



World Weaving Multi-Year Research Pathway

Guide for Applicants



Pacific Institute
for Climate Solutions

April 2026

1. World Weaving Multi-Year Research Pathway

World weaving is the practice of intentionally creating connections across different knowledge systems, lived experiences, and ways of understanding the world. Rather than prioritizing one way of knowing over another, world weaving holds space for multiple truths to co-exist, fostering collaboration that is more equitable, grounded, and responsive to community priorities.

The [World Weaving Multi-Year Research Pathway](#) supports co-designed climate research that addresses complex and emerging climate challenges facing First Nations communities. This pathway aims to advance Nation-led climate priorities, ethical and relational research practice, and knowledge co-production, by inviting applications from our university network (UBC, UVic, UNBC, SFU) that supports relevant climate research that cannot be meaningfully achieved within short funding cycles.

The pathway is designed to strengthen research and capacity in alignment with the [BC First Nations Climate Strategy](#) (BCFNCSAP) and Action Plan and the [Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction by BC First Nations](#). The [20 Urgent Calls for Action](#) (in the FNCNSAP) identify priority areas and will help guide project selection. This funding program honours the [Relationship Protocol](#) between the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS).

Through the application process, applicants with established research initiatives (minimum of one year) are being invited to demonstrate research partnerships built on respect, reciprocity, and meaningful First Nations leadership, as well as how their research aligns with and advances the above plans and/or calls for action.

Pathway objectives

- To support co-designed and Nation-led, multi-year (three-year) research initiatives on high priority climate issues.
- To enable sustained, collaboration on complex climate challenges that require trust-building, continuity, and iterative inquiry.
- To advance key actions in the [BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan](#) (BCFNCSAP) and the [Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction by BC First Nations](#) (APDRRFN), with focus on priority areas in the 20 Urgent Calls to Action.
- To strengthen reciprocal, trust-based relationships through accountable partnerships and to value Indigenous knowledge systems on equal footing with academic research.

2. Eligibility and granting details

Applicant eligibility

- PICS welcomes applications from Principal investigators (PIs) who are faculty members at PICS universities (UNBC, UBC, UVic, SFU).
- All PIs must hold co-designed research partnerships (written agreements or otherwise) with B.C. First Nations and/or have First Nations co-investigators (who may bring diverse backgrounds, experiences, and knowledges to the research).
- Research initiatives must have evidence of well-established community relationships.

Important dates

- Tuesday, Apr. 28, 2026: Proposal opportunity opens
- Wednesday, June 17, 2026: Proposal opportunity closes (4:00 p.m. PDT)
- August 2026: Proposal decisions communicated

Application adjudication process

Applications will be reviewed by a PICS staff committee that will conduct independent scoring, followed by collective ranking and recommendations. An Advisory Committee will provide expert counsel, guidance and input on the project portfolio. Advisory Committee members will bring insights and experience from First Nations and Indigenous leadership and academic and non-governmental organizations.

Granting amounts

PICS anticipates funding in the range of four to six multi-year projects with awards ranging from \$80,000 to \$200,000 per project distributed over three years.

Funds will be “front-loaded” to distribute 75 per cent of funding across the first two years and 25 percent in the final year. This funding structure is intended to encourage a shift to focus on knowledge mobilization during year three.

In the spirit of true self-determination — in recognition of First Nations climate leadership across the province — a portion of the funding must directly benefit and flow to the partnered First Nation(s). The PI’s host institution is responsible for associated financial and accountability arrangements.

Eligible and ineligible costs

Eligible costs may include (but are not limited to):

- Personnel costs (postdoctoral and student salaries and benefits)
- Non-student personnel/services
- Costs for Nation priorities and participation in research activities
- Honoraria
- Travel costs for research-related activities/gatherings/meetings
- Other relationship building and knowledge exchange activities
- Project specific data or equipment costs

Ineligible costs include:

- Activities that duplicate or replace existing research grant funding
- Capital purchases or major equipment
- Costs associated with work that does not demonstrate First Nations leadership or alignment with BCFNCSAP or APDRRFN

Project reporting and knowledge mobilization

- Successful applicants will be required to submit annual reporting and a final report (using a PICS-issued template)
- Successful applicants will be invited to discuss collaborative knowledge mobilization and communications opportunities with PICS
- All communications will respect community protocols, ownership, and decisions around sharing

To apply

Please submit your completed proposal via the online form. You will receive an automated email acknowledgement when your proposal has been received. Proposals will be received until **June 17, 2026, 4:00 p.m. PDT**.

3. Proposal Content Guidance

The following sections provide guidance for completing sections of your proposal. The criteria that will be used to evaluate and score proposals is provided in the table below the content guidance. Note: All proposals will be pre-screened for fit with the outlined program eligibility.

Section 2: Project Overview

2.2 Project Summary Statement (up to 300 words)

Your summary statement should provide a concise explanation of the project that can be understood by a wide range of individuals and groups. Explain how the work reflects First Nations leadership and priorities. Please include project affiliations and/or partnerships.

2.3 Introduction (up to 400 words)

Tell us about yourself, your family, and your community. If you self-identify as Indigenous or First Nations, please share which communities you are connected to. If your proposal is successful, you may be required to provide proof of ancestry or connection to the community.

Section 3: Relationship & Governance

3.1 Nature and history of the researcher-Nation relationship (up to 400 words)

Describe the length and depth of relationship with collaborating Nation/s, as well as any relevant previous collaborations. Describe the level of support for this project from community, as well as the projected role for the Nation/s within the research process.

3.2 First Nations leadership, codesign and shared governance (up to 350 words)

Explain how your research priorities were identified and how Nation leadership will shape methodologies, activities, and outcomes of the project. Describe how decisions will be made during the project, and how protocols and jurisdiction will be respected.

Section 4: Alignment and implementation

4.1 Alignment with priorities and relevant strategies (up to 500 words)

Explain what needs or challenges you are addressing and why you are proposing this particular project. Identify how the project connects with Nation priorities, pathways, and strategies in the B.C. First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan and/or the Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction by First Nations in B.C.; include any linkages and alignment with priorities in the 20 Urgent Calls to action.

4.2 Methodology (Up to 300 words)

Describe your research methodology including data collection techniques and the reasons for using this/these approach(es). Share any ethical considerations, as well as how selected methods align with community practices or priorities.

4.3 Activities and Timelines (Up to 500 words)

Give a general overview of the major project activities including how you will co-design various elements of the work, evidence of reciprocity and co-production, and any opportunities for capacity building within Nation partners. Provide an overall timeline that includes key milestones, projected engagements, and deliverables.

4.4 Outcomes and deliverables (Up to 300 words)

Share the planned outcomes of the project, as well as the projected impact this work will have on advancing Nation priorities and the objectives within the BCFNCSAP and APDRRFN. Identify any projected deliverables that will be used to translate research into meaningful action, and how deliverables will be created with accessibility in mind.

Section 5: Credibility and suitability

5.1 Team (up to 300 words)

Demonstrate why your team is well-suited to undertake this project by highlighting related work, existing relationships, experience, cultural agility, and the ability to honor and uplift multiple ways of knowing. Copy-pasted bios or attached CVs will not be reviewed.

Section 6 Budget and contributions

6.1 Budget Summary Table

Please fill out this preliminary budget. A more detailed budget will be required for approved projects. Break down the preliminary project cost and the amount you are requesting from PICS (between the range of \$80,000 to \$200,000*). Please indicate the categories of activities to be funded for the entire project, and the rationale for estimated costs within each area.

6.2 Details regarding budget allocation for Nation priorities and participation in research (up to 200 words)

Identify the types of activities, capacities, training, and/or research expenses that will flow directly to and benefit Nations.

6.3 Additional Contributions (up to 150 words)

**To align with good financial stewardship practices, applicants should carefully assess their needs and request only the funding required to meaningfully support the proposed activities. PICS reserves the right to adjust funding awarded to align with budget limitations.*

4. Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Below is a detailed overview of the criteria (and associated scoring) that will be used to assess proposals.

Please note that in addition to this criteria PICS is committed to seeking projects inclusive of a diverse range of experiences, individuals and groups. We will also be considering community, geographic, disciplinary, and institutional diversity and inclusion.

Proposal Component	Value	Scoring considerations and relationship to PICS priorities
Section 2: Project Overview		
Project title, summary statement	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and accessible plain language summary • Well defined connection to climate priorities and First Nations leadership
Section 3: Relationships & Governance [20 points]		
Nature and history of researcher/Nation relationship	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaningful and reciprocal relationship between researcher and Nation/s • Level and evidence of Nation support and role of Nation within research
First Nations leadership, co-design, and shared governance	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process for identifying research priorities and Nation leadership in shaping project • Processes for respecting protocols/jurisdictions and data sovereignty
Section 4: Alignment & Implementation [55 points]		
Alignment with priorities/strategies	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of challenges or priorities being addressed • Alignment with Nation-defined priorities • Clear connection to pathways and strategies in the BCFNCSAP and APRRFN
Methodology	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly articulated methodology, including approach justification, data collection techniques, and ethical considerations • Inclusion of how selected methods align with community practices or priorities
Activities & Timelines	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly defined activities that contribute towards stated outcomes and deliverable • Evidence of reciprocity and co-production, as well as capacity building opportunities for Nation/s collaborators • Inclusion of knowledge mobilization activities • Project timeline including key engagements, dates, and deliverables
Outcomes and deliverables	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expected outcomes and impacts including how work will advance Nation priorities • Results and deliverables have clear application/usability potential for practitioners, communities, and/or decision-makers
Section 5: Credibility & suitability [15 points]		
Team	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of relevant experience and related past work and existing relationships • Cultural agility, ability to work across knowledge systems • Capacity to support reciprocal research
Section 6: Budget & Contributions [10 points]		

Budget	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reasonable project value for planned activities• Clear plan for funds to flow to Nation partners
		TOTAL: 110