

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 1, 2020**

***Do you have accessibility issues and need support completing this form?***

***If so, please contact us at info@groundswellfund.ca***

**BACKGROUND AND ELIGIBILITY**

* The mission of this fund is to create sustainable financial support for community-based, left, political organizations that challenge and work to change dominant, oppressive structures in the current political, social and economic system.
* Our focus is on those initiatives that increase the capacity of organizations in the long-term such as by developing useful infrastructure. We aim to both support these ongoing initiatives and to build a capital base that will fund larger projects in years to come.
* The fund will solicit and collect money from donors. Once a year, half of the money will be given away, and half will be kept behind to create a growing pool of capital. Up to 10% of the funds is used for the administration of the fund. We generate money solely from individual donors, and the amount of money we receive and grant in any given year is unknown.

**DEADLINES AND FUNDING TIMELINE**

To be considered for funding, you must submit the following application form and budget by **March 1, 2020**. We will make our funding decisions in late Spring 2020.

**HOW DOES GROUNDSWELL MAKE FUNDING DECISIONS?**

* Our goal is to increase the capacity of organizations that are struggling for social change that challenge the dominant, oppressive structures in our political, social, and economic system.
* The money will be directed towards member-driven, grassroots initiatives or organizations that face difficulty raising funds needed for their work.
* While we recognize how important it is to counter the criminalization of dissent, applications for legal defense costs will not be eligible for funding.
* We also do not provide core funding for any *organization* funded by a government agency, nor by extractive industries or energy corporations. We may consider projects for funding housed by such organizations.
* We are committed to giving a minimum 50% of funding to organizations led by Black and/or Indigenous organizers.
* The fund prioritizes the following things:

* + - groups that are led by the communities they are organizing; specifically, folks who are most directly affected by oppression.
    - work that seeks to confront the root causes of oppression and not merely find temporary solutions to the conditions that it creates.
    - work that actively confronts power imbalances in meaningful ways and seeks to build up the power of oppressed communities.
    - work that serves to enhance the infrastructure of organizations in ways that will better allow them to continue to do their work on a long-term basis.
    - work that cannot get adequate funding from other sources.
    - work taking place within Ontario, though, given our commitment to decolonize our work, Groundswell funding is not bound by colonial borders and is open to groups and projects in other places.
    - the majority of approved applications will be from already existing organizations/projects, with a smaller portion reserved for start-up projects.

**Groundswell does not provide core funding for any organization funded by a government agency, nor by extractive industries or energy corporations. We may consider *projects* for funding housed by such organizations. We know your time is valuable. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to see if their work clearly falls under Groundswell’s mandate before applying.**

**APPLICATION FORM**

**Fill in the boxes below using Times New Roman, size 12 font**

Organization Name:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Email address:

Website address: (optional)

Contact Person:

**PART 1: GENERAL**

Does your project receive funding from any level of government?   
(If **yes**, your application will **not** be accepted. Please note: this includes Arts Council funding.

How much money are you requesting?

Give us a clear, detailed outline of what you plan to do with this money (150 words max.)

**PART 2: GROUNDSWELL’S MANDATE**

Does your vision support Groundswell’s mandate?

Describe how/if it meets the following criteria.

* Meaningfully involves and is accountable to people who are directly affected by the issues? (150 words max.)
* Confronts root causes of oppression? (150 words max.)
* Builds power of oppressed communities? (150 words max)
* Increases the infrastructure and/or capacity of oppressed communities to confront injustice? (150 words max)

**PART 3: ORGANIZATIONAL/PROJECT DETAILS**

How many people are actively involved in your organization/project? Please tell us a little about who you are and your relationship to the communities your work is intended to serve. (150 words max)

What infrastructure or supports do you have that help sustain your work? (150 words max)

**PART 4: BUDGET**

You must fill in the **Groundswell Budget Form** (find it on the **Apply** page of the website) and submit it as a separate file. There are three pages in this form, so be sure to look at all three.

**PART 5: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

**References**

Provide two letters of references, maximum one page each, from people outside of your organization or project who can provide additional information supporting your application. These should be letters from anyone who understands your work. Please note that the letters **do not** need to be professional references. Returning applicants may re-submit reference letters from your previous application. Upload these letters on the application form page of our website when you submit this application. (Please save as a .doc or .pdf file.)

Please list who these letters are from here, so we can make sure we received the right ones:

1)

2)

**Other supporting documents (OPTIONAL)**

* You may provide up to 2 more supporting documents (e.g., press clippings, posters, flyers, newsletters, photos, videos, audio) to help us understand your work.
* Upload these materials on the application form page of our website when you submit this application.

Please list supporting documents here so that we can make sure we got the right ones:

1)

2)

**Additional information**

How did you find out about Groundswell?

Is your organization led by youth?

Name of person/organization to whom cheque should be addressed if funding is granted:

Address where cheque should be sent if funding is granted:

**THANKS FOR APPLYING TO GROUNDSWELL**

**AND SOLIDARITY IN THE STRUGGLE!!**