

Application Summary: 2026 - 3303 - Community Impact Grant - Community Programs and Projects

Application ID

2026 - 3303 - Community Impact Grant - Community Programs and Projects

Applicant Information

Organization Information

Wood Buffalo Wildlife Research Institute

s.20(1)

Fort McMurray, AB, T9K 0R3

Primary Contact

Kenneth Foster

s.20(1)

Fort McMurray, AB, T9K 0R3

Phone: s.20(1)

Email: kfoster@wbwri.org

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Is the organization a registered non-profit?

Applicants must be a registered non-profit organization or a community group in partnership with a registered non-profit organization. If you have any questions regarding grant eligibility, please contact cip@rmwb.ca to book a pre-application meeting.

Yes

Has the organization operated within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo for at least one year?

Applicants must have resided or operated within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo for at least one year prior to applying. If you have any questions regarding grant eligibility, please contact cip@rmwb.ca to book a pre-application meeting.

Yes

In the last year, have there been any significant changes to your organization or program?

No

What is your organization's Mission Statement?

Generating inspiration and passion for wildlife and our natural world for generations to come.

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Brief Summary of the Proposed Program(s) and/or Project(s).

Our program directly addresses the absence of accessible wildlife conservation, engagement, training and education opportunities in the RMWB. Our established bird and bat projects provide the platforms we use to engage safely, directly and ethically with wildlife, and are led by experienced wildlife professionals. Each project is scientifically designed, and the data contribute to wildlife population analyses at regional to international scales. We are committed to providing meaningful experiences to anyone interested in regional wildlife regardless of life experience, education level, economic status, or social or cultural background.

Our 2026 program comprises (1) in-field spring to fall programming at easily accessible, operating monitoring locations around Fort McMurray; four locations each with 15-20 nest boxes used for breeding by tree swallows (June-July), a fall songbird migration monitoring location in the Taiganova district (August-September), and recording of night-time bat echolocation calls at four locations and using a mobile recorder in Fort McMurray (July), (2) a blend of hands-on (bird feeder/box, bat box construction) and other indoor activities (demonstrations, career mentoring) including teaching about birds and bats, and the process for bat identification through ultrasonic recording analyses, and (3) Indigenous community-driven activities.

Participants learn about bird and bat ecology, ethics for safely interacting with and handling wildlife, bird banding (capture and attachment of a numbered leg band to the bird), bat recording analyses, and skills needed to work safely (including around bears) and effectively outdoors. Indoor engagement sessions and hands-on activities would be scheduled in regional communities during the late fall and winter seasons.

The WBWRI confirmed the presence of the fungal infection white-nose syndrome in a bat colony in the region in 2025, the first regional and northern-most detection of this disease which has a very high mortality rate. This elevates the importance of bat education and conservation initiatives in the RMWB.

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Please note any restrictions on participating in your organization's programs, projects, services or events.

There are no restrictions for participation in demonstrations and presentations or learning opportunities through discussions. In-field bird and bat monitoring programs are largely conducted in natural settings in and around Fort McMurray, and although reasonably easy to access, may pose barriers to those with mobility constraints. Wildlife handling ethics require that any person directly interacting with wildlife possess the dexterity, skill, and aptitude necessary to not cause the organism harm or undue stress – this requirement may result in limits on bird handling for some participants. For both human and animal safety, WBWRI policies stipulate that individuals 14-15 years of age be accompanied by a responsible adult when engaged in field activities, while those 13 years of age and younger may participate as observers. Indoor activities (e.g., bird feeder/bird box/bat box construction, discussions, presentations) pose few limits to participation. Monitoring using mobile ultrasonic recording technology would pose few barriers to participation. The WBWRI together with collaborating organizations will work to minimize barriers to ensure the broadest participation safely possible.

Minimum number of board members according to the organization's bylaws:

3

Please list your current Board of Directors in the table:

Board of Directors

Name	Board Position	Years on Board
Dr. Kenneth R. Foster	President	1.75
Ms. Christine M. Godwin	Treasurer	1.75
Ms. Cheryll Godwin-Abel	Secretary	1.75
Mr. Christopher Wellwood	Director at Large	1.25
Mr. Gerald F. Abel	Director at Large	1.75

Do one or more board representatives or program staff have lived experience or expertise reflective of the demographics your organization serves?

Yes

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If Yes; please briefly explain the lived experience or expertise.

s.20(1) [REDACTED] senior biologist and project manager, 30 years of oil sands-related work experience, resident in Fort McMurray since 2015, and has worked in the Fort McMurray region since the mid-1990's. Holds a bird banding master permit (CWS). Has regional community consultation and engagement experience, former university instructor, career development mentor, former scout leader and former community minor hockey referee coordinator. **s.20(1)**

s.20(1)

s.20(1) [REDACTED] senior wildlife biologist and project manager, 25 years of oil sands-related work experience, resident in Fort McMurray since 2015, and has worked in the Fort McMurray region since 1995. Has regional community consultation and engagement experience, bat and bird resource for RMWB schools (including classroom teaching and presentations), career development mentor, certified bear awareness instructor (Alberta Safety Council). Co-owner of locally based environmental consulting company.

s.20(1)

[REDACTED] professional engineer (>30 years experience), career development mentor in the Canadian and international mining industry. Has experience collaborating with stakeholders and championing for greater safety and sustainability in mining.

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[REDACTED] – biologist and regional industry environmental manager with over 20 years' experience, the past 15 years in the Wood Buffalo region. Local stakeholder engagement experience, including with indigenous communities.

s.20(1)

[REDACTED] mine management, career development mentor with over 40 years' experience in industry, spanning operations, maintenance and engineering management, major project delivery and economic investment, in Canada and internationally. Is driven by the need for inclusion and diversity in teams. Has experience creating opportunities for the development of young professionals.

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Program/Projects Details

Are you applying for more than one program or project?

If you are unsure, please contact CIP@rmwb.ca for clarification.

No

Program/Projects

Step 1: Click on the button below to enter the name of your program(s) or project(s).

Step 2: Click on the Save Draft button at the bottom of the screen.

Step 3: Click on the "Program/Project Details" button below to complete the details of each Program/Project. Please be sure to submit the current program/project information form before moving onto the next project information form.

Program/Project: Wildlife Education through Interactions with Birds and Bats Status: Completed

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Finances

Organization's most recent Fiscal Year End date

Please click Save Draft to update the following two questions with this date.

03/31/2025

Unrestricted Net Assets

Unrestricted Net Assets (accumulated net assets/surplus that the organization has not set aside for a particular purpose or earmarked by a donor for a specific program or project) from your Financial Statements ending: 03/31/2025

\$0.00

Total Operating Expenses

Total Expenses from your Financial Statements Ending: 03/31/2025

\$9,072.00

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What efforts have been made in the past fiscal year to increase the financial support for your organization?

We applied for Alberta Conservation Association grant funding to support Taiganova operations in 2025 (unsuccessful), and for a grant from Imperial Oil Ltd. to support a project separate from that applied for here (unsuccessful). We have solidified annual funding from Hammerstone Infrastructure Materials Ltd. and ongoing in-kind support from Owl Moon Environmental Inc. through 2026. In 2025, the WBWRI contracted to a local environmental company to provide specialist services, providing cash income. As in-kind support, the Calgary Bird Banding Society sponsored one of their members to work at our Taiganova monitoring location through the 2025 fall monitoring season, filling a necessary position and saving the WBWRI the cost of hiring a qualified biologist. In the current granting cycle we have applied, or will apply, for funding support from Birds Canada, Field Law, and the Alberta Conservation Association, and are discussing sponsorship funding with numerous industrial and service companies, most of which are local. We are also actively promoting the WBWRI, increasing membership and although smaller in amount, increasing our membership fee revenue.

Please complete the following budget table: If there are multiple programs, projects, services or events included in this application, please provide the total budget for all requests in the budget table. Additionally, attach a detailed breakdown of the budget by program, project, service or event on the Attachment tab.

Secured Revenue

Revenue Sources	Description	Revenue (Jan-Dec)
Sponsorship	Hammerstone Infrastructure Materials Ltd. (donation)	\$12,500.00
In-Kind Donation	Owl Moon Env. Inc. (equipment, materials, supplies)	\$4,000.00
		\$16,500.00

Revenue in Progress

Revenue Sources	Description	Revenue (Jan-Dec)
Grant	Birds Canada Community Grant	\$2,500.00
Sponsorship	Corporate sponsorships	\$10,000.00
Grant	Field Law Community Fund	\$2,500.00
Grant	Student intern support grant (@\$10/hr)	\$2,500.00

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In-Kind Donation	Calgary Bird Banding Society (sponsored personnel)	\$10,500.00
\$28,000.00		

Expenses

Type of Expense	Description	Total Expenses	Requested RMWB Grant
Administration Costs 15% Maximum	Program admin costs	\$12,750.00	\$10,000.00
Advertising/Marketing	Pamphlets, stickers (trade shows)	\$750.00	\$0.00
Gifts for Elders / Honorariums	Elder participation support	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Program Materials & Supplies	Bird/bat box/feeder materials	\$4,000.00	\$3,000.00
Program Staff wages & Benefits	Full-time Institute Bander (0.5FTE)	s.20(1)	\$40,000.00
Program Staff wages & Benefits	Seasonal banders (0.3FTE)		\$10,500.00
Program Staff wages & Benefits	Student intern support s.20(1)		\$2,500.00
Transportation and Delivery	Expenses @CRA rate (4000km \$0.72/km)	\$2,880.00	\$1,000.00
Program Materials & Supplies	Field equipment, materials, supplies	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
Transportation and Delivery	Charter van/bus services	\$6,250.00	\$3,000.00
		\$101,630.00	\$75,000.00

Shortfall

	Total
(Total Secured Revenue - Total Expenses)	\$85,130.00

Total RMWB Grant Request

	Amount
Total	\$75,000.00

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Total Cost of Program, Project, or Service

Total cost includes all costs of the entire program, project or service.

\$101,630.00

Total Grant Amount Request

Up to 75% of total program, project cost up to maximum of \$100,000.

\$75,000.00

Grant request as percentage of total cost of program, project or service

Click on the Save Draft button to calculate the percentage.

74%

Outline any expected non-financial resources being leveraged for this program, project, service or event to demonstrate community support.

We are in discussions with a number of local and rural communities and organizations about collaborative wildlife-related programming. We expect that the program developed in collaboration with each will include elements of non-financial support from our collaborators (e.g., logistical and coordination support). Fort McKay First Nation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Wood Buffalo, NextGen Careers, and BrainSTEM Alliance Ltd. have committed to this, formalized by way of partnership letters.

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Attachments

Please attach a budget breakdown for each program, project, service or event if there are multiple requests included in this application.

[RMWB_2026_CIP_-_WBWRI_Budget_Breakdown.pdf](#)
27.4 KB - 10/14/2025 5:30 AM

Total Files: 1

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Please attach a Partnership Letter(s) of Support for the proposed program, project, service or event to demonstrate authentic partnership and collaboration.

Applicants may use the >Partnership Letter of Support Template or submit a customized letter.

Each letter should include the following five key elements:

1. Commitment to the partnership and shared initiatives
2. Confirmation of the community need
3. History of prior collaboration or rationale for a new partnership
4. Defined roles, responsibilities, and resource commitments
5. Contact information for the partner organization

Each letter must be signed by an authorized representative of the partner organization.

Please note: The partnership letter is a mandatory requirement for Community Sustaining applicants and optional for Community Impact Grant application.

[BBBS-WBWRI_partnership_letter.pdf](#)

152.8 KB - 10/09/2025 10:39 AM

[BrainSTEM_Alliance_-_Letter_of_Support_-_WBWRI_2026.pdf](#)

200.5 KB - 10/09/2025 10:39 AM

[FMFN_Partnership_Letter_2026.pdf](#)

547.6 KB - 10/14/2025 12:16 PM

[Nextgen_-_Letter_of_Support_-_WBWRI_2026.docx](#)

103.6 KB - 10/14/2025 5:30 AM

Total Files: 4

Please attach signed Financial Statements for the most recent fiscal year end.

Year-end date must fall between July 1, 2024 of last year and June 30, 2025.

[Financial_statement_2025.pdf](#)

382.5 KB - 10/09/2025 10:36 AM

Total Files: 1

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Declaration

Declaration: In making this application, I, the undersigned, confirm:

- that I have read the appropriate Grant Guidelines;
- that I understand that this application form and all required attachments must be completed in full and received before 2025-10-14 4:30 p.m. MT;
- that I understand that this application form and any attachments shall be part of the Community Investment Program Approval Committee (CIPAC, Council Appointed) meeting agenda and accessible through all methods that the public meeting agenda is available;
- that I understand the term of the Grant is January 1 to December 31, 2026 and that all expenditures must happen during this term; and
- that I am authorized by the applicant organization to complete the application and hereby represent to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo's Community Investment Program and declare that to the best of our knowledge and belief, the information provided is truthful and accurate, and the application is made on behalf of the above-named organization and with the Board of Directors' full knowledge and consent.
- that I understand the personal information collected in this application is collected under the authority of Section 4(c) of the Protection of Privacy Act and is managed in accordance with the Act. It will be used to process your application and contact you if needed during the review of this application. If you have questions about the collection or use of your personal information, you may contact the Manager, Community Partnerships and Initiatives, at 9909 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray, AB T9H 2K4 or at 587-919-5522.

Acknowledgement

I do hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge, this application contains a full and correct account of all matters stated herein.

Applicant Name

Kenneth R Foster

Position/Title

President

Date: 10/14/2025

Project Summary

Wildlife Education through Interactions with Birds and Bats

Program, Project or Service Name

Wildlife Education through Interactions with Birds and Bats

Beginning Date

2026-01-01

Completion Date

Note: The term of the grant is January 1 - December 31, 2026. The program, project, service or event and all expenditures must occur during this term.

2026-12-31

Location program, project or service will be provided:

Note: If the grant is approved, the communities served will be included in the Grant Agreement and data collection from all communities will be required.

Do not select the rural community if the service is provided to the clients from rural communities through the urban service area.

Anzac, Fort McKay, Fort McMurray, Janvier

Project Summary

Wildlife Education through Interactions with Birds and Bats

Please complete the following Program/Project or Event Delivery Details.

Program, Project, or Event Delivery Information

Program/Project/ or Event Location	In Person (Yes/No)	Virtually (Yes/No)	Travel Budget Required (Yes/No)
Tree Swallows, within 20 km of Ft. McMurray	Yes	No	Yes
Taiganova Migration Monitoring, Ft. McMurray	Yes	No	Yes
Indoor programs, various local and rural	Yes	No	Yes
Outdoor programs, various local and rural	Yes	No	Yes
Bat box monitoring, 75km N of Ft. McMurray	Yes	No	No
Bat electronic monitoring, in Ft. McMurray	Yes	No	No

How does your organization plan to address barriers related to delivering virtual services in rural areas. This may include limited internet access, lack of devices, and limited technical support. If applicable.

Our plan does not rely on virtual delivery of program activities. Electronic communications will comprise email, telephone, and virtual meetings (e.g., Zoom, MTeams) among those involved in coordination and delivery of activities, which have proven effective during the preparation of this application.

How does your organization plan to address transportation barriers to provide the program, project, service or event? If applicable.

Activities within indoor settings will be conducted in facilities within the rural communities, arranged through our contacts and partners in those communities. In-field activities will require transportation arrangements to overcome barriers, and may include charter van/bus services, community transportation systems, or other arrangements available through the individual communities. We recognize that transportation to our field locations may be challenging for some, and we will strive to remove barriers to allow participation by all who are interested.

Project Summary

Wildlife Education through Interactions with Birds and Bats

Council approved seven funding priorities. Please indicate which funding priority/priorities are applicable to this application.

Please select at least 3 funding priorities for the Community Sustaining and Subsidiary Grant applications. Please select at least 1 funding priority for the Community Impact Grant (Community Programs and Projects or Community Events) application.

- Community support services and wellness
- Accessibility, inclusion and belonging
- Hosting events/new business and visitors
- Partnership and collaboration
- Rural and Indigenous Communities and Relationships
- Social participation
- Value of culture, heritage and regional pride

Describe how the proposed program, project, service or event align with these priorities.

Birds and bats are integral to the RMWB culture, heritage and regional pride, and are primary components of Indigenous culture and connections with the environment. The WBWRI project focusses on promoting wildlife awareness and conservation through partnership and collaboration with a broad array of individuals, groups, communities and associations, several of which provide community support/wellness services including in rural and indigenous communities, in a manner that promotes accessibility, inclusion and belonging in a number of in-field and indoor environments, across a diversity of community support groups and organizations.

Project Summary

Wildlife Education through Interactions with Birds and Bats

In the table below, please identify the total number of unique participants that you anticipate will access the funded program, project, service or event.

Target Population

Age	Target Population
Children (0-12 years)	250
Youth (13-18 years)	750
Adults	350
Seniors (65+)	100
Families	50
Community	0
Total	1500

Please identify the equity deserving population the program, project, service or event will serve.

Youth, Seniors, First Nations, Métis, and/or Inuit Peoples, Youth, Seniors, Women and/or girls, People living in rural communities

Project Summary

Wildlife Education through Interactions with Birds and Bats

How does your organization ensure that its programs, projects, services or events are accessible and inclusive for anyone who has an interest? Please share examples and success stories of accessibility and inclusivity.

Tree swallow monitoring locations are in natural areas near roads, with easy to moderately easy access. The Taiganova songbird monitoring location is along a publicly accessible, paved municipal park pathway, within 300m of the parking area, making it easily accessible. We have successfully conducted training and educational programs inclusive of all ages at the tree swallow and Taiganova locations. Bat monitoring is conducted either on foot, requiring reasonable mobility, or by automobile (accessible to all). Bat monitoring data analysis training is conducted as a desktop activity, accessible to all. The location(s) most appropriate for the individual participants, with consideration of mobility constraints, would be chosen collaboratively to ensure maximum opportunity for effective participation.

Over the past several years, WBWRI personnel have conducted information sessions for youth (Alberta Junior Forest Rangers) and adult groups (Inside Education teacher professional development program, providing educational and career development opportunities through demonstrations and presentations, at locations and times convenient for them.

Indoor activities will be held in accessible locations, typically those of a collaborating organization or similar type of venue (e.g., school classroom). Accessibility to all, including those with mobility constraints, is the objective.

If applicable, please explain how your program, project, service or event celebrates Indigenous culture, serves Indigenous communities and/or promotes Indigenous healing, language, cultural restoration, or reconciliation.

Our program activities are being developed in collaboration with Indigenous organizations and other non-profit organizations that include Indigenous programming, and we are taking their lead in program delivery objectives, delivery style, and content. It is our vision that our program interfaces with Indigenous culture, serves Indigenous community interests and needs, and in doing so, promotes healing, cultural restoration and reconciliation. In 2025, we co-hosted a nature walk with the Nistawoyou Association Family Centre led by an Indigenous knowledge keeper; in addition to learning about cultural concepts and associations with the natural world, the activity created a safe space for open and respectful conversations about the history of Indigenous peoples in the region and the necessary pathways to reconciliation. Our 2026 program includes these collaborative initiatives.

Logic Model

Project Summary

Wildlife Education through Interactions with Birds and Bats

Statement of Need: What social problem or gap do you hope to address by delivering the program, project, service or event? What evidence do you have that this problem or gap exists?

There are no opportunities currently available in the RMWB that promote personal exposure to wildlife and programs on wildlife conservation. Our wildlife-focused outreach, training, mentorship and inter-cultural collaborations promote education and career opportunities in the field of ecology, and provide exposure to professionals in this field. Youth participation is key to generating inspiration and passion for wildlife and developing future professionals who care about ethical research, environmental stewardship, and the wellbeing of future generations. There is a strong desire in the RMWB community at large for such programming.

This is evidenced by: (1) the high level of interest, membership, and member participation in our programs through 2025, with many participants verifying that this gap is real, (2) the high level of interest by other local and regional groups and communities in collaborating with the WBWRI in delivery of wildlife-focused programs and activities, and (3) successes over several years by WBWRI directors (pre-WBWRI) in wildlife-related activities focused on youth engagement in the region, including delivery of school-age programs, demonstrations for local community organizations and businesses, and bird banding demonstrations and career development discussions with local companies, organizations and the Alberta Junior Forest Rangers at the Taiganova monitoring location.

Broad Strategy: How will the program, project, service or event address the social problem? (e.g., What approach are you taking that you hope will lead your program, project, service or event to support the social problem?)

The WBWRI was founded to provide the mechanism to expand these programs in their educational and inter-cultural reach, opening opportunities to a broad range of regional community members. The approach we are taking is collaborative; we would work with our local and rural communities and Indigenous partners to deliver a wildlife program that supports their needs and interests, while teaching, mentoring, training and exciting them. At the time of this submission, our 2026 program includes 60 presentations, demonstrations and hands-on activities (1-2 hours each), 30 half-day in-field monitoring sessions (4 hours each), and 10 full-day sessions either in-field or supporting a collaborative event arranged by others; more sessions would be added as our reach expands.

While the core of our program will remain wildlife-related, program delivery will be structured to support broader societal needs, including those associated with education (technical concepts), age and gender identification (everyone is included), employment (transferable skill development), and inter-cultural relationships (bring together scientific and Indigenous perspectives).

Project Summary

Wildlife Education through Interactions with Birds and Bats

Rationale: What evidence or research do we have that this strategy will work? To demonstrate for example, "If [my organization] does 'x' program, project, service or event, then [this] change will happen for the target population."

The response that the WBWRI has had through its initial year of bird and bat monitoring under the WBWRI umbrella has exceeded membership and member participation expectations. Through only word of mouth, our membership and participation in our programs have increased. The response from other community organizations serving a broad range of community needs (societal, cultural, economic) to our offers to work collaboratively to address their needs and interests has been exceptional.

Participant experiences will vary given the diversity of components in our program (indoor, in-field) and as a function of individual interests and expectations. Regardless, every participant will have the opportunity to learn and experience something new. We expect excitement and interest in ongoing participation to be the outcome for those who have had limited exposure to wildlife, while skill and/or knowledge enhancement is the expected outcome for a participant with some wildlife-related experience. For our Indigenous participants, we expect that our relationships will develop to not only meet these expectations but that inter-cultural relationships will develop in a manner that contributes to mutual capacity building as well as contributing generally to knowledge sharing and reconciliation.

Inputs: What resources will be invested to achieve your goal? (e.g., staff labour, venue space, volunteers, computers, etc.)

Invested resources:

- Staff, comprising 0.50 full-time equivalent (FTE) of the WBWRI bird bander, 0.30 FTE to support two seasonal (Aug-Sept) bird banders, and 0.10 FTE to support two youth interns
- Volunteers, drawn from the WBWRI membership, estimated to represent 1,500 hours of in-field participation
- WBWRI Director participation to support training, mentoring, and outreach, estimated to represent 150 hours of in-field and indoor activity participation
- Home office space, including computer systems, across WBWRI directors and staff
- IT support (3rd party), necessary for WBWRI operations (email, financial tracking, etc.), cyber security, and troubleshooting
- Venue space as appropriate, either as provided by the partner or collaborator (e.g., community/association facilities, school classrooms), or rented as needed
- Bird box, bird feeder and bat house materials and supplies
- Bird banding equipment and supplies
- Electronic bat monitoring equipment and supplies
- Charter transportation services (3rd party) as needed for program activities for rural communities

Project Summary

Wildlife Education through Interactions with Birds and Bats

Activities: What activities make up the program, project, service or event? (e.g., workshops, mentorship sessions, etc.)

The tree swallow, fall songbird migration and bat monitoring programs are well developed, operating programs that were historically conducted by the directors and some members of the WBWRI, and which have now been incorporated into WBWRI operations. This program comprises in-field activities scheduled for May-July (tree swallow breeding season), July (bat monitoring), and August-September (fall songbird migration). Indoor activities (hands-on bird/bat box and bird feeder construction, demonstrations, discussions, and activities appropriate for the target audiences) are primarily scheduled for the winter months (January-March, October-December), when the migrant birds are in their southern wintering ranges and bats have either migrated out of the region or are in winter hibernation, and when outdoor activities are typically difficult to conduct in northern Alberta.

Outputs: What do you deliver? (e.g., # of total participants trained, # of organizations, # of sessions, # of events, etc.). Note, each activity should have outputs.

Note: If the program, project, service or event is approved, your outputs may be included in the Grant Agreement and data collection on the outputs is required.

The programming we have developed and offered to local and regional communities and organizations for 2026 comprises delivery of 65 indoor and 35 outdoor activities, spanning 1-hour to full-day periods. From this, we expect to interact with about 1,500 individuals from at least eight organizations. Indoor and in-field activities are expected to increase substantially as we continue to contact, develop relationships with, and collaborate in program development with additional communities and organizations through 2026. A total of 150 structures (bird boxes, bat houses and/or bird feeders) are expected to be built and taken home by participants.

Success and opportunities for improvement will be documented and tracked using a report card system that captures participant numbers (by age group), feedback on whether the session met expectations, and numbers of bird boxes and/or feeders and bat boxes constructed (as appropriate).

In December 2026, the Institute would meet with each partner and participating organization for a joint program review, highlighting achievements during the year and opportunities to advance programming for future years. These program reviews would be included in the year-end deliverables to the RMWB.



Project Summary

Wildlife Education through Interactions with Birds and Bats

Outcomes: What change do you want to see for the participants by running your program, project, service or event? Organizations are required to identify at least one outcome, that will be measured through the grant period, should the application be approved.

Note: If the program, project, service or event is approved, your outcomes will be included in the Grant Agreement and data collection on the outcomes is required.

The primary change we are seeking is to develop individual and community appreciation, technical skills, and knowledge of regional wildlife, generating excitement that comes from experiencing nature and interactions with wildlife. We will work to increase appreciation of the outdoors and of the mindfulness that comes with being outside, and strive to support the building of social connections through mingling with people of different backgrounds and experiences while sharing a similar passion for wildlife. Measurement of progress towards and achievement of this outcome would occur in three ways: (1) completion of a report card at the conclusion of the activity that capturing of the activity and the perspectives of all participants, including successes and opportunities for improvement, (2) completion of a year-end program evaluation review with each collaborating organization that identifies program successes and challenges that set the stage for future programming, and (3) professional development based on individual participation hours that can be reported to accredited organizations (e.g. Alberta Society of Professional Biologists) and employers looking to track skills training. Report card feedback would be summarized, and together with the program evaluation reviews would be submitted to the RMWB as a part of the grant year-end report.

What tools will you use to measure the outcomes of the program, project, service or event?

Note: If your organization is approved for funding, copies of the measurement tools selected will be requested.

Surveys, Observation, Other:

Other:

Year-end program reviews completed with partners and collaborators

Project Summary

Wildlife Education through Interactions with Birds and Bats

Please provide details of how your program, project, service or event differs from other services being offered in the community.

There are currently no accessible wildlife-related educational, mentoring or training programs or projects in the region. The nearest tree swallow and songbird monitoring (bird banding) locations with outreach programs are at Lesser Slave Lake and Beaverhill Lake (Tofield), a significant travel barrier for those wishing to learn about or gain experience with wildlife monitoring. The WBWRI operates the only accessible bat monitoring programs in the region. We are using these programs as platforms to promote regional wildlife understanding and conservation principles, together with life and technical skills development, in collaboration with other non-profit organizations and Indigenous communities.

This grant is intended to promote an allied social profit sector within the Municipality. List the community groups or organizations that will be actively involved in the program, project, service or event delivery.

Community Organization or Group	Role
Athabasca Tribal Council	Collaborative wildlife-based program development and delivery
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Wood Buffalo	Lead delivery of Full Circle Mentorship Program, inclusive of WBWRI wildlife programs
BrainSTEM Alliance Ltd.	Collaborative wildlife-based, youth-focused program development and delivery
Fort McKay First Nation	Collaborative wildlife-based program development and delivery
Fort McMurray First Nation	Collaborative wildlife-based program development and delivery
Nistawayou Association Family Centre	Collaborative wildlife-based program development and delivery
CAREERS: the Next Generation	Collaborative wildlife-based, youth-focused program development and delivery
Scouts Canada, 9th Fort McMurray	Collaborative wildlife-based, youth-focused program development and delivery

Verified Income	Description	Total Amount
Hammerstone Infrastructure Materials Ltd.	Allocated to Taiganova Operations	\$ 12,500
Owl Moon Environmental Inc.	In-kind (equipement, supplies)	\$ 4,000
		Total Verified Program Income \$ 16,500
Expenses		
Institute Bander/Coordinator	Community Programming	\$ s.20(1)
Assistant Banders (2)	Taiganova Operations	\$
Student Interns	Taiganova Operations	\$
Tree Swallow Nest Boxes (50)	Taiganova Operations	\$
Bird Feeders (50)	Materials	\$ 1,750
Bat Boxes (50)	Materials	\$ 1,000
Promotional Materials & Advertising	Materials	\$ 1,250
Gifts & Honoraria	Brochures, Stickers, Posters	\$ 750
Vehicle Expense Reimbursement	Elder Participation	\$ 5,000
Chartered Transportation	CRA/AB Rate	\$ 2,880
Field equipment, materials, supplies	Rural Community Support	\$ 6,250
Administration Overhead	Taiganova & Tree Swallow Operations	\$ 4,000
	WBWRI Operations	\$ 12,750
		Total Program Expenses \$ 101,630
		Shortfall \$ (85,130)
		RMWB CIP Budget Request \$ 75,000

October 3, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Letter of Support and Partnership for Wood Buffalo Wildlife Research Institute (WBWRI)

On behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters, I am pleased to express our strong support and commitment to partnering with Wood Buffalo Wildlife Research Institute (WBWRI) in the implementation of Big Brothers Big Sisters Full Circle Mentoring Program. This initiative aligns with our shared mission to creating experiences that inspire children/youth and foster connect to land and the environment.

We are committed to working collaboratively with WBWRI to ensure the success of this project. We recognize the pressing need for mentorship opportunities for youth in our community.

While this is a new partnership, we believe it is a natural and strategic fit. Our complementary strengths – belief in power and potential in children/youth and the connect to the environment/land positions us well to deliver this project collaboratively and effectively.

As a committed partner, Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) will contribute to the project in the following ways:

Roles and Responsibilities:

- BBBS will lead in the delivery of the Full Circle Mentorship program
- BBBS will recruit the participants for the Full Circle Mentorship Program
- BBBS will staff/volunteer will be responsible for the Full Circle Program delivery
- BBBS will collect evaluation data from the program participants

WBWRI:

- WBWRI be a guest speaker throughout varies Full Circle Mentorship program sessions (discussions of regional wildlife and conservation activities and interactive presentations about local wild life in and inter-cultural context).
- WBWRI will plan an activity to complete with the Full Circle participants (creating a bird feeder)
- WBWRI will provide the supplies and materials to complete the above activities

For any further information or clarification, please contact:

Suzette McKell
Program Manager
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Wood Buffalo

s.20(1)

ismwb@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca

<https://woodbuffalo.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/>



BrainSTEM Alliance Ltd.
Email: info@brainstemalliance.com
Website: www.brainstemalliance.com

BrainSTEM Alliance Ltd.

The Redpoll Centre at Shell Place, Office #WS17
1 C.A. Knight Way, Fort McMurray, AB. T9H 5C5

October 6th, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Letter of Support and Partnership for WBWRI–BrainSTEM Wildlife Education Program

On behalf of **BrainSTEM Alliance**, I am pleased to express our support and commitment to partnering with the **Wood Buffalo Wildlife Research Institute (WBWRI)** in the implementation of its **2026 Wildlife Education & Outreach Program**. This initiative aligns with our shared mission to empower underrepresented and rural youth through accessible, hands-on STEM learning.

We are enthusiastic about this new partnership, which represents a natural and strategic fit between our organizations. **WBWRI's expertise in wildlife science and monitoring** complements **BrainSTEM Alliance's strength in community engagement, STEM education, and youth mentorship**. Together, we can create engaging and inclusive opportunities for youth in the Wood Buffalo region to explore technology, data, and ecology.

As a committed partner, **BrainSTEM Alliance** will contribute to this project in the following ways:

- **Program Co-Design & Delivery:** Collaborating with WBWRI to integrate wildlife science activities (bird banding, bat monitoring, and nestbox projects) with digital literacy and coding-based learning modules.
- **Community Engagement & Recruitment:** Supporting outreach to local schools, Indigenous communities, and youth-serving organizations to promote participation in the program.
- **Career Development & Mentorship:** Coordinating the *Careers in STEM Mini-Conference* and *Community Code Days*, and connecting participants with STEM professionals and mentors.
- **Program Evaluation:** Contributing to participant feedback collection and the year-end joint review to assess outcomes and identify opportunities for continuous improvement.

We believe this program will not only strengthen appreciation of local wildlife but also expand pathways for youth to pursue careers in STEM fields that support environmental and community well-being.

We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with WBWRI on this important initiative and are confident in the positive impact it will have on the Wood Buffalo community.

Sincerely,

D'Andre Wilson-Ihejirika, PhD, P.Eng, PMP

President, BrainSTEM Alliance

Email: dwilson@brainstemalliance.com

Website: www.brainstemalliance.com



FORT MCKAY
FIRST NATION

October 14, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Letter of Support and Partnership for Collaborative Wildlife-focused program

On behalf of Fort McKay First Nation (FMFN), I am pleased to express our strong support and commitment to partnering with Wood Buffalo Wildlife Research Institute (WBWRI) in the implementation of a collaborative wildlife-focused program. This initiative aligns with our shared mission to advance understanding and appreciation of regional wildlife and their habitats, from a Western science and Indigenous knowledge perspective.

We are committed to working collaboratively with WBWRI to ensure the success of this project. We recognize the pressing need to create wildlife-focused experiences that inspire youth, engage families, and honour Elders and their connection to the land in our community.

While this is a new partnership, we believe it is a natural and strategic fit. The community of FMFN has been residing in the Fort McKay region since time immemorial. With roots originating from Cree and Dene, FMFN people hold unique traditional knowledge of the land and way of life, which has been passed down through many generations. Together with the WBWRI's scientific knowledge and expertise of regional Wildlife, and the Traditional knowledge of FMFN, we are well-positioned to deliver this project collaboratively and effectively.

As a committed partner, FMFN will contribute to the project in the following ways:

- Roles and Responsibilities: We will strive to work with WBWRI to develop a wildlife-based program that accommodates the community's needs while also effectively achieving any targets set out by the funder. Through this program, we will strive to reach Community members of all age groups, which includes engaging youth from FMFN's Elsie Fabian School, and inviting Adults and Elders to our events. The FMFN Sustainability Department will assist in coordinating community member participation and provide any necessary training to the members along with the WBWRI.

- Resources Committed:

The FMFN Sustainability Department will be able to provide the following resources to support the program: staff time as in-kind support, printing and communication materials, and Boardroom facilities to hold meetings and events in Fort McKay. If needed, FMFN is also willing to support the program in providing OHV equipment for field work (to be confirmed).

For any further information or clarification, please contact:

Jonathan Raji Zachariah

Environmental and Regulatory Coordinator

Fort McKay First Nation

Phone: **s.20(1)**

Email: jzachariah@fortmckay.com

We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate on this important initiative and are confident in the positive impact it will have on our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Abel".

Ryan Abel

Sr. Manager Environmental and Regulatory Affairs

Fort McKay First Nation



CAREERS

take on the future

October 9, 2025

Letter of Support- Wood Buffalo Wildlife Research Institute (WBWRI)

On behalf of CAREERS: the Next Generation, I am pleased to express our strong support and commitment to partnering with WBWRI in the implementation of Wildlife Career Awareness & Experience for Youth. This initiative aligns with our shared mission to support youth education and career development in the environmental occupations while advancing an appreciation of wildlife and their habitats.

We are committed to working collaboratively with WBWRI to ensure the success of this project. With youth unemployment in our province at close to 20%, we recognize the need to provide opportunities to young people and, particularly, to our Indigenous youth. WBWRI has committed to providing internships and work shadow opportunities to youth to build their employability skills and knowledge of this career path. They have also committed to be involved in our summer Indigenous youth program to bring awareness and offer wildlife discussion sessions.

While this is a new partnership, we believe it is a natural and strategic fit. Both of our organizations are committed to building the skilled workforce of tomorrow, educating youth on the many opportunities in the environment field, and ensuring Indigenous youth have equitable access to jobs, training and education opportunities.

As a committed partner, CAREERS will contribute to the project in the following ways:

- Invite WBWRI into the schools and Indigenous communities we work in so they can provide workshop sessions to the youth
- Seek out youth interested in this career pathway and encourage them to apply for an internship or job shadow opportunity
- Provide coaching and mentoring to youth in the program

We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate on this important initiative and are confident in the positive impact it will have on our community. For further information, please feel free to contact me.

Yours truly,

Elaine Read
Regional Manager – NE
eread@nextgen.org **s.20(1)**

WOOD BUFFALO WILDLIFE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Financial Information

March 31, 2025

COMPIILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Management of Wood Buffalo Wildlife Research Institute

On the basis of information provided by management, we have compiled the balance sheet of Wood Buffalo Wildlife Research Institute as at March 31, 2025, and the statement of income and retained earnings for the year then ended, and Note 1, which describes the basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the compiled financial information ("financial information").

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial information, including the accuracy and completeness of the underlying information used to compile it and the selection of the basis of accounting.

We performed this engagement in accordance with Canadian Standard on Related Services (CSRS) 4200, Compilation Engagements, which requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements. Our responsibility is to assist management in the preparation of the financial information.

We did not perform an audit engagement or a review engagement, nor were we required to perform procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion, or provide any form of assurance on the financial information.

Readers are cautioned that the financial information may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Calgary, Alberta
May 27, 2025

KHM Professional Corporation
Chartered Professional Accountants

1015, 926 5 avenue sw
calgary, alberta
T2P 0N7

phone: 403.777.1515
fax: 403.777.1515

WOOD BUFFALO WILDLIFE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2025

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	\$ 36,847	\$ 5,000
GST receivable	1,042	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	37,889	5,000
Property, plant and equipment (Note 2)	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5,900	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 43,789	\$ 5,000
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 999	\$ 1,427
Due to Owl Moon Environmental Inc.	-	5,016
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	999	6,443
Net assets		
Unrestricted	<hr/>	<hr/>
	42,790	(1,443)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 43,789	\$ 5,000

APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR

Director

See notes to financial statements

WOOD BUFFALO WILDLIFE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Year Ended March 31, 2025

	2025	For the period from incorporation on January 11, 2024 to March 31, 2024
Revenue		
Donations	\$ 52,500	\$ -
Memberships	805	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	53,305	-
Expenses		
Amortization	656	-
Bank charges and interest	229	28
Insurance	2,310	-
Office and administration	1,085	234
Professional fees	4,792	1,181
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9,072	1,443
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	44,233	(1,443)
Deficit , beginning of year	<hr/>	<hr/>
Deficit , end of year	\$ 42,790	\$ (1,443)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

WOOD BUFFALO WILDLIFE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Notes to Compiled Financial Information

Year Ended March 31, 2025

1. Basis of accounting

The basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the balance sheet of Wood Buffalo Wildlife Research Institute as at March 31, 2025, and the statement of income and retained earnings for the year then ended is the historical cost basis and reflects cash transactions with the addition of:

- Accounts payable and accrued liabilities

2. Property, plant and equipment

							2025
				Cost	Accumulated amortization		Net book value
Equipment				\$ 6,556	\$ 656		\$ 5,900
