Nova Scotia Seafood and Agriculture Strategic Investment Fund 2025-2027

PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2025

Perennia

NOVA SCOTIA

FUND OBJECTIVE

The Nova Scotia Seafood and Agriculture Strategic Investment (SASI) Fund supports major innovative and transformative projects that benefit the seafood and agriculture sectors.

Projects should demonstrate tangible and measurable economic outcomes that benefit our communities in such areas as enhanced market diversification and processing capacity with the goal of increasing Nova Scotia's competitiveness in a changing world economy.

Projects should:

1. offer a unique solution to a sector challenge that is impeding efficiency and growth
2. support adoption of new processes, infrastructure and/or equipment that will increase productivity, enhance efficiencies, support new and innovative products to market and/or sector diversification

The fund expires on March 31, 2027 unless otherwise indicated.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated by the Program Review Committee based on the following criteria.

Project concept (20 points) – high-level overview of the project and what specific challenge or opportunity is it seeking to address

Degree of potential impact (40 points) – increases the competitiveness, efficiency and profitability of applicant and/or the agriculture, seafood or processing sectors in Nova Scotia

Level of innovation (30 points) – testing technologies or practices entirely novel or new to Nova Scotia; addresses an identified industry need for which there is no current solution

Organizational capacity (10 points) – the applicant's demonstrated funds and resources to successfully complete the project

Effective knowledge transfer plan (10 points) – all submissions must have an information sharing/outreach component open to industry to support knowledge transfer (eg: open house, demonstration session, etc.). Your application must demonstrate how the knowledge transfer plan will reach the intended industry audience to help create a climate of innovation adoption.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligible Applicants

- Registered businesses and commercial Indigenous entities operating in Nova Scotia with a primary focus on at least one of the following:
  - » agriculture
  - » agri-food processing
  - » primary and/or secondary processing of seafood products
  - » aquaculture (land-based or marine)
  - » seafood or marine plant harvesting
  - » licensed live lobster holding facilities (land-based)

OR

- Not-for-profit industry associations/organizations based in Nova Scotia representing the interests of the agriculture, fisheries, food processing and aquaculture sectors

Eligible applicants must be:

- 19 years of age and able to sign a legally binding contract
- Have the required authority to enter into an agreement with Perennia
- Must be in good standing with Registry of Joint Stocks

Specific requirements from agriculture applicants:

- Be currently and properly registered in the correct income category under the Farm Registration Act and actively farming in the program year, if a primary producer
- Must be in good standing with the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Cannabis-related projects are not eligible.

Specific requirements from fisheries and aquaculture applicants:

- Be a commercial enterprise, including commercial Indigenous entity, operating in the province of Nova Scotia and in compliance with all the necessary permits, leases, licenses, and regulations to operate
- Must be in good standing with government which includes but not limited to, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board, and the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
- Must have a valid commercial harvesting license with Department of Fisheries and Oceans if applicable

- If applicable, hold at least one valid:
  - » Nova Scotia Fish Buyers License
  - » Nova Scotia Fish Processors License
  - » Nova Scotia Aquaculture License
  - » Nova Scotia Aquaculture Lease
  - » Nova Scotia Rockweed Lease
  - » Rockweed Harvester Permit Card

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Funding assistance is available up to 75 per cent of total project costs. Levels of assistance will be determined on a project-by-project basis.

This program funds projects that will show measurable, tangible benefits to Nova Scotia's economy and its communities. Projects that can achieve this are usually larger scale with an estimated total cost between $750,000 and $1.5 million. However, we also recognize that smaller-scale projects (between $500,000-$750,000) can also have transformative benefits.

If a case can be made for a project that can demonstrate significant measurable impact for your business and/or the industry and will bring new revenue into the province, please apply. If you are not certain, reach out to **SASI@perennia.ca** and someone will get back to you to discuss your idea.

If your application is for a smaller-scale project that can possibly be eligible for funding under another program, a program officer will advise you of that program.

Please note that as part of the Expression of Interest, all applicants must submit a "Statement of Financial Position" in the form of their business or association's most recent audited financial statements or Notice to Reader financial statements.

Approval of applications is subject to availability of program funding. The total amount of program funding awarded to each applicant may be limited at the discretion of Perennia.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

This is a proposal-based program that will consider a wide range of projects that are strategic in nature. The intent is to advance the overall goals for a commercial business or a sector, with an initiative that addresses an industry issue, identifies a solution that supports sector growth, **and** has an information-sharing component of results.

Expenses related to the following eligible activities will be considered:

1. Piloting and testing of new innovations at an industry-based level
2. Adoption of new-to-Nova Scotia technologies, equipment, or processes that can have a demonstrated impact on productivity and quality improvement, support development of new market opportunities, and/or is likely to lower the cost of production
3. Projects that support emerging priorities and benefit the long-term sustainability of the seafood, aquaculture, farming or food processing sectors

These include but are not limited to:

- Equipment
- Professional equipment installation and shipping costs
- Relevant consultants
- New software
- Construction costs – assessed on a case-by-case basis

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

These include but are not limited to:

- Administrative costs and general overhead
- HST
- In-kind labour and contributions
- Operating expenses and existing staff salaries
- Regular maintenance or incremental costs (costs associated with increasing a current product line or service)
- Exploratory travel
- Upgrade of current software or systems
- Research and/or feasibility studies

APPLICATION PROCESS

Step 1:

1. Submit the Expression of Interest form. Please ensure all sections are completed.
2. You must include your most recent audited financial statements or Notice to Reader financial statements with your form.
3. The Expression of Interest will be evaluated by the Project Review Committee. In some cases, additional information may be requested by the Committee. The Review Committee reserves the right to bring in outside and objective expertise if required to provide assessment guidance in areas outside the reviewing committee's expertise.

Step 2:

Applicants approved to proceed will be notified by email and invited to complete a full SASI Application Form and Plan that will be provided to you. The following constitutes a complete application:

- A completed, signed and dated SASI Application Form and Plan
  - » Please note that applicants will be asked to state economic impacts for Nova Scotia and these will need to be reported on in a final report with your claim. Ensure you note how you will measure those impacts.
- Include copies of any relevant supporting documents based on the type of project submitted
- Include proof of licenses
- Include copies of permits

Upon project decision, the applicant will receive a Letter of Agreement which will need to be signed and returned to officially open the project.

Unless otherwise notified in writing, costs incurred prior to the date identified in the Letter of Agreement will not be eligible for funding.

IMPORTANT DATES

Activity	Date
Fund opens	July 21, 2025
Expression of Interest submission deadline	August 15, 2025
Application Form and Plan submission deadline	September 30, 2025
Project completion deadline	January 15, 2027
Claims deadline	February 23, 2027

If your project is not able to be completed by the date noted in your application/letter of agreement, no funds will be awarded.

** if not all funds are expended, there may be a second call for proposals and the above dates will change*

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

At the end of the project, applicants will be required to submit a Final Project Report with their claim that addresses:

- Success in executing the original deliverables and how the activities undertaken contributed to achieving the project objectives and impacts
- Results of outreach and knowledge sharing activities
- Financial overview on how the funds were spent
- Note on estimated future financial impacts

Please note that a program officer or department staff may be in touch periodically through the activity period to assess progress and in some cases, visit at the end of the project as part of our due diligence for funds expended. Applicants may also be invited to participate in photo and video shoots of their project to be used for materials to report the benefits of the investment.

CLAIMING PROCESS

1. After Perennia receives your signed Letter of Agreement, a claim form will be sent.
2. Keep the form until the end of your project. Complete and sign the claim form at the time of claim submission.
3. The claim form must be accompanied by the Final Project Report as well as:
    - » Copies of invoices for all eligible costs incurred and paid for by the applicant. The following are not acceptable: purchase orders, sale acknowledgements, bills of sale, quotes, estimates, statements, etc.
    - » Proof of payment for each invoice – e-transfer confirmation, EFT, debit card receipt, digital image of cleared cheques (front and back), wire transfer details or credit card/bank statements (invoices marked paid and signed by the supplier are not accepted).

Submit claims with the required supporting documentation to Perennia by February 23, 2027.

If your project is not able to be completed by the date noted in your application/letter of agreement, no funds will be awarded.

Claims may be submitted by email to SASI@perennia.ca with Claim in the subject line. If you need another option to submit your claim, contact us at least two business days before the claim deadline to discuss other options.

ARM'S LENGTH TRANSACTIONS

Program funding will only be offered on transactions (invoices) that do not involve a supplier/service provider that is associated with the applicant, unless it is proven that an associated supplier/service provider is the only registered company providing that service in the area. In such cases that it is necessary to proceed with an associated supplier/service provider, the applicant must apply for pre-approval before proceeding or submitting a claim to ensure that the associated costs will be approved for reimbursement.

AUTHORITY

Perennia shall have the authority to deny an application if there is evidence of misrepresentation of pertinent information or if Perennia feels that the application does not show adequate evidence that it will support the program objectives.

EVALUATION AND AUDIT

Review and evaluation of projects may be carried out by Perennia, or other parties chosen by Perennia for the purpose of audit, analysis, evaluation, program development and determining financial assistance. This review and evaluation process may be conducted prior to project commencement, during work or upon project completion. Applicants may be asked to complete an evaluation survey related to their final claim.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Applicants consent to the release of their name and the amount of support received under the program. This specific information is deemed to be public information, to be actively disseminated by Perennia. Perennia may provide any information from an applicant to another public body or a law-enforcement agency in Canada to assist in an investigation, undertaken with a view to a law-enforcement proceeding or from which a law-enforcement proceeding is likely to result. Any other information provided, unless disclosed in the manner and for the purposes stated above, will be subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please submit any questions by email to SASI@perennia.ca