

Government Funding Programs – March 2015

This is a list of government funding programs that may be accessed to support activities to expand and innovate the food and agricultural sectors in Thunder Bay. Funding programs change regularly, and occasionally with little to no notice. Check with the program website to make sure dates are correct and that funding remains available. These funds are all active at the time of printing.

1. Agri-Innovation Program (AIP) Industry-Led Research and Development Stream

Supports pre-commercialization R&D, leading to new agri-based products, processes and practices.

- Combines industry, academia and government expertise to promote innovation.
- Scope may be national, regional or local.

Eligible spending:

- Business expansion
- Capital Investment
- Research and Development

As of February 1, 2015, the Industry-Led R&D stream will start using an open system where applications can be submitted for review at any point until available support to accepted projects has been fully allocated.

Priority will be given to proposals with 50% industry contribution of total project costs.

Website: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/?id=1354301302625>

2. Agri-Innovation Program (AIP) Enabling Commercialization and Adoption Stream

Accelerates the rate of identification, assessment, development and adoption of innovation based products.

- Commercialization projects of a new product or innovation.
- Technology adoption projects to improve internal operations or end products.

Eligible spending:

- Business expansion
- Capital Investment
- Research and Development

As of February 1, 2015, the Industry-Led R&D stream will start using an open system where applications can be submitted for review at any point until available support to accepted projects has been fully allocated.

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3. AgriMarketing Program

The AgriMarketing Program helps farmers and food processors compete in markets at home and abroad. It supports the agriculture industry by creating and maintaining access to markets and taking advantage of market opportunities.

\$341 million is available in the form of government projects and contribution funding until 2018.

Provides non-repayable funding support to Canadian agriculture, agri-food, fish and seafood industries by allowing them to identify market priorities and carry out marketing activities to develop export opportunities.

- Development and production of advertising materials.
- Trade shows, conferences and trade missions.
- Implementing marketing and branding plans

Eligible spending:

- Business expansion

Website: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/?id=1357941192614>

4. Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program

Supports non-profits in developing new products, ideas, or technologies to advance the agricultural industry. The program ends on March 31, 2019.

- Covers 50% of costs, \$1M project max and \$4M lifetime funding max.
- Covers labour, equipment, travel, software, and other direct project costs.
- Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

Eligible applicants:

- Must be legal entities capable of entering into legally binding agreements.
- Not-for-profit organizations and associations, including cooperatives
- Marketing boards
- Aboriginal groups

Objectives:

Seize opportunities: Allow industry to take advantage of a situation or circumstance to develop a new idea, product, niche, or market opportunity.

Respond to new and/or emerging issues: Address issues that were unknown or not a concern before.

Pathfind solutions to new and ongoing issues: Investigate new ways and/or different options of dealing with new and/or ongoing issues.

Pilot solutions to new and ongoing issues: Test ideas and or approaches to apply in the sector.

Eligible spending:

- Business expansion
- Capital investment
- Research and development

Website: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/?id=1396016168338>

5. Growing Forward 2

Growing Forward 2 offers cost sharing grants aimed at supporting the agricultural industry in Ontario to expand, innovate and become more competitive.

GF2 is in its third year and the ministry is committed to continuous improvement to reflect client and program needs. GF2 offers cost-share funding for education, training, audits, assessments, planning and implementation activities.

New program guides and applications will be available in April 2015.

Website: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/about/growingforward/gf2-index.htm>

6. Jobs and Prosperity Fund

Ontario business funding program designed to improve global competitiveness.

The three funding streams are:

- New Economy Stream
- Food and Beverage Growth Fund
- Strategic Partnerships Stream

Eligible spending:

- Business expansion
- Capital investment

- Research and development

The Food and Beverage Growth Fund provides funding for strategic investments that:

- Help create sustainable jobs
- Enhance innovation, productivity and market access
- Strengthen supply chains in the food, beverage and bio-product processing sectors.

The fund is available for food, beverage and bioproduct processing projects across the province with more than \$5 million in eligible costs.

Website: <https://www.ontario.ca/business-and-economy/jobs-and-prosperity-fund>

7. FedNor Northern Ontario Development Program

FedNor has three funding priorities – all of which provide funding to agri-food activities.

Community Economic Development:

- Increased community mobilization to identify and prioritize viable economic opportunities through enhanced decision-making and planning;
- Strengthened community economic competitiveness through implementation of identified priorities to diversify and stimulate business investment and growth in the short to medium-term (up to five years);
- Enhanced collaboration among stakeholders to achieve shared regional economic development goals in the short-to medium-term (up to five years).

Business Growth and Competitiveness:

- Enhanced productivity, competitiveness and business management capacity;
- Improved trade and export performance and supply chain integration in the short-to medium-term (up to five years);
- Enhanced level of investment from outside the region that increases the number of enterprises established and/or expanded in Northern Ontario;
- Diversified traditional industries and emerging sectors producing more value-added and knowledge-based products and services.

Innovation:

- Strengthened or new alliances and clusters among businesses, research institutions and innovation centres to commercialize applied research and development in the short- to medium-term (up to five years);
- Increased number of businesses in Northern Ontario engaged in the applied research and innovation process;
- Increased number of value-added products, processes or services developed and commercialized to enhance productivity and competitiveness in key sectors in Northern Ontario.

For more information on the eligible project activities, eligible costs, and funding conditions see: <http://fednor.gc.ca/eic/site/fednor-fednor.nsf/eng/fn03467.html>

8. Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC)

NOHFC Funding Programs serve a wide range of development needs by:

- Offering Ontario business grants for hiring recent graduates
- Offsetting northern businesses' capital costs
- Providing funding for community development projects
- Promoting innovative Northern Ontario businesses, and much more.

There are at least five streams of spending.

Northern Business Opportunity Program

This stream encourages business productivity and expansion, and global investment in northern communities.

- Business expansion projects
- Film and television industry projects
- New investment projects
- Small business start-up projects

Northern Community Capacity Building Program

The Community Capacity-Building Program helps northern communities develop the capacity to promote, attract, and support economic growth in the existing and emerging priority economic sectors identified in the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario.

- Community capacity building initiatives
- Event partnership

Northern Innovation Program

The Northern Innovation Program supports the vision of the Growth Plan by supporting the development and commercialization of new technologies that will

contribute to future prosperity in Northern Ontario, and by fostering collaboration and partnerships among the private sector, academic institutions and research institutes.

- Applied research and technology development projects
- Research chairs
- Opportunity assessment projects
- Pilot demonstration and commercialization projects

Northern Ontario Internship Program

The intent of the Northern Ontario Internship Program is to strengthen Northern Ontario's competitive advantage and build economic development capacity by attracting and retaining graduates in the North. The program provides recent graduates who are interested in launching and building their careers in Northern Ontario access to internships.

Strategic Economic Infrastructure Program

This program supports infrastructure projects that best align with the vision of the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario to help create jobs and build capacity in our northern communities.

Eligible spending:

- Business expansion
- Capital investment
- Research and development
- HR and training

Website: <http://nohfc.ca/en/programs>