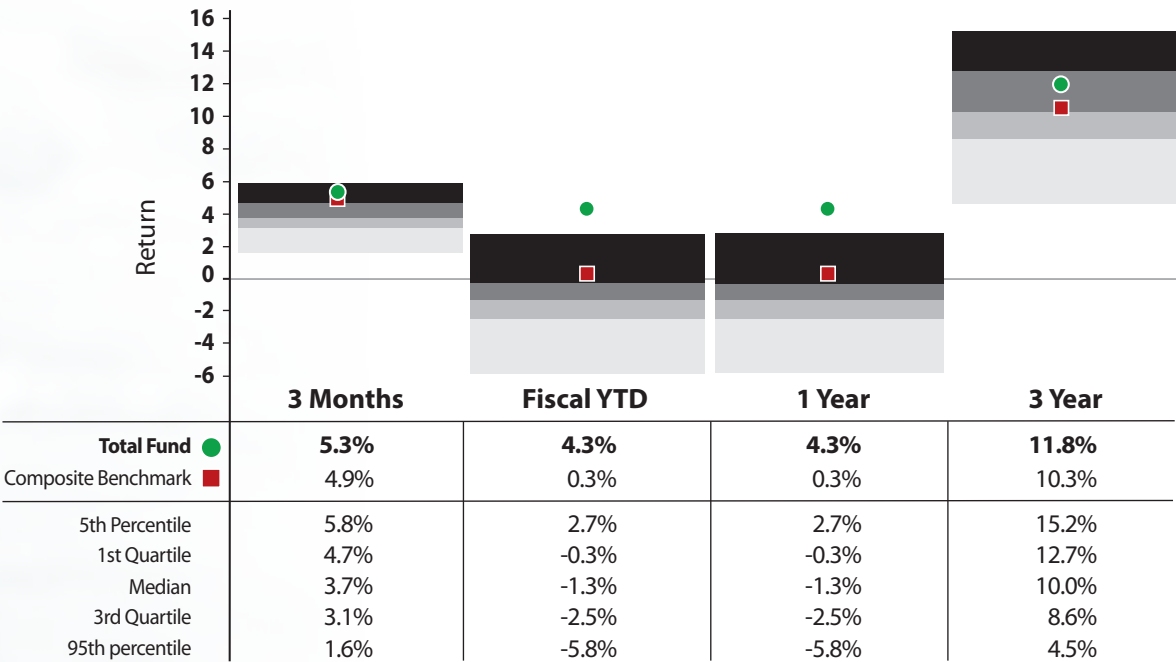
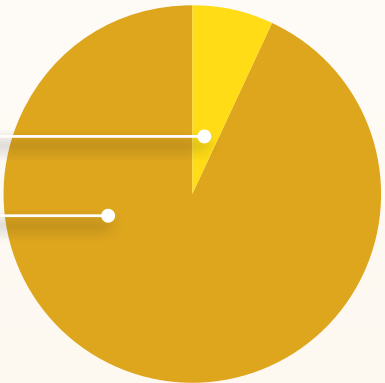


Figure 2: NIBTF total fund performance compared to the Composite benchmarks.

Financial Statements

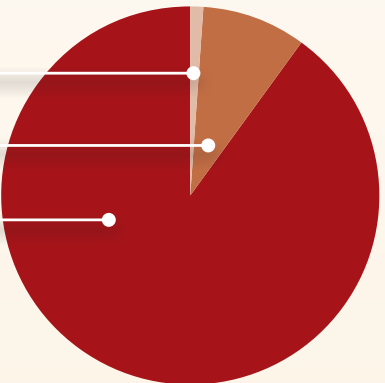
Increase to Trust Fund

Donations	\$449,729	7%
Investment Income	\$5,742,587	93%
Total	\$6,192,316	100%



Decrease to Trust Fund

Administration	\$289,439	2.2%
Operations	\$1,479,647	11.0%
Payments to Beneficiaries	\$11,644,411	86.8%
Total	\$13,413,497	100.0%



Total Revenues-Increase
to Trust Fund:

\$6,192,316

Total Expenses-Decrease
to Trust Fund:

\$13,413,497

Complete 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements are available at:
nibtrust.ca/about/financial-statements



Thank you for reading the NIB Trust Fund 2022-2023 Annual Report. To learn more about the programs we fund, our initiatives, our beneficiaries, and how you can get involved with the NIB Trust Fund, please visit our website at www.nibtrustfund.ca.

Head Office:

46 Irene Roundpoint Lane Akwesasne,
ON K6H 0G5

Satellite Office:

1545 Carling Ave. Ottawa, ON K1Z 8P9
Toll-Free: 1.888.268.0520 Email: info@nibtrust.ca

NIB Trust Fund Charitable Number: 119051795RR0001

