

The Oceans Fund

A Pooled Grantmaking Fund of the Oceans Collaborative

The **Oceans Collaborative** (OC), housed within **Environment Funders Canada** (EFC), is an active, open group of funders who share the overarching goal of restoring and protecting healthy, productive oceans and coasts in Canada. The OC strives to achieve this goal by **supporting Indigenous leadership and building stewardship and governance capacity; engaging and mobilizing coastal communities and stakeholders; and advancing implementation of effective laws and policies to support healthy oceans and communities.** We are committed to practicing trust-based philanthropy, which we define as work to correct the inherent power imbalances within philanthropy by advancing equity, reducing administrative burdens, providing flexible funding arrangements and building mutually accountable relationships. In this, we rely on the advice and leadership of Indigenous organizations and community partners to guide our work and help source opportunities for partnership and investment.

About the Oceans Fund

The **Oceans Fund** is a pooled grantmaking fund, managed by the Oceans Collaborative, that makes strategic, catalytic investments to seize opportunities and facilitate change. The Fund advances the OC's goals by investing in place-based initiatives and projects that advance enabling conditions, focused primarily on one or more of the following strategic areas: **oceans governance, stewardship and community engagement; policy and legislation; and communications and outreach.**

We recognize the interconnectedness of healthy waters, lands, people, communities, and cultures, and apply a broad definition of ocean conservation that extends well beyond 'direct' conservation work to include initiatives that support the social, cultural, political, legal, and financial conditions for effective ocean conservation and stewardship.



Since its inception in 2019, the Oceans Fund has invested close to CDN\$2.3 million in projects from coast to coast to coast in Canada. Our grants average \$50,000 and are typically one-time. With limited funds, we prioritize opportunities that seed initiatives, test new approaches, have potential to scale and drive broader change, and generate models and learnings that extend beyond the specific project or grant partner.

We believe that the people best positioned to oversee and implement projects are those closest by, and we strive to invest our support directly in Indigenous communities, equity-seeking communities,¹ and community-based organizations where possible.

Examples of Past Grants

Past grants have been provided to:

- support Indigenous-led efforts to advance Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas and other site-based protections (through both place-based and policy/technical initiatives);
- support Indigenous organizing and convening associated with national and international gatherings;
- develop and implement Indigenous-led community-based stewardship and monitoring systems;
- support regenerative coastal Indigenous food systems tied to ecological integrity of marine ecosystems; and,
- build online organizing and engagement capacity of organizations working on ocean conservation and stewardship.
- support the development of measures within land use planning to address community concerns on vessel management and related environmental impacts.

The wellbeing of coastal communities is fundamental to our goals. We welcome initiatives that promote healing, like language and cultural restoration efforts and health and wellness programs that help reconnect people to place, recognizing the critical role these connections play in enabling community-led marine stewardship.

[1] Equity-seeking communities are those that identify barriers to equal access, opportunities and resources due to disadvantage and discrimination and actively seek social justice and reparation.



We are also open to investing in community operational capacity including, for example, travel expenses and short-term, supplementary staffing support, where needed to help communities achieve marine stewardship and governance goals.

For More Information:

The Oceans Fund does not issue an open call for proposals, but we are happy to explore all opportunities that align with the Fund's goals, approaches and philosophy.

Should you feel that your project or idea is a strong fit and wish to discuss further, please reach out to Lara Hoshizaki, Program Consultant to the Oceans Collaborative (larahoshizaki@gmail.com).



About Environment Funders Canada

Environment Funders Canada (EFC) is a national organization that catalyzes funders to respond to environmental crises with ambitious and bold solutions. Our 75+ members, comprised of philanthropic foundations and other funders, work with charitable and non-profit organizations, Indigenous organizations, community groups, governments and other entities to develop and deliver programs that can make our communities healthier and more resilient, while tackling climate change and protecting vital ecosystems and the natural world.