

## CEDI Phase IV – Accelerated Program Application Information

### Introduction

Cando and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities are pleased to launch a call for an additional six new First Nation – municipal partnerships to participate in Cohort 3 of the First Nation – Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) Phase IV – Accelerated Program.

Since 2013 and over four cohorts of the program, CEDI has supported a total of 28 First Nation – municipal partnerships to build respectful and sustainable government-to-government partnerships and increase capacity to engage in long-term collaborative planning in community economic development and land-use.



### Application Information

#### Who should apply?

- A **joint application** should be submitted by the interested partnership.
- This intake is **best suited** for partnerships with **1 First Nation and 1 municipality** that have:
  - **Pre-existing government-to-government relationships** (i.e., councils meet annually, staff to staff relationships, successful service agreements, collaborative community events, inclusive representation on local boards, etc.)
  - **Preliminary ideas for collaborative community economic development initiatives** (i.e., identified areas of shared interest or opportunity that align for both communities' priorities and capacity)

#### *What outcomes can communities expect by the end of the CEDI Phase IV – Accelerated Program?*

The CEDI Phase IV – Accelerated Program is intended to build upon pre-existing relationships to increase the collective capacity of First Nation and municipal governments to engage in long-term collaborative community economic development planning and initiatives.

Over the course of the Accelerated Program, partnerships who commit the time and capacity required (listed below) can expect to:

- Develop new jointly created processes for collaborative planning and community economic development
- Participate in shared learning and capacity development
- Build stronger relationships between elected officials and staff
- Advance planning for collaborative community economic development and land-use initiatives
- Establish joint strategic and work plans
- Jointly access a \$22,500 Capacity Development Grant to support in the capacity development

and implementation of collaborative community economic development planning and initiatives.

***What are the participation requirements and expectations for selected partnerships?***

First Nation and municipal governments **should apply if they have the commitment and the required capacity from their respective Council and staff to dedicate the following:**

1. Identify and assign Working Group champions, minimum of one elected official and two staff members (one senior administrative staff person and economic development officer/planner/lands manager) from each community, to lead participation in the CEDI program and attend monthly Working Group meetings.
  - Elected Working Group champions should be prepared to give 3 hours each month.
  - Staff Working Group champions should be prepared to give 5 hours each month.
  - Administrative support will be required from both communities (i.e., scheduling meetings, communicating with councils, communications support, etc.).

Working Group members will also contribute to the design and development of 3-4 workshops (approximately 1-2 workshops per year).

2. Interest and engagement from each respective Chief and Council and Mayor and Council to participate and encourage staff participation at the bi-annual full-day workshops.
  - These workshops will address objectives pertaining to relationship development, shared learning, capacity development, and advancing collaborative community economic development planning and initiatives.
3. Additional staff or external consultants from each community may be required based on the knowledge and support needed to build capacity and advance collaborative community economic development planning and initiatives.
4. Selected partnerships will be asked to commit, by band council or municipal council resolution (post-program acceptance), to participate for the full duration of the CEDI Phase IV – Accelerated Program.
5. While there is **no direct cost** to participate in the CEDI program for selected communities, First Nation and municipal governments should be prepared to make in-kind contributions such as Council and staff time, mileage to and from meetings or workshops, and meeting spaces.

***What are the program delivery and participation timelines?***

Please find the estimated timeline for Cohort 3 below

| Estimated Phase IV Cohort 3 Delivery Timeline     |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Commitment/Deliverable                            | Cohort 3<br>January 2026 – March 2027 |
| Interview with CEDI                               | November 2025                         |
| First Working Group Meeting (reoccurring monthly) | Jan-Feb 2026                          |
| 1:1 Meetings with CEDI Team and CEDI Workshop #1  | Mar-May 2026                          |

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| CEDI Workshop #2 | Sept-Nov 2026 |
| CEDI Workshop #3 | Feb-Mar 2027  |

### Application Information

If you are a neighbouring First Nation government and municipal government interested in participating in the CEDI program, we ask that you **jointly complete the application** for consideration.

This Accelerated Program is best suited for partnerships with 1 First Nation and 1 municipality. If you are applying as a partnership with more than 1 First Nation and 1 municipality, please contact CEDI Program Officer, Daniel Nychuk ([daniel.nychuk@edo.ca](mailto:daniel.nychuk@edo.ca)), for access to an adapted application form.

The program will consider joint applications from First Nation and municipal governments based on the following **criteria**:

1. Applicants should be able to demonstrate the following from **elected leadership** of both the First Nation and municipality:
  - Time and capacity of elected officials to commit to the CEDI process.
    - 1 elected official (minimum) to participate in monthly CEDI Working Group Meetings, prepared to give 3 hours each month
    - Broader Council participation at bi-annual full-day workshops.
  - Interest and leadership in supporting and participating in inter-governmental relationship building.
  - Interest and leadership in exploring collaborative planning and community economic development and land-use processes.
2. Applicants should have the capacity to dedicate staff resources from both the First Nation and municipality.
  - 2 staff (minimum) from each community to participate in monthly CEDI Working Group Meetings, prepared to give 5 hours each month
  - Broader staff participation at bi-annual full-day workshops.
  - Support of administrative staff as required.
  - Additional staff or external consultants as required.
3. Applicants should be able to adhere to the timelines, objectives and expectations of CEDI program outlined clearly in this document

### *What important dates do First Nation – municipal joint applicants need to be aware of?*

- **Application Deadline: Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 11:59pmMT**
- Short-listed applicants will be notified on the week of October 13-17<sup>th</sup>. Please note that we will be contacting short-listed applicants only.
- Short-listed applicants must be available for interviews between November 3-7<sup>th</sup> and November 10-14<sup>th</sup>.
- Successful applicants will be notified on the week of November 24-28<sup>th</sup>.
- Program orientation and the first Working Group Meetings will begin in January and February of 2026.

***What are the next steps to apply?***

**Go to the CEDI Website to find the following documents to assist in the application process:**

- Complete the joint and individual Application Worksheets (This is **NOT** the application. All applicants must complete the online application forms.)
- Application Online Forms (**please note all 3 Application Forms must be submitted to be considered**)
- Application Information Sheet
- More Information about CEDI

We suggest the following next steps:

1. Work with your applicant partner to review and prepare your joint responses prior to accessing the [Online Part 1: Joint Application Form](#).
2. Individually review the following applicable documentation and prepare your responses:
  - a. [Online Part 2: First Nation Application Form](#)
  - b. [Online Part 3: Municipal Application Form](#)

**Joint applications must be completed by Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 11:59pmMT.**

**Questions?**

Please contact Acting Program Manager, CEDI Marissa Lawrence ([marissa.lawrence@edo.ca](mailto:marissa.lawrence@edo.ca)) with any questions regarding the application process.

Please contact CEDI Program Officer, Daniel Nychuk ([daniel.nychuk@edo.ca](mailto:daniel.nychuk@edo.ca)) with any questions related to the application form.

If you would like to learn more about the CEDI program, please visit:  
<https://www.cedipartnerships.ca/>