



## **Fonds d'appui au rayonnement des régions, in brief**

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The Fonds d'appui au rayonnement des régions (FARR – Regional Outreach Fund) is a new program of the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Occupation du territoire (MAMOT). It covers all regions of Québec, except the Capitale-Nationale and Montréal regions, for which other funds are provided. The amounts allocated to the FARR will serve completely for the funding of development projects, aligned to the priorities determined by each region. The projects will bear the distinctive stamp of regional outreach. By this approach, the Gouvernement du Québec is focusing its action on the regions. This document presents the management framework for Eeyou-Istchee.

### **About regional outreach**

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Any project has regional outreach if it has impacts in the territory of more than one Cree communities. Local projects carried out in several communities and that contribute to the achievement of the same regional priority are also eligible. In this case, it is the sum of the projects, and not each project taken individually, that will have regional outreach.

### **Regional priorities and preferred actions**

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As an organization responsible for acting in regional development, the Cree Nation Government was invited to present the region's regional development priorities to the MAMOT. Each priority is associated with preferred actions. The priorities and preferred actions for Eeyou Istchee are presented on the [MAMOT](#) website and can be obtained by contacting the Commerce and Industry Department at the Cree Nation Government<sup>1</sup>.

The regional priorities are established for several years, while the action to be preferred is a shorter-term target. The priorities and preferred actions nonetheless are under revision for 2018-2019.

To be eligible for funding, a project must match a regional priority.

If it also matches a preferred action, it then will be more likely to be chosen by Cree Nation Government.

### **The Regional Selection Committee**

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In Eeyou Istchee, the Cree Nation Government has determined the composition of the Regional Selection Committee for the projects:

- The Deputy Grand Chief, Grand Council of the Cree Nation
- A representative from the Executive Committee of the Cree Nation Government
- A representative from the Department of Commerce & Industry of the Cree Nation Government

The mandate of the Regional Selection Committee consists of prioritizing and choosing the projects to support under the FARR. The MAMOT will look after the administrative aspects regarding the granting of assistance: verification of compliance with standards, memoranda of understanding with the beneficiaries, disbursement of assistance granted, and accountability.

The committee also determines the conditions of submission of projects and the region's specific selection criteria which are added, if applicable, to the basic criteria. Finally, it can determine rates of assistance or maximum amounts of assistance lower than those stipulated by the FARR. This document integrates the decisions made by the Regional Selection Committee.

It should be noted that the committee members are bound by rules of conduct governing integrity, impartiality, confidentiality and announcement of projects. They may not disclose in any way the content of the projects received or the analysis performed. Only the general parameters of the projects and the funding granted will be made public, if applicable. They must also ensure they do not place themselves in a conflict of interest.

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<sup>1</sup> Current priorities came from the Stronger Together conference, held in 2015, final report can be downloaded at this address: [http://www.gcc.ca/pdf/stongertogetherFinalReport\\_160309.pdf](http://www.gcc.ca/pdf/stongertogetherFinalReport_160309.pdf)

## **Special conditions – Nord-du-Québec**

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For geographic, cultural and legal reasons, Jamésie, Nunavik and Eeyou Istchee are distinct entities for the management of the FARR. In these entities, the projects must have outreach in multiple communities.

Jamésie has a Steering Committee and a Selection Committee. The Cree Nation Government and the Kativik Regional Government will present the projects directly to the MAMOT for Nunavik and Eeyou Istchee. If applicable, the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government may also present a project that has received the endorsement of the Cree Nation Government on the Jamésie Regional Selection Committee.

## **Eligible organizations**

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The following organizations are eligible:

- Band councils and municipal entities;
- Private enterprises, except financial sector enterprises;
- Non-profit organization;
- Social economy enterprises, except financial sector enterprises;
- Cooperative, except financial sector enterprises;
- Bodies of the education networks;
- Legal persons wishing to start a private or social economy enterprise;
- Professional artists or groups of professional artists as part of agreements between the Cree Nation Government and the *Conseil des arts et lettres du Québec*.

An organization registered in the Enterprise Register not eligible for public contracts is not eligible, however. An organization in litigation before a court with the Gouvernement du Québec or in default of its obligations to the MAMOT might not be eligible, depending on the nature of the litigation or the default and the issues raised.

## **Eligible projects**

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The FARR participates in funding of the eligible projects prioritized and chosen by the Regional Selection Committee, within the financial envelope determined and the FARR's standards. The granting of assistance is conditional on the availability of the appropriations.

The FARR may also participate in the funding of agreements between Cree Nation Government and government departments or bodies, submitted by the Cree Nation Government, providing for the clauses required to qualify as an eligible project.

To be eligible, a project must contribute to the attractiveness of the living environments or business development:

- A project contributes to the attractiveness of the living environments if it improves the conditions related to the desire to stay in an environment for tourism purposes, or to settle or remain there to contribute to its prosperity;
- A project contributes to business development if it seeks the establishment of a new enterprise or the expansion or consolidation of an existing enterprise.

To be eligible for a grant, the project must also:

- Be carried out in the region's territory;
- Match a regional priority;
- Have regional outreach or in more than one Cree community;
- Obtain sectoral funding when a government program exists and an envelope is available, since the FARR must not replace the existing programs but complement them;

- Not contradict a government policy or measure approved by the Conseil du trésor or the Gouvernement du Québec, or cover an activity already funded by budget rules approved by it;
- Comply with the legal and regulatory framework in force and the applicable national or international agreements;
- Not generate additional expenditures that could be induced for the Government subsequent to its performance or have major negative consequences for a sector of activity covered by the mission of a department or an entity of the Gouvernement du Québec.

The MAMOT will solicit the collaboration of the other departments concerned to verify the eligibility of the projects, particularly with regard to the last three points mentioned above, because they are relatively technical and probably very rare, and this verification cannot be strictly incumbent on the applicant for financial assistance. Unless there are exceptional reasons, this verification will be expected within 15 business days.

For the purposes of the FARR, a project is defined as time-limited initiative, ad hoc and non-recurring, and not including the permanent expenses the organization must assume in order to remain active regardless of the volume of its activities.

Moves of enterprises from other Québec administrative regions are not eligible.

## **Project submission**

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There are no fixed calls for projects, proposals are welcomed at any time and will be evaluated on a quarterly basis.

## **Project evaluation**

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The Cree Nation Government has adopted the following grid to evaluate the eligible projects and determine which ones to choose and prioritize:

- The match with a preferred action;
- The scope of the regional outreach, depending on the number of territories benefit from the impact of the project and the importance of this impact for the users, the clientele or the employees deriving benefits from it;
- The importance of the economic impacts on employment during and after performance of the project;
- The importance of the contribution requested from the FARR with regard to the scope of the regional outreach;
- The importance of the contribution requested from the FARR with regard to the contributions of other parties, including the beneficiary;
- The structuring aspect of the project, because it pertains to a field with appreciable growth potential or it allows removal of obstacles to development in this file, or it contributes to the establishment of sustainable synergy among the players for sustainable improvement of a given situation;
- The quality of the financing plan: realism of the anticipated costs, contributions of the partners involved and applicable government programs, confirmation of contributions;
  - Note that the applicant's financial contribution may also be indirect in the form of human or material resources, to be accounted for financially;
- The quality of the project implementation plan: probative connections between the steps, activities, resources and targets;
- The quality of the governance structure: clear relationships among the partners, established decision-making modes, eloquent roadmap of the project director and the project team.

## **Eligible expenditures**

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The eligible expenditures are:

- a) The operating expenses directly related to the performance of the project (salaries, rent, acquisition of material and equipment, accountability).
- b) The costs of production of plans and studies (salaries and professional fees) pertaining to the finalization of the project:
  - Production of a business plan;
  - Evaluation of the opportunity of a project, including the market analysis of a project;
  - Evaluation of the technical and financial feasibility of a project;
  - Definition and finalization of a concept;
  - Programming of activities;
  - Development and finalization of instruments or indicators allowing better measuring of a sector of activity, including the goodwill and economic impact studies related to projects.
- c) The costs of construction, development, performance or finalization of the project.

## **Ineligible expenditures**

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The assistance cannot serve to fund:

- The operating deficit of an eligible organization, repayment of loans or replenishment of its working capital, unless this is part of a recovery plan that is part of the project;
- Expenditures incurred before a promise of assistance is sent by the Minister;
- Expenditures related to projects already carried out;
- Expenditures already paid by the Gouvernement du Québec, for the same project;
- The refundable portion of the taxes;
- Any expenditure not directly related to the project;
- The expenditures related to administrative or financial support for the work of the Regional Selection Committee;
- Any expenditure concerning the move of an enterprise from outside the administrative region;
- Any grant to the government administration, except for bodies of the education networks;
- Any expenditure related to activities governed by budget rules approved by the Gouvernement du Québec;
- Any expenditure concerning enterprises registered in the Register of Enterprises Ineligible for Public Contracts;
- Any form of loan;
- Any form of loan guarantee;
- Any form of equity acquisition.

## **Construction contract award rules**

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When the project seeks to fund the performance of construction work entrusted to a third party, the organization eligible for financial assistance under this program, except for a private enterprise, must follow the rules regarding the awarding of construction contracts. For contracts:

- below \$25,000: by mutual agreement;
- for \$25,000 to \$99,999 : written invitation to at least three suppliers or contractors;
- for \$100,000 and over: public call for tenders.

For municipal bodies, education bodies or bodies mandated by the municipal sector, contracts for \$100,000 and over must be open to liberalization agreements.

A public call for tenders is not required, on notice by the Minister, when, due to an emergency, when the safety of persons or property is at stake or when only one contractor is possible due to a warranty, a property right or an exclusive right.

When the award rules of construction contracts of an organization eligible for the program are more restrictive than the present rules, the organization must apply its own rules.

### **Amounts of assistance and cumulative assistance**

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Amounts of assistance:

- Any eligible agency and its subsidiaries, if applicable, may not receive more than 500 000 dollars from the FARR per year, for the same project, for a maximum of 3 years

Assistance rate:

- Maximum financial assistance for a private business is 50% of the expenses eligible for the FARR.
- The maximum financial assistance for projects supported under specific agreements is 50 % of the expenses eligible for the FARR.
- For all other projects, the maximum financial assistance is 80% of the expenses eligible for the FARR.

Rule for cumulative financial assistance:

- No rule of cumulative assistance for FARR alone
- FARR contribution will be limited by the most restrictive rule among other programs supporting the project and their definitions of eligible expenses

### **Term of assistance**

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The same project of the same beneficiary and its subsidiaries cannot be funded for more than three years, starting from the acceptance of the Regional Selection Committee.

### **Submission of applications for assistance**

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For its application to be studied, the organization must:

- a) Comply with the project submission conditions established by the Regional Selection Committee, in addition to the conditions set out in the “Eligible projects” section;
- b) Produce a complete application and transmit it to the Commerce and Industry Department of the Cree Nation Government, according to the form provided. The organization must demonstrate the need for resorting to the FARR and provide the Commerce and Industry Department with the information required to enlighten the decision of the Regional Selection Committee.

The organization may provide any other document considered relevant in support of its application.

### **Decision**

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The applicants for assistance whose projects are selected will receive a letter from the MAMOT confirming the promise of assistance.

The Cree Nation Government will also inform in writing the applicants for financial assistance whose projects are not selected.

### **Public announcement**

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The projects selected may be the object of a visibility protocol and a public announcement.

## Information

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For any question about the FARR, address the Commerce and Industry Department of the Cree Nation Government or the *Direction régionale* (regional directorate) of the MAMOT.

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