



February 2024

Sophie Chatel, MP for Pontiac

News Release

Hello everyone,

This is the February 2024 news release from your federal MP that updates you on programs and funding that may be relevant to members of your community. In this issue we discuss programs:

1. To help celebrate and highlight the history, culture and accomplishments of Black communities.
2. To help initiatives that improve and protect freshwater quality.
3. To help low-income people complete their tax returns.

Please share relevant information with members of your communities.

1. To help celebrate and highlight the history, culture and accomplishments of Black communities (Canada)

In recognition of the [United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent \(2015-2024\)](#), the [Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Program \(MARP\)](#) will include a new priority in its Events component for 2024: celebrations and events that recognize the history, culture, accomplishments, contributions and future of Black Canadians and their communities.

The Events component of the Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Program (MARP) provides funding to community-based events that:

- promote intercultural or interfaith understanding;
- promote discussions on multiculturalism, diversity, racism and religious discrimination;
- celebrate a community's history and culture such as heritage months recognized by Parliament.

Who is it for? Canadian not-for-profit organizations, associations and unincorporated groups of individuals; Canadian incorporated and unincorporated municipalities and townships with a population of up to 10,000; Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit or Métis) not-for-profit organizations; and Indigenous government, band council or tribal council.

When to apply? There is **no fixed deadline** to submit a funding application under the Events component of the MARP, as **applications are accepted on a continuous basis**. However, to ensure timely assessment, it is **advised that your application be submitted 18 weeks prior** to the proposed event start date.

How to apply? Read the [Application Guidelines](#) in their entirety before completing their application. Then create or access a [Canadian Heritage Funding Portal](#) account and [apply online](#).

[For more information click here...](#)

Share the info about this program throughout your network !

2. To help initiatives that improve and protect freshwater quality (Canada)

The [EcoAction Community Funding Program](#) provides financial support to non-profit and non-government organizations for Canadian communities to take on local action-based projects that produce measurable, positive effects on the environment and to build the capacity of communities to sustain these activities in the future. This year, funding is available for new projects that engage Canadian communities and clearly demonstrate measurable, positive results related to the following key environmental priority: Fresh Water.

Who is it for? Environmental groups, community groups, youth and seniors' groups, community-based associations, service clubs, domestic Indigenous governments, organizations, boards, commissions, communities, councils, associations and authorities.

When to apply? The deadline to submit an application is **March 22, 2024** (12:00 PST/15:00 EST).

How to apply? Read the [Applicant's Guide](#) and [apply online](#).

[For more information click here...](#)

Share this information with environmental organizations in your community!

3. To help low-income people complete their tax returns (Canada and Quebec)

Through the [Community Volunteer Income Tax Program](#) (CVITP), community organizations run **free tax clinics** where volunteers complete tax returns for people with modest incomes and simple tax situations.

[Grant for hosting free tax clinics](#)

Who is it for? Community organizations that want to organize a free tax counter. You can check your eligibility [here](#).

Please note that the CVITP **funding is retroactive**, which means an organization must first register for and host a free tax clinic through the CVITP or ITAVP (Quebec) before they can apply for funding. Only organizations that host free tax clinics between **June 1, 2023 and May 31, 2024** can apply for the 2024 CVITP Grant.

When to apply? The CVITP Grant online application portal is open from **May 1 to June 30** each year.

How to apply? By following the instructions [on this page](#).

[To become a volunteer at a free tax office](#)

Find out everything you need to know about volunteering at a free tax clinic.

[To find a free tax office in your area](#)

There are free in-person or virtual tax clinics across Canada. Find one that meets your needs.

[To verify your eligibility for the services offered at a free tax office](#)

Do you need help completing your tax return? You may be [eligible](#) for the services offered at a free tax clinic if you have a modest income and a simple tax situation.

[For more information click here...](#)

Share the info about this program throughout your network. Someone in your life might need it!