

First Nation – Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the CEDI Program?

The First Nation - Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) program is a joint initiative of Cando (Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) that supports neighbouring First Nations and municipalities to develop capacity to implement long-term joint planning for community economic development initiatives and land use, while building respectful and sustainable government-to-government partnerships.

Since 2013, CEDI has helped First Nations and municipalities develop partnerships that establish and support mutually beneficial community economic development. Over this time, CEDI has worked with 15 formal partnerships, including 24 First Nations and 22 municipalities and economic development organizations. These partnerships have successfully co-created respectful and sustainable government-to-government partnerships and joint-led community economic development initiatives and plans.

In CEDI Phase II (2016 – 2021) alone, the program resulted in 9 successful partnerships, including 15 First Nations and 12 Municipalities, 30 joint initiatives and \$24.7 million was leveraged in provincial and federal funding.

Most recently in CEDI Phase III (2022 – 2025), CEDI has welcomed 8 new First Nation-municipal partnerships into the program from across Canada.

What is joint community economic development?

Joint Community Economic Development (CED) is a process by which neighbouring governments/ community partners initiate and generate their own innovative solutions to their common economic problems, thereby building mutual long-term community capacity. Local knowledge is used for local solutions. This approach integrates economic, social, and environmental objectives that benefit members of both of communities, building stronger, and more sustainable communities.

What are the joint community economic development opportunities for a First Nation – municipal partnership?

Many First Nations and municipalities want to collaborate as neighbours, but they don't always know where to begin. First Nations and municipalities have different legislation, jurisdictions and governance models and therefore have different responsibilities and opportunities to economic development and land-use planning.

Since CEDI began in 2013, the program has witnessed a range of collaborative joint CED initiatives. Three prominent joint community economic development themes have emerged from CEDI partnerships to date, including: Collaborative Land-Use Planning; Infrastructure and Service Agreements; and Inclusive Regional Economic Development and Indigenous Procurement. Learn more about past CEDI

partnerships and their joint initiatives by visiting the CEDI Phase II Partnership Profiles on the [CEDI website](#).

What are the benefits to joint community economic development for First Nation – municipal partnerships?

There are many potential benefits, including:

- A **stronger, united voice** for engaging with businesses and other orders of government.
- Increased ability to **access funding** from other orders of government.
- **Cost savings** and more efficient program and/or service delivery.
- More opportunities for **local business development and jobs**.
- Ability to leverage **the unique financial, human, and physical resources** of each partner.
- **Coordinated planning** efforts to improve land use, land management and environmental/resource protection.

How do communities apply and what is the process of being selected to participate in the CEDI program?

Phase III (2022 – 2025) of the CEDI program called for joint First Nation-municipal applications between September 22nd - October 22nd, 2021. First Nation and municipal governments who have a shared interest in joint community economic development and land use planning, and a shared interest in improving the government-to-government relationships were encouraged to apply. Joint applicants were asked to select either the 2- or 3-year participation stream based on the current state of their relationship and capacity.

With resources to support only eight First Nation-municipal partnerships in Phase III, the CEDI program was overwhelmed with twenty-eight joint applications from 34 First Nations (including 1 Tribal Administration) and 34 local governments (including municipalities, counties, and regional districts) from across Canada.

Using a two-stage application and interview process, the CEDI program made a selection of 8 diverse First Nation-municipal partnerships from across the country to participate in CEDI Phase III, including 2 in British Columbia, 1 in Alberta, 1 in Saskatchewan, 1 in Manitoba, 1 in Ontario, 1 in Quebec and 1 in New Brunswick. Rather than sharing the community names of the selected partnerships, the CEDI program respects that each partnership will make their own shared announcement when it best suits their communities.

What does the CEDI program offer participating communities?

Communities participating in the CEDI program benefit from third-party neutral process and facilitation support, including, facilitated monthly working group meetings, bi-annual workshops, and wise practice activities and tools for relationship and capacity development. Ultimately identifying several shared community economic development priorities and opportunities, and using co-created selection criteria, each partnership will prioritize a joint community economic development initiative to advance under the CEDI program support.

These supports help the participating communities to develop community capacity for joint community economic development planning, build and strengthen the government-to-government partnerships and inter-community relationships, and improve the quality of life for all in the region.

How much does participation in the CEDI program cost and what do participating communities receive?

There is no direct cost to participate in the CEDI program for selected communities! The CEDI program provides technical support through third-party facilitation, utilizing the [Stronger Together approach](#), for monthly working group meetings, bi-annual workshops, and administrative support. CEDI provides financial support by covering the bi-annual workshop expenses (venue, catering, honorarium, etc.).

Is there funding available to participating First Nation – municipal partnerships for joint community economic development initiatives?

CEDI provides a modest capacity development grant of \$45,000 to each partnership to jointly access to support in the development and implementation of their joint community economic development initiative. CEDI also supports participating communities to identify and pursue provincial/territorial, federal and private funding opportunities to advance their collaborative CED initiative(s).

How long is the CEDI program participation?

It depends on the program stream that each partnership is participating in; in CEDI Phase III there is a three-year standard CEDI participation option (January 2022 – January 2025), and a two-year accelerated CEDI participation option (January 2022 – January 2024). The two-year accelerated model will support those First Nation-municipal partnerships who have a strong foundational relationship and have a high capacity to collaborate.

What level of commitment is required from participating communities?

By participating in the CEDI program, each community commits to the following:

- 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 joint 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.).
- In addition, working group champions contribute to the design and development of 4-5 workshops (2 workshops per year). Each workshop will welcome elected officials and staff from both communities to address objectives pertaining to relationship development, shared learning, collaborative planning and advancing joint CED initiatives.
- Elected councils and senior staff from each community are invited and encouraged to participate at the bi-annual workshops.
- Additional staff or external consultants from each community may be required based on the joint community economic development initiative(s) selected.



- Community engagement is encouraged and is led by each respective community.

For More Information:

- <https://www.edo.ca/cedi>
- <https://fcm.ca/en/programs/community-economic-development-initiative>