

MICHIF LEARNING INITIATIVES GRANT

2026-2027 FUNDING GUIDE



1. SUMMARY

Métis Nation British Columbia's (MNBC) Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Language (MoCHL) is pleased to offer Michif Learning Initiatives Grants (MLIG) to support community-based Michif language learning programming, as part of [Aan Michif Piikishkwaytaak: MNBC's 10-Year Michif Language Revitalization Plan](#).

Approved projects are eligible for grants up to **\$30,000**. Applications are due **March 31, 2026 at 4:30pm (PST)**. Grants will be delivered to successful applicants in three instalments, from April 2026 to March 2027. If you are interested in applying or it is your first time applying, you are encouraged to contact chl@mnbca.ca for help with planning and completing your application.

2. TERMINOLOGY

- MNBC: Métis Nation British Columbia, the Métis government in B.C.
- CHL: MNBC's Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Language
- Chartered Community: Must be one of MNBC's recognized Métis Chartered Communities.
- Formal partner organization: An organization that has a formal agreement to provide services to Métis Citizens on behalf of MNBC
- Applicant: The Chartered Community or formal partner applying for the grant
- Project lead: The individual who will be responsible for running project activities
- Michif language(s): Southern/Heritage Michif, Northern Michif and/or Michif French

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of the MLIG is to support community-based Michif language learning initiatives, hosted by Métis Chartered Communities and formal partners of MNBC. Eligible projects for this grant must have a primary focus on providing Michif language instruction to MNBC Citizens.

4. APPLICATION COMPONENTS

Submission of an application through the [Michif Grants Portal](#), which will also include two letters of support from members of the local Métis community where your project will take place. Sample work plan and budgets have been provided in Appendix A and B to assist you in completing your application. Please contact chl@mnbca.ca if you require support with the Michif Grants Portal.

5. TIMELINE

The 2026-2027 program year will run from April 2026 to March 2027, providing 12 months for projects and related spending. Below are key dates and deadlines:

- **March 31, 2026** – Grant applications due
- **April 2026** – Applications are processed and successful applicants notified
- **April/May 2026** – First grant installments are released (40% of total grant)
- **October 2026** – Interim reporting is due; second grant installments released pending interim reporting (40% of total grant)

- **March 2027** – Final reporting is due; final grant installments released pending final reporting (20% of total grant)

6. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for the MLIG, you must be the following:

- An MNBC [Chartered Community](#)
- A formal partner organization in B.C. with an existing partnership/service agreement with MNBC
- A Chartered Community or formal partner organization in good standing with all MNBC ministries and departments, including being up to date with all reporting requirements of a previously awarded grants, or funding.

7. PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible projects for this grant *must have a primary focus on providing language instruction* to MNBC Citizens, and must be offered free of cost. Examples of eligible projects might include:

- Online or in-person language classes
- Language camps
- Language nests
- Language circles
- Mentor apprentice programs

Ineligible Projects

The following projects are not eligible to apply for funding under this grant stream:

- Michif learning courses or workshops where participants are required to pay a registration fee
- Initiatives to teach other languages, such as Cree or Ojibwe (Anishinaabemowin). Funding opportunities for these languages can be accessed through [First Peoples' Cultural Council](#)
- Initiatives that do not engage language learners directly, such as:
 - Language documentation initiatives
 - Language resource development initiatives
- Initiatives that exclusively take place within or produce materials exclusively supporting the provincial K-12 education system

8. ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

The following expenses are eligible as part of this grant stream:

- Project Coordinator/Contractor fees
- Elder/Speaker fees (Please see Appendix C. on how to budget for speaker fees)
- Elder honorariums

- Protocol gifts
- Contractor fees
- Administration fees (up to 10% of total grant)
- Space rental for program activities
- Supplies, materials and equipment for program activities
- Food and non-alcoholic beverages for program activities
- Acquisition or licensing fees for language materials
- Subscription fees to software or platforms for program activities
- Travel expenses related to program activities (up to 25% of total grant)

Ineligible Expenses

The following expenses are ineligible:

- Administration fees exceeding 10% of the total grant amount
- Travel fees exceeding 25% of the total grant amount
- Alcoholic beverages
- Any fees, travel, or purchases exclusively supporting activities not proposed as part of your MLIG workplan or project
- Any expenses that take place before or after the grant period
- Any expenses that exclusively fund K-12 activities
- Any expenses that to produce materials for commercial purposes or resale
- Expenses that support the grant holder's personal business interests

9. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Interim and final reports are required for all grant recipients. Grant recipients are required to track all of their expenditures and provide expenditure updates and program updates as part of their interim and final reporting. Grant recipients will also be required to administer a participant survey at the end of their project.

10. APPLICATION SUPPORT

The Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Language is eager to support you in preparing a successful application. Staff can assist with reviewing your completed application, ensuring budgets are balanced, discussing ideas for your application, and more. If you'd like support, please contact us at chl@mnbca.ca.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – EXAMPLE WORKPLAN

| Start Date | End Date | Task Description |
|----------------|---------------|---|
| April 2026 | March 2027 | Language class resource prep and course design |
| March 2026 | May 2026 | Consultation with speaker to verify schedule and class materials |
| May 2026 | June 2026 | Summer student recruitment and registration |
| June 2026 | August 2026 | Summer classes X 10, weekly, 1 hour on Wednesday evenings |
| July 2026 | August 2026 | Fall student recruitment and registration |
| August 2026 | | Summer class evaluation survey distribution |
| September 2026 | November 2026 | Fall classes X 10, weekly, 1 hour on Wednesday evenings |
| September 2026 | | Evaluate summer feedback and make changes to classes as necessary |
| October 2026 | November 2026 | Winter student recruitment and registration |
| November 2026 | | Fall class evaluation survey distribution |
| December 2026 | February 2027 | Winter classes x 10, weekly, 1 hour on Wednesday evenings |
| December 2026 | | Evaluate fall feedback and make changes to classes as necessary |
| February 2026 | | Winter class evaluation survey distribution |

APPENDIX B – EXAMPLE BUDGET

| Expense Type | Expense Details | Cost (Written as: \$XXX.00) |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| | Please explain how the expenses are being calculated. For example: <i>Teaching fees = 2hr session X \$50/hr x 3 sessions = \$300.00</i> | |
| Coordinator Wages | Part time project wages = 5hr/week X \$35/hr X 48 weeks = \$8,960.00 | \$8,400.00 |
| Elder/Speaker Honoraria | Recording sessions = \$150 per session X 10 sessions = \$1,500 Attendance at class = \$250 x X 30 classes = \$7,500 | \$9,000.00 |
| Honoraria for Elder Support | Elder support person = \$35 per hour X 45 hours = \$1575 | \$1,575.00 |
| Participant Honoraria | None | |
| Contractor Fees (Max 30% of total budget) | Language teacher = \$100/hr X 30 classes = \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| Administration Fees (Max 10% of total budget) | 10% of total budget = \$2674.30 | \$2674.30 |
| Space Rental | Library space rental - \$30 X 30 hours = \$900 | \$900.00 |
| Supplies & Equipment | Printing = 20 students X 20 worksheets (1 per class) X .25 cents per page = \$100 Recording equipment (H4N Pro Portable Recorder = \$379.65; SD card = \$15.85) = \$445.95 including tax | \$545.95 |
| Food/Beverage | Snacks = \$50 for light snacks X 30 classes = \$1,500 | \$1,500.00 |
| Acquisition or Licensing Fees | None | |
| Subscription Fees | Zoom account = \$49 per month X 8 months = \$392 | \$392.00 |
| Travel Expenses (Max 25% of total budget) | Travel to visit elder for recording = .53 cents/km X 100km X 10 sessions = \$530 | \$530.00 |

| | | |
|--|---|-------------|
| Other Expenses | Protocol gifts and medicines = \$200 X 2 people (Elder + teacher) = \$400 | \$400.00 |
| Other Expenses | | |
| Other Expenses | | |
| TOTAL COST OF PROJECT: | | \$29,417.25 |
| ANY IN-KIND FUNDS/OTHER FUNDING BEING CONTRIBUTED (IF APPLICABLE) | | \$ 0 |
| TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT BEING REQUESTED AS PART OF THE MICHIF LEARNING INITIATIVES GRANT | | \$28,917 |

APPENDIX C. MICHIF SPEAKER COMPENSATION BUDGETING

The following table has been developed to support applicants in budgeting for work with first language Michif speakers. This is **not** a definitive guide for compensating speakers. The below ranges are just suggested ranges; however, speakers may request more or less depending on their personal preferences.

It is important that first language Michif speakers be properly compensated for the expertise that they bring as language carriers. This table **does not** apply to second language Michif speakers or facilitators contracted to support fluent speakers, as their rates should typically be less than that of a first language speaker. The Ministry may request alterations to program budgets where it appears that first language speakers are being under compensated.

| | Transcription/ resource review or development | Video or audio Recording | Zoom teaching | Opening/ closing prayer honorarium | In person facilitation (does not include travel costs) |
|---|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|--|---|
| Mother tongue/ First language Speaker | \$50 - \$100/hr | \$150 - \$200/hr | \$150 - \$200/hr | \$200 flat rate | \$150 - \$300/hr |

The following definitions have been developed to assist you in understanding the difference between a first language Michif speaker and other types of speakers or contractors that might be involved in your project.

Mother-tongue speaker/First language speaker

- A mother tongue/first language speaker of Michif (i.e., someone who learned Michif in the home/spoke it regularly in the early years of their life)
- Can speak in the Michif language in a broad range of topics (what many would consider fully fluent).

Second language/Emerging speaker

- Does not have Michif as their first language
- May have intermediate to advanced language competency
- Is still learning or seeks mentorship from first language speakers
- May act as a facilitator or teacher with guidance from first language speakers
- Teaching or facilitating may be limited to specific topics or beginner level programming

Facilitator/Helper

- Coordinates and/or co-presents on calls or teaching activities with the speaker
- May assist in developing lesson plans or resources
- Manages speaker invoicing and communications
- Provides general support to the speaker