

INDIGENOUS WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUPPORT PROGRAM (IWESP) – PLACE OF BUSINESS

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAM

The objective of the Indigenous Women Entrepreneurship Support Program (IWESP) – *Place of Business* component is to financially support Indigenous women entrepreneurs in their efforts to gain **access to suitable premises to operate their businesses**.

AVAILABLE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The financial assistance can be used in two ways:

1. To enable the project to be carried out directly, cost permitting;
2. To be used as a down payment by the promoter as part of a financial package.

This is non-refundable financial assistance, for which a maximum of **\$30,000** could be granted, per project.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

General conditions

To be eligible for the program, you must meet the following conditions:

- Be a woman who is a member of a Quebec First Nation **or** be a business owned and controlled by a majority of women who are members of a Quebec First Nation;
- Have an existing or start-up business project in Quebec;
- Be registered with the FNQLEDC's support services.

The following sectors are not eligible for the program: gambling, sex, alcohol, drugs and tobacco.

Examples of eligible costs

Here are some examples of eligible costs:

- Construction of a building;
- Acquisition of a building or land;
- Rental improvement or renovation of an existing premises;
- Development of a space dedicated to the business in a private residence;
- Construction of an annex to a private residence for the purpose of operating a business;
- Rental assistance during the start-up period of a new business project.

SUBMISSION AND ANALYSIS OF APPLICATIONS

The program is open on an ongoing basis. Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. An approval committee reviews all applications received. This committee meets four times a year or until the funds for the year in question are exhausted.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection of projects and the amount of the contribution will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- The nature of the project and its relevance in its environment;
- The socio-economic impact on Indigenous women;
- The financial need;
- The viability of the project.

DOCUMENTS TO BE PROVIDED

For a new business project, here are the documents to be provided:

- Duly completed form;
- Business plan;
- Financial forecasts (3 years);
- Proof of Indigenous status;
- Tenders justifying the costs associated with the project.

For an existing business project:

- Duly completed form;
- Financial results for the last few years;
- Financial forecasts (3 years);
- Proof of Indigenous status;
- Tenders justifying the costs associated with the project;
- Business plan (if necessary).

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Step 1

Complete the Indigenous Women Entrepreneurship Support Program – Place of Business form.

Step 2

Submit the completed form along with all the required documents as indicated above, depending on your situation.

Step 3

Wait for the FNQLEDC Approval Committee's decision.

Step 4

If the application is accepted, the payment terms will be set with the entrepreneur.