

# ACOA contributed \$302-Million assistance to the four Atlantic Provinces

ACOA's 2021 CoVid-19 assistance to the four Atlantic Provinces totaled \$302-Million to 1,275 projects, protecting 5,464 jobs and creating 1,240 jobs. It is anticipated assistance will continue in the months ahead as long as Covid-19 is at pandemic proportions. A breakdown by province is outlined below.

In **Nova Scotia**, ACOA invested a total amount of more than \$82 million in 427 projects throughout the province, protecting 1746 jobs and creating 477 new jobs.

This included support for the province's dynamic Life Sciences sector, which included investments in a new bioprocessing hub at the Verschuren Centre in Sydney, as well as continued support for innovative medical technology companies around Halifax.

In 2021, in **Nova Scotia**, ACOA investments also supported:

The Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia, to support its

members as they tried to meet social distancing and other safety measures during the pandemic;

The Downtown Halifax Business Commission, to provide e-commerce services to help their member businesses operate during the pandemic; and

Black Business Initiative, through the Black Entrepreneurship Program's National Ecosystem Fund, to expand and enhance its program offerings with delivery partners in the other Atlantic provinces.

In **New Brunswick**, ACOA invested a total amount of more than \$74 million in 281 projects across all sectors, protecting 1227 jobs and creating 294 new jobs.

Across the province, ACOA helped companies adopt digital technologies and processes by supporting the CollabHub project, an online platform that helps SMEs engage with the province's digital ecosystem. As well, ACOA continued

to support the Conseil économique du Nouveau-Brunswick Inc (in French only), with projects to help grow and retain the Francophone workforce, to help Francophone businesses improve productivity, and to provide business services for women in Francophone minority communities.

In 2021, in **New Brunswick**, ACOA also supported:

Wabanaki Maple, a 100 percent Indigenous and female-owned company, to mitigate the effects of COVID and expand their online presence as well as production facility;

The Multicultural Council of New Brunswick, to help address barriers to full economic participation by newcomers;

and McGraw Seafood, 100 percent owned by the Elsipogtog First Nation, in building a new plant, implementing COVID safety measures, and mitigating effects of the pandemic.

In **Newfoundland and Labrador**, ACOA invested a total of more than \$98 million in 380 projects throughout the province, protecting 2269 jobs and creating 364 new jobs.

Across the province, ACOA invested in the innovation ecosystem, helping to grow Newfoundland and Labrador's vibrant tech sector, which includes startups across health, finance, oceans and the green economy. Projects included support for Genesis, the Me-

morial Centre for Entrepreneurship, the Ocean Startup Project and Bounce Health Innovation.

In 2021, in **Newfoundland and Labrador**, ACOA also helped:

techNL, to support 395 companies to acquire new technology and digital capacity, which allowed them to pivot to generate online sales during and beyond the pandemic;

Innu Nation, to continue the operation of the Innu Business Development Centre, which helps businesses capitalize on opportunities in resource development projects in Labrador; and

Association for New Canadians, to provide awareness, as-

sistance and mentoring to temporary residents in Newfoundland and Labrador on the path to achieving permanent residency.

In **Prince Edward Island**, ACOA invested a total of more than \$48 million in 187 projects throughout the province, protecting over 222 jobs and creating 105 new jobs.

Throughout the province, ACOA investments helped businesses, post-secondary institutions, and non-governmental organizations adapt to rapid change in the face of COVID-19, and set them on a sustainable path for growth. These investments helped establish new and grow existing Centres of Excellence to connect industry with innovative research, advance the technical capabilities of SMEs, and create new tourism opportunities. ACOA program support continued to focus on priorities of labour, digitalization, clean technology and Indigenous economic development through various projects.

In 2021 in **Prince Edward Island**, ACOA also helped:

PEI Business Women's Association, to support entrepreneurship and career exploration in the STEM fields for young women in grades 10-12 through the Techsploration pilot program;

Regional Tourism Associations, to engage members to develop new products through the Tourism Ignition Fund; and

Epekwitk Assembly of Councils' development and implementation of a strategic plan to build on economic opportunities for Mi'kmaq owned businesses.

The Government of Canada is committed to building on ACOA's impactful work in 2021 to accelerate the recovery and growth of Atlantic Canada's economy, strengthen local communities, businesses and sectors, and grow a more sustainable and inclusive future for all Canadians.

(see also story on page 1)

## Below are ACOA's investments in 2021 by program:

Program	# of Projects Approved	Value of Assistance	# of Organizations Supported	# of Jobs Created	# of Jobs Maintained
Regional Relief and Recovery Fund	177	\$48,184,507	172	33	3273
Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund	11	\$2,431,886	11	8	297
Black Entrepreneurship Program	2	\$5,249,390	2	7	1
Regional Air Transportation Initiative	13	\$40,000,000	13	0	237
Aerospace Regional Recovery Initiative	1	\$900,000	1	9	0
Canada Community Revitalization Fund	222	\$15,619,283	215	43	6
Jobs and Growth Fund	46	\$19,421,549	46	188	93
Tourism Relief Fund	69	\$7,988,398	69	52	516
Atlantic Policy Research Initiative	7	\$590,098	6	0	0
Business Development Program	64	\$11,371,583	52	17	344
Canadian Coal Transition Initiative	14	\$9,702,082	13	204	0
Canadian Experience Fund	6	\$270,000	6	0	0
Community Futures	4	\$2,825,054	1	0	10
Innovation Communities Fund	91	\$20,180,697	87	50	228
Regional Economic Growth through Innovation	598	\$129,536,857	500	630	485

## Chamber of Commerce News

The following paragraphs contain Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce information in a newsletter emailed to members on January 19th.

### Long John Festival – February 3 – March 12th

Downtown Truro will be glowing with community spirit this winter when a light show transforms Civic Square into a winter wonderland. The light show is a new addition to the Truro Winter Long John Festival, being held February 3rd to March 12th made possible by funding from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and a three-way partnership between the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Truro, and the Downtown Truro Partnership.

### Members Opportunity! - Winter Night Market Event

The Chamber is hosting a Winter Night Market inside the Truro Farmers' Market from 4 pm - 8 pm on Friday, February 11, 2022. There are 20 subsidized market spaces available to members of either the Downtown Truro Partnership or the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce for the event. Businesses interested in booking one of these spaces will pay only \$25 + HST Please contact [saribell@downtowntruro.ca](mailto:saribell@downtowntruro.ca) if you are interested in booking a space.

### CUA Launches \$100,000 Grant Program for 2022

Since its inception in 2015, the CUA's Community Investment Grant Program, has grown each year, directing more funds to support projects from across the Province. CUA is committed to improving the financial health of Nova Scotians, contributing to initiatives that make our communities and economy



stronger. Last year, CUA was able to increase the funding for the Program to \$100,000.

For the 2022 Grant Program, CUA is maintaining that funding level at \$100,000 across five categories: small business; community; tourism; health, wellness and recreation; and arts and culture.

Applications will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. AST on Friday, January 28th. To learn more about this year's grants, eligibility criteria and how to apply, visit [cua.com/grants](http://cua.com/grants). If your organization has previously received a grant, consider helping us to spread the word to your network.

### Proposed Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care System

On January 14th, the Nova Scotia Government has announced the possibility of receiving childcare for the very affordable rate of \$10 per day, however, we are now disappointed to hear that this benefit is placing a great burden on our childcare centre's and we may not be able to continue a relationship with our chosen care provider due to the new system.

We held a discussion panel with Child Care Business Operators to discuss the impact this will have on them. You can watch the discussion below or by using the link provided.

### CEBA Loans Deadline Extended

The repayment deadline for CEBA loans to qualify for partial loan forgiveness is being extended from December 31, 2022, to December 31, 2023, for all eligible borrowers in good standing. This extension will offer greater repayment flexibility to small businesses and not-for-profit organizations, many of which are facing continued challenges due to the pandemic. Repayment on or before the new deadline of December 31, 2023, will result in loan forgiveness of up to a third of the value of the loans (meaning up to \$20,000). Outstanding loans would subsequently convert to two-year term loans with interest of 5 per cent per annum commencing on January 1, 2024, with the loans fully due by December 31, 2025.

The government is also announcing that the repayment deadline to qualify for partial forgiveness for CEBA-equivalent lending through the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund is extended to December 31, 2023. The repayment deadline for CEBA loans to qualify for partial loan forgiveness is being extended from December 31, 2022, to December 31, 2023, for all eligible borrowers in good standing.

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**OUR TEAM:** For assistance at any time, please reach out to the team member below who represents your region: Zach Nixon, Senior Special Assistant, Regional Affairs and Stakeholder Relations, [Zachary.nixon@international.gc.ca](mailto:Zachary.nixon@international.gc.ca); Tyler Norman Special Assistant, Regional Affairs (West and North) - [tyler.norman@international.gc.ca](mailto:tyler.norman@international.gc.ca); Camille Benoit-Blouin, Special Assistant, Regional Affairs (Quebec) - [camille.benoit-blouin@international.gc.ca](mailto:camille.benoit-blouin@international.gc.ca) and Andrew Welsh, Special Assistant, Regional Affairs (Atlantic) and Policy - [andrew.welsh@international.gc.ca](mailto:andrew.welsh@international.gc.ca)

### Paid Sick Leave Relaunches to Support Nova Scotians

Nova Scotians who have been impacted by the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic may qualify for up to four paid sick days with the relaunch of Nova Scotia's COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Program.

For more details:  
<https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=2021122003>

### Eligibility Update to the Sector Impact Support Program

The Sector Impact Support Program will provide a one-time grant of up to \$7,500 to help small business owners in industries such as restaurants, bars, gyms, live performing arts facilities and recreation facilities. Eligible applicants will now be able to choose a grant amount based on either the gross payroll cost or gross revenues of the business in November 2021. The Program will open in early January 2022. **Coronavirus (COVID-19): Sector Impact Support Program - Government of Nova Scotia, Canada**