

THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA

ENVIRONMENT FUND

INFORMATION PACKAGE



The Alpine Club of Canada Environment Fund

*Annual deadline for applications is **January 31st***

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Fund is to provide support that contributes to the protection and preservation of mountain and climbing environments, including the preservation of alpine flora and fauna in their natural habitat.

The focus of the Fund is wilderness conservation rather than recreation enhancement, in recognition of the fact that wilderness is a rapidly diminishing and irreplaceable resource of great intrinsic value and that we must act quickly to save these areas.

The Fund is a permanent legacy for environmental work. The capital of the Fund will not be spent. An annual budget will be determined based on the earnings of the Fund net of a contingency for inflation. The capital and earnings of the Fund will be separate and distinct from the annual budget of the Club and will not be used for general operations or capital expenditures.

Projects are evaluated and ranked in accordance with the criteria established by the Environment Committee of The Alpine Club of Canada. A selection committee, appointed by the Board of Directors, will meet to review funding applications and make recommendations to the Board. One of the selection committee members will be the VP Environment/Access. Approval of the Board will be required before funds are disbursed. You can expect this process to take up to four months. Funding is limited, and not all projects can be funded even though they meet the criteria.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Funding priority will be given to projects related to the alpine and Arctic environments and climbing areas in Canada in recognition of our members' unique appreciation of these areas. As funds permit, projects in other mountainous and polar regions of the world will be supported.

Priority will be given to projects initiated by the Alpine Club of Canada and its members. However, outside agencies and individuals may be supported if their projects meet the mandate of the Fund. Fund allocations to outside organizations and individuals will be made based primarily on the merits of the projects, not agency affiliation.

There are minimum requirements that must be met by all applications before they will be considered. These minimum requirements are as follows:

- a. The project or activity will have a concrete goal, the attainment of which can be evaluated. The application must show how the goal conforms to purpose of the Environment Fund.

- b. The application will contain a realistic project plan, which describes the project in sufficient detail to allow a fair evaluation.
- c. The application will include a detailed and realistic budget that shows where ACC support will be directed.
- d. The organization applying for funding will include a description of itself, including its objectives, its current and past activities, and a summary of its financial position.
- e. The project will not be designed to create a profit.
- f. The project will give the ACC appropriate acknowledgment.
- g. The project will not be in support of an illegal act.
- h. All projects are given a one-time grant and should not expect on-going funding.

Selection Procedure

Grants will be given to projects after selection committee evaluation and approval by the Board of Directors of the ACC. Ranking of applications will be based upon a broad range of considerations including:

- a. a higher ranking will go to a project that shows greater volunteer content;
- b. a higher ranking will go to an application that has a low proportion of overhead expenses;
- c. a group seeking support for an advocacy campaign will receive a higher ranking if:
 - i) past advocacy campaigns were undertaken in a way that did not adversely affect the group's credibility
 - ii) its position is based on scientific study
 - iii) the advocacy plan includes constructive criticism and provides feasible alternatives;
- d. a group seeking support for an informational publication advocating a particular viewpoint will receive a higher ranking if it can display an awareness of and include other viewpoints;
- e. a research project will receive a higher ranking if it will add significantly to a body of knowledge that is in high demand by groups advocating protection of wilderness areas;
- f. a project will not be ranked lower by reason of a lack of volunteer effort, if it is shown in the application that particular scientific or professional skills must be purchased in order to complete the project;
- g. a higher ranking will be given to an application that seeks to educate the public about the benefits of protecting a particular wilderness area which is currently the subject of an application for a change of use;
- h. a lower ranking will go to an application that is not precise and concise.

Applications for use of Environment Fund monies must be made in writing before the application deadline, as prescribed on the Environment Fund Application form. Applicants are informed in writing of the status of their application.

All grants must be applied for within twelve months of confirmation by the ACC of a successful application. In the event that this is not possible, a letter outlining the reasons and progress on the project must be received within twelve months.

ANNUAL PROCESS AND TIMING

Applications to the committee may be made by any member of the Alpine Club of Canada, ACC Committee, or ACC Section, and will be reviewed according to the following schedule:

January 31:.....Application deadline

March 15:.....Announcement of grants

April onwards - Award(s) paid based on project timing and any application approval conditions

January 31 – date by which previous year’s awards must be used. Unused funds will be forfeited.

AWARD RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

As part of their application, applicants must agree to:

Use Fund grant monies only for the purpose(s) proposed in the application;

Supply receipts to substantiate the Fund grant-related expenses incurred;

Prepare a post-activity report (1,000 to 2,000 words) to The Alpine Club of Canada outlining:

- a) the original plan for the activity,
- b) the activity actually undertaken,
- c) the extent to which the objectives stated in the original application were met,
- d) all related community activities that occurred (e.g. presentations, articles, etc.)

Prepare articles suitable for publication in both the Gazette and the Canadian Alpine Journal in the same calendar year.

Recognize, in all related advertising, news releases, reports, publications, etc. the support provided with the following words:

"This (project)(program)(event) was made possible, in part, through a grant from The Alpine Club of Canada's Environment Fund."

Ensure that the direct or indirect benefit to the community where the applicant lives is delivered.

EVALUATION

All projects will be evaluated at least annually or at completion. Support for projects that are showing no progress will be reviewed, and, if necessary, funding may be withdrawn. All projects are subject to audit by an ACC-initiated committee and participants are expected to cooperate in the audit process.