



## Next steps for approved grant recipients 2026-2027

This document outlines the next steps for grant applications approved for funding in 2026-2027.

### Contact us anytime if you have questions about how to manage your grant

If you have any questions about your grant, please contact a regional manager. If you aren't sure who to talk to, contact us at [fwcp@bchydro.com](mailto:fwcp@bchydro.com) or phone 604-528-8136.

#### **Coastal Region Manager**

Mark Sherrington

[mark.sherrington@bchydro.com](mailto:mark.sherrington@bchydro.com)

604-528-7998

#### **Columbia Region Manager**

Jen Walker-Larsen

[Jennifer.walker-larsen@bchydro.com](mailto:Jennifer.walker-larsen@bchydro.com)

250-814-6645

#### **Peace Region Manager**

Chelsea Regina

[chelsea.regina@bchydro.com](mailto:chelsea.regina@bchydro.com)

250-561-4484

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# Our grant intake and project cycle

Annual deadlines may change, but key steps in our grant and project cycle do not.

<b>Boards finalize project approvals</b> Regional boards make final grant and project funding decisions <b>January–February</b>
<b>Notification letters</b> Grant applicants notified of boards' decisions <b>End of February</b>
<b>Conditions of approval</b> Grant applicants fulfill all project conditions in the notification letters <b>March</b>
<b>Finalize Contribution Agreements</b> If all conditions are fulfilled, Contribution Agreements released for signature <b>April 1 (at the earliest)</b>
<b>Payment #1 – initial</b> Execution of Contribution Agreement and payment #1
<b>Optional payment #2 – interim</b> Submission of progress report and statement of accounts (may be optional)
<b>Draft report</b> Mandatory final report (draft version) due <b>March 31, 2026</b>
<b>Final report</b> Submission of final report (final version) and statement of accounts
<b>Payment #3 – final</b> Following submission of final report (final version) and statement of accounts

## Notification letter

All grant applicants will receive a notification letter indicating if their proposed project has been approved with conditions or not approved. If your proposed project is approved, the letter will list the conditions. These conditions must be met in the FWCP online grant management system before a Contribution Agreement can be finalized.

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## Project conditions

All conditions must be met before September 30, 2026, or FWCP reserves the right to withdraw funding.

Conditions will appear on the “Address Conditions” tab in the online FWCP grant management system and will vary by project and grant application. Typically, grant recipients can expect to meet the following three conditions:

1. WorkSafeBC clearance letter;
2. proof of commercial general liability; and
3. confirmation of project contact and signatory.

If yours is a multi-year project, or if you have received a grant from us in the past, we will require:

1. submission of draft final report from the previous project year; and
2. submission of final reports from other projects from the same grant recipient.

The additional project-specific approval conditions you will be required to fulfil, if any, will be determined by our regional boards. Conditions will vary by project, but could include:

1. budget revisions;
2. safety and Environmental Management Plans for projects on, or in the immediate vicinity of BC Hydro property;
3. confirmation that any volunteers performing project work will be covered under private insurance or will sign a volunteer release of liability form that releases BC Hydro of any liability associated with performing the project work (the release of liability form will be a Schedule in the Contribution Agreement);
4. confirmation the project work will be performed in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, rules, codes, permits, authorizations, and ordinances of authorities having jurisdiction;
5. compliance with requirements under the Professional Governance Act; and
6. confirmation that the designated project contact and signatory on the application are correctly stipulated.

When all conditions are addressed, the Contribution Agreement will be sent to the project signatory for signing. Successful applicants can expect to receive a Contribution Agreement on April 1, 2026 (which is the start of the FWCP’s new fiscal year) if all conditions are met.

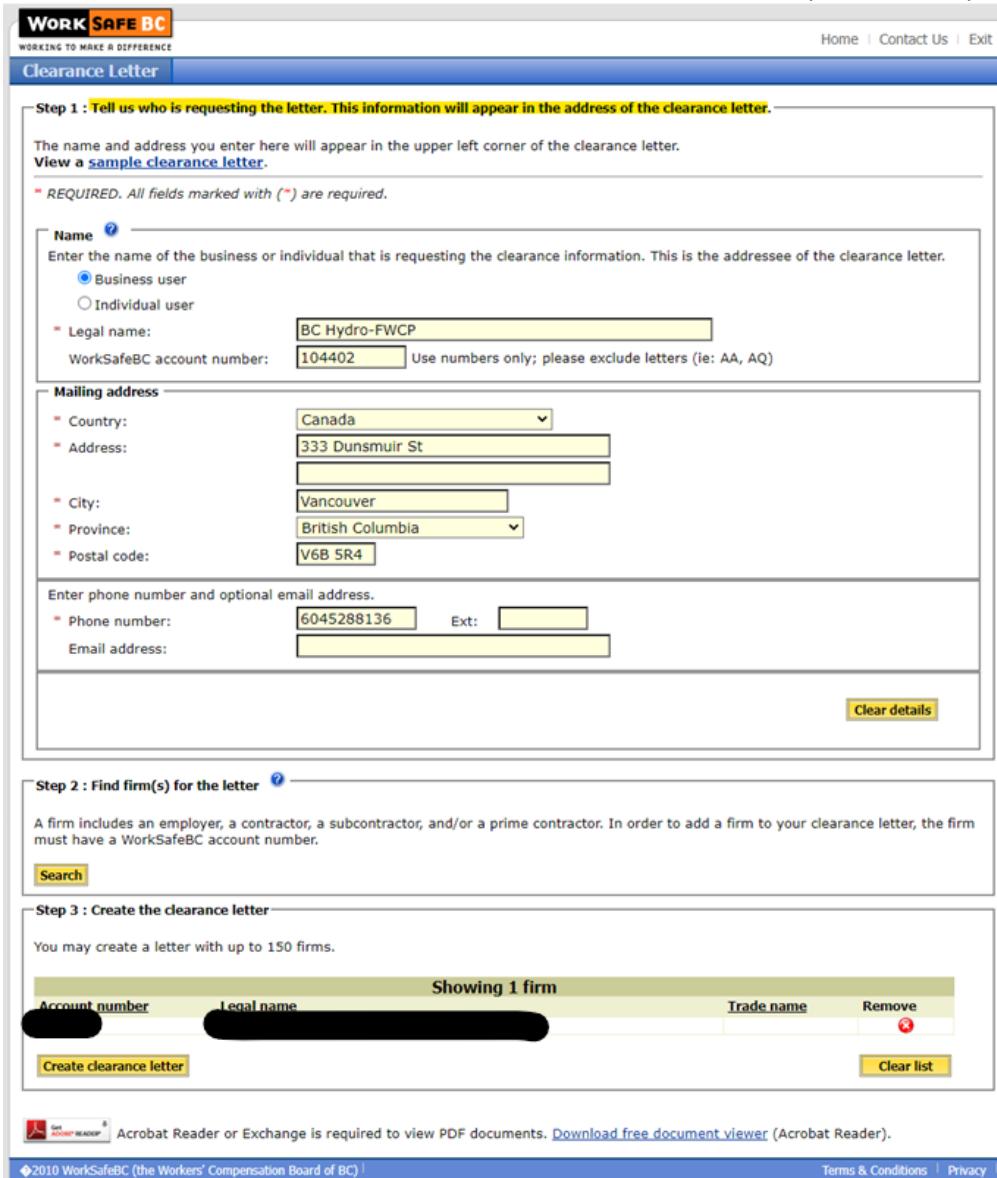
Follow these three steps to start fulfilling all project conditions through our online grant management system (see Figure 1 on next page):

1. Log in to <https://fwcp.smartsimple.ca/>.
2. Go to the “Address Conditions” tab.
3. Open each condition and upload the required document(s), or add the appropriate text in the text box and then submit the condition.

Condition Type	Condition Description	Status
Signing Conditions	Please upload a WorksafeBC Clearance Letter showing status and provide your WorksafeBC#. Goto <a href="http://www.worksafebc.com">http://www.worksafebc.com</a> and look for 'Clearance Letter' in the insurance section. Alternatively, explain why a Clearance Letter is not needed.	Open <span style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; border-radius: 5px; border: 1px solid black;">Open</span>
Signing Conditions	Please provide proof of a commercial general liability (CGL) policy, in the amount of \$2M for each and every occurrence, by submitting a completed Certificate of Insurance listing BC Hydro as an additional insured.	Open <span style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; border-radius: 5px; border: 1px solid black;">Open</span>
Signing Conditions	Please confirm the designated project contact and signatory on the application are correctly stipulated. Alternatively, provide the correct project contact and/or signatory indicating their name, email address and role (project contact and/or signatory).	Open <span style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; border-radius: 5px; border: 1px solid black;">Open</span>

**Figure 1:** Screenshot of common project conditions most grant recipients can expect to fulfil.

**Note:** Please ensure the WorkSafeBC letter is addressed to the FWCP as per the example below.



**Step 1 : Tell us who is requesting the letter. This information will appear in the address of the clearance letter.**

The name and address you enter here will appear in the upper left corner of the clearance letter.  
[View a sample clearance letter.](#)

**REQUIRED.** All fields marked with (\*) are required.

**Name** \*  
 Enter the name of the business or individual that is requesting the clearance information. This is the addressee of the clearance letter.  
 Business user  
 Individual user

**Legal name:**   
**WorkSafeBC account number:**  Use numbers only; please exclude letters (ie: AA, AQ)

**Mailing address**

**Country:**   
**Address:**   
**City:**   
**Province:**   
**Postal code:**

Enter phone number and optional email address.  
**Phone number:**  Ext:   
**Email address:**

**Step 2 : Find firm(s) for the letter** \*

A firm includes an employer, a contractor, a subcontractor, and/or a prime contractor. In order to add a firm to your clearance letter, the firm must have a WorkSafeBC account number.

**Search**

**Step 3 : Create the clearance letter**

You may create a letter with up to 150 firms.

Showing 1 firm			
Account number	Legal name	Trade name	Remove
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	<span style="color: red;">*</span>

**Create clearance letter** **Clear list**

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## Signing the Contribution Agreement

When all project conditions are addressed and approved (on or after April 1), the signatory indicated in the application will receive an email requesting a digital signature on the Contribution Agreement.

This email will come from a third-party signatory service [[secure@signority.com](mailto:secure@signority.com)]. Shortly after the signatory signs the Contribution Agreement, the FWCP Program Manager will sign it and finalize the Contribution Agreement.

A copy of the fully executed Contribution Agreement will be emailed to the signatory and contact on the project. The first payment (40 per cent of the approved funding) will be initiated. The first payment for grants supporting land securement will be 80 per cent of the approved funding.

The Contribution Agreement includes several terms and conditions for the funding to be provided to the grant recipient, including (but not limited to):

- **Approvals – permits/authorizations** (e.g., Wildlife Act permits, fish collection permits, Water Sustainability Act authorizations, Heritage Act permits, etc.): Grant recipients are responsible for obtaining all permits and approvals related to the project. Grant recipients are required to maintain all relevant permits in place to deliver projects funded by the FWCP. Funding approval by the FWCP does not remove your obligation, if applicable, to obtain any required permits.
- **Ownership of project information:** On behalf of the FWCP, the Province of B.C. houses all FWCP project information (e.g., final reports, data, and products developed by grant recipients). This relationship with the Province of B.C. enables the FWCP to share project information broadly as open data, published under an open data licence through the Province of B.C. information databases. To facilitate this information management and distribution, the Contribution Agreement identifies that the grant recipient retains ownership of the data but provides the right to sublicense the information to the Province of B.C. to manage and distribute all project information. Specifically, the Province of B.C. will manage the project information in accordance with the procedures in Appendix I of the [FWCP Governance Manual](#). The procedures include provisions for requests securing the data for the purposes of publication, securing data collected on private land, and/or securing data associated with expressed First Nations interests.
- **Safety:** Safety is the responsibility of the grant recipient, and you must comply with all safety regulations and procedures required by law or by BC Hydro (on behalf of the FWCP).
- **Governing law:** The grant recipient shall comply with all laws, licences, and permits applicable to the project and performance of the Contribution Agreement. The Contribution Agreement is governed by the laws of the Province of British Columbia and the applicable federal laws of Canada.

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## Receiving payments

Payments for FWCP-supported projects are made by BC Hydro.<sup>1</sup> Most organizations are now set up for direct deposit with BC Hydro. If your organization is not set up for direct deposit, a cheque will be mailed to the organization and address provided in the grant application (this will be the organization the Contribution Agreement is made with). Contact us at [fwcp@bchydro.com](mailto:fwcp@bchydro.com) to set up direct deposit.

Please note payments are made to the organization that the Contribution Agreement is made with, and only in Canadian funds.

### First payment

You will receive the first payment within approximately 30 days of signing the Contribution Agreement.

### Final payment

The final payment will be made within approximately 30 days of an **approved** final report, a **final statement of accounts**, and confirmation that all **project information has been submitted** to the Province. The FWCP will pay the balance owed on the project. The maximum amount paid out on a project will be:

1. the approved/awarded amount as shown in the Contribution Agreement; **OR**
2. the total amount of expenditures claimed on the statement of accounts, whichever is less.

If your project is completed under budget, you will not receive any unspent funds. If the project is over budget, you will not receive additional funds without the submission and associated approval of a change request (see optional change requests below). **Note** – a change request for increased funding must be approved before any statement of accounts (SOA) is started. This will reduce the chance of losing data entered in your SOA.

## Optional progress report & progress statement of accounts

Progress reports and progress statements of accounts are generally optional for recipients of Annual Grants and are not required for our year-round grant recipients. A progress report and a progress statement of accounts must be submitted in the online FWCP grant management system to receive the optional second payment of 40 per cent. The progress statement of accounts must demonstrate that the first 40 per cent payment was expended. FWCP staff will review the progress report and progress statement of accounts and approve or request revisions. Once both the progress report and the progress statement of accounts are approved, the second payment of 40 per cent will be initiated.

Follow our [user guides](#) for submitting a progress report or a progress statement of accounts.

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<sup>1</sup> Each year, BC Hydro provides funding to the FWCP to fulfill its regulatory and voluntary commitments to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams. Through our annual intake of grant applications, as well as other funding mechanisms, we provide funding to deliver fish and wildlife projects within our mandate in each of our three regions.

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## Final report, final statement of accounts, & project information

Submitting a final report, a final statement of accounts, and all related project information (e.g., raw data, maps, shapefiles) is mandatory for all grant recipients.

You are required to submit a draft final report in the online FWCP grant management system for review by the appropriate region manager, who may request revisions prior to finalizing the report. Draft final reports must be submitted by 4 p.m. PT / 5 p.m. MT on the final report due date specified in the top left of your project in the FWCP's grant management system. A final statement of accounts must also be submitted in the online FWCP grant management system and will be reviewed by the Environmental Project Coordinator. The final statement of accounts must be submitted within 60 days of submitting the draft final report.

To facilitate sharing information openly in accordance with the [Province of BC's Species and Ecosystems Data and Information Security Policy and Procedures \(SEDIS\)](#), any data that should be secured as per SEDIS must be contained in appendices separate from the final report so that the data can be easily secured by the Province once loaded to provincial databases.

In addition to submitting the final report, applicable secured data appendices, and the final statement of accounts to the FWCP, all the project information you have developed or collected related to the project must be submitted to the Province in an appropriate electronic format(s). The Province has reporting templates for certain types of data, and FWCP encourages grant recipients to review these templates prior to data collection to ensure alignment where possible. Provincial database links and contact information are in your Contribution Agreement.

This project information could include geospatial or georeferenced data, maps, spreadsheets, databases, raw data sheets, images, and point surveys. The project information must be submitted to the Province using submission sites managed and maintained by the Province for this purpose. These sites are identified in your Contribution Agreement. The FWCP requires confirmation from the grant recipient that all project information has been submitted to the Province.

When the final report, applicable secured data appendices and final statement of accounts are submitted, they will either be approved or revisions will be requested. Once FWCP staff have approved both, and once the grant recipient has confirmed that all project information has been submitted to the Province, the final payment will be initiated.

Follow our [user guides](#) for submitting a final report, a final statement of accounts, and project information.

## Optional change requests

From time to time, there are changes to a project during the project cycle. The most likely changes are:

- timeline changes: it may be necessary to extend the project past the March 31, 2026, due date;
- financial changes: changes to budget line items (significant amounts added or subtracted from budget items that the FWCP is contributing to, or the addition of new budget items) or, in rare cases, additional funding is required; and
- scope changes: changes to project scope or deliverables.

As soon as you are aware of a significant change to your project, you must submit a change request. You can do this through our online grant management system at <https://fwcp.smartsimple.ca/>. You will be asked to provide

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a rationale for the changes. If you are unsure about whether a change request is necessary, please contact the appropriate FWCP region manager.

Follow our [user guide](#) for submitting a change request.