



## ImaGENation FAQ's

### What is ImaGENation?

ImaGENation is a national capacity-building program for youth to imagine a sustainable future for Indigenous communities and the opportunity to transform that vision into meaningful project-based action. Teams of youth (ages 18-30) from across Canada are selected and enrolled into an 18-month program from April 2024 – September 2025 that provides a culturally embedded ecosystem of support and up to \$50,000 in project funding to plan and implement their clean energy project idea.

Each team will receive one-on-one technical mentorship, advising, coaching, and up to \$50,000 in project funding. The funding will be rolled out in phases as Indigenous youth teams are mentored to successfully reach project goals in alignment with Indigenous values and community engagement principles.

All project scopes and sizes will be considered for ImaGENation. Ideally, projects will fall into the \$50k project scope, however, in cases where additional funding is needed, our team will support you in the grant writing process for additional financial resources to propel your project forward.

Youth participants are encouraged to conceptualize a project idea that best fits the needs of the community. We suggest that you consider the energy sources that your community currently relies on, access to potential renewable resources, as well as any gaps in cost or energy efficiency that can be addressed.

Indigenous youth will develop skills in:

- Clean Energy Leadership
- Project Planning & Management
- Community Engagement
- Partnerships & Funding
- Collaboration & Networking

### **Where is the program?**

ImaGENation will be facilitated through virtual meetings, online learning, and various in-person engagements. Youth from across what is currently called Canada can participate in this program.

### **How many teams are in the program?**

Cohort capacity varies on the size of the teams applying. However, we expect to onboard up to eight teams or 16 total participants per cohort.

### **What kind of time commitment should I be prepared for?**

During the 18-month program we recommend a minimum commitment of 3-5 hours per month for youth participants. Cohort 2 will run from April 2024 – September 2025. Depending on the size of your team and the scope of your project, additional hours will be required to fulfill your project goals. It is estimated to consider an additional 12-20 hours a month to reach your project goals.

## **Application Process**

### **When is the deadline for youth participants?**

Applications for Cohort 2 close on February 19, 2024, at 11:59 PM Pacific Time (PT).

### **Can I apply as an individual or a team?**

Youth participants are encouraged to apply as team of 2-5 participants or as a solo individual who is dedicated to achieving project goals. If you want to include more than 5 participants, please [contact us](#) for further instructions. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis.

### **Can my project be in an urban setting?**

ImaGENation encourages youth to implement a project that will serve Indigenous Peoples, whether that is in your home community or within an urban setting. All project ideas are welcome.

### **What are some things I can do to strengthen my application to ImaGENation?**

After ensuring that you meet all the minimum criteria of the program, we would then look for teams or individuals who display the capacity to fully commit to the program for the entire 18-month duration. While we work to have flexibility with our cohort and operate with understanding, it is crucial to the success in the program you can display an effort to spend a minimum of 3-5 hours each month on your project. Other factors that we consider are how reasonable your project scope is within the \$50k project

funding, and how much existing community or stakeholder support you may already have.

Not every team is going to look the same; different age ranges, levels of education, and experience which is okay. With the assistance of the program supports, staff, mentors, and advisors we are genuinely there to walk alongside you.

**Can I use the project funding towards a project I am already working on?**

If you can demonstrate that the project award will be used towards a clean energy and/or sustainability component of an existing project, then absolutely!

**Will my application be impacted whether I submit it verbally or written?**

Not at all. We offer these two options for our applicants so they may choose the route that would best reflect their ambition and goals. All applications, regardless of submission type, will be evaluated equally.

If you require an option not currently offered on our form, please contact our Program Manager, Aubrey-Anne, at [alpewapisconias@indigenouscleanenergy.com](mailto:alpewapisconias@indigenouscleanenergy.com) so we may explore this further.

**I am uncertain if my project idea fits this program, how can I find out?**

If you want feedback on your project idea, please write out a description of your idea and submit it to our Program Lead, Aubrey-Anne at [alpewapisconias@indigenouscleanenergy.com](mailto:alpewapisconias@indigenouscleanenergy.com) and our team will provide you with advice on how to move forward. You can also visit our [Project Inspiration Page](#) for examples.

## **Mentorship**

**How will my technical mentor be paired with my team?**

ICE Mentorship has a network of mentors who specialize in a variety of fields. We will be asking a series of questions related to your project to help us identify a mentor who has the right skills and experience. If you have someone already in mind who is interested, we encourage them to apply to the ICE Mentorship so we may look into partnering them with your project. However, if you do not know of anyone, we are confident our network will match you with a suitable mentor.

**When is the deadline for mentor applications?**

Applications for mentors are ongoing – Please [apply here](#).

## Cohort Outline

### **Do I need to fully complete the project within the program timeline?**

ImaGENation will guide you to create a project plan that considers an 18-month schedule. Whether it is a large project that will be rolled out in phases or a small-scale pilot project, successful program completion will be based on the project goals defined in the project plan. Applicants who know their project will go beyond 18-months are still encouraged to apply as this program will aid in connecting you with a network, supports, and technical learning that will aid in your clean energy journey.

### **When will I receive the project funding?**

Participants will receive the allocated project funding in phases based on the project progress outlined in their project proposals and project plans. The remaining funds will be rolled out during the project implementation stages based on your project plan and case-by-case reviews with our team.

### **I don't know much about project planning, where do I start?**

We provide guided templates that help teams learn project management practices and guide them through their entire project journey. These templates are developed by ICE staff and are continually revised to include lessons from previous Indigenous youth-led projects. We also guide teams with the budgeting process. The contents within each phase are summarized below:

#### Phase 1 Project Proposal

- Define Project Vision, Objectives, and Milestones
- Identify Energy Team & Community Supporters
- Project Budget
- Project Timeline

#### Phase 2 Project Plan

- Identify Partnerships
- Community Engagement
- Assess Technical Logistics
- Detailed Budget, Schedule, and Risk Assessment
- Quotes, Contracts, and other Agreements

#### Phase 3 Project Status Report

- Monitor & Track Progress
- Change Management
- Detail next steps towards closeout
- Lessons Learned

#### Phase 4 – Project Closeout Report

- Acceptance of Deliverables
- Handoff Procedure
- Final Budget Comparison
- Environmental and Community Impact Analysis
- Program Feedback

#### **Are there additional wrap-around supports for youth participants?**

If you are facing any barriers to participating in ImaGENation (i.e. childcare, technical devices, internet, software, etc.), we ask that you please indicate your needs in the application form. *We have set aside \$1500 for wrap-around supports for each team. If at any point during your project you need financial support, we have a form that you can submit that our team responds to in 1-2 business days.*

#### **I noticed ICE has many other programs that look interesting, is it possible to be in more than one program?**

Yes! There are several pathways of involvement that teams in the past have taken. If you are accepted into ImaGENation you are always welcome to join other ICE programs, however, it is important to keep in mind how much space you and your team have in your schedule to reach project milestones within the 18 months while having time set aside for rest and other responsibilities.

More specifically, we sometimes can offer a wage subsidy for youth who are interested in launching an ImaGENation project within their community. Your community has the option to apply as an employer through [Generation Power](#) to hire you as an employee while you develop and launch your ImaGENation project. Generation Power provides a 75% wage subsidy up to \$30,000 to employers who hire Indigenous youth between the ages of 18-30 from 4-12 months.

#### **What advice from the previous ImaGENation teams are available to help me through my project journey?**

Having a strong team to support you (which grows through networking and working with your community), and planning for community engagement early in the project are key pieces of advice we heard from several teams from the first cohort who began their projects in 2021. We will be inviting alumni of ImaGENation to join regular peer-to-peer meetings to facilitate co-learning and kinship building.