

February 17, 2026

## A closer look at the projects supported by the OEB's Innovation Sandbox Challenge: Empowering Indigenous Innovation and Leadership

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is supporting five projects with funding and regulatory guidance through its **Innovation Sandbox Challenge: Empowering Indigenous Innovation and Leadership**. Here is a closer look at those projects:

Proponent	Project Summary	Funding/Total Project Cost
Keepers of the Circle	Keepers of the Circle will construct a parking lot solar energy system designed specifically for northern climates, where such infrastructure can be challenging to implement due to extreme cold and heavy snow. The electricity produced will offset loads at an Indigenous women-led construction facility and social enterprise in Kirkland Lake, Ont. The project will also explore the potential for integrating electric vehicle charging in northern Ontario.	\$400,200/\$533,600
Grand Council Treaty #3	Grand Council Treaty #3 will develop an operational and partnership model for the establishment of its Treaty #3 Energy Institute for the 28 First Nations communities it represents. The Treaty #3 Energy Institute will teach energy literacy, provide technical training and facilitate leadership development with a curriculum that includes a regulatory component aimed at increasing knowledge of the OEB.	\$265,000/\$353,000
Mohawk College	Partnering with the Independent First Nations Alliance, Mohawk College will implement a sandbox to centralize multiple sources of asset and energy-related data to support decision-making for capital	\$219,905/\$292,959

Proponent	Project Summary	Funding/Total Project Cost
	and operational investments. The data will be used to create an online energy asset management platform that converts electricity and fuel data into insights that can help with energy planning in First Nations communities.	
Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation	Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation will develop and deploy an Indigenous-led energy asset management platform and technician marketplace (Moose AI) that helps homeowners and businesses in that community manage distributed energy resource assets and hire local qualified technicians. The project aims to onboard about 60 solar and/or battery energy storage systems and at least three First Nations communities. Training materials will be developed to help First Nations communities with solar and batteries adopt the Moose AI platform.	\$195,000/\$260,000
AUX Energy	AUX Energy will develop an Indigenous Energy Transition Decision Framework to support Indigenous groups evaluating which opportunities in the private energy sector they should participate in. The framework will be co-designed with a host Indigenous community, piloted on two project proposals and disseminated as a tool kit to be used by other Indigenous communities.	\$157,500/\$210,000

## Contact Us

For more information, please visit the OEB's [Engage with Us webpage](#) or contact us directly.

## Media Inquiries

Phone: 416-544-5171

Email: [oebmedia@oeb.ca](mailto:oebmedia@oeb.ca)

*Ce document est aussi disponible en français.*

