



NAJC YOUNG LEADERS FUND

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

BACKGROUND:

The Young Leaders Committee (YLC) of the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) was established in 2014 as a core group of engaged young leaders from Japanese Canadian communities nationwide. The YLC seeks to engage, connect, mentor, and advocate for young people in Japanese Canadian communities, and to support the development of the next generation of Japanese Canadian leaders.

In accordance with its mandate, the YLC has established the Young Leaders Fund (YLF) to help support the work of young people in Japanese Canadian communities across Canada.

PURPOSE OF NAJC YOUNG LEADERS FUND:

The purpose of the YLF is to provide financial assistance to young individuals or organisations for projects and initiatives directed toward young people in Japanese Canadian communities. Such projects and initiatives should clearly promote or develop Japanese Canadian community and/or culture.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY:

Individuals

- Must be a young person (up to 35 years of age)
- Preference will be given to a Canadian citizen/resident involved in a Japanese Canadian community

Organisations

- Must be an organisation comprised of young people (up to 35 years of age)
- Preference will be given to organizations involved in a Japanese Canadian community

The YLC encourages applications from young people of all backgrounds. Preference will be given to first-time applicants.

PROJECT OR INITIATIVE ELIGIBILITY

Examples of projects or initiatives that may be funded:

- Start-up costs, pilot projects, or project costs on a one-time only or short term basis
- Workshops, competitions, or festivals
- Commercial or for-profit projects, where funds do not comprise profits

Examples of what will not be funded:

- Core budgets of established organizations or costs to maintain ongoing operations
- Repayment of debt
- Projects or initiatives completed prior to application deadline
- Purchase of prizes or awards

Please note that projects or initiatives that are either currently being considered for or have already been funded through the NAJC's National Endowment Fund are **not** eligible for funding through the YLF.

Examples of past projects that have received funds:

- Young Japanese Canadian Language Exchange: Funds provided to start and support an online Japanese language Meetup group specifically for Young Japanese Canadians.
- Liquid, Left Behind: Dance project combining contemporary choreography and calligraphy. Funds provided for supplies, fees for studio space rentals and calligraphy lessons
- Generations - A Multimedia Project: Multimedia project focused on examining the histories of family members in different generations of Japanese Canadian families. Funds provided for supplies and materials.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

The following general criteria will be used to evaluate funding proposals:

- Project or initiative's proposed contribution to a Japanese Canadian community, and its impact on young people in this community;
- Applicant's preparation and qualifications for completing the project or initiative;
- Applicant's demonstrated commitment to and investment in a Japanese Canadian community and its young people; and
- Distinctiveness of the proposal (should not duplicate an existing or similar project or initiative);
- Past award recipients will be ineligible for additional funding until the funded project or initiative is completed and the final report is received by the YLC (see "Expectations of Award Recipients");

To ensure that proposals are evaluated on an equitable and adequate basis, applicants must provide complete information in their applications. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.

Allocation of Funding:

- Funding will supplement financial support from local community and other sources—100% funding for a project or initiative may not necessarily be awarded.
- 50% of the funds will be allocated once an application is approved and awarded, and the remainder of funds will be disbursed upon completion of the proposed project/initiative along with the submission of the completed final report (see “Expectations of Award Recipients”).
- In the event that substantial budgetary changes, including procurement of additional funding sources, are made after an application is approved and awarded, the YLC reserves the right to revise its funding decision and/or to recall funds.
- The maximum amount of funding available per proposed project or initiative is \$2000.

EVALUATION PROCESS:

- Applications will be reviewed by the YLC and evaluated based on the selection criteria above;
- Only complete and self-contained applications will be reviewed—the YLC will not refer to past applications;
- YLC members may contact applicants to review or clarify the details of an application (no other personal representation will be required by the applicant organisation or individual);
- YLC members may consult other individuals or organisations in order to obtain information and a better understanding of the project or initiative proposed by the applicant;
- The YLC will assess all applications and recommend successful applicants to the NAJC’s National Executive Board for final approval;
- Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications up to 8 weeks from the submission deadline; and
- There is no appeal process—final decisions on awards rest with the YLC and the NAJC Executive Board.

BUDGETARY GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Revenue	Total income
Cash contribution	External person(s) monetary donation to project
Non-cash contribution	External person(s) non-monetary donation to project (e.g., equipment, consumables, services)
Earned income	Income projected/made from proposed project or initiative
Grant	Any other institutional monetary support/rewards
Subsidy	Offset a cost
Expense	Cost required/money spent
Salary	Fixed pay for services
Fee	Cost of any service required for the project or initiative
Facility cost	Rental/lease cost for event/meeting location
Consumable material/ equipment	Non-reusable rental/lease/purchase cost for equipment

Non-consumable material/equipment	Reusable rental/lease/purchase cost for equipment
Travel and transportation	Transportation costs (e.g., bus, transit fare, gas, etc.)

APPLICATION FORM:

- Applications must be submitted on the form provided by the YLC.
- Application forms must be completed and submitted, with accompanying attachments, by email to: national@najc.ca
- Application emails should be addressed to the Young Leaders Committee with the subject line: APPLICATION - NAJC Young Leaders Fund.
- Application deadline is **December 31st, 2024 at 11:59pm PST.**
- Questions should be submitted to JCyongleaders@gmail.com

EXPECTATIONS OF AWARD RECIPIENTS

If funding is awarded, the Applicant agrees:

- To use funds solely for the purposes specified in the application;
- To return any funds not used for these purposes, including excess funds, to the NAJC, payable to: NAJC Young Leaders Fund;
- To advise the YLC of any substantial changes to the proposed project or initiative, including budgetary changes, and to obtain approval for such changes before they are implemented;
- To acknowledge the contribution of the YLF in any published or promotional materials concerning the project or initiative;
- **To submit a final report to the YLC within 3 months of expending the grant and/or completing the project/initiative described in the application. The final report must include:**
 - a final budget (including copies of receipts),
 - a brief (200-300 words) overview of the planning and delivery of the project or initiative; and
 - photo(s) or video(s) of the funded project or initiative (for publication purposes),
- Final reports must be submitted to JCyongleaders@gmail.com (NOTE: If a final report is not received, the YLC reserves the right to request the return of the funds. The YLC also reserves the right to audit grant projects/initiatives.); and
- To forward to the YLC copies of any news release, report, or publication that refers either to the project/initiative described in the application or to the grant received.

If there are any questions regarding the application process, please contact the NAJC Young Leaders Committee by email: youngleaders@najc.ca with subject line: INQUIRY - NAJC Young Leaders Fund.