



## **EASE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

External. Access. Secure. Efficient.



MNP is Canada's leading national accounting, tax and consulting firm to Canada's Indigenous governments. Over the years we have built a solid track record of bringing professional, innovative, value-added ideas and services to our Indigenous clients, along with a reputation for delivering outcome-based strategies and practical solutions that meet each of their unique needs.

Our latest service offering, EASE (External. Access. Secure. Efficient.) is all about building capacity within Indigenous communities to help manage their own financials with their own people and resources. EASE provides a new way of looking at how to provide ongoing and exceptional financial management and reporting capabilities for both the short and long term, with a lower cost to the organization over time.

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## Indigenous Financial Management Challenge

Some Indigenous governments in Canada continue to struggle with implementing and maintaining effective financial systems and reporting. Some common observations related to these challenges are:

### Root Causes

Difficulties hiring qualified people

No financial policies, processes

Limited understanding of financial management, budgeting, etc.

Lack of transparency and accountability for money spent



### Effects

Poor cash management system

Financial "firefighting"

Lack of timely / proper financial reporting

Default and interventions

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## Enter EASE: External. Access. Secure. Efficient.

EASE is a remote accounting and bookkeeping service paired with a skills-building and training program.

EASE was designed to increase financial resiliency in Indigenous governments by:

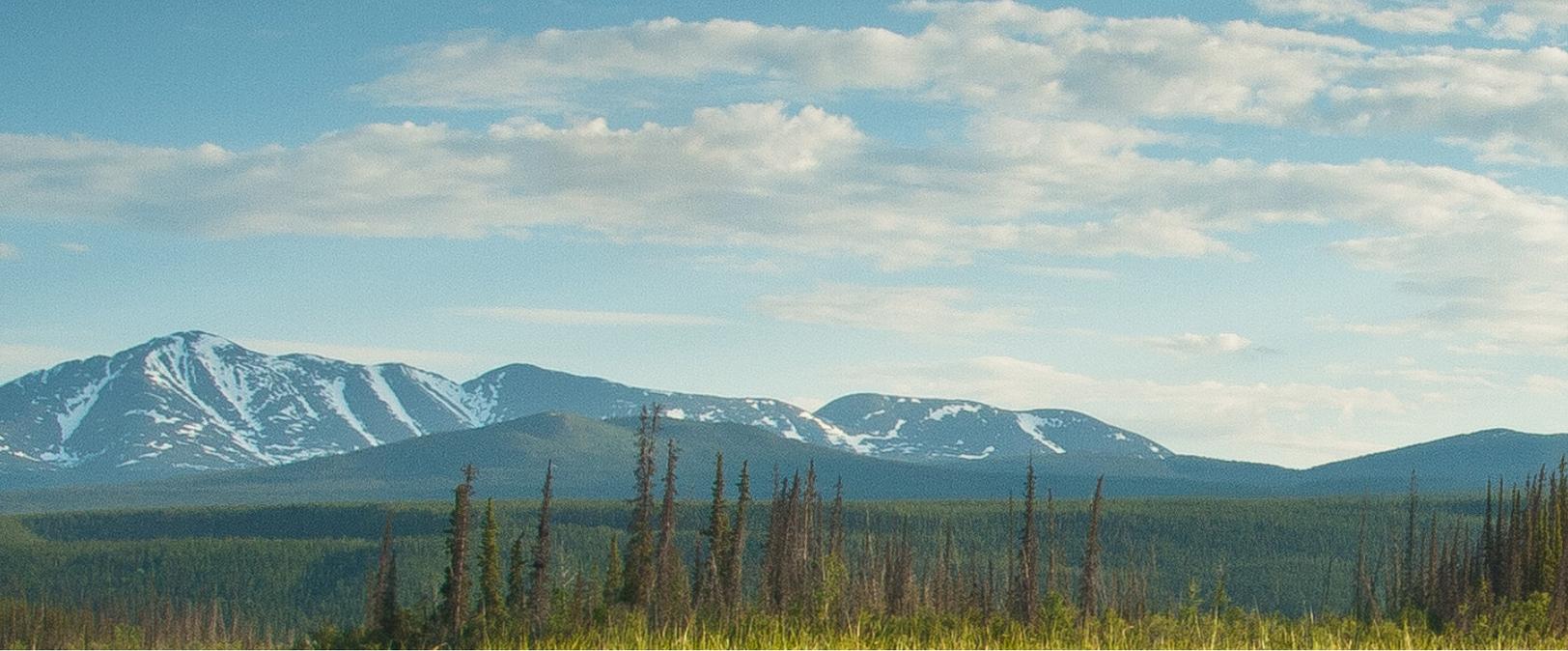
- Supporting Indigenous governments struggling with maintaining effective financial systems and reporting.
- Providing targeted capacity building programs to financial staff and leadership to help improve financial outcomes in Indigenous governments.

The EASE Program should be considered if your organization, government or business would like support to:

- Lay a foundation for long-term growth;
- Build capacity in the community;
- Increase transparency among leadership, staff and community members;
- Create wealth for their members;
- Ensure financial resiliency during period of staff turnover.

### **EASE is not:**

- EASE is not designed to reduce the number of long term jobs within the community - we want to work with your existing staff to build capacity.
- EASE is not meant to be only a short-term solution - Change can take time. We want to make the journey with you.
- EASE is not only for groups that are struggling with maintaining effective financial management.
- EASE is not a system of default management - All decision making remains with leadership and management of the organization.



## EASE Program Overview

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MNP and your government work together over the course of the EASE Program to help you achieve your financial goals. The EASE Program is delivered over the course of three distinct phases, each with specific desired outcomes and deliverables.



Time Frame	Description	Desired Outcomes
1-2 Months	<p><b>Phase 1: Current State Assessment</b>            In Phase 1, MNP will perform an assessment and review of the current state of your community's finance department and the personnel working in it, creating a road map for future work to be carried out. We work with you to understand your goals related to financial management of your community or organization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We develop a deep understanding of your community and of the current challenges you are facing.</li> <li>• We develop a detailed roadmap identifying how we plan to reach your goals.</li> </ul>
1-2 Months	<p><b>Phase 2: Design and Implement</b>            During Phase 2, we support you to execute the roadmap developed in Phase 1. Typically, we will work with you to redesign your financial processes. We also work with your team to develop learning plans for both the finance staff and leadership to build financial knowledge and skills. If required, we will also provide bookkeeping support to get your community caught up with your finances. At the end of Phase 2, we work to transition your finances to our shared financial platform.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We work together to create individual and community learning plans.</li> <li>• The community's finances are up-to-date.</li> <li>• We have implemented our best-in-class shared financial platform to support the remote delivery of financial services.</li> </ul>
2-3 Years	<p><b>Phase 3: Operate &amp; Review</b>            At this stage of the EASE Program, our teams work together to manage the community's finances. We provide support to your team members through training and practical experience to help improve understanding of financial management across your organization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working together, we produce accurate and timely monthly financial statements.</li> <li>• Individuals are working to build financial management skills, in line with their personal goals and the goals of the organization.</li> </ul>
Anytime You Like	<p><b>Exit Plan</b>            Our ultimate goal for the EASE Program is to provide the right level of financial support for your community in the long term. We can provide as much or as little support as your community needs. Once we have agreed that your team is ready, we transition full management of the finances back to the community. In the event you decide you would like additional financial support, we'll be there to help.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The level of long term financial support is customized to meet your long-term goals.</li> <li>• Having developed a deep understanding of your financial processes, we will be ready to provide additional support if you need us.</li> </ul>

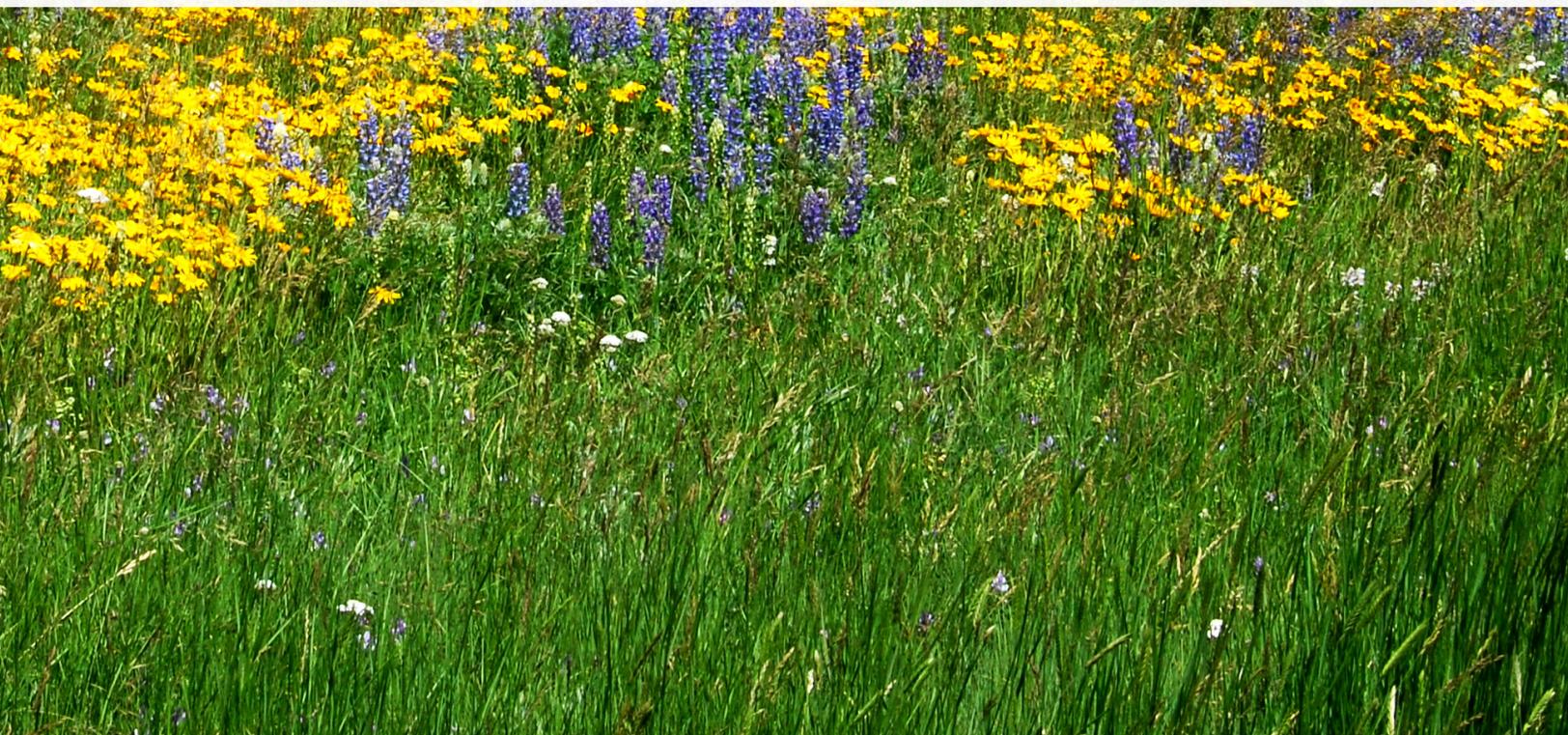


## How EASE is Different

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Under the EASE Program, MNP will not make financial decisions for your organization. We help support sound decision making by your administration and leaders by helping you produce and ultimately understand the current state of your finances. We work with you to develop the knowledge and skills of your leadership and team members, working towards your goals for financial management within the organization. We can provide as much or as little financial support on demand, when you need it most.

If your organization's goal is to perform and manage its finances independently, a typical EASE engagement would last around 24-36 months. The total time frame is decided by the organization, but is influenced by the current skill level of the organization and the desired long term goals of the organization.



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# ABOUT MNP

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## **About MNP's Indigenous Services**

In today's environment, it is more important than ever for Indigenous governments, organizations, companies and individuals to make well-informed decisions, which is why it is essential to have an advisor who fully understands your circumstances.

MNP is a leading national accounting, tax and consulting firm for Indigenous Nations in Canada. For the past 30 years, we have invested significant time and resources developing and delivering practical services for our clients. Serving Indigenous Nations, businesses and individuals across Canada, our team consists of 300 professionals that have a diverse set of experiences and services designed to position you for success.

MNP has embraced the opportunity to become more familiar with Indigenous peoples, including their history, culture and incredible contribution to our country. Through this important relationship, we have come to recognize the role that Indigenous values play in future planning, daily operations and decision making.

Our deep breadth of experience has made MNP the preferred firm for more than 250 Indigenous groups, including First Nations, Tribal Councils, organizations and Indigenous community - or individual - owned businesses.





## ABOUT MNP

MNP is a leading national accounting, tax and consulting firm to Canada's Indigenous communities. We have invested more time and resources into understanding Indigenous needs than any other firm. With more than 250 Indigenous clients and 300 professionals, MNP has developed a diverse suite of services designed to preserve our clients' traditions and position them for success.

To find out what MNP can do for you, contact your local MNP Indigenous Services advisor or our service leaders:

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