

## Grants/ Funding Report

At the beginning of the summer I was tasked with the goal of researching and working towards increased financial stability for Spirit of the Land. By coordinating a fundraising strategy and researching and applying for grants, we aimed to sustain Spirit of the Land programming. After a preliminary introduction to the tasks by Raj and Catherine, along with a meeting with Bonnie Anderson from the Development Office, we decided to focus on granting opportunities during the summer, and return our focus to fundraising in the fall.

After attending a grant workshop with Lars Hallstrom, I was given a grant resource (CRED Funding Opportunities), which lists a number of grants within Alberta that could be applicable for SoL and its projects. I spent a week going through this document, highlighting and researching grants that SoL fit the requirements of. This, along with other grants found through research can be found in our Grant Master List. The list is organized by title, and describes what area it covers (local, provincial, national), the deadline, the grant amount, potential partnerships for the grant, requirements, restrictions, potential projects, application status, additional notes and a link for more information. Red boxes mean that the grant cannot be used by SoL, yellow means that it could potentially be used in the future and green means that we should apply.

Several major grants were located, including the Battle River Community Foundation grants, the Alberta Ecotrust Foundation grant, the Community Initiatives Operating grant, The EcoAction Community Funding grant, the Shell Enhancement Fund and STEP.

However, it wasn't until early August that we discovered that as a faction of the U of A, SoL is unable to apply for grants without approval from the department. In the fall, I will be working towards gaining this approval, along with exploring how SoL should operate in the future (as part of the university or as a community organization) in order to ensure its viability. I will also continue to research grants.

Spirit of the Land also received a substantial gift from anonymous donors last year- part of which paid for the interns this year. We visited the donors in early August to tour their acreage, pick berries and chat about the summer. We had a lovely conversation and updated them on the SoL projects. However, we will also compile a formal report to share with the donors and the development office.

Looking to the fall, I will be developing a new one-pager for Spirit of the Land, and by coordinating with the Development Office, we should be able to explore different forms of funding for SoL's future. This could include gifts and endowments to support the conference, programs or summer interns, as well as the potential to launch a full fundraising approach, beyond the scope of a one-pager. A more thorough report will follow in the winter.