

SIPEKNE'KATIK FIRST NATION – AICFI 2.3 WORKPLAN

APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE: 2023-24

COMMUNITY:	Sipekne'katik First Nation
CFE:	Operating as Sipekne'katik First Nation
ADDRESS:	522 Church Street, Sipekne'katik First Nation, B0N 2W0
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DATE:	2023-24
WORK PLAN:	Included
BCR:	Included
INTERIM BUSINESS PLAN:	Available

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1. Introduction

This document is an application to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans AICFI program, specifically requesting funding assistance under Component 2.3 for the fiscal year of 2023-24. This application outlines the desired levels of assistance, the rationale, the timelines, and expected outputs.

It is intended that funding received under this component will assist Sipekne'katik First Nation in ongoing updating of the business plan for the communal commercial fishery and ensure future components of AICFI are taken advantage of (expansion and diversification, capacity building).

Participation in the AICFI program is designed to improve the management capacity of the shore based staff, as well as build up the skillset and experience of available at sea harvesting staff. In addition, through participation in this program the Band may make investments in a fleet or gear so that once again the Band can become vessel owners and operators, in an effort to better control the harvest of its fisheries access and provide employment to local community members.

Please note:

This application is for \$ 75,000, which will be allocated towards part of the fishery coordinators salary.

We assume by drafting a CA agreement in support of this application that transfer of funding (as outlined above and below) has been confirmed. If this is not the case the Band needs to know immediately.

Also once the CA is drafted, the Band kindly requests the release of 90% of all funding on this application.

2. Background

It is recognized that the AICFI program is designed to improve the capacity of the communal commercial fishing enterprise and specifically in AICFI component capacity building; AICFI funding is made available to assist in enabling our community to improve the management of our commercial fishing enterprise and to increase the knowledge and skill base needed to operate a successful long term fishery. Our requests for funding assistance in this application meet these criteria, and is solely based around developing a business plan, including an updated set of policies and procedures for our at sea fishers.

This year for Sipekne'katik First Nation in the AICFI program and it is expected that funding will assist in the development of these areas:

- Ongoing updating of the business plan for the CFE (communal fishing enterprise)
- Production of AICFI Expansion and Diversification application
- Ongoing community training programs
- Ongoing community engagement
- Update of the training plan
- Continued development of the fishers via improved management onboard a Band owned vessel
- Advice and support of industry business professionals via the business development team (BDT), the at sea training advisory committee (TAC), and the community fishery liaison coordinator (CLFC)
- Improvement in retaining operational data (from vessel harvesting) and management information systems via the FMS system and improved financial accounts tracking for the fishery
- Extending the fishing industry networks to enable a better understanding of the industry and improve flow of fishery related information
- Production of regular reports for Chief and Council on the activity of the CFE

Our request for funding for this application intends to help the new Chief and Council to continue to provide a foundation for its fishery, one in which they can build a solid future on. It is comforting to know with the newly elected Chief and Council they have given their support towards making the fishery operations more accountable and transparent with a goal driving towards sustainability.

3. Objectives

The continued update and development of the business will bring together the wishes of the community with the operational and financial realities of the communal fishing enterprise. Under the direction of Chief and Council this plan will prove the foundation for improved management of the fishery assets and outline a path for future development. Funding will assist the Band to develop the fishery into one that the Band owns and operates the vessels that harvest Band fishery access, while ensuring the fishery is run in a professional and sustainable manner.

We had mentioned our objectives briefly in item 2; here they are expanded:

- Ongoing updates to the business plan for the CFE (communal fishing enterprise)
- Production of AICFI expansion and diversification
- Oversee the operational activity of the bands four vessels
- Assist towards organising various training for Band fishers via the Harvester application process
- Advice and support of industry business professionals (via the BDT, TAC and CFLC) will help towards the development of the business plan, the HR policies, CFE strategic goal setting, connecting with other First Nation fisheries, understanding and rebuilding the relation with the DFO and available for general fishery related business advice.
- Improvement in retaining operational data (from vessel harvesting) and management information systems should give the fishery coordinator more useful information to make better, more educated decision in the fishery. By providing analytical tools (like the fishery management system – FMS and improve financial tracking) and using organised data collection to input into spreadsheets and accounting packages the fishery manager should be able to better manage the CFE.
- Extending the fishing industry networks to enable a better understanding of the industry and improve flow of fishery related information will allow for more involvement in the fishery through other non-native fishers, other native fishers, industry associations, industry advisory bodies, AAROMS, and of course the various Departments of DFO, including science, enforcements, regulatory and licensing.
- Production reports (when needed) for Chief and Council
- Most importantly funding helps to maintain the roll of the management of fishery coordinator as full-time, rather than potentially being a seasonal role

4. Work and Action Plan – Table Form

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES OF ROLES FUNDED		
Role to Be Funded	Fisher Coordinator	
Funding Amount for the Year	\$75,000	
Terms:	CFM	Commercial Fisheries Manager
	BDA	AICFI Business Development Advisor
	FMS	Fishery Management System
	CFLC	Community Fishery Liaison Coordinator
	CFE	Commercial Fishing Enterprise
	DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Deliverable	Finish Date	Involvement & Responsibilities
Fishery Business Plan Ongoing updates	Ongoing	CFM, financial controller and BDA to create together, under the guidance of Chief and Council
AICFI Expansion and Diversification Application Possible Seafood Store from in Hammonds Plains	Ongoing	CFM and BDA to create together, under the guidance of Chief and Council
Improving Data Collection Systems and Fishery Management Tools Keeping the FMS system accurate and current	Ongoing	The CFM
Production of Reports to C&C As needed, and annual	As requested	The CFM will produce reports for the Chief and Council; the BDA can advise if needed
Attending Industry, Fishing Sector, and related DFO meetings and workshops; Work with the CFLC It is important the commercial fisheries manager to continue to improve the linkages to other stakeholders in the fishing industry, the First nation community, the industry in general. The free flow of information and having good industry contacts can make managing a CFE much, much easier. Also contact with the regional CFLC.	Ongoing	CFM will continue to go to industry related meetings that impact the CFE, as well as make contacts and network. The CFLC will play a role as well

5. Funding Request Summary

Funding Request - Monthly Gross Wages including Band MERC Costs

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total
Commercial Fisheries Mgr	\$6250	\$6250	\$6250	\$6250	\$6250	\$6250	\$6250	\$6250	\$6250	\$6250	\$6250	\$6250	\$75,000

It should be noted the funding request is for the full 12 months of the 2023-24 financial year.