



MEC Avalanche Safety Grant

Background:

Avalanche Canada seeks to inspire, engage, and empower recreationists to enjoy Canada's winter backcountry safely by developing, coordinating, promoting, and delivering world-class public avalanche safety programs and services in Canada. Avalanche Canada recognizes that racialized communities, namely, Black, Indigenous, people of colour (BIPOC) and organizations serving these communities, face disproportionate barriers in accessing winter backcountry pursuits in Canada. Avalanche Canada and MEC are partnering to reduce some of these barriers by offering Avalanche Skills Training (AST) grants for BIPOC serving organizations to enable them to pursue their outdoor adventures safely.

The MEC Avalanche Safety Grant is intended to help increase accessibility to winter backcountry adventures for non-profit organizations serving racialized communities. The MEC Avalanche Safety grant offers operating funds for BIPOC led and serving organizations to cover the costs of Avalanche Skills Training (AST 1) courses.

The financial support funds operational costs for up to 4 AST 1 courses in BC and Alberta with a total of \$2500 funding per course (covers 8 participants/course) to take place between December 15, 2022 – April 3, 2023. Further details of grant below:

What Avalanche Canada will fund/provide access to:

- Funds for AST instructor wages and travel costs
- Assistance with vetting AST providers if required
- Printed resources for 8 participants
- Avalanche safety equipment (transceiver, shovel, probe) for use on the course
- Classroom venue and AV costs if not covered under instructor fees

What your organization will be responsible for:

- Administration of the course, including:
 - Scheduling course dates,
 - Hiring and communication with a licensed AST Provider*
 - Vetting of the appropriate students for this course (8 skiers OR 8 snowshoers, cannot be mixed)
 - Assigning point person for all communication in regards to the course (instructor to students and Avalanche Canada to your organization)
 - Being responsible for the “Tool Box” (which includes the necessary avalanche safety equipment for 8 students) for the duration of the course (including receiving the shipment until it has been shipped to the next locale)
 - Submitting a final report to Avalanche Canada post course

- Securing a classroom space necessary for one day. Liaise with AST instructor to ensure there is a meeting space that will accommodate 9 people (8 participants/1 instructor), with a screen (or white wall) and an LCD projector.
- Maintaining timeline: The AST 1 course will be delivered between the dates of December 15, 2022 – April 3, 2023.
- Utilizing discretion regarding participant gear: students require skis/skins/poles (or snowshoes if a snowshoe course), clothing, backpack, and personal items needed for the field day. It is up to the discretion of the organization to determine if some of the grant funds will be used to assist some equipment rentals for students.
- Ensuring funds received are used for the following:
 - Instructor wages
 - Classroom rental (if not included in instructor fees)
 - Equipment rental (skis, skins, boots, snowshoes) for students

***Note:** Avalanche Canada can assist with vetting AST providers

About the Avalanche Skills Training (AST) 1 course:

If you venture out of bounds, off the trails, or into the backcountry an AST 1 is your place to start. You don't need any experience to take this course. It is a must for everyone recreating in the backcountry.

This is the course where you'll learn how to recognize avalanche terrain and how to companion rescue. An AST 1 is a minimum of two days with both classroom and field components. You need to take this course first and so should your friends because just one person trained in a group is not enough. Everyone in your group should take an AST 1. Finally, recognize an AST 1 course is only the beginning—the avalanche pros will tell you avalanche training is a lifelong process.

What you will learn:

- Avalanche formation and release.
- How to identify avalanche terrain.
- The basics of trip planning.
- Optimal use of tools and resources like the avalanche forecasts to mitigate your avalanche risk.
- Using appropriate travel techniques in avalanche terrain.
- Intro to companion rescue.

Organization Eligibility:

We fund AST Grants for organizations with the following criteria:

- BIPOC led (defined as where at least two thirds of senior leadership are held by those who self-identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Colour) or serving organizations supporting diversity in the outdoors
- Must be based in and serving BIPOC/racialized communities in BC and AB

- Non-profit, charities and community groups are eligible. (Registered, or planning to register as a non-profit preferred but not a mandatory requirement.)
- Organizations that support programs to remove barriers for BIPOC/racialized communities to fulfill outdoor pursuits.

We do not fund AST grants for:

- Sports teams
- Political organizations
- Commercial or incorporated enterprises
- Professional organizations or trade groups

Key dates:

Applications open from September 26, 2022 to November 6, 2022

Final decisions will be made by November 14, 2022

AST courses to be run between December 15, 2022 and April 3, 2023

Final report due April 30, 2023

Grant Application

Applicant Organization:

Qualified Donee Type:

BN/Registration Number/Society number (if available):

Legal Name:

Operating Name (if different from legal name):

Mailing Address:

Phone: _____

Website: _____

Twitter: _____

Facebook: _____

Instagram: _____

LinkedIn: _____

Organization Profile:

Project Contact

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Executive Director or senior staff person

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

1. What is your organization's mission and goal(s)?

2. Please share how your organization is committed to working on creating equitable access to outdoor experiences for BIPOC/racialized community members

3. What services do you provide?

4. What populations do you serve?

5. What percentage of your membership are Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC)?

6. How many active members are in your organization?

("Active" meaning they are involved in your organization's mission and goals.)

7. Do you collect membership dues?

Yes No

8. Are you a not-for-profit organization?

Yes No

9. Are you a registered charity?

Yes No

If yes, please provide your registration number: _____

10. Check any of the following that apply. Are you:

- A political organization
- Religious-based
- Membership is limited
- Board is volunteer based

11. What percentage of your members recreate in the winter backcountry? _____%

12. Do your members have access to avalanche training?

Yes No

13. Do you have at minimum 8 members who would be interested in this opportunity?

(Note: 8 skiers OR 8 snowshoers, cannot be mixed).

Yes No

14. Do you have a classroom space available?

Yes No

15. Do you have access to an LCD projector?

Yes No

Please see sample budget template below. Submit your budget with application:

- Please show both revenue and expenses, description, amount, etc. Revenue must equal expenses.
- Revenue or in-kind: e.g. donations from other sources to assist the course as in rentals or lift passes.
- Expense type examples are administration, wages, travel, small equipment, advertising/promotion, office supplies, etc. Please include a description for each type of expense.

Sample Project Budget

Revenue		Unconfirmed Revenue	Confirmed Y/N
	AvCan Avalanche Safety Grant	\$ 2500.00	N
	(List other sources of funds)		
Total Revenue			
Expense Type	Description	Expense Amount	Grant Funds Applied
Administration	5% of total projected expenses		
Wages	AST Instructor Wages		
Total Expenses			

If you have questions please contact: Nancy Geismar, ngeismar@avalanche.ca

Send the completed application and budget template to: Nancy Geismar, ngeismar@avalanche.ca

Ways to support:

We welcome support from those who would like to contribute to this grant to enable more BIPOC/racialized folks to safely learn about and access the winter backcountry. If you would like to contribute, please contact: Nancy Geismar, ngeismar@avalanche.ca.

Our supporters:

MEC is the title sponsor for this grant and Backcountry Access (BCA) has contributed significantly by providing two Tool Boxes (each with 8 sets of avalanche transceivers, shovels and probes). We thank these organizations for their support of this important initiative.

