

2019 Call for Proposals: Firelight Social Return Fund

Social Return Program: The Firelight Group (Firelight) understands that some projects which are culturally, politically, or ecologically important to Aboriginal communities are also very difficult to fund. We commit a portion of our revenues to funding these types of programs or research projects.

Social Return Funding: We will consider supporting community-based research and projects with partial or full funding that would otherwise be hard to fund and have high cultural significance. Ideas can be championed or brought forward by communities and / or Firelight staff and directors. The Fund is open to any Indigenous community or organization with priority given to clients who have worked with the Firelight Group on at least one significant project.

Firelight Process for Proposal Review: The Firelight Group has a Social Return Committee whose mandate it is to review and approve projects. To assist in the funding allocation process, Firelight will be utilizing a funding docket approach for 2019 Social Return projects. The proposed intake deadline for the spring is **May 31st 2019**, by 5pm PST which will be able to fund projects up to \$15,000. Decisions will be made as quickly as possible following the intake deadline, and results will be communicated to the applicants thereafter. The Social Return Committee may ask the applicant questions about their proposal during the proposal review process. Decisions on funding will be communicated in writing with reasons provided for success or rejection. Applications may be carried forward to subsequent dockets if funding is not available. There is a 10% hold back of the total budget that is released on receipt of the final project report.

Reporting Back: Successful applicants must deliver a final report that covers a project summary, financials, success, outcomes, and achievements upon completion of the project. We request photos or a short video that illustrates the project success, which will be posted on the Firelight website. Once the final report is received, the Firelight project holdback of 10% will be released.

Application Guidelines: Please send applications for the Firelight Fund to Carolyn Whittaker at carolyn.whittaker@thefirelightgroup.com **by May 31st** at 5pm PST. Applications should include the following:

- The Firelight Group Social Return Grant Proposal 2019 (see proposal template)
- The budget, to a maximum of \$15,000 of contribution from the Firelight Fund; and
- A letter of support from the Aboriginal community or government
- A letter confirming if there is a charitable agency in the community that could hold the grant. While charitable status is preferred, these grants can be held by organizations that are **not** charities.

Guiding Principles for Designing Projects

Firelight evaluates proposals using the questions and criterion below. At least two of the categories must be fulfilled in order to attain funds. Communities *funded* in the previous fiscal year are eligible to submit applications if final reporting for previous funding has been received.

Cultural or Ecological Importance

- Does the project encourage the protection, conservation and/or enhance the environment or culture?
- Does the project increase awareness of the issues it addresses broadly or specifically?
- If the project relates to social justice and/or economic fairness, is it built on ecological values?
- Does the project reinforce a connection to the community's identity and/or sense of place while fostering ecological values?
- Does the project provide opportunities for ecological and/or environmental stewardship?
- *Criterion: The project must relate to environment, culture, ecological values and stewardship.*

Community-Based or Grassroots

- Is the project brought forward by a network or group within a community that Firelight works with?
- Is it likely to be of benefit to the collective?
- *Criterion: The project must be brought forward by a community that Firelight works with.*

Legacy

- Is the project likely to have ripple effects or create some lasting and land-based or culturally significant legacy?
- Will the project be remembered in 2 years? 5 years?
- *Criterion: The project must be directed towards having an impact that matters for the Nation or region.*

Community Goals and Give Back

- Is the project something that will further community nation building?
- Is the project something that will enhance and build community goals?
- Will the funding support otherwise hard to fund research, program or projects?
- *Criterion: The project must be directed towards enhancing community goals.*