

# Community

*For the community, from the community, by the community;  
creating spaces for our youth to become  
The Wisdom Keepers for Our Future.*



## RKeepers7 Community Partnership Program (RCPP) Season 4

**Tsuut'ina Nation Police Service - Tosguna**  
Community Impact & Innovation Section

RKeepers7: Navigating the Rivers of Youth



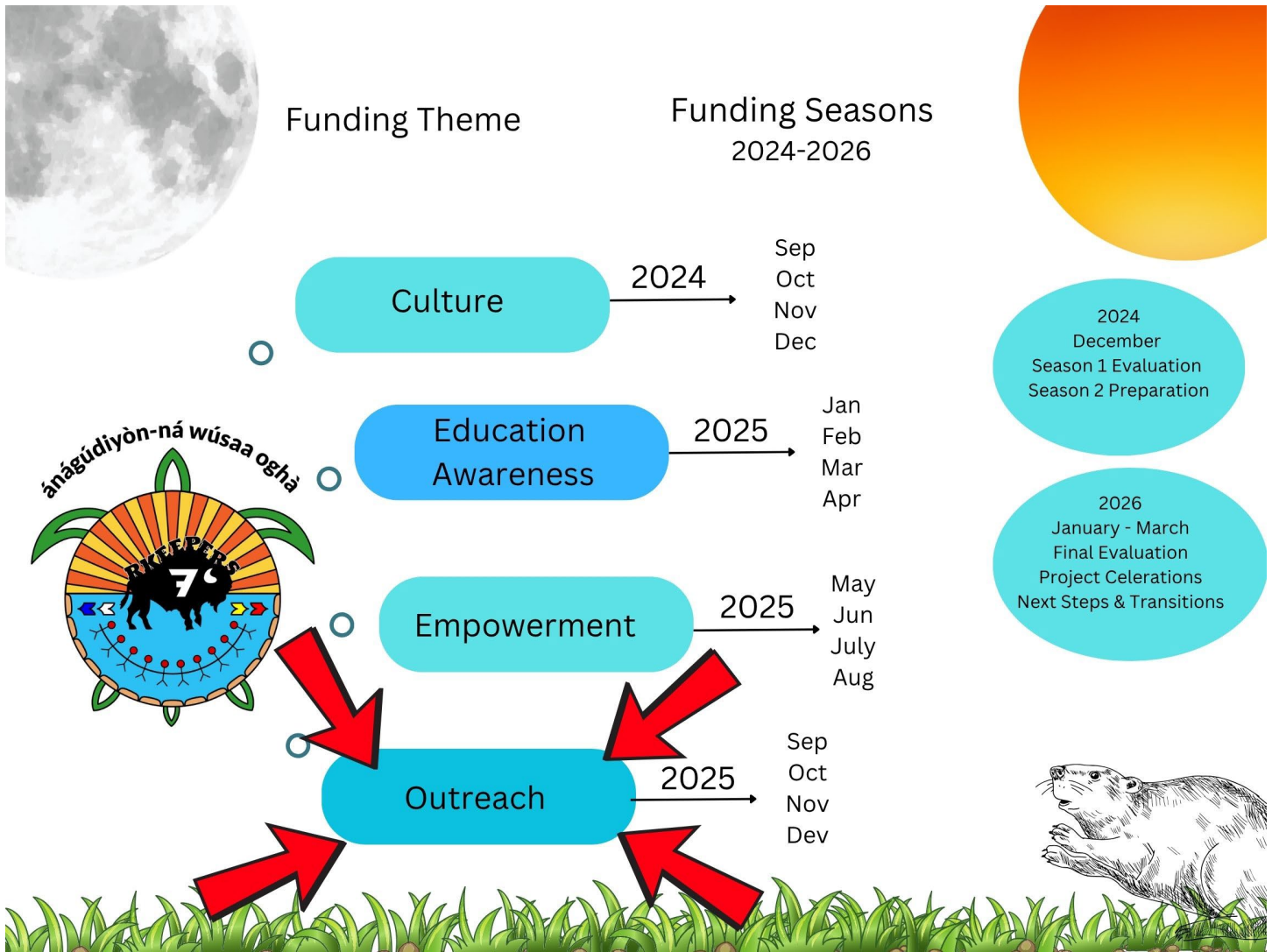
**Contact Person:**  
Olivea Cameron-Dubek  
Community Outreach  
Specialist  
[olivea.cameron-  
dubek@tsuutinapolice.com](mailto:olivea.cameron-dubek@tsuutinapolice.com)

*Átísilā gújā nàgwát'in - We work well together*





**Figure 1**



*RCPP Timeline*

**FUNDING THEMES**

**1. Culture**

Understanding the role Culture has in the wellness and healing of Indigenous communities will begin RK7’s next phase. Although all funding seasons want to prioritize culturally relevant projects, we need to ensure the Tsuut’ina Culture is our foundation. Cultural focused projects may include but are not limited to: language revitalization, land-based healing and/or land-based skills building, traditional and cultural activities, and



## 2. Education & Awareness

Education and awareness within RKeepers7 aims to increase community knowledge on critical issues related to gang activities and criminal lifestyles. These areas include human trafficking, drug trafficking, and mental health/addiction. We know the cultural relevance of including the youths' families and extended community in our initiatives, therefore activities that reach beyond youth (29 years old & younger) will be considered. Projects with a prevention focus may include the children in the community as we invest in long-term healing and wellness into future generations.

Education projects may also address the risk factors in youth that are often associated with gang involvement. Education & Awareness focused projects might include but are not limited to: age appropriate teachings and content that increase knowledge of consent and body autonomy; relationship and conflict resolution skills; building Emotional Intelligence & regulation skills for our children and youth.

## 3. Empowerment

Empowerment will focus on projects that create opportunities for our youth to build confidence and skills, and practice reciprocity within the Tsuut'ina community. Activities that empower the youth with the teachings and guidance necessary to support them in becoming the next Wisdom Keepers for Tsuut'ina Nation will be supported. Empowerment projects will work towards mitigating risk factors associated with gang involvement and empower our community to respond to social challenges in a healthy and collaborative manner. Empowerment focused projects might include but are not limited to: mentorship programs, skills building, sharing circles, and youth led activities.

## 4. Outreach

Outreach projects will focus on capacity building for the Nation community when providing prevention and intervention programming. Opportunities to build good relations with neighboring nations on Treaty 7 and across Turtle Island may include those involved in the justice field, experts, and incarcerated peoples. We want to learn from other Indigenous communities and also reciprocate these teachings with neighboring communities. Projects may include travel expenses (ex.: conference attendance; learning from another program or Nation) in their budget as it relates to the outcomes and objectives of RKeepers7.



## FUNDING DESCRIPTION

The Tsuut'ina Nation Police Service - Tosguna is one of only three First Nation policing services in Alberta, operating under a Tripartite Policing Agreement. Our approach is rooted in community engagement, honoring the traditions and customs of our people while prioritizing the needs of those we serve and protect. The Tsuut'ina Nation received funding through the Building Safer Communities Fund, a grant provided by Public Safety Canada. Given its alignment with policing objectives, Tosguna has been entrusted with managing this initiative. The project, known as RKeepers7 (RK7), falls under the Community Impact & Innovation Section. RK7 is dedicated to supporting culturally relevant, community-led initiatives aimed at addressing gang involvement and high-risk behaviors among Tsuut'ina Nation youth.

## RK7 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Ánágúdiyòn-ná Wúsaá Oghà – RKeepers7 will further support the existing on-Nation programs and initiatives that offer healing and building of protective factors into the younger generations. RKeepers7 hopes to further support Tsuut'ina Nation's young people to become the *Wisdom Keepers of Our Future - Ánágúdiyòn-ná Wúsaá Oghà*. Collaboration with community partners and prioritizing sustainability are key values for RKeepers7. The developmental year 2023-2024 of RK7 focused on community engagement and centering the community's voice in the next steps of this project. Through 2024-2026 RK7 will support the delivery of community partners' projects through the Community Partnership Program.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

The RKeepers7 initiative invites proposals exclusively aimed at enhancing existing programs and projects within the Tsuut'ina Nation. Our goal is to build upon and expand the positive impact these programs already deliver, fostering collaboration while minimizing service duplication within the community.

### Who Can Apply:

1. Local Tsuut'ina community organizations and grassroots initiatives committed to promoting youth development, safety, and well-being.
2. Educational institutions offering programs that support at-risk youth and advance community wellness.
3. Health and social service providers with initiatives focused on improving mental health and overall well-being for youth and the broader community.

**\*\*Individual Applicants requesting funding may need to complete a security clearance and vulnerable sector check to safeguard the community's safety and interests.\*\***



**Ineligibility:**

- RK7 is designed to support existing programs.
- Projects may be led by the Tsuut'ina Nation community and include off-Nation activities. Activities led by off-Nation partners are not eligible.

*Unsure if your organization is eligible? Please contact us to inquire:*

*[RKeepers7@tsuutinapolic.com](mailto:RKeepers7@tsuutinapolic.com)*

**COMMITMENT TO EQUITY**

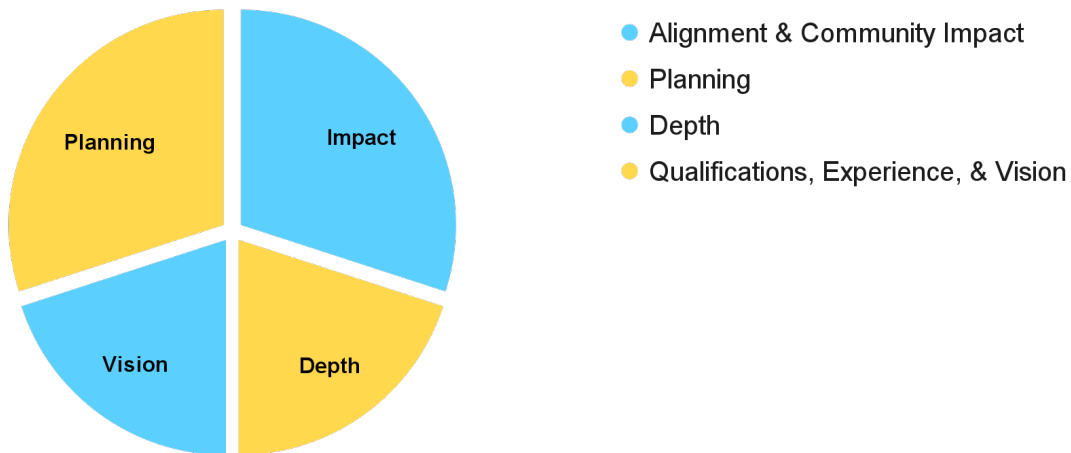
We acknowledge that the Community Partnership Program’s proposal process is traditionally rooted in colonial business practices. This process often marginalizes those it aims to serve by upholding barriers that can exclude invaluable perspectives, especially from Indigenous and other historically underserved communities. In our commitment to fostering inclusive opportunities and rectifying these imbalances, we strive to ensure that our proposal processes are accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of all potential partners.

**EVALUATION MATRIX & SELECTION PROCESS**

Proposals will be based on the following criteria.

**Figure 2**

Evaluation Matrix



<b>Proposal Evaluation</b>	<b>Points</b>
<p><b>Alignment &amp; Community Impact</b></p> <p>Submissions outline their project’s deliverables. Outcomes are in alignment with the RKeepers7’s purpose, values, and the corresponding seasonal theme as described in Figure 1.</p> <p>Submissions show a clear understanding of the community impact the project intends to have, showcasing how it will enhance the cultural values and priorities of the Tsuut’ina community, ensuring that the project aligns with local Tsuut’ina perspectives and contributes to cultural sustainability.</p>	<b>30</b>
<p><b>Depth</b></p> <p>We are inviting comprehensive responses which not only address the logistical aspects of the project but also deeply understand and prioritize Tsuut’ina Ways of Knowing and community-specific practices into their strategies and execution plans.</p>	<b>20</b>
<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>The proposal showcases a clear understanding of what the applicant wants to do and how they will do it. Budget template, project timeline, and other means of showcasing this will be accepted. Collaboration and evaluation/reporting are outlined in specific and realistic ways to ensure progress, outcomes, and impacts are in alignment with the RKeepers7 project.</p>	<b>30</b>
<p><b>Qualifications, Experience, and Vision</b></p> <p>Proposals should detail the team's experience in project-relevant fields, demonstrate previous experience in engaging Tsuut’ina community members, and present a visionary approach which promises to support and uphold the cultural integrity and aspirations of the Tsuut’ina community. Practical experience will be valued as equivalent to professional credentials; both being considered supplementary to one another rather than prioritizing Western credentials. Letters of support may be included with the application.</p>	<b>20</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>



## EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Project proposals submitted will be evaluated under the criteria outlined in the Evaluation Matrix. The committee will be made up of the RK7 project coordinator and four community members, previously who were on the RK7 Steering Committee during the developmental year. Evaluation committee members are not eligible to submit a proposal for the corresponding season.

If a potential conflict of interest arises involving a member of the evaluation committee, they will be required to step out of the room until the proposal scoring is complete. This measure ensures the evaluation process remains fair, transparent, and impartial.

## SCORING PROCESS

Committee members will review applications and rate the level to which they agree or disagree with each of the evaluation sections listed above, based on the information provided in the application.

The 4 ratings are: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree.

Each program consideration will be weighted equally. The score assigned to each rating will be consistent (for example, 'Strongly Agree' will always equal the same number of points for each section).

When scoring a 30-point Section (Alignment & Community impact):

Strongly agree = 30 points

Agree = 22.5 points

Disagree = 15 points

Strongly Disagree = 7.5 points

When scoring a 20-point section (Qualifications, Experience, and Vision)

Strongly Agree = 20 points

Agree = 15 points

Disagree = 10 points

Strongly Disagree = 5 points



## YEAR 1: DEVELOPMENTAL ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

In 2024, RKeepers7 actively facilitated numerous community engagement events, family visits, and communications with members of the Tsuut'ina community. Collaborating with external, third-party consultants ensured a focused unbiased approach to gathering community responses. This collaborative effort culminated in an engagement report that identified four key themes as expressed directly by the community.

### **Enhance Youth Wellbeing**

A significant focus within these areas is on Youth Wellbeing, which is focused on nurturing the mental, physical, emotional, and social health of the younger generation. This focus is not just about immediate outcomes but is aimed at fostering resilience and well-being for seven generations forward.

### **Support Family & Cultural Systems**

Our findings also emphasize the importance of supporting family and cultural systems, which are noted as another key area of priority. This focus is rooted in the belief that strong familial bonds and a robust cultural heritage are essential for sustaining community vitality and individual well-being.

### **Increase Education & Awareness**

This initiative seeks to broaden the community's knowledge base and enhance awareness on a spectrum of social issues. By delivering comprehensive education in schools and the community, the aim is to empower youth and community members with the information and skills necessary to engage actively in community.

### **Develop Inter-Programming Opportunities**

The findings from our engagement also stress the importance of developing inter-programming opportunities, as the community shared the fact this was a key challenge in the process. An ongoing community scan was started to help visualize and understand the complex web of community relationships and programming opportunities available.



## COLLABORATIVE WORK PLAN

### Benefits of being a Community Partner with RKeepers7

Partnering with RKeepers7 enables community capacity building, access to support services, and involvement in initiatives which impact Tsuut'ina, prioritize wellbeing for our youth, and promote safety in the community.

RK7 will support community partners in sustainability planning, identifying future funding opportunities, program development, and reporting requirements as applicable.

### Requirements of Community Partner

Community Partners are expected to provide regular reports to track progress and outcomes, ensuring accountability and consistent alignment with the RKeepers7 project outcomes.

Community partners must submit a Final Evaluation Report within 30 days of project completion.

Video/audio recordings or written reports are acceptable formats for the Final Evaluation Report. Guiding questions will be provided to community partners. The budget template provided is to be used to report expense actuals for the Final Evaluation Report regardless of submission format.

### Requirements of RKeepers7 & Tsuut'ina Nation Police Service - Tosguna:

RK7 is responsible for maintaining open communication with community leaders, respecting Tsuut'ina cultural practices, and fulfilling all project deliverables promptly.

RK7 will provide up to \$13,500.00 for each project during the respective season.

RK7 will share names of Evaluation Committee members for each season, seasonal reports will be shared, and ongoing community guidance will be prioritized to ensure community accountability and transparency are being followed.

### Guiding note for Community Partnership Proposals and Partners

*Identify any needs or support that will be required for this partnership. For example, if the program needs support in completing reporting requirements identify that and what that might look like.*



## PROPOSAL RESPONSE FORMAT

### Proposal Response Format:

#### 1. Introduction

State the intent to submit a collaborative proposal, highlighting the value of joint efforts and integration with existing programs.

#### 2. Project Description

Provide a brief overview of the project, specifying the main activities and goals.

#### 3. Project Objectives and Alignment

Detail the project objectives and explain how they align with the RK7 project goals, emphasizing synergies and expected outcomes.

#### 4. Collaborative Work Plan

Outline the approaches for collaboration, including roles and responsibilities of all involved parties and organizations.

#### 5. Timeline

Present a clear timeline for the project, marking key milestones and phases.

#### 6. Project Costs/Budget

Include a detailed budget that outlines projected costs and demonstrates financial planning and efficiency. Explain the lump sum financial support mechanism, indicating that this will support an existing program as a consultancy arrangement.

#### 7. Evaluation/Reporting Plan

Describe the evaluation metrics and reporting plans to track progress, outcomes, and impacts, ensuring alignment with the project's objectives and accountability.



## SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please submit complete proposal in PDF format by email to: [rkeepers7@tsuutinapolice.com](mailto:rkeepers7@tsuutinapolice.com)
2. Please ensure that your proposals are concise yet comprehensive. Ideally, Community Partnership Proposals should range from 3 to 15 pages, providing sufficient detail without excessive length. Please review the example proposal provided by RKeepers7.
3. Audio/video submissions [maximum 15 minutes] will also be accepted in place of a written proposal.
4. Financial breakdown must accompany all types of submissions using the template provided.
5. For all accessibility needs, questions, and support please contact Olivea Cameron-Dubek [olivea.cameron-dubek@tsuutinapolice.com](mailto:olivea.cameron-dubek@tsuutinapolice.com)

*We look forward to Season 3 of the  
RK7 Community Partnership Program!*

*Tosguna extends our deepest gratitude to the Elders,  
Knowledge Keepers, RK7 Steering Committee, and all  
Tsuut'ina community members who have supported the success  
of this project so far.*

*Sīyísgáàs!*



## APPENDIX

PDF versions of all RCPP documents can be found online: <https://tsuutinapoliice.com/community/rkeepers7/>

Community Partnership Proposal Example:  
Running Deer Collective for the “Language on the Land Program”

Community Partnership Financials Template

RCPP Guide for Evaluation Committee

