

Investment Readiness Program: Round 1 Recipients

PROJECT TITLE

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Wood Shop Workers Coop

Wood Shop Workers Coop crafts reclaimed wood furniture, custom interiors and conducts DIY woodworking workshops for individuals and businesses while providing sustainable, meaningful employment to our worker-owners, diverting wood waste and contributing to social, environmental and economic justice through partnerships with like-minded organizations in community. Wood Shop Workers Coop will use IRP funds for business, product and marketing development in order to scale their organization, leveraging the growing market for social procurement.

SolShare Energy

SolShare Energy is BC's first community-owned solar energy investment program. SolShare enables investors to share in ownership of a diverse portfolio of renewable energy projects that offer financial, social, and environmental returns to communities, including Indigenous communities. SolShare Energy will use IRP funds to build its investor base for community-owned renewable energy projects, through market research, marketing campaigns, and automation of its investor on-boarding process.

Catalyst Community
Developments Society

Catalyst Community Developments Society offers long term, stable, non-market affordable rental housing to community members. Catalyst Community Developments Society will use IRP funds for legal and tax advice to properly structure the expansion required to scale their non-market housing model.

BC Artscape

BC Artscape develops affordable spaces, creates programming, and engages in consulting to serve the needs of artists and cultural organizations in BC. BC Artscape will use IRP funds to make key adjustments to its business model, governance structure and branding order to better serve the arts in BC's cities.

Tides Canada Initiatives -
Binners' Project

Binners' Project fosters social and economic inclusion, builds community resilience and stronger networks, and engages on sustainability issues. Through programming, Binners' Project seeks to empower binners as part of the circular economy – building a community from the bottom up. Binners' Project will use IRP funds to undertake market research to assess the demand for waste sorting services in Metro Vancouver and to grow existing social enterprise programs.

Vancouver Native Housing
Society

Skwacháys Lodge & Gallery is a successful and culturally significant social enterprise, created by Vancouver Native Housing Society. Vancouver Native Housing Society will use IRP funds to examine legal structure and financial models for Skwacháys Lodge & Gallery, and explore partnership opportunities to expand the social enterprise to new cities.

Powell River Model
Community Project

K-Lumet is a social enterprise that produces a fire starter made from 99% recycled materials diverted from the waste stream, it is operated under the Powell River Model Community Project. K-Lumet is addressing barriers to employment for people with intellectual disabilities within the manufacturing sector. K-Lumet will use IRP funds to develop a business plan to help secure investment, building on their pilot project.

ACCESS Build	<p>ACCESS increases Indigenous participation in the labour market. ACCESS will use IRP funds to undertake feasibility analysis and community support development for a business that will provide building maintenance services to Indigenous Housing Service Providers in the Metro Vancouver area, based on the Winnipeg ReBuild model.</p>
Lunapads International Products Ltd	<p>Lunapads revolutionizes how the world thinks about menstruation by creating sustainable menstrual products that are accessible and available to all. Lunapads will use IRP funds to produce compelling metrics and new product innovation that will attract conscious customers and impact investors who value a rapidly growing femtech business with positive climate impact.</p>
East End Food Co-op	<p>East End Food Co-op is Vancouver's only consumer-owned grocery store and is collectively owned by thousands of local residents. East End Food Co-op will use IRP funding for business planning, site selection, development of an investor package for a new community-owned co-operative grocery store operating at scale in Vancouver.</p>
Luv The Grub	<p>Luv The Grub rescues produce seconds from being thrown into the landfill and turns them into gourmet chutneys through paid employment program for individuals with barriers to employment. Luv the Grub will use IRP funds for business planning, accounting, legal advice, product development, marketing, brokering and impact measurement as they increase production capacity and scale the business.</p>
Union Gospel Mission	<p>Union Gospel Mission transforms communities by overcoming poverty, homelessness, and addiction - one life at a time. Union Gospel Mission will use IRP funds to develop the business plan for their existing Vancouver Thrift Store and Up-cycling Program, and assess opportunities for the replication of this model across their locations.</p>
The Good Chocolatier	<p>The Good Chocolatier increases inclusive employment opportunities for people on the Autism Spectrum in BC while manufacturing highest quality, healthy and ethical chocolate bars. The Good Chocolatier will use IRP funds for product development and marketing in order to scale up to meet the demand of 20 new wholesale stores in Metro Vancouver.</p>
WBT Wild Bird Trust of BC	<p>The Wild Bird Trust of BC manages the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats in North Vancouver, within the traditional and unceded territory of the sałilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation). The Wild Bird Trust seeks to establish the Coast Salish Plant Nursery as the primary provider of native plants regionally. The Wild Bird Trust will use IRP funds towards business planning, branding and marketing, product development and two minor asset purchases required to meet existing demand.</p>
Native Fishing Association	<p>Native Fishing Association protects, encourages and supports continued and increased participation by Indigenous people living in BC in the commercial fishing industry. Native Fishing Association will use IRP funds for a feasibility study for a new Indigenous fisherman microloan fund.</p>
The Sharing Farm	<p>The Sharing Farm grows fruits and vegetables, and harvests healthy produce to supply charitable food distribution organizations in Richmond as well as educates the community about sustainability through active volunteerism. The Sharing Farm will use IRP funds to develop feasibility studies for additional revenue streams, and to prepare for financing opportunities.</p>
The Bloom Group Community Services Society	<p>The Bloom Group provides housing, health and social services to vulnerable populations in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and West End with the aim of contributing to community resilience. The Bloom Group will use IRP funds for the development of an impact measurement system, to support potential future Social Impact Bond growth strategy.</p>

Brave Technology Coop	<p>Brave Technology Coop designs interventions to prevent accidental overdose deaths. Brave combines new technologies with direct community engagement to redress social isolation, particularly for those at risk of accidental drug overdose. Brave Technology Coop will use IRP funds for value proposition refinement, branding and market positioning to prepare for raising investment to scale impact.</p>
Community Futures Sunshine Coast	<p>Community Futures Sunshine Coast inspires and advances an ecosystem of social entrepreneurship, social enterprise and impact investing on the Sunshine Coast. Community Futures Sunshine Coast is co-developing a hub 'Community Innovation Lab' in Sechelt, located at Tsain Ko's Our House of Clans a new development by the shíshálh Nation. The Lab aims to advance reconciliation and collaboration with the First Nations community. Community Futures Sunshine Coast will use IRP funds to hire a financial consultant to build out the financial model and corporate structure for the Lab.</p>
River Select Fisheries Cooperative	<p>River Select Fisheries Cooperative facilitates a responsible trade environment through an open platform fisheries services cooperative that is governed by and for Indigenous seafood producers supporting sustainable fisheries, local fishing cultures, their and economic food security. River Select Fisheries Cooperative will use IRP funds to diversify operations beyond First Nations river-caught salmon to First Nations seafood coast-wide in order to expand client base and to grow the business.</p>
7 Leagues Leather	<p>7 Leagues Leather is a circular economy leather goods and fish leather tannery: upcycling fish processing waste using forestry-waste tannins, crafted locally by urban workers facing barriers to employment. 7 Leagues Leather will use IRP funds to complete a feasibility study and business planning, product development and a minor asset purchase in order to begin commercial production.</p>
BWSS Battered Women's Support Services	<p>Battered Women's Support Services provides education, advocacy and support services to assist all women affected by gender-based violence working from an intersectional, anti-oppression, feminist and decolonizing perspective. Battered Women's Support Services will use IRP funds to develop a business process and plan to scale their eco thrift boutique and training social enterprises.</p>
Teem Fish Monitoring Inc.	<p>Teem Fish Monitoring provides commercial fish harvesters in smaller vessel fleets with innovative and affordable data tools to better manage their enterprises, add value to their catches, and meet evolving regulatory requirements, leading to fisheries which are more equitable, inclusive and continuously improving. Teem Fish Monitoring will use IRP funds to assess the feasibility, value, capacity, and necessary investment required to support a significant restructuring of its revenue model to a monthly fee subscription service in order to increase accessibility and scale the social enterprise.</p>