

Indigenous Community Business Fund Information & FAQ



By now, you may have heard about the Indigenous Community Business Fund (ICBF). This COVID-19 relief support from the federal government is intended to help micro and collectively owned Métis businesses.

That's you Métis artists, musicians, crafters, and small producers of products and services. In many respects, your businesses have been and remain the most impacted by COVID-19. This is because your markets have been closed. No more Métis gatherings like assemblies, AGMs, mixers, fiddle contests, and festivals, retreats, youth camps, and this list goes on. It's all been cancelled because of the pandemic, and that has materially impacted your micro business, and therefore, your income.

So, Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. (AMDI) is here to help the bannock bakers and jam makers, leather and bead needle workers, crafters of stuff that glitters; jewelry, moccasin slippers, pouches, patches, and proud Métis sashes. Let's not forget the Métis Region and Local businesses, the collectively owned operations that don't meet traditional small business definitions.

Most businesses and individuals have received some form of COVID-19 relief through programs such as the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA), or if you were laid off, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) which was made available to help employees weather the effects of losing employment income.

The purpose of ICBF is to provide economic relief to Métis micro and collectively owned businesses that have "fallen through the cracks" despite having been equally impacted by the effects of COVID-19. During the development of this program, the Director General of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada was very clear in who he was targeting – ***those businesses that didn't qualify for Covid-19 relief programs because their businesses did not meet income thresholds or other eligibility criteria.***

AMDI is here to help clarify this program for you in the easiest and clearest way possible. So, let's do this by going through a few key questions.

What is the ICBF?

As mentioned, ICBF is a COVID-19 relief program that aims to support Indigenous micro-business owners and collectively owned businesses who did not qualify for earlier programs like CEBA, or the Federal Business Emergency Loan and Métis Business Emergency Loan programs that were offered by AMDI.

If I qualify, what may I be eligible for?

Eligible micro-businesses can receive contributions of up to \$5,000 with collectives eligible for a maximum of \$50,000. The non-repayable contributions can be used for operating costs like:

- Salaries and benefits
- Bank fees and interest payments
- Rent and loan payments
- Utilities
- Other applicable operating costs

ICBF Non-Eligibility

If you have received any of the following Covid 19 relief programs, you will not be eligible for ICBF:

**Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)
Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)
Apeetogosan's Federal Business Emergency Loan (FBEL)
Apeetogosan's Métis Business Emergency Loan (MBEL)**

What's the difference between Stream 1 and Stream 2?

Stream 1

Geared towards Métis micro businesses who did not qualify for CEBA.

Stream 2

Funding will be proposal-based. For Métis collectively-owned businesses, funding will be administered by delivery partners – that's AMDI. For more information on Stream 2, please contact AMDI.

What is a Métis Micro Business? A Métis Micro business is a Métis owned and controlled small business whose income does not exceed \$25K/annum.

How would my Métis micro business not qualify? Most Métis micro businesses will qualify, however, if you have a micro business and you have a full-time job that pays minimum wage or higher or **\$30,000 a year**, then your business will not be eligible for ICBF relief. This is because you are employed full-time and that if you lost your employment as a result of COVID-19, you were eligible for CERB benefits and your micro business does not constitute the majority of your income. Remember that the idea of this program is to provide Covid-19 benefit relief to those individuals who lost their micro businesses - where these businesses were their only source, or major source of income.

Will I qualify if I have a part-time job, but my micro business income has decreased because of COVID-19? Yes, provided that: (1) your combined micro business and employment income DOES NOT EXCEED \$25K/annum, and (2) that your micro business income was at least half of your total income.

How do I apply?

All you have to do is go to apeetogosan.com and fill out the application form. Then email it to: office@amdi.co

If you have any other questions, please call us at 780-452-7951 or toll free on 1-800-252-7963. We're here to support you.