

Federal Financing Opportunities for Co-ops

Regional Economic Growth Through Innovation (REGI) Program

Under REGI, innovation funding programs across all of Canada's six Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) will focus on two key areas:

- **Business scale-up and productivity:** Investing in and supporting businesses at various stages of development, including high-growth firms, to accelerate their growth, assist them in scaling up and enhance their productivity and competitiveness in both domestic and global markets.
- **Regional innovation ecosystems:** To create, grow and nurture inclusive regional ecosystems that support business needs and foster an entrepreneurial environment conducive to innovation, growth and competitiveness.

While REGI will focus on these two streams, RDAs will continue to support businesses and communities through existing programming to foster economic development opportunities and diversification in their regions.

Atlantic Canada

The objective of the [Business Scale-up and Productivity stream](#) is to invest in and provide support to businesses at various stages of development, including high-growth firms to accelerate their growth and assist them in scaling up, enhance their productivity and competitiveness in both domestic and global markets.

The objective of the [Regional Innovation Ecosystem stream](#) is to focus on developing stronger and more inclusive regional innovation ecosystems that can provide businesses with end-to-end support throughout the innovation continuum and build ecosystems where firms can develop and grow.

The [Atlantic Innovation Fund](#) helps businesses, universities, colleges and research institutions to develop and bring to market new products or services, adapt technology to meet business and market needs, and partner with other firms and researchers to achieve commercialization success.

The [Women Entrepreneurship Fund](#) will support women entrepreneurs in a diversity of industries in their efforts to scale and grow their businesses, as well as pursue export-oriented Projects. Please note that the application in take for this program ended November 15th, 2018.

The Women Entrepreneurship Strategy [Ecosystem Fund](#) will provide Contributions to Non-profit Organizations to bring together stakeholders to address gaps in Business Support and ensure access to Business Support for women entrepreneurs. Please note that the application in take for this program ended November 22th, 2018.

Quebec

Quebec Economic Development Program

The Quebec Economic Development Program (QEDP) contributes to the development and economic diversification of regions, supports communities and supports targeted initiatives that support government priorities.

Community Futures Program

The Community Futures Program (CFP) supports local economic development and strengthens the ability of communities to achieve their full potential in a sustainable way.

Southern Ontario

Business Scale-up and Productivity

- Innovative and globally-oriented businesses seeking to accelerate their growth.
- High-potential firms (including accelerator graduates) that are commercializing innovative products, technologies and processes.
- Firms with scale-up potential looking to improve productivity through the adaptation/adoption of highly innovative, first-of-its-kind technologies with the goal of global competitiveness and market expansion.
- Entrepreneurs and businesses in rural areas looking to grow, commercialize and improve productivity.

Regional Innovation Ecosystem

- Not-for-profit organizations who contribute to fueling an entrepreneurial environment conducive to business innovation and growth.
- Regional economic stakeholders who promote the entrepreneurial talent of underrepresented groups, including women, Indigenous peoples and young entrepreneurs.
- Ways to strengthen opportunities and networks for rural businesses to support innovation and growth.

Community Economic Development and Diversification

- Businesses or not-for-profit organizations in small communities who are working to develop, diversify and transform their local economies.
- Rural partners to help address the unique economic conditions in small towns and rural communities.

Northern Ontario

Community Economic Development:

- Increased community mobilization to identify and prioritize viable economic opportunities through strong decision making and planning;

- Strengthened economic competitiveness in the community through 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.

Western Canada

The Business Scale-up and Productivity (BSP) program stream supports businesses at various stages of development, including high-growth firms, wanting to accelerate their growth, scale-up, and be more productive and competitive in both domestic and global markets. It offers interest-free funding to western Canadian companies.

Activities that accelerate and support business growth will be eligible. These activities may include:

- **Productivity Improvement:** includes acquiring, adapting, and adopting new technologies and processes; process re-engineering; improving manufacturing capacity.
- **Business Scale-up:** includes market development/expansion, diagnostics, and adopting best management practices, processes and systems; business opportunity development.
- **Technology Commercialization:** includes late stage product development to grow and diversify markets, as well as technology showcasing and technology demonstration.

BSP applications must support one of these priorities:

1. Clean Technology
2. Clean Resources

3. Life Sciences
4. Value-added Agriculture
5. Advanced Manufacturing
6. Digital Technology

Information about these priorities can be found in the [Economic Strategy Tables](#).

The application period for BSP is now closed.