



NON-REPAYABLE BUSINESS EQUITY CONTRIBUTION FUND

Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC) is proud to offer the Business Equity Contribution Fund (BECF) to eligible Metis, Non-Status Indian, and Inuit people in Manitoba. The BECF can contribute up to \$99,999 in non-repayable funds to support the start-up, expansion, or acquisition of an eligible business enterprise or up to \$250,000 towards a community-based project.

Funding Amount:

The BECF will contribute funds to the start-up, expansion or acquisition of a business enterprise as follows:

- Up to 30% towards eligible Capital & Operating costs.
- Up to 60% towards eligible Marketing costs.
- Up to 75% towards eligible Business Support costs such as legal & accounting costs.

LRCC will also consider funding up to 75% of the costs of a Business Plan, completed by a qualified consultant. This funding is over and above the maximum amounts listed above.

Eligibility Requirements:

To be an eligible Recipient of BCF funding, you must:

- Have at minimum 10% cash equity to put into the business.
- Obtain at minimum 40% of the project costs through a commercial loan (bank, credit union, LRCC loan financing).
- Demonstrate project viability and management capacity through the submission of a Business Plan.
- Provide evidence that the business is at least 51% owned by a Metis individual or group. The contribution provided may be in proportion to the eligible Recipient's ownership.
- Demonstrate that total project costs exceed \$25,000. (some exceptions may apply)
- Demonstrate eligibility on a needs-basis. (High net-worth individuals/groups are not eligible for BECF funding.)
- The eligible Recipient must direct his/her full attention to the operation of the business. This means the recipient cannot work elsewhere during the Control Period, as outlined in the Conditions section below.

Ineligible Businesses/Project Costs:

The BECF program is unable to make a contribution towards:

- An enterprise where the majority of revenue is obtained through liquor sales, tobacco sales, or gambling (including VLTs)
- An enterprise involved with sexually explicit/exploitive material.
- A passive investment (real estate, apartment block, etc.) or a business that someone else is managing.
- An asset that can be perceived to be for personal use such as a car or residence.
- An enterprise that may significantly harm another (e.g. a second laundromat in a small town that cannot support two).
- **Any project costs that are incurred prior to funding approval will not be eligible for support.**

Conditions:

A Control Period of three years is established following funding approval, during which the following is required:

- Financial statements must be prepared and submitted along with a *Business Performance Review* form.
- If the business does not remain in operation, or if significant changes are made (sale of a significant asset(s), the acquisition of a partner, equity take-out by owner), the non-repayable contribution will be deemed to be repayable and collection efforts will commence.