

MICHIF LANGUAGE CELEBRATION 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 Celebration Grants (MLCG) to [Métis Chartered Communities](#) in BC. The purpose of these grants is to support community gatherings that celebrate and showcase Michif language vitality and initiatives in BC, 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 third goal of the Michif language plan is *Value*, and the launch of this grant stream is part of Strategy 3.1.: *Inspire Métis citizens in B.C. to join the Michif language revitalization movement*.

Approved projects are eligible for grants up to **\$10,000.00**, dependent on project type. 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 [Chartered Community](#), 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 Celebration Grant (MLCG) is the inaugural offering of this open-strategy language grant by MNBC. This grant stream is the second language grant stream developed by MNBC. The purpose of these funds is to support community Michif initiatives that highlight and celebrate the importance of learning 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 MLCG supports the third goal of the plan, *Value*. This activity supports Strategy 3.1.: *Inspire Métis citizens in B.C. to join the Michif language revitalization movement*. It is for this reason that these grants are intended to fund initiatives that celebrate and showcase Michif language vitality and initiatives led by MNBC Chartered Communities and inspire citizens to learn a Michif language. Within this scope, there are many different kinds of events that can be designed to suit a community's needs and interests, such as:

- Day camps to share Michif resources and activities
- Michif Language project presentations or showcases
- Community gatherings to share Michif information and resources

4. REQUIRED APPLICATION COMPONENTS

- Completed application form
 - Completed workplan
 - Completed budget
- Two letters of support
 - Leadership support: A letter from a member of community/organizational leadership, who is not the primary contact, project lead, or any person who will be paid as a result of the grant being awarded
 - Community support: A letter from a member of the community who will be served by the proposed project, who is not the primary contact, project lead, or any person who will be paid as a result of the grant being awarded
- A copy of the MNBC Citizenship ID of the Applicant or Grant Writer

5. TIMELINE

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

January 20 th 2025	March 30 th , 2025	April 7 th 2025	April 7 th 2025	April 21 st 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

- An MNBC [Chartered Community](#)
 - The primary applicant or grant writer applying on behalf of an organization or chartered community must be a registered MNBC citizen who is able to provide a copy of their MNBC Citizenship ID
 - **Note: Only MNBC Chartered Communities are eligible to apply for this grant. The purpose of this grant is to support community-led initiatives that showcase grassroots language initiatives taking place in community, and other organizations or independent persons are therefore ineligible for this grant stream*
 - If multiple communities are collaborating on an MLCG initiative, each community may submit an application for funding, and grant awards can be pooled toward a single event
- 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

6.1.2 Ineligible Applicants

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

- Individual persons not applying on behalf of an MNBC Chartered Community
- Organizations other than MNBC Chartered Communities
- Primary contacts or grant writers who are not MNBC citizens
- Communities who do not currently have a governance agreement as an MNBC Chartered Community

- Applicants not in good standing with any other MNBC ministry or department, including but not limited to applicants with delinquent or overdue reporting resulting from a previously awarded grant, funding or partnership

6.2 PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

6.2.1 Eligible Projects

Eligible projects must:

- Hold a virtual or in-person gathering
- Engage MNBC citizens and Métis living in BC
- Host conversations and/or activities that celebrate and share information or learning resources for a Michif language

Eligible project types:

These project tiers provide you with an example of the type of gatherings or day events that a community may consider hosting. Gatherings that do not fall under either tier 1 or 2 will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Please note: Please note: In the interest of building community connections and offering support, we encourage inviting a MoCHL staff member to attend your event. Staff are able to provide a presentation of Michif languages and share learning resources available from the ministry in addition to general attendance, as requested. This involvement is at no additional cost to the community and is based on staff availability. You will be provided an opportunity to indicate this invitation in your project's application.

- **Tier 1: Gatherings**
 - Virtual or in-person
 - Ideal for teams or communities who are new to engaging with language learning initiatives
 - Small to medium sized gatherings
 - Examples: community dinners, language-focused kitchen parties, community language planning meetings, single presentations or workshops
- **Tier 2: Day Camps**
 - In-person
 - Led by language champions or contracted specialists with a history of leading successful Michif language initiatives
 - Medium to large sized gathering
 - Targets families or groups of learners who interact with one another regularly
 - Examples: single day cultural or immersion camps for families

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
- Initiatives that cannot be described by any of the tiers presented in section 6.2.1

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

- Initiatives that target MNBC citizens
- Initiatives that offer Michif language immersion experiences
- Initiatives that coordinate with and showcase existing Michif language learning initiatives
- Initiatives that support the goals of [*Aan Michif Piikishkwaytaak: MNBC's 10-Year Michif Language Revitalization Plan*](#)
- Initiatives that engage knowledge carriers, Elders, and/or fluent speakers

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
- Contractor fees

Note: Unless approved in writing by MNBC, contractor fees cannot exceed 30% of the grant amount. This funding is intended to support learning, skill building, and knowledge sharing at the community level. Third party contractors may not receive the majority of funding delivered through this grant program, to ensure that funds and knowledge stay and are built within the community. If your project requires more than 30% of the grant budget be directed toward a third-party contractor, you are encouraged to discuss this with MNBC staff in advance of submitting your application. **Only Michif speakers and teachers are exempt from this 30% cap, if considered contractors.**

- Administration fees

Note: Administration fees from your organization cannot exceed more than 10% of your total grant amount. Administration fees are any fees charged by your organization to cover the cost of handling the funds and activities associated with this grant opportunity. This typically consists primarily of fees paid to finance departments for cashflow monitoring or ongoing operational costs.

- Space rental for project activities

- Supplies and equipment for project activities
- Food/catering 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. bringing language learners together for a gathering
 - 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 exceeding 30% of the total grant amount
- 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 MLCG workplan
- Any expenses that take place before or after the grant period (see section 5)
- Any expenses that exclusively fund K-12 activities

7. FINANCES

7.1 GRANT AMOUNTS

Approved applications are eligible for up to \$2,000.00-\$10,000.00, dependent on project type. Where projects involve collaboration between multiple communities, each community may submit an application for the maximum amount for their project type, and grant awards can be pooled toward a single initiative (for example, a regional gathering). Projects with budgets that exceed the maximum amount 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 the maximum allowable amount are still encouraged to apply.

Prospective applicants with intended projects that do not fall within either tier 1 or 2 are encouraged to contact chl@mNBC.ca. These projects will be considered on a case by case basis.

Each project type is eligible for an increasing maximum grant amount:

- Tier 1: Gatherings; maximum **\$2,000.00**
- Tier 2: Day Camps; maximum **\$10,000.00**

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

- Tier 1: Gatherings; maximum **\$2,000.00**
 - \$600.00 for contractor fees (30%)
 - \$200 for administrative fees (10%)
 - \$500 for travel costs (25%)
- Tier 2: Day Camps; maximum **\$10,000.00**
 - \$3,000.00 for contractor fees (30%)
 - \$1,000.00 for administrative fees (10%)
 - \$2,500.00 for travel costs (25%)

These amounts must be adjusted to match the total request, such that they do not exceed 30% and 10% of the total, respectively.

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 MLCG 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 MLIG 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 24, 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 80% 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.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

9.1 Interim and Final Reports

The MLCG is a small grant intended to support single-day events or gatherings. Therefore, no interim report is required. Final reports will require you to provide programmatic and financial updates to MNBC. A completed and satisfactory final report will result in the release of the final 20% instalment of your grant. Final reports are due on the first week of March, 2026. 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 largely 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 MLIG funding. Recipients with outstanding reporting will not be eligible for future MLIG applications. Furthermore, applicants with a history of overdue and delinquent reporting may be denied future funding opportunities.

9.2 Participant survey

During your event, you will be asked to distribute a participant survey to all staff, citizens and participants who had contact with your project. The survey questions are provided within the interim and final reporting templates (distributed to successful grant recipients). Surveys will assess the following:

- Language awareness at the start and end of the project
- Language ability at the start and end of the project
- Basic demographics, including age and gender
- Participant experiences
- Engagement in various initiatives
- Community engagement

Returning the results of participant surveys is a reporting requirement. This must be completed and returned along with the final report to access the final funding instalment (20%). Failure to return the results of a participant survey will result in the final instalment being withheld.

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 Celebration Grant

Additionally, language team members from the Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Language are available to attend community events upon request, at no charge to the community. We look forward to supporting your language programming.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – ADDITIONAL LINKS AND RESOURCES

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 MLIG application form.

APPENDIX B – EXAMPLE WORKPLAN

Project description: Community-led conference showcasing Michif language projects and research. **Note:* This is a tier 2 project that would require consultation from CHL staff and would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Start Date	End Date	Task Description
April 2025	June 2025	Community callout for speakers and presenters. Goal: Get 5-6 sentence proposals from minimum 5 Michif language champions and project leaders to speak at event (e.g. Elders, knowledge keepers/speakers, community members who have led classes or other projects, academics doing Michif language work/research).
May 2025		Bookings: school gym to host conference, catering for shared lunch, fiddler and jigger for morning celebration
June 2025		Invitations: review and confirm speakers, send out community invitations for attendees
July		Confirm tables, chairs, decor. Admin tasks as needed to confirm attendance and bookings.

		Advertise event on social media.
August 2025		Host event Distribute attendee survey Write final report for MNBC

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	Part time project wages = 2hr/week X \$30/hr X 20 weeks = \$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Elder/Speaker Honoraria	Speaker fees = \$200 per speaker X 5 speakers = \$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Honoraria for Elder Support	Elder support person for event = \$200	\$200.00
Participant Honoraria	Door prizes = 4 prizes X \$50 = \$200.00	\$200.00
Contractor Fees (Max 30% of total budget)	None	
Administration Fees (Max 10% of total budget)	10% of total budget =	
Space Rental	None – covered in kind by local school	
Supplies & Equipment	AV rental	\$400.00
Food/Beverage	Lunch catering = \$25 per person X 50 people = 1,250.00	\$1,250.00
Acquisition or Licensing Fees	None	
Subscription Fees	None	
Travel Expenses (Max 25% of total budget)	None	

Other Expenses	Protocol gifts and medicines = \$200 X 5 presenters (Elder + teacher) = \$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Other Expenses		
Other Expenses		
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT:		\$5,250.00
ANY IN-KIND FUNDS/OTHER FUNDING BEING CONTRIBUTED (IF APPLICABLE)		\$
TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT BEING REQUESTED AS PART OF THE MICHIF LEARNING INITIATIVES GRANT		\$5,250.00