

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUND



Program Description

The Research and Innovation Fund Program (RIF) provides non-repayable contributions to non-commercial entities in Newfoundland and Labrador for the implementation of research and development (R&D) and innovation projects to support economic development in Newfoundland and Labrador. The goal is to support highly-qualified people, research, innovative programming and infrastructure in priority areas that have the potential to strengthen R&D capacity and the innovation ecosystem in the province.

Eligible Activities

- Academic-led, industry-relevant R&D that involves new or improved collaboration with business or industry partners. Projects must align with Industry, Energy and Technology (IET) strategic priorities, industry needs, development opportunities, and demonstrate potential for economic impact in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Academic-led, industry-relevant R&D in IET priority areas that have an identified funding gap and leverage targeted sources of non-provincial public funding.

- Projects that support a strong start-up community and entrepreneurial support networks through which research ideas, business innovation, and early stage supports maximize opportunities for innovators and advance provincial economic growth and diversification goals.
- Applied research projects that leverage community or regional resources, and/or assets to build capacity and extend research and innovation programming province-wide.
- Targeted initiatives to foster research, knowledge mobilization, innovation partnerships, and collaboration locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally, and builds strong linkages between industry, innovation partners, and academic research.

Project Timelines

The project should commence within six months of approval.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include:

- Public and not-for profit academic and research institutions
- Industry associations
- Municipalities
- Other not-for-profit groups including economic development organizations

Note:

- Applicants must be incorporated.
- Research applicants with Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador and the College of the North Atlantic must hold full-time positions for two or more years prior to application.

Eligible Costs

The program normally provides up to 50 per cent of total eligible costs of a specific project as a non-repayable contribution, with a maximum RIF investment of \$750,000. Proposals exceeding this amount may be considered. A client or partners should normally contribute a minimum of 10 per cent to the total project costs.

Eligible costs include:

- Capital costs including building renovations intended to establish or upgrade R&D infrastructure, equipment, and other R&D-related infrastructure.
- Wages and salaries for highly-qualified personnel such as researchers, research assistants, graduate student researchers, post-doctoral fellows, technical support staff, technical project managers and project-related highly-qualified personnel that support R&D and innovation ecosystem initiatives.
- Other direct operating R&D costs related to materials, equipment, maintenance and costs necessary to undertake an approved project.

Ineligible Costs

- Core administrative functions of any organization
- Administration fees
- Entertainment
- Business plans related to the core operations of an organization
- Travel for the purposes of gathering support for an initiative
- Proposal writing and costs associated with applying for funding
- Activities that compete with a private enterprise located in Newfoundland and Labrador

Contact Information

For more information please contact IET@gov.nl.ca.

A listing of Economic Development Officers located throughout the province is available at gov.nl.ca/iet/department/contact/#roffices. For St. John's CMA visit gov.nl.ca/iet/department/contact/#is.

Regional Offices

Labrador:	709.896.2400
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