

Requests to Federal Agencies and Departments for the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area from the Regional Assessment Working Group – Summary of CIRNAC’s Response

Request 1: Projects and Initiatives Relevant for the Ring of Fire Area

The following CIRNAC initiatives relate to the Ring of Fire Assessment Area:

- [Federal Initiative on Consultation](#)
 - There are currently no consultation protocols or resource centres in place with First Nations in the Ring of Fire Area.
 - Contact: indigenous.consultations.autochtones@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca
- [First Nation Adapt Program](#)
 - The program provided funding for eight projects with First Nations in the Ring of Fire Area between 2016 and 2027.
 - Contact: adaptation@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca
- [Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program](#)
 - The program provided funding for three projects with First Nations in the Ring of Fire Area between 2021 to March 2025.
 - Contact: [surveillanceclimat-climatemonitoring@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca](mailto:surveillancedclimat-climatemonitoring@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca)
- [Harvesters Support Grant and Community Food Programs Fund](#)
 - The Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services and the Mushkegowuk Tribal Council receive funding through the Harvesters Support Grant and the Community Food Programs.
 - Contact: nutritionnordcanada-nutritionnorthcanada@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca
- [Food Security Research Grant](#)
 - The Food Security Research Grant has not made a final funding decision. Please see the list of key dates for more details:
 - September 22, 2025: Deadline to submit letter of intent
 - October 1, 2025: Letter of intent notifications and invitation to proceed with full proposal for successful applicants
 - December 19, 2025: Deadline to submit full proposal
 - January 30, 2026: Notification of final results
 - Funding will be released by March 31, 2026.
 - Contact: nutritionnordcanada-nutritionnorthcanada@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca
- [Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination \(RIRSD\) Tables](#)
 - CIRNAC has the following negotiation and discussion tables with First Nations in the Ring of Fire Area

- Nishnawbe Aski Nation - Governance and Education (RIRSD Table)
 - Nishnawbe Aski Nation - Treaty Table
 - Restoule / Whitesand (Out of Court Settlement)
 - Anishinabek Nation - Child and Family Services (Self-Government Table)
 - Long Lake No. 58 (RIRSD Table)
- [Specific Claims](#)
 - The Government of Canada has active specific claims with the following First Nations in the Ring of Fire Area:
 - Eabametoong First Nation; and
 - Ginoogaming First Nation
 - For additional details regarding the specific claims process or how to file a specific claim, please visit the [Specific Claims](#) website.
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Request 2: Priority Topics Identified by the Working Group – Information and Gaps

CIRNAC does not have any existing data sets that both aligns with the key priorities identified by the Working Group. However, CIRNAC is able to provide the following information on Nutrition North Canada's subsidy:

- Subsidy rates have increased by over 50% since 2011.
 - Number of eligible communities has increased from 80 to 124, an increase of 55% since 2011.
 - Mandate extended to food banks, non-profits, and local producers in eligible communities in 2023/24.
 - 6 food banks have registered for subsidy, with more expected in 2025/26.
 - Food banks have shipped over 276,000 kgs of free food to northern communities to date, increases reported each year.
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Request 10: Federal Initiative on Consultation

The [Federal Initiative on Consultation](#) supports Indigenous consultation capacity building, particularly through the establishment of consultation protocols and resource centres, to support core consultation capacity for Indigenous groups to meaningfully participate in consultation and engagement activities. The Federal Initiative on Consultation is currently fully subscribed, and no new funding is available at this time. The initiative is subject to Parliamentary appropriation, which, as of October 2025, has not been confirmed for future years. However, work is ongoing to consider replenishing funding to sustain this initiative for additional years, and other options going forward.

Request 12: Treaty Rights and Wildlife Management

CIRNAC does not obtain any information regarding non-Indigenous land users on traditional territories for hunting, fishing, and harvesting purposes without consent.