

**GROUNDSWELL ANNUAL GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 16, 2025**

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

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

**Application Checklist:**

Once you have completed your application, use this checklist to ensure you have all the completed documents you will need to submit:

* Completed application form (9 pages)
* Completed budget form (1 page)
* Two (2) reference letters

*Note: Returning applicants may re-submit prior reference letters.*

* FOR GROUPS FUNDED LAST YEAR: 2024 Reporting Form
* OPTIONAL: Up to two (2) more supporting documents

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THESE GRANTS?**

Groundswell’s goal is to increase the capacity of organizations struggling for social change that challenges the dominant, oppressive structures of our political, social, and economic systems. Grants will be directed towards member-driven, grassroots initiatives or organizations that face difficulty raising funds due to the nature of their work. This year we particularly want to encourage groups doing Palestinian solidarity and liberation organizing to apply.

**WHO MIGHT NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THESE GRANTS**

We do not provide core funding for any *organizations* funded by a settler government agency (e.g., federal, provincial, and municipal governments, including government-funded agencies), extractive industries (e.g., mining companies), energy corporations or banks. We may consider funding *projects* housed by such organizations. If your organization falls within this exception, please ensure that both your application forms and budget clearly explain that the funding sought is for a project that is not also funded by settler government agencies, extractive industries, energy corporations, or banks.

Applications on behalf of *individuals* will not be considered.

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 it may be considered.

**The fund prioritizes the following:**

* Groups led by the communities they are organizing; specifically, people most directly affected by oppression.
* We are committed to giving a minimum 50% of funding to organizations led by Black and/or Indigenous organizers.
* Transformative work that seeks to confront the root causes of oppression rather than just finding temporary solutions.
* 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 cannot get adequate funding from other sources due to its political nature.
* Work taking place within 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).

**Please note that applications for any amount up to $10,000 are strongly encouraged.** While we recognize the need to increase our maximum grant size, we do have a limited capacity on how many full $10,000 grants we can fund. We ask that you consider your project scope and that the budget form of the application corresponds with your project plan. We aim to provide successful annual grant applicants with the full amount requested. Therefore, applying for more funds than you require may disadvantage your application’s success.

**Grants will go out to projects/organizations in June 2025.**

**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 (e.g. federal, provincial and/or municipal government)), extractive industries (e.g., mining companies), energy corporations, or banks?

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

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

(If **yes**, your application **may** be considered. Please ensure that both your application forms and budget clearly explain that the funding sought is for a project that is not also funded by settler government agencies, extractive industries, energy corporations or banks.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How much money are you requesting?

Give us a clear, detailed outline of what you plan to do with this money, including the time frame in which you plan to use it. **(500 words max.)**

**PART 2: 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 oppression? **(300 words max.)**
* Builds the 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, your relationship to the communities your work is intended to serve and how decisions are made. 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 **Groundswell Budget Form** (find it on the **Apply** page of the website) and submit it as a separate file. **Please be sure to complete all three columns of the sheet**. Please note that Groundswell Funds are typically released in June. We know plans can change - please fill in the budget sheet based on your best estimate of your project or organization's costs and how you will cover them.

**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, video, audio, photos, images, media coverage, outreach materials) 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)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

How did you find out about Groundswell?

Is your organization led by youth?

Is your organization Black- and/or Indigenous-led?

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 GROUNDSWELL!**

**SOLIDARITY IN THE STRUGGLE!**