

Discretionary Grants-in-Aid Application Form

Section A – Applicant /Organization Information

1. **Registered Non-Profit Organization No.:** 838844637 RR 0001 S0061758
2. **Project Title:** Without Water: Addressing Watershed Knowledge and Decision Making in Quikin ?amak?is
3. **Applicant/Organization.** Must be an eligible applicant.
 - a) **Legal Name of Organization:** The Elk River Watershed Alliance (ERA)
 - b) **Mailing Address:** 1111 2nd Ave
 - c) **City:** Fernie
 - d) **Postal Code:** V0B 1M0
 - e) **Main Contact for Application:** Caitlin Henneker
 - f) **Telephone #:** (672) 971-8544
 - g) **Email:** caitlin@elkriveralliance.ca
4. **Sponsored Organization.** Only complete if applicable.
 - a) **Legal Name of Organization:**
 - b) **Mailing Address:**
 - c) **City:**
 - d) **Postal Code:**
 - e) **Main Contact for Application:**
 - f) **Telephone #:**
 - g) **Email:**

Section B – Grant Request

1. Enter the grant amount you are requesting from each electoral area.

Electoral Area A	\$ _____	Electoral Area E	\$ _____
Electoral Area B	\$ <u>5,000</u>	Electoral Area F	\$ _____
Electoral Area C	\$ _____	Electoral Area G	\$ _____

Total Funding Request \$ 5,000

Electoral Area Descriptions:

Area A: rural Elk Valley

Area B: South Country

Area C: rural Cranbrook, Moyie, Fort Steele, Bull River, Wardner

Area E: rural Kimberley, Wasa, Ta Ta Creek, Skookumchuck

Area F: rural Canal Flats to rural Invermere

Area G: Wilmer to Spillimacheen

Office Use Only

EAAC Recommendations				Board Resolution	
A		E		Board Date:	
B	\$0	F		Resolution No:	
C		G		Approved/Denied (\$):	
Total EAAC Recommendation:				Funding changes at Board from EAAC recommendation:	
\$0					

2. Purpose of Grant.

Provide a clear description of the nature of the project and how the grant will be used.

The Elk River faces environmental challenges that have reached national and international attention, including an investigation into selenium pollution by the International Joint Commission. The Elk River Alliance (ERA) is a watershed organization with a mission to connect people to the Elk River using community-based scientific water monitoring, streamside restoration, and community outreach programs. In 2021, ERA spearheaded the Elk River Watershed Collaborative Monitoring Program ("the Collaborative") to bring together diverse Elk River knowledge holders and interest groups. By uniting scientific, Indigenous, and local ways of knowing, the Collaborative works to gain a more comprehensive understanding of Elk Valley land uses and water quality.

"Without Water: A Symposium to Address Watershed Knowledge and Decision Making in Qukin ʔamakʔis, the Elk River watershed" is a regionally-focused event co-hosted by Yaqit ʔa-knuqti'it First Nation, the Elk River Alliance, and Living Lakes Canada on behalf of the Collaborative. Held at Yaqit ʔa-knuqti'it First Nation in Grasmere (RDEK Area B) in early June 2025, it will serve as a critical platform for engaging with the complex issues facing the Elk River watershed and local communities, including Yaqit ʔa-knuqti'it and the districts of Baynes Lake, Elkford, Fernie, Jaffray, and Sparwood.

The Collaborative has hosted annual public events with an attendance of 80-90 community members. This year, the Collaborative's partners recognised the need for an event that unites knowledge holders to decision makers to understand how to improve salient, evidence-based watershed decision making. Without Water will be an opportunity to bring together knowledge holders, decision makers, and community members to develop a shared understanding of watershed challenges and current decision-making processes.

This event will be split into two sections. The first will be an invite-only symposium focused on structured conversation between 40-60 attendees, including chief and council from local Indigenous bands, provincial and local decision makers, and scientists and researchers. The second section, supported by this grant, will be a public engagement event where 80-100 community members are invited to learn about Yaqit ʔa-knuqti'it culture, attend a keynote presentation, share a meal, and ask questions to a broad panel of representatives who hold wide-ranging watershed knowledge.

3. Areas Benefiting.

List the specific areas that will benefit from the grant. Please see page 1, Section B for the descriptions of the Electoral Areas and identify the specific Area(s) that this grant will benefit. I.e. Areas A and C.

Qukin ʔamakʔis, the Elk River watershed, has been central to the ʔakanuxunik' people of Yaqit ʔa-knuqti'it First Nation and all Ktunaxa peoples, since time immemorial. In the face of growing environmental stressors, there is an urgent need for informed and collaborative decision making to safeguard this watershed's future. The event will be held on Yaqit ʔa-knuqti'it land in RDEK Electoral Area B in Grasmere, with dignitaries from across the Elk Valley, BC, and south of the border, coming to share knowledge and discuss how we can make smarter watershed management decisions. Given the Elk River watershed spans RDEK Areas A and B, this event would also benefit those living across the Elk Valley and South Country.

4. Benefits.

Describe how the project will benefit the areas listed in section 3, including the residents of those areas, and how the project meets local needs..

Hosted on Yaqit ʔa·knuqʔi'it lands, the Without Water symposium will include cultural and ceremonial components as a way to uplift and share Yaqit ʔa·knuqʔi'it culture with surrounding communities. The event will include a tour of Yaqit ʔa·knuqʔi'it wetlands project on Shottanana Lake (Area B) where they're working to restore a healthy, functional wetland that supports native wildlife and increases open water habitat. The symposium will also include performances from Ktunaxa performers such as drummers, dancers, and musicians. By interweaving cultural elements throughout the event program, we will connect participants in a way that develops a shared understanding and appreciation of Qukin ʔamakʔis. We envision this event will catalyze a larger conversation on how water is managed in the Elk River watershed throughout Areas A and B. This is an opportunity to share insights into water quality and quantity impacts, potential solutions, and their implications to community health. There will be discussions on drinking water such as ongoing water quality issues from land use in the region like mining and forestry (e.g. nitrate, sulphate, selenium, and sedimentation), cycles of drought threatening community water resources, and impacts to community mental health and wellbeing from an unpredictable water supply. By educating and bringing community members across Areas A and B together to learn and discuss these issues, we will work towards healthy people, waters, and lands in the face of environmental challenges.

Section C – Required Additional Information

All applications **must include the following additional information:**

Project Budget

- Provide a budget detailing revenue, expenditures and in-kind contributions. The budget must clearly show all funds received from other sources.

Project Partners

- Identify any partners or resources which will be assisting you during this project.

Additional Information is not to exceed 6 single-side pages or 3 double-side pages.

Proposals may be submitted by mail, email, fax or dropped off to:

Attention: Corporate Services
Regional District of East Kootenay
19–24 Avenue South, Cranbrook BC V1C 3H8

Email: corporateservicesdept@rdek.bc.ca

Fax: 250-489-3498

Project Partners

Identify any partners or resources which will be assisting you during this project

This event would not be possible without the support from symposium co-hosts and lead partners, Yaqit ʔa·knuqʔi'it First Nation and Living Lakes Canada. Yaqit ʔa·knuqʔi'it First Nation are hosting the event on their lands, providing volunteer and event execution support and are generously sharing their traditional lands and knowledge of the local watershed with the wider community. Living Lakes Canada is providing essential support through event planning and coordination, and will be on the ground to help execute a successful event.

Also integral to this event are the Collaborative's Partners and members who have all aided in framing the event and of who will be in attendance. These Partners include the Canadian Wildlife Federation, District of Fernie, District of Sparwood, Elk Valley Resources, Elk River Guiding, North Coal, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and the Ministry of Land, Water, and Resource Stewardship. Other Collaborative members include Collective for Lower Elk Aquifer Restoration (CLEAR Society), District of Elkford, Ktunaxa Nation Council, Kootenay Fly Shop, MacHydro, and researchers from the Universities of Lethbridge and Waterloo.

Budget - RDEK Discretionary Grants-In-Aid - Without Water Symposium					
Program	Details	Cash	In-kind	RDEK share	Funding
Elk River Watershed Collaborative Monitoring Program					
ERWCMP-Symp 2025-Wages-Management	Pre-event management and planning from Living Lakes Canada	\$2,500.00			
ERWCMP-Symp 2025-Wages-Management	Pre-event management and planning from Elk River Alliance	\$5,000.00			
ERWCMP-Symp 2025-Wages-Management	Pre-event management and planning from Yaqit 7a-knuqti't	\$5,000.00			
ERWCMP-Symp 2025-Wages-Coordination	Symposium event coordination and attendance from Elk River Alliance	\$1,500.00			
ERWCMP-Symp 2025-Wages-Coordination	Symposium event coordination and attendance from Living Lakes Canada	\$1,500.00			
ERWCMP-Symp 2025-Wages-Coordination	Symposium event coordination and hosting from Yaqit 7a-knuqti't	\$1,500.00			
ERWCMP-Symp 2025-Expenses-Rental	Yaqit 7a-knuqti't staff and volunteer costs for venue rental, AV, lighting and support	\$4,500.00			
ERWCMP-Symp 2025-Expenses-Catering	Catering for Event (dinner and lunch for approximately 35 people, snacks/refreshments, and dinner for approximately 130)	\$8,000.00		\$3,000.00	
ERWCMP-Symp 2025-Expenses-Culture	Event cultural component costs (opening ceremony, performers, wetlands tour, staff support etc.)	\$12,000.00			
ERWCMP-Symp 2025-Wages-Coordination	Communications and promotion costs	\$2,000.00			
ERWCMP-Symp 2025-Expenses-Materials	Printed materials associated with symposium promotion and for use at event	\$500.00			
ERWCMP-Symp 2025-Expenses-Mileage	Travel support for attendees and project partners	\$1,500.00			
ERWCMP-Symp 2025-Expenses-Contractor	Photographer/videographer to capture event	\$650.00			
ERWCMP-Symp 2025-Services-Honorarium	Honorarium for presenters, panelists, Yaqit 7a-knuqti't Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and youth	\$3,000.00		\$2,000.00	
ERWCMP-Symp 2025-Expenses-Overhead	Admin overhead to support event co-host organisations	\$4,850.00			
Event total		\$54,000.00			
RDEK funding support				\$5,000.00	
Program Funding					
Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions	Committed				5,000
Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia	Committed				3,500
Telus Indigenous Communities Fund	Not committed				25,000
Western Mining Action Network	Not committed				5,500
First Nations Health Authority	Not committed				5,000
Ken & Debbie Rubin Foundation	Not committed				5,000
RDEK Discretionary Grants-In-Aid	Proposed				5,000
TOTAL					\$54,000.00
PROJECT TOTAL					\$54,000.00