



## REQUEST FOR FIRST NATIONS LEGAL DEFENCE FUNDRAISING SUPPORT

Our mission is to raise legal defence funds to assist Indigenous Peoples who enforce their rights and title to protect their traditional territories and the natural environment. For your application to be considered, it must fall within RAVEN's mandate.

Your application, once completed, will be reviewed by RAVEN's Legal Advisory Committee, which will make a recommendation to the RAVEN Board of Directors. The RAVEN Board of Directors will make the decision whether RAVEN can and will support your application.

The RAVEN Legal Advisory Committee will review your application based on the following criteria: (a) alignment with RAVEN's mandate to support Indigenous rights and governance, access to justice for Indigenous Peoples and protection of Indigenous communities' environments; (b) precedential value, meaning the whether the case raises relatively new issues and the extent to which the case has the ability to advance Aboriginal and environmental law; (c) feasibility: is there enough time for RAVEN to make a difference in the case, is there enough financial and community support from other sources to see the case through to completion; (d) overall anticipated costs of the case to completion, and your ability to contribute financially and/or secure other partners in funding the case (e) clear evidence of community support for your case, including General Membership Resolutions, BCRs, petitions and other indicators of strong community support.

To be considered by RAVEN, the application must answer all of the questions below.

Documents to include to ensure that your application is complete:

**Lawyer's Letter of Support (required) – See Section 8.a**

**Additional Materials (not necessary but helpful for our fundraising) -  
Please include news clippings, maps and diagrams as relevant to  
Sections 5, 6, 7 and 9**

When you have checked that your application is complete, please email to Fundraising Campaigns Director, Ana Simeon, [ana@raventrust.com](mailto:ana@raventrust.com) or get in touch with Ana about alternative ways of submitting the application. Phone number 250-383-2331.

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# Application Form

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## 1.) Date

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## 2.) Liaison Contact Information:

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

Email:

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## 3.) Representative authorized to act on behalf of the Nation/Group in relation to this application:

Check if representative is the same person as the RAVEN liaison.

Name:

Position

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#### 4.) Profile. Background information:

Nation/group name:

Website/blog (URL):

Number of members:

*If incorporated non-profit society:*

Date of registration:

Purpose:

If society a charity?

If yes, date of  
charitable registration:

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#### 5.) Legal Case

**a.) Description** Please describe the legal case for which you require financial support.

## **b.) Preparation**

What kind of work has been done to prepare your case up to this point? Have you prepared any written arguments or contacted potential witnesses? Is there any further evidence you would like to collect before going to court? If unknown, include a statement to that effect in the lawyer's letter (Section 8.a).

## **c.) Court Action to Date**

Please briefly describe any previous legal action you have made on the issue so far.

Date	Level of Court or Tribunal	Description of Action	Outcome
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### **d.) Steps taken out of court**

Please briefly describe any steps you've taken out of court (for example, negotiations or initial meetings with government or industry).

Date	Event	Parties involved	Outcome
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### **e.) Legal Case Strategy**

Please provide a brief description of the proposed legal action and its basis.

## 6.) Issues Posed by Development

### a.) Environmental concerns

Select which of these environmental concerns are relevant to this Nation/group. You may leave non-applicable issues blank. **Please attach any news clippings discussing the significance of the environmental issues.**

Air pollution

Erosion

Soil  
contamination

Biodiversity loss

Flooding

Water  
contamination

Climate Change

Habitat loss

Water  
diversion

Deforestation

Species  
extirpation/  
extinction

Other

*Describe Other*

*Describe the impacts  
of your environmental  
concerns*

## **b.) Community Concerns**

Select which of these environmental concerns are relevant to this Nation/group. You may leave non-applicable issues blank. **Please attach any news clippings discussing how community life has been affected.**

Ceremonial use of land

Harvesting

Recreational  
activity

Community health

Housing

Spiritual  
practices

Employment

Hunting

Trapping

Fishing

Medicines

Water Access

Gathering

Navigation

Other

*Describe Other*

*Describe the impacts to  
affected areas within  
your community.*

## **c.) Objective**

Please provide a summary description of what you hope to achieve in terms of the significant, positive impact if your case is successful.

## 7.) Communications and Fundraising Work

Please identify your key communications and fundraising actions to date relating to this case. This helps us get a sense of public awareness on the issue. **Please attach any relevant documents or news clippings highlighting the nature of the public interest.**

Submissions/petitions  
made

Actions to educate/  
empower

Your community

The public

Interviews with media

Use of social media

Facebook account/group:

# of followers/members:

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Twitter account:

# of followers/members:

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Other social media

URL's/usernames for any other social media  
used by the organization:



## 8.) Legal Team and Experts

### a.) Law firm:

Name of Law Firm:

Key legal personnel:

Lawyer letter: A signed statement of your lawyer's willingness to work on your case under certain terms and conditions. The letter must contain the following:

- For any litigation, a brief description of the legal issues and process (e.g. court or tribunal), along with an estimate of the likelihood of success, if known.
- Scope and timeline of the legal work to be performed under funds raised by RAVEN.
- A statement of the names and roles of all legal professionals working on the file.
- An estimate of the overall legal costs.

**Note to Lawyer:** If the nature of the project makes it difficult to estimate in advance the number of hours required, please indicate in your letter of support why this is the case.

I authorize RAVEN to make contact with this lawyer/organization.  Yes

### b.) Professional expert:

Describe the scope of work of the expert(s) to be funded by monies raised by RAVEN, and provide a statement of the anticipated cost of services, if known.

## 9.) Support for Nation's Legal Case

### a.) Community Support

Does your Nation/group have a Band Council Resolution or any other indication of support from community members? **Please attach any relevant documents or news clippings highlighting community support or partnerships.**

### b.) Additional Support

Has your Nation/group discussed the issue with any other Nations or groups? If so, what has been the extent of your engagement? **Please attach any documents or letters of support from any key partnerships.**

Community Organizations:

NGOs:

Other Indigenous groups:

Unions:

Other:

## **b.) Partner Contribution**

We expect that fundraising by RAVEN will not cover the full cost of litigation or other more intensive legal work. We often expect a partner contribution towards your application budget (on a case by case basis). As partners working with RAVEN, we would like an idea of what your contribution towards the campaign would be, either in the form of monetary support, legal pro bono work or expert contributions.

Your expected Partner Contribution commitment:

## 10.) POTENTIAL WEAKNESSES IN CASE

Please identify any weaknesses or potential risks with your legal case you have encountered so far or expect to encounter in the future. Identifying weaknesses in a claim can help RAVEN to properly tailor its fundraising strategy, and will not preclude a claim from being funded.

**Note to Partner:** All information disclosed to RAVEN through the application process will be kept confidential.

If your request is accepted, we will collaborate on an Agreement setting out expectations between RAVEN and your Nation. This is a non-binding agreement regarding communications and working arrangements that will help guide our partnership.

RAVEN may be unable to continue its support for your Nation if the nature of your legal project changes or if the budget proves insufficient to complete your work. Wherever possible, please advise RAVEN in advance of any changes to your legal project or to the budget.

By signing your name below, the applicant or its authorized agent:

- Guarantees that all the information in this application is accurate;
- Recognizes and accepts that any funds raised may be less than requested.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

When you have checked that your application is complete, please email to Fundraising Campaigns Director, Ana Simeon, [ana@raventrust.com](mailto:ana@raventrust.com) or get in touch about alternative ways of submitting the application. Phone : 250-383-2331.