

[**www.groundswellfund.ca**](http://www.groundswellfund.ca/) **/**[**info@groundswellfund.ca**](mailto:info@groundswellfund.ca)

**Groundswell Community Justice Trust Fund**

**Growing Change Grant**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 12, 2023**

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

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

**BACKGROUND AND ELIGIBILITY**

Groundswell’s mission 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 initiatives that increase the long-term capacity of organizations, such as projects to develop useful infrastructure.

Groundswell has been building our ***Growing Change*** fund since our inception by banking 50% of all donations we receive. We have reserved this fund for courageous, inspiring projects. This year, it’s time to give that base back to the community and grant out the funds!

**We invite Black and/or Indigenous-led projects, communities, and organizations to apply.**

We are looking to fund projects with a budget of **$10,000 to $100,000.** Is there something you've always wanted to do but didn't have the funding or support? What is your most exciting idea? Be audacious, brave, and courageous, and apply! We are interested in initiatives that build community infrastructure, increase capacity, and are multi-generational.

**DEADLINES AND FUNDING TIMELINE**

To be considered for funding, you must submit the following application form, budget and workplan by **March 12, 2023**.

We will make our funding decisions in late Spring 2023.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THESE GRANTS?**

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 defence costs are not typically eligible for funding. If you'd like to request an exception for legal defence costs as part of an impactful project, please write to us in advance at [info@groundswellfund.ca](mailto:info@groundswellfund.ca) to determine if your legal defence costs may be considered.

We also do not provide core funding for any *organizations* funded by a settler government agency, extractive industries, or energy corporations. We may consider funding *projects* housed by such organizations.

Applications on behalf of individuals will not be considered.

**Growing Change grants will go to organizations led by Black and/or Indigenous communities/organizers.**

**The fund prioritizes the following:**

* Groups led by the communities they are organizing; specifically, folks who are most directly affected by oppression.
* Transformative work that seeks to confront the root causes of oppression and work toward lasting change.
* Work that actively confronts power imbalances and seeks to build community power.
* Work that increases organizational infrastructure, allowing groups to do their work on a long-term basis.
* Work that can not get adequate funding from other sources.
* Work taking place across the expanse of Turtle Island, now called Canada (Given our commitment to decolonization, we do not define our work according to colonial borders but instead engage applicants with some flexibility around their geographies).

**IMPORTANT: Applications for legal defence costs are not typically eligible for funding (see above). Organizations funded by a settler government agency, extractive industries, or energy corporations will not be funded. We may consider funding *projects* housed by such organizations. Applications on behalf of individuals will not be considered.**

**We know your time is valuable. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to visit our website to see if their work clearly falls under** [**Groundswell’s mandate**](https://groundswellfund.ca/growingchangeapp/) **before applying.**

**APPLICATION FORM**

**Answer the questions below, following word count guidelines.**

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 a settler government agency, extractive industries, or energy corporations?

(If **yes**, your application **will** **not** be accepted. Please note: This includes Arts Council funding).

Is your project sponsored by or housed within an organization that receives funding from any level of government, extractive industries, or energy corporations?

(If **yes**, your application **may** be considered.)

How much money are you requesting?

Give us a clear, detailed outline of what you plan to do with this money. **(500 words max.)**

*\* The* ***Workplan document*** *(find it on the* [***Growing Change***](https://groundswellfund.ca/growingchange/)*page of the website)**provides you with a template to use to be more specific about your project activities and who will carry them out, the timing of those activities, and your intended results. The purpose of this document is to assist you in your planning - we know results will depend on many factors you may not anticipate. Please use and submit the Workplan document to provide details about your plans for the grant funding.*

**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 directly affected by the issues your group’s proposal is addressing?  **(300 words max.)**
* Confronts root causes of structural oppression? **(300 words max.)**
* Builds power of oppressed communities? **(300 words max.)**
* Increases the infrastructure and/or capacity of oppressed communities to confront injustice? **(300 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. Tell us a little about the history of your work. How long have you been doing this work, how has it changed since you started? **(500 words max.)**

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

**PART 4: BUDGET**

You must fill in the **Growing Change Budget Form** (**find it on the** [**Growing Change**](https://groundswellfund.ca/growingchange/) **page of the website)** and submit it as a separate file. Please save it as a .xls file. There are three pages in this form, so be sure to look at all three.

In addition, please tell us about your current budget. If you are applying for a grant that will be a significant increase (double or more) of what your total budget has been up to this point, do you anticipate any new demands on or problems for your organization as a result? What supports, if any, could we offer to help you deal with a large increase in your budget? **(500 words max.)**

**PART 5: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

**References**

Please provide two letters of reference, 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. 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**

Please provide up to two more supporting documents (e.g., Founding Documents, Terms of Reference, Accountability Structure, 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 save as a .doc or .pdf file.)

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

1)

2)

**PART 6: WORK PLAN**

Please complete the Growing Change work plan document **(find it on the** [**Growing Change**](https://groundswellfund.ca/growingchangeapp/) **page of the website)**.  Save it as a .xls file and upload it when you submit this application. The Work Plan will give us a better sense of your activities, timelines and goals.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

How did you find out about Groundswell?

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

Address where cheque should be sent if funding is granted:

Brief biography (max 200 words) of your organization or project that Groundswell may use in public communications (such as our website and social media) if funding is granted:

Website/social media details we can make public on our website if funding is granted:

**THANKS FOR APPLYING TO GROWING CHANGE**

**AND SOLIDARITY IN THE STRUGGLE!!**