

1 **Q. Reference: Response to PUB-NLH-063**

2 Has Hydro explored if Federal Government funding would be available to support infrastructure
3 projects that could have a material load impact on an isolated system in indigenous
4 communities? Does this type of program exist in in other Canadian provinces? Explain.

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7 **A. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (“Hydro”) interprets this question as referring to:**

- 8 • Funding available to utilities, such as Hydro, rather than funding available directly to
9 Indigenous governments;
- 10 • Funding available to support power system infrastructure such as new generation
11 required specifically to address increased demand due to load growth, rather than
12 funding available to support development of community building infrastructure or
13 conservation and demand management; and
- 14 • Funding available to support projects located in communities served by Hydro’s
15 regulated diesel generation assets (excluding isolated systems where Hydro does not
16 have ownership of the power system infrastructure in the community.)

17 Hydro is not aware of any continuous in-take, or currently open federal government funding
18 programs to support the types of infrastructure projects referred to above.

19 In Nunavut, Qulliq Energy Corporation is building new diesel power plants in Cambridge Bay,
20 Gjoa Haven, and Igloolik that will be partially funded through the Arctic Energy Fund, part of the
21 Canada Infrastructure Program.¹ These programs are administered by each province and to
22 date, this funding has not been made available to offset utility infrastructure costs in
23 Newfoundland and Labrador.

¹ Nehaa Bimal, “Qulliq Energy Corp. Awards Power Plant Replacement Contracts for 3 Communities,” Nunatsiq News, November 20, 2024, <https://nunatsiq.com/stories/article/qulliq-energy-corp-awards-power-plant-replacement-contracts-for-3-communities>.

1 In Ontario, Wataynikaneyap Power announced the signing of agreements with the Government
2 of Canada formalizing Canada's support of \$1.6 billion for the Northern Ontario grid connection.
3 The Wataynikaneyap Power partnership consists of 24 First Nations as majority owners, leading
4 the project in partnership with private investors led by Fortis Inc. Hydro's understanding is that
5 funding for this project was not through any specific program but was instead a dedicated
6 federal government budget item.

7 Hydro is also aware that certain funding streams such as the First Nation Infrastructure Fund,²
8 the Indigenous Community Infrastructure Fund,³ and Wah-ila-toos⁴ can fund energy
9 infrastructure. Hydro notes these programs are typically designed for First Nations communities
10 on reserves or Crown land, prioritize Indigenous-owned or led projects, and not designed to
11 offset utility cost of service.

12 Hydro will continue to seek opportunities to partner with local communities and governments
13 to integrate cost-effective non-emitting generation sources.

² Indigenous Services Canada, "First Nations Infrastructure Fund," Government of Canada, <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1100100010656/1533645154710>.

³ "Indigenous Community Infrastructure Initiative (ICII)," Canada Infrastructure Bank, <https://cib-bic.ca/en/indigenous-community-infrastructure/>.

⁴ "Wah-ila-toos: Funding Opportunities," Government of Canada, <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/reduce-emissions/reducing-reliance-diesel/wah-ila-toos-funding-opportunities.html#a1>.