

MICHIF LANGUAGE AND THE ARTS GRANT

2025-2026 FUNDING GUIDE



1. SUMMARY

Métis Nation British Columbia's (MNBC) Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Language (MoCHL) is pleased to offer Michif Language and the Arts Grants (MLAG) focused on delivering funding to individuals in BC who are artists and Michif language learners. The purpose of these grants is to support artists, language learners and language champions to engage in activities and produce artwork that showcases Michif languages. This grant is being launched as part of [Aan Michif Piikishkwaytaak: MNBC's 10-Year Michif Language Revitalization Plan](#), aligned with MNBC's overall strategic plan and Goal of the Nation "to promote cultural revitalization and cultural wellness." The second goal of the Michif language plan is *Use*, and the third goal is *Value*. The launch of this grant stream is part of a strategy designed to increase the visibility and prestige of Michif languages in BC and the value that Métis citizens see in revitalizing Michif.

Approved projects are eligible for grants *up to* **\$10,000.00**. Applications are due **March 30th, 2025 at 4:30pm**. Please note this date as the deadline is unable to be extended. Grants will be delivered to successful applicants in three instalments, from April 2025 to March 2026. If you are interested in applying, prospective applicants are encouraged to contact chl@mNBC.ca for help with planning and completing their applications.

Please [click here](#) to download an application form and get started!

2. TERMINOLOGY

- MNBC: Métis Nation British Columbia, the Métis government in BC
- MoCHL: MNBC's Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Language
- Applicant: The **individual** applying for the grant
- Primary Contact or Grant Writer: The **individual** completing the application and subsequent reporting requirements on behalf of the applicant
- Project lead: The **individual** who will be responsible for running project activities
- Michif language(s): Southern/Heritage Michif, Northern Michif and/or Michif French
- Citizen: A registered citizen of MNBC

3. PURPOSE

The 2025-2026 Michif Language and the Arts Grant (MLAG) is the inaugural offering of this open-strategy language grant by MNBC. This grant stream is the third language grant stream developed by MNBC. The purpose of these funds is to support the inclusion of Michif within the public arts, increasing the visibility and prestige of the Michif languages.

Michif language revitalization in BC is at a pivotal moment. MNBC has launched *Aan Michif Piikishkwaytaak*, a 10-year Michif language revitalization plan. The launch of the MLAG supports the second goal of the plan, *Use*, and the third goal, *Value*. The MLAG supports a strategy designed to increase the visibility and prestige of Michif languages in BC. The MLAG is intended to promote projects that feature Michif within an artistic medium. The proposed medium and project must have public impact with demonstrable exposure for Michif. If choosing a medium without an inherent

public-facing component, the applicant must demonstrate a distribution or exhibition plan for their project. This might include public art displays and performances such as:

- Performance arts that use Michif, such as: songs, storytelling, theatre
- Visual arts that incorporate Michif, such as: murals, exhibitions
- Video storytelling, such as: documentary or short film
- Creative writing, such as: poetry, short stories, graphic novels

Within this scope, there are many kinds of projects that can be designed to suit an applicant's needs and interests in working with a Michif language, such as:

- Recorded music or performance that uses Michif language, with plans for a concert or online distribution to showcase the resulting music
- An art display with an accompanying Michif language write up and title, with plans to exhibit the art at a gallery or public space
- Storytelling using Michif language, with plans to produce and promote a video of the storytelling online or with an in-person screening

**See Appendix D for examples of work that meets these descriptions.*

4. REQUIRED APPLICATION COMPONENTS

- Completed application form
 - Completed workplan
 - Completed budget
 - Examples of the artist's existing body of work
- Community support letter: A letter from a member of the Métis community who can vouch for the applicant's involvement in the Métis community and their dedication to the arts.
**Can not be an immediate family member or receiving compensation as part of the project*
- A copy of the MNBC Citizenship ID of the Applicant

5. TIMELINE

The 2025-2026 program year will run from April to March, providing 12 months for projects and related spending.

January 20 th 2025	March 30 th 2025	April 7 th 2025	April 21 st 2025	April 25 th 2025	July 7 th 2025	September 15 th 2025	October 3 rd 2025	December 2 nd , 2025	November 17 th 2025	February 27 th 2026	March 2 nd 2026	March 23 rd 2026
Applications Open	Applications Close	Funding Decisions & Agreements Delivered	Signed Funding Agreement Due	First Funding Instalment Delivered (40%)	First Check-In	Interim Report Due	Second Instalment Delivered (30%)	Program-Wide Webinar	Second Check-In	Spending Deadline	Final Report Due	Final Instalment Delivered (30%)

All dates are subject to change up to the point of returning a signed Funding Agreement, at which point dates will be considered final and any further changes will require a formal amendment. See section 8 for more information.

6. ELIGIBILITY

6.1 APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

6.1.1 Eligible Applicants

- MNBC citizens
- Currently living in British Columbia
- In good standing with all MNBC ministries and departments, including being up to date with all reporting requirements of a previously awarded grant, funding or partnership
- Can demonstrate a dedicated artistic practice in their medium of choice, through a body of work, spanning more than 2 years
- MNBC Chartered Communities who wish to access this funding must partner with an artist who meets these qualifications and will be considered on a case-by-case basis

6.1.2 Ineligible Applicants

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

- Organizations
- MNBC citizens living outside of BC
- Non – MNBC citizens
- Applicants not in good standing with the Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Language or any other MNBC ministry or department, including but not limited to applicants with delinquent or overdue reporting from a previously awarded grant, funding or partnership

6.2 PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

6.2.1 Eligible Projects

Eligible projects must:

- Showcase a contemporary or heritage artform, such as:
 - Performance arts that use Michif, such as: songs, storytelling, theatre
 - Visual arts that incorporate Michif, such as: murals, exhibitions
 - Video storytelling, such as: documentary or short film
 - Creative writing, such as: poetry, short stories, graphic novels
- Produce visual or auditory work that includes a Michif language
- Include a workplan for gathering Michif language, ideally working with speakers to translate the artist's work or writing into Michif (indicating active language learning for the artist and ensuring accuracy of the Michif language used)
 - *All works *must* list the language source (speaker and/or resource)
- Include a minimum of 20 unique words in Michif **OR** if less language is used, significant educational and promotional content *about* the Michif language
- Include a public-facing component and/or a clear distribution plan to ensure visibility of the work

**See Appendix D for examples of work that meets these descriptions.*

6.2.2 Ineligible Projects

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

- Initiatives that exclusively showcase other languages, such as Cree or Ojibwe
- Initiatives that exclusively take place within or produce materials exclusively supporting the provincial K-12 education system
- Commercial initiatives that focus on resource development for the purpose of resale.

As funding is limited, applications are expected to be competitive. The following initiatives will be prioritized for funding:

- Initiatives that include clear and demonstrable language learning with measurable learning outcomes for the artist or demonstrate an artist's use of their existing knowledge of a Michif language
- Projects that include consultation with fluent Michif speakers
- Initiatives that showcase underrepresented artforms
- Applicants that demonstrate a dedicated art practice as shown through an existing body of work
- Initiatives that support the goals of [*Aan Michif Piikishkwaytaak: MNBC's 10-Year Michif Language Revitalization Plan*](#)

- Initiatives that have free public access and/or a broad public reach

6.3 ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

6.3.1 Eligible Expenses

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

- Wages and honoraria
- Elder honoraria (including fluent speakers)
- Elder support honoraria
- Fees for Michif speakers and teachers
- Space rental for project activities (including studio space rental)
- Supplies and equipment for project activities (including recording equipment and arts materials)
- Food and non-alcoholic beverages for project activities
- Acquisition or licensing fees for language materials
- Subscription fees to software or platforms for project activities
- Travel expenses related to project activities
 - E.g. traveling to work with an elder
 - Includes: personal vehicle mileage, vehicle rental, airfare, bus, train, or ferry fare, per diems, lodging
 - Note: Unless approved in writing by MNBC, travel fees cannot exceed 25% of the total grant amount

6.3.2 Ineligible Expenses

The following expenses are ineligible:

- Contractor fees (except Michif language speakers or teachers)
- Administration fees
- 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 MLAG workplan
- Any expenses that take place before or after the grant period (see section 5)
- Any expenses that exclusively fund K-12 activities
- Any materials purchase solely for a resale or commercial purpose

7. FINANCES

7.1 GRANT AMOUNTS

Approved applications are eligible for up to \$10,000.00. Projects with budgets that exceed \$10,000.00 may still be approved with a reduced budget, and applicants may be asked to adjust certain line items so that their requested budget is compliant with this cap. Projects with budgets under \$10,000.00 are still encouraged to apply.

Per section 6.3, if the maximum funding amount is requested, the following limits apply:

- \$2,500.00 for travel costs (25%)

7.2 BUDGETING

You are encouraged to closely track all expenses related to your project. If working independently, you must save all receipts and invoices related to your project until after your final report has been approved and the remainder of your grant paid out. If working under an organization to administer your project, you are encouraged to set up a unique account code for all expenses related uniquely to your MLAG funding. You are further encouraged to request printouts of expenses from your finance department 15-30 days in advance of any reporting deadline. This will ensure that you have time to review and correct any expenses that have been overlooked or incorrectly attributed to your MLAG funding in time to submit your report.

8. FUNDING AGREEMENTS

8.1 Purpose

All successful grants will be given a formal funding agreement, signed by both parties. The purpose of these agreements is to ensure that all parties agree on and are aware of the expectations tied to the grant award. This includes but is not limited to the total grant amount (see Section 7), the approved project description, the project timeline, reporting requirements (see Section 9) and the funding instalment timeline (see Section 5).

8.2 Timeline

Funding decisions and offered agreements will be delivered the week of March 24th, 2025. Signed funding agreements are due to be returned by the recipient two weeks after they are received. This ensures that initial funding instalments can be issued promptly. Because funding is limited, **funding agreements that are not returned within two weeks (ten business days) will be void**, and the funding will be offered to another applicant. This ensures fair distribution of funding and administrative accountability for both MNBC and the recipient. Extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis but must be requested in advance of the deadline to be considered. Upon signing a valid funding agreement, the first 40% of your total grant amount will be released.

8.3 Amendments

Changes to any aspect of the funding agreement can only be made if an amendment is produced and signed by both parties. A request for an amendment must be made in writing to chl@mnbc.ca. If the amendment request is approved, MNBC will then produce a written agreement for both parties to sign. Any changes made to the terms of the agreement, including but not limited to project deliverables or timelines, without a signed amendment, may result in funding instalments being withheld and may prohibit the recipient from future grant opportunities with MNBC.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

9.1 Interim and Final Reports

Interim and final reports will require you to provide project and financial updates to MNBC. Each completed and satisfactory report will result in the release of a 30% instalment of your grant. Interim reports are due on September 15th, 2024. Final reports are due on March 3rd, 2024. Interim report templates will be distributed by MNBC a minimum of two weeks before the deadline. You are encouraged to request expense printouts from your finance department 15-30 days in advance of a reporting deadline.

Report extensions are generally not given. Extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis due to extenuating circumstances. However, reporting deadlines are in place due to the fact that MNBC must also report on our grant recipients' activities to our funding partners. Therefore, we must receive recipient reporting on time. Failure to submit any reporting requirement will result in a forfeiture of all remaining grant instalments and may require you to return any previously issued MLAG funding. Recipients with outstanding reporting will not be eligible for future MLAG applications. Furthermore, applicants with a history of overdue and delinquent reporting may be denied future funding opportunities through MNBC.

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. Please do not hesitate to request support. Submit your request for support to:

Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Language

chl@mnbc.ca

Subject: Michif Language and the Arts Grant

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – ADDITIONAL LINKS AND RESOURCES

First Peoples' Cultural Council	See here for funding opportunities for other Indigenous languages in BC.
MNBC Chartered Communities	See here for a list of MNBC Chartered Communities who are eligible to apply for this grant.
MNBC Ministry of Education	See here for information about K-12 initiatives.
Aan Michif Piikishkwaytaak: MNBC's 10-Year Michif Language Revitalization Plan	MNBC's 10-year language revitalization plan.
Application Form Download Link	Click this link to download an MLAG application form.

APPENDIX B – EXAMPLE WORKPLAN

Project Synopsis: Producing 5 acoustic songs, using guitar and vocals.

Start Date	End Date	Task Description
April 2025	May 2025	Writing and translation: Write English version of songs (music and words). Travel to visit Elder in Manitoba to translate songs. (40 hours for artist, 20 hours for Elder)
May 2025		Images: take photos with Elder on the land to use in promotion of songs. (1 hour each)
June 2025	August 2025	Song recording: Work in studio to record digital song files. (10 hours studio time)
September 2025		Online promotion of songs: upload to digital platforms, promote via social media. (5 hours artist time)
October 2025		Concert: small concert to showcase songs to local community at the MCC office.

		(2 hours artist time)
--	--	-----------------------

APPENDIX C – EXAMPLE BUDGET

Expense Type	Expense Details	Cost
	Please explain how the expenses are being calculated. For example: <i>Teaching fees = 2hr session X \$50/hr x 3 sessions = \$300</i>	(Written as: \$XXX.00)
Staff Wages	Lead artist wages: \$40/hour X 58 hours	\$2,320.00
Elder/Speaker Honoraria	Elder wages: \$60/hour X 21 hours	\$1,260.00
Honoraria for Elder Support	None	
Participant Honoraria	None	
Travel Fees (Max 25% of total budget)	Travel to Manitoba to visit Elder: Plane \$1,000.00, Hotel for 3 nights \$600	\$1,600.00
Space Rental	Recording in studio: \$100/hour X 10 hours Concert: None – covered in kind by Chartered Community	\$1,000.00
Supplies & Equipment	None	\$500.00
Food/Beverage	None	
Acquisition or Licensing Fees	None	
Subscription Fees	None	
Other Expenses	Protocol gifts and medicines = \$100	\$100.00
Other Expenses		
Other Expenses		

TOTAL COST OF PROJECT:	\$6,780.00
ANY IN-KIND FUNDS/OTHER FUNDING BEING CONTRIBUTED (IF APPLICABLE)	\$
TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT BEING REQUESTED AS PART OF THE MICHIF LEARNING INITIATIVES GRANT	\$6,780.00

APPENDIX D – EXAMPLE PROJECTS

Note: The projects listed in this appendix *were not necessarily* funded by MNBC. They are listed here as examples of and inspiration for the kind of work that this grant seeks to fund.

1. Theatrical Performance: [You Used to Call Me Marie](#)



This theatrical performance uses storytelling, acting, dancing and singing to portray a uniquely Métis love story throughout the ages. In dialogue and song the performance uses Cree and Michif to connect themes and showcase Métis languages.

2. Music: [Michif Songs with the Demontigny Family](#)



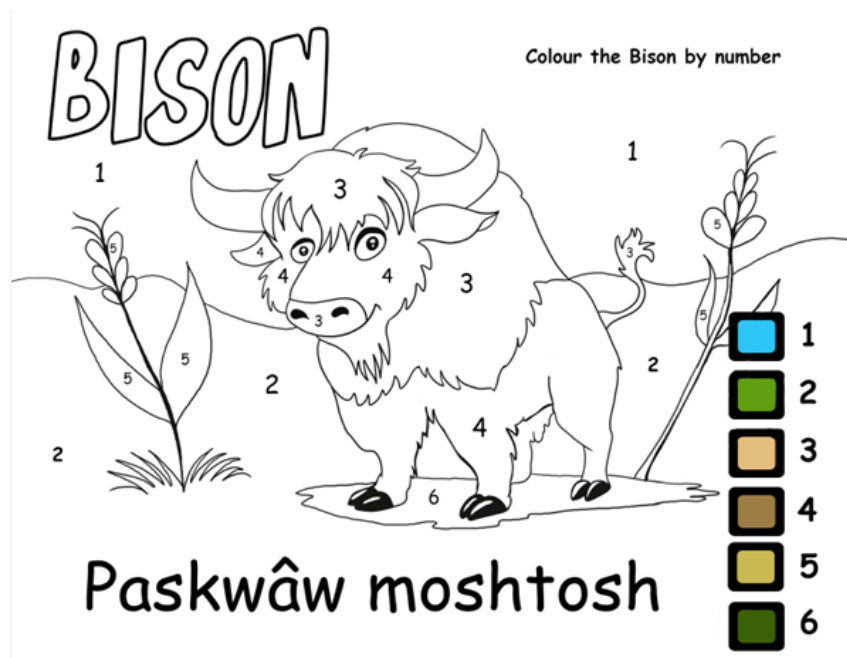
This video includes a language lesson and accompanying song. It is both instructional and showcases Michif musical artforms, guitar and fiddle.

3. Art Installation: [Wind Horses](#)



This art installation depicts Métis values in English and Michif. The artists wanted to put a spotlight on Michif language and faced the horses in the Métis language towards a busy street.

4. Print: [Métis of the Peace Children's Colouring Book](#)



This colouring book by Earlene Bitterman features Northern Michif language and colouring pages. This educational resource showcases Métis culture and history while also showcasing language use.