

# Efficient and Inclusive Provincial Grant Applications (2023)

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## Issue

Provincial grant programs are not consistently accepting organizations registered under federal acts, and the amount of information required during the initial application phase is cumbersome for both the applicant and ministry.

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## Background

Many grants administered by the provincial government have been developed such that all agencies that may be involved in the approval and payment of a grant have all of the information that they need *at the point of application*. This is a large, and unnecessary amount of data to collate, and a cumbersome process for both the applicant and government.

As such, all applicants- from multinational businesses to non-profits without paid staff- are spending significant time creating funding applications. This reduces the pool of applicants as it directs time and resources away from operations, which is not feasible for many organizations.

In addition, some organizations that are registered under a federal act, such as a Board of Trade Act, are being refused grant opportunities as they are not recognized by. This has resulted in the exclusion of the application, which took significant time to submit.

It would create more efficiency for both the applicant and government to require a preliminary application (1-3 pages) that outlines the objectives of the organization and proposed project, including the scope, activities, draft budget and evaluation process.

Once the Government has read the preliminary submission, it can be determined if the proposal aligns with the requisites of the grant program, and the strategy of the grant funder. Organizations can then be invited to submit a full application. This allows for more coordinated efforts regarding attracting matching funds, a detailed budget and more confirmed partnerships for the proposed project.

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## The Alberta Chambers of Commerce recommends that the Government of Alberta:

1. Improve the grant funding application process for non-profits by implementing a two-stage process made up by a preliminary (1-3 page) application, that once approved is followed by a detailed project proposal.
2. Include federally registered Boards of Trade as recognized organizations for grant applications in all ministries.