

Request for Proposals:
**Landscape Analysis and Inventory of Capacity-Strengthening Initiatives
 for Indigenous Stewardship**

[Nature United](#) is a Canadian non-profit organization that builds diverse partnerships to protect lands and waters, ensuring that nature remains the foundation of healthy communities, economies, and future opportunities.

Background

Nature United works collaboratively and in partnership to [support Indigenous-led conservation](#) through both place-based efforts (in BC, Manitoba, and NWT) and at broader regional and national scales. A key component of this work focuses on responding to Indigenous partners' priorities for strengthening stewardship capacity. Indigenous communities, organizations, and individuals have emphasized that continuing to strengthen capacity is essential for implementing their visions, laws, and plans for stewarding lands and waters.

Currently, a range of Indigenous-led organizations and initiatives provide services that help Nations strengthen their capacity. These include stewardship networks, professional associations, educational programs, knowledge hubs, communities of practice, and other efforts. Understanding which Indigenous-led capacity-strengthening initiatives exist, the services they offer, and their impact on the ground will help build a clearer picture of the current “ecosystem of support” for Indigenous stewardship.

The “Landscape Analysis and Inventory of Capacity-Strengthening Initiatives for Indigenous Stewardship” project aims to create a shared, accessible view of available support for Indigenous stewardship. It will identify the strengths and challenges of these initiatives, highlight gaps in the current ecosystem, and outline opportunities moving forward. This project builds on previous research by Nature United, “[What Works in Capacity Strengthening Initiatives](#)”, that documented innovative models worldwide of initiatives providing support to local and Indigenous communities in strengthening their capacity for stewardship and conservation.

Request for Proposals

Nature United is seeking proposals for a Landscape Analysis and Inventory of Capacity-Strengthening initiatives Supporting Indigenous Stewardship across Canada (the “Project”).

What We’re Looking For

Nature United is seeking an organization or consultancy (the “Candidate”) with relevant expertise, connections and background to lead this project. Nature United will play a collaborative role in the project, particularly in the project design phase. We recognize and anticipate the scope and approach may evolve based on the expertise and insights of the successful Candidate.

Proposed Scope of Work

The successful Candidate’s proposal will outline a methodology, process, and potential timeline for completing the following primary activities by end of June 2026. Project activities (to be refined in dialogue with successful Candidate) include:

Project Design

- Determine best approach for developing a comprehensive inventory of capacity-strengthening initiatives across the country
- Identify categories of organizations/initiatives (e.g. regional networks, communities of practice, professional associations, educational/training programs) and establish criteria for inclusion as providers of capacity-strengthening support for Indigenous stewardship
- Develop “long list” of organizations/initiatives to include in the analysis
- Identify other relevant contributors to the project, and establish an advisory committee to support the project

Research

- Create an interview guide and outreach approach (including questions and compensation for time)
- Conduct interviews with approximately 30 selected initiatives to document topics such as: approaches and methods to deliver capacity-strengthening support; how organization began; successes/challenges they face; governance and funding sources; approaches to learning, evaluation and understanding their impact; connections to other organizations doing similar work; and needs for additional support.
- Analyze and synthesize themes emerging from interviews

Outputs

- Prepare a final report describing the current landscape of capacity-strengthening initiatives including:
 - Existing initiatives/organizations, their organizational approaches/methods, and reflections on their successes and challenges
 - Reflections on gaps in the current ecosystem of capacity-strengthening initiatives
 - Recommendations about what capacity-strengthening initiatives/organizations might need to contribute to their ongoing success /impact (to inform Phase 2 of the project)
- Develop a public facing synthesis of the landscape analysis, such as a summary document or other accessible product to share with capacity-strengthening initiatives and Nations looking for capacity support

Candidates should also identify any additional proposed activities that may be necessary for carrying out their proposed methodology, process and timeline and successfully addressing the objectives of the Project, as described within this RFP.

Proposal Requirements

Each Candidate should provide the following as part of their Proposal for consideration:

- Description of your approach to the Project, including a timeline, workflow, and anticipated outputs.
- Overview of the project team, highlighting relevant experience and why your team is uniquely positioned to lead this work in terms of expertise, connections and background.
- Describe the values that will guide your approach and why this Project is important for advancing Indigenous stewardship of lands and waters.
- Proposed project budget.

Budget

The Proposal should include estimated fees and expenses for the Scope of Work defined in this RFP. Nature United requests firm fixed pricing within the proposal.

Timeline & Proposal Submission

- **All proposals are due no later than February 23rd, 2026 - Please submit proposals by email to Claire Hutton (chutton@tnc.org)**
- We encourage you to contact us if you have questions about the proposal or would like to discuss the RFP before February 16th, 2026.
- Proposals will be evaluated the last week of February, and Candidates may be selected to meet with key project leaders to discuss their proposals and evaluate fit, these interviews will likely take place the week of March 2nd, 2026.
- Selection of the winning Proposal will be made by March 6th, 2026

Contact

For all inquiries and proposal submissions, please contact:

Claire Hutton – Director, Indigenous Stewardship

chutton@tnc.org

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

It is the policy of Nature United to identify actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest. To assist Nature United in complying with this policy, we will require the successful Candidate to complete a Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form.

Candidate Obligations

You must analyze and respond to all sections of this RFP providing sufficient information to allow Nature United to evaluate your proposal. If Nature United has any confusion or difficulty in retrieving the required information from your proposal, it may result in the proposal to be rejected. You may not have the ability to resubmit your proposal following the deadline. No information should be submitted that is not intended to be incorporated into the proposal. You may revoke your proposal at any time. The submission of a proposal in response to this RFP is not intended to create binding legal obligations for either yourself or Nature United, or any of their respective affiliates. By submitting your proposal, you agree that any costs you incur in responding to this RFP are to be borne by you and may not be billed to Nature United.

Role of Nature United and Evaluation of Proposals

This RFP is an invitation to explore a potential collaboration. It is not a tender or a binding offer. By issuing this RFP, Nature United is opening a discussion about the project described above. Nature United may choose to waive minor requirements or technical issues in any proposal. All proposals will be reviewed based on what Nature United, in its sole discretion, determines is in the best interest of the organization and its affiliates. Nature United may decide not to move forward with any proposal and may cancel this RFP at any time. All activities contemplated in this RFP, including the proposed scope of work, remain subject to further discussion, internal approvals, and will be guided by Nature United's obligations as a Canadian registered charity. By submitting a proposal, Candidates acknowledge that Nature United and its affiliates will not be responsible for any obligations, costs, or liabilities arising from the issuance of this RFP or from any actions taken in response to it.