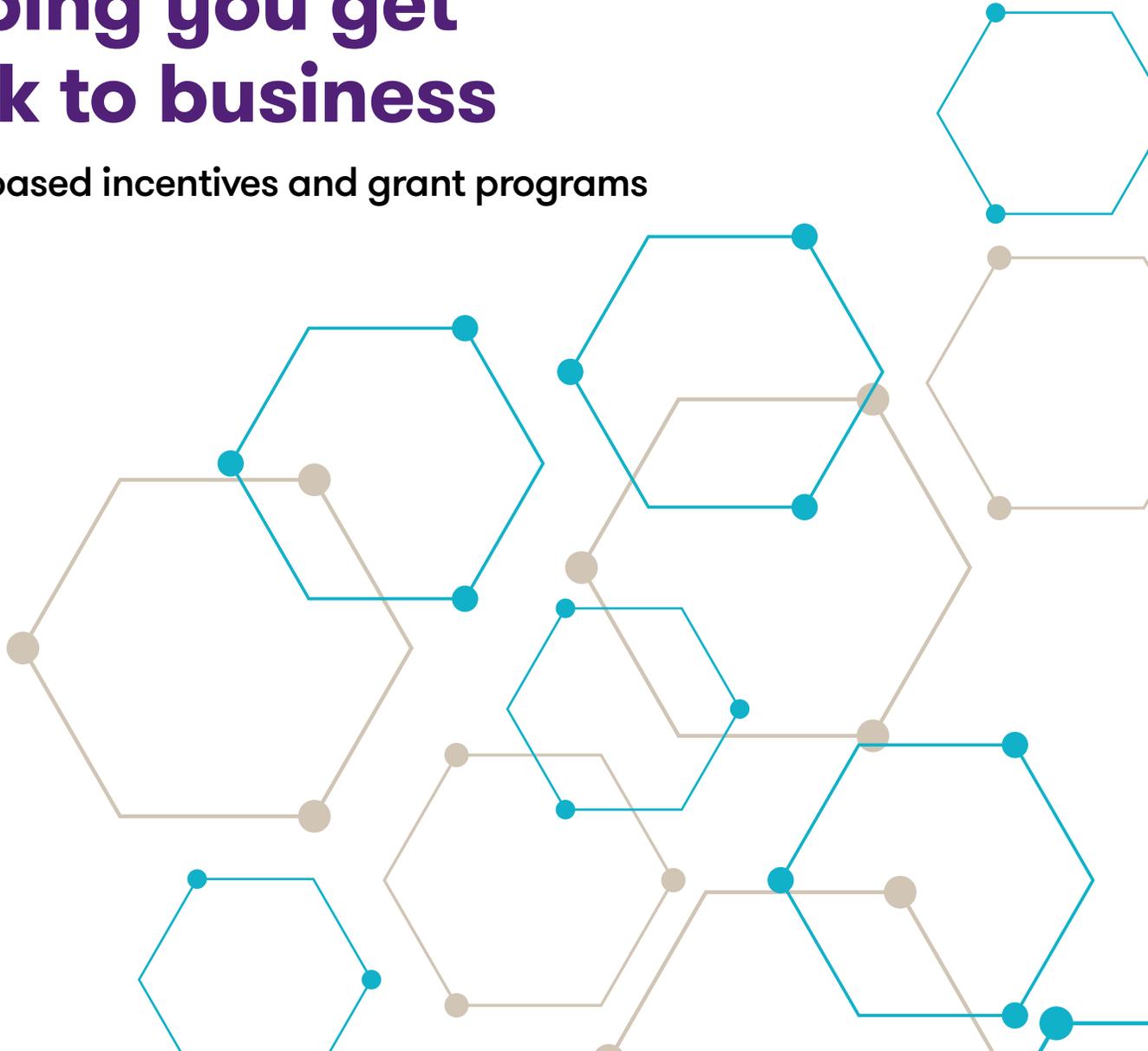




Grant Thornton

# Helping you get back to business

Project-based incentives and grant programs





The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on Canadian businesses and the global economy as a whole. As businesses prepare to re-open their doors, they will continue to need access to support and funds to fuel their recovery.

To help, both the federal and provincial governments are offering a range of new and existing programs to support project-based initiatives. From research and development grants to direct funding for expansion, we have outlined some options that can help you get back to business.

# Programs

## Federal Grants

---

Sustainable Development  
Technology Canada (SDTC)

Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF)

Futurpreneur Canada  
Financing Program

Industrial Research  
Assistance Program (IRAP)

Youth Employment and Youth  
Employment Green Program

CanExport Program

Career Ready Program

Canada Job Grant (CJG)

Career Launcher Internships

Regional Relief and Recovery Fund

## Provincial Grants

---

Innovate BC

Alberta Innovates

Alberta Relaunch Grant

Creative Saskatchewan

Ontario Development Funds

Ontario Interactive Digital  
Media Fund

Atlantic Innovation Fund (AIF)

## Tax Credits

---

Digital Media Tax Credit

Ontario Regional Opportunities  
Tax Credit

Scientific Research & Experimental  
Development (SR&ED)

Film & Video Production  
Tax Credits (CPTC)

## Supercluster Grants

---

PIC Co-Investment  
Funding Program

Scale AI Co-Investment  
Funding Program

Accelerated Ocean  
Solutions Program

# Federal Grant programs



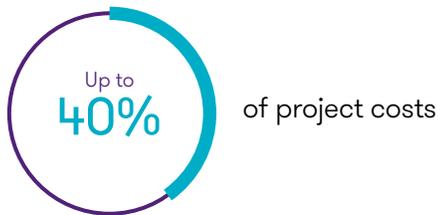
GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

# Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC)

## Purpose

To assist Canadian small and medium-sized businesses advancing innovative pre-commercial technologies that have the potential to have environmental and economic benefits for climate change, clean air, clean water and clean soil.

## Funding



- On average 33% (up to 40%) of eligible costs
- The average contribution is \$3M disbursed over a period of up to five years
- 25% of the eligible costs must be funded through private sector contributions (including in-kind)

## Who should apply?

Businesses developing new and novel technology with significant and quantifiable environmental benefit to Canada:

- Who have formed a consortium that includes at least one other partner.
- Incurring at least 50% of eligible project costs in Canada.

## Eligible costs

-  Salary
-  Materials
-  Professional services
-  License fees and permits

[Get more program details](#)

INNOVATION, SCIENCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CANADA

# Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF)

## Purpose

To assist firms in commercializing new products, processes and services, as well as to grow and expand in Canada.

## Funding



of project costs  
(repayable and non-repayable costs)

## Who should apply?

- For-profit businesses (small, medium or large).
- Larger projects with over \$10M in requested contribution.
- The combined level of assistance from all governments (federal, provincial, territorial and municipal) shall not normally exceed 75% of eligible costs.

## Eligible costs



Direct labour and sub-contractual labour (including consultants)



Overhead (program limits apply)



Materials and equipment



Other direct costs

[Get more program details](#)

FUTURPRENEUR CANADA

# Financing Program



## Purpose

Futurpreneur Canada supports young entrepreneurs with up to \$60,000\* in financing, an expert business mentor for up to two years and resources to help you plan, manage and grow your business. Offering collateral-free loans for young aspiring business owners.

## Funding



including \$20K from Futurpreneur and \$40K from BDC

## Who should apply?

Aspiring business owners aged 18–39 who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents currently living in Canada.

[Get more program details](#)

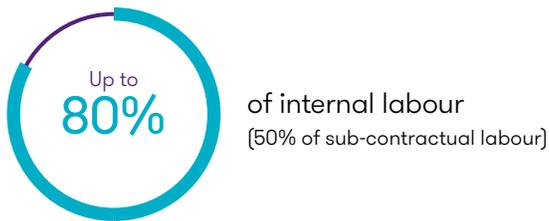
THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (NRC) OF CANADA

# Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP)

## Purpose

To help small and medium-sized businesses commercialize new technologically-driven products, processes or services.

## Funding



## Who should apply?

For-profit businesses with 500 or fewer employees, operating in Canada.

## Focus areas



Advanced manufacturing



Information and communication technology



Life sciences



Clean technology



Aerospace



Automotive

[Get more program details](#)

THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (NRC) OF CANADA

# Youth Employment and Youth Employment Green Program

## Purpose

To help small and medium-sized businesses hire young talent and facilitate the transition of highly skilled young people to a rapidly changing labour market.

## Funding



of participants' salaries and wages  
(maximum of \$10K)

## Who should apply?

Candidates who are recent post-secondary graduates aged 15–30, for a full-time placement of 6–12 months in duration. Must participate in a STEM position.

## Focus areas



Advanced manufacturing



Information and communication technology



Life sciences



Clean technology



Aerospace



Automotive

[Get more program details](#)

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

# CanExport Program

## Purpose

To provide direct financial assistance to Canadian small and medium-sized businesses expanding into new<sup>1</sup> international markets.

## Funding



or **75%** of eligible costs

<sup>1</sup> A market where the company reported less than \$100,000 in sales during the last tax year or one that contributes less than 10% of total sales.

## Who should apply?

### For-profit companies:

- With CRA business numbers;
- That are incorporated legal entities or limited liability partnerships;
- Reported at least \$100,000 and no more than \$100M in prior fiscal's annual revenue.

## Eligible costs



Market research



Adaptation and translation of marketing tools



Intellectual property protection, certification and adaptation of contracts



Expert advice on business, legal or tax matters

[Get more program details](#)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (ITAC)

# Career Ready Program

## Purpose

A wage subsidy program for employers who hire post-secondary students within tech immersive roles to provide them an experiential learning opportunity that promotes skill development.

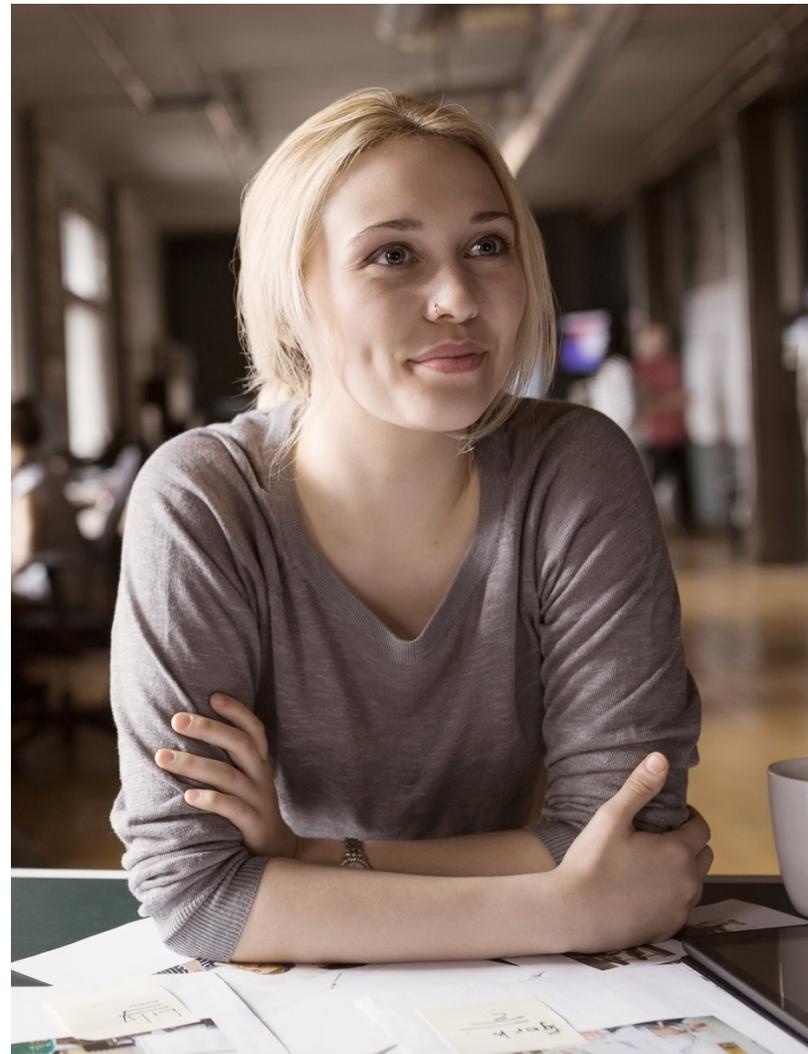
## Funding



## Who should apply

Registered businesses in Canada with a quality position for a student. Must have the ability to pay, train and support the student and must not be filling a position left vacant due to a dispute, termination, layoff or another occurrence that displaces another worker.

[Get more program details](#)



GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

# Canada Job Grant (CJG)

## Purpose

Provides direct financial support to small, medium and large employers who wish to invest in training for their employees delivered by an eligible, third-party trainer. Types of training can include information technology skills development; training on new equipment; technical training; workflow systems and processes; or other training that will benefit your business or organization and that is not typically funded through other government programs.

## Funding



to a maximum of \$10,000  
in government support per  
person for training costs.

[Get more program details](#)

[Get program details \(Ontario\)](#)

[Get program details \(Alberta\)](#)

[Get program details \(British Columbia\)](#)

[Get program details \(Nova Scotia\)](#)



# Career Launcher Internships

## Purpose

Provides employers with up to \$30,000 to hire skilled students and grads while providing students and grads an opportunity to find a paid internship and launch a career with exciting work experience. There are various opportunities in each of the following segments.

## Summaries

### Digital Tech Internships

Hire a full-time digital technology intern for up to 6 months and get up to \$30,000 in salary and training expenses. Up to \$40,000 for intern training and funds can cover up to 100% of the intern's salary. CIGan's total contribution is a maximum of \$30,000, and limited to two internships per employee.



Submit for second round of applications by October 15, 2020.

### Clean Tech

Hire a full-time intern in clean technologies for up to 8 months. CIGan will contribute up to 70% of salary up to \$15,000. Cannot exceed 8 months and must end by March 31, 2021.

### Natural Resources Internship

Hire an intern in a green job within natural resources up to 8 months and CIGan will contribute up to 75% of their salary and funding for training, to a maximum of \$22,500. CIGan will offer up to \$30,000 to employers who hire youth in Northern, rural or remote communities or Indigenous youth. Internship must end by March 31, 2021.

### ImpAct Internships

Hire a youth to support the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) efforts and CIGan will contribute up to 100% of the salary or participation fees, to a maximum of \$10,000, for youth to become SDG ambassadors. All initiatives must be done by March 31, 2021.

[Get more program details](#)

# Regional Relief and Recovery Fund

## Purpose

Financial support for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) that are unable to access other federal COVID-19 relief measures.

## Funding



Total funding available

## Who should apply?

### Ontario

Any Canadian or provincially incorporated business, co-operative or an Indigenous-owned business located in Southern Ontario with one to 499 employees.

### Atlantic Canada

Businesses and organizations that have either:

- Applied for other federal relief measures and have not been able to secure funds; or
- Accessed COVID-19 relief measures and continue to experience hardship.

## Eligible costs



Capital lease payments for existing equipment and machinery



Salaries and benefits



Property taxes



Utilities



Bank charges and interest payments



Rent



Other fixed operating costs

[Get more program details \(Ontario\)](#)

[Get more program details \(Atlantic\)](#)

# Provincial Grant programs



GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Innovate BC

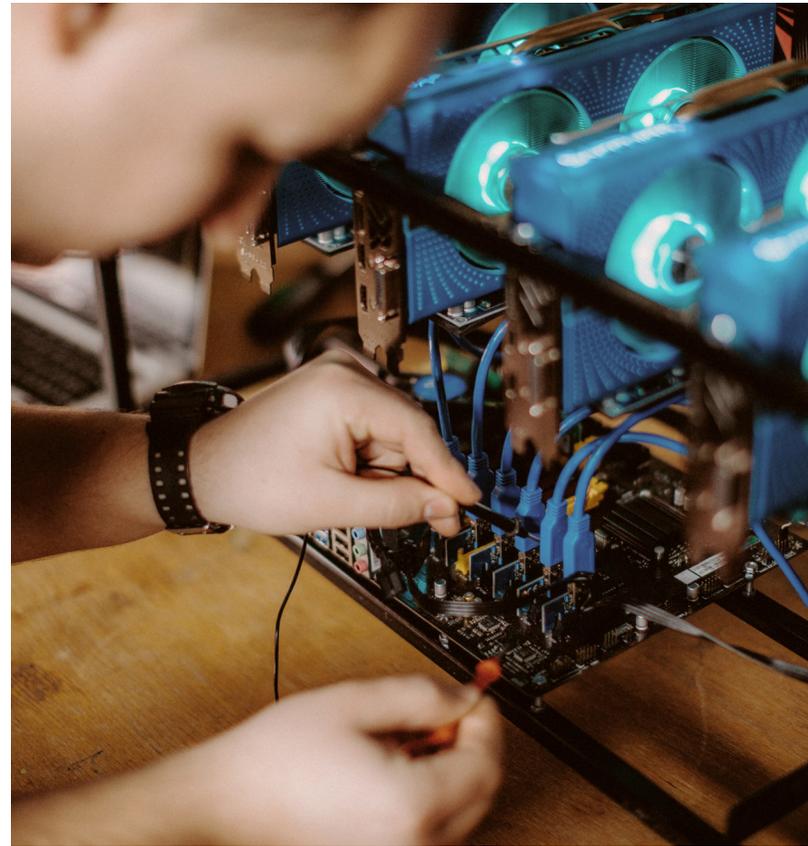
## Purpose

Innovate BC is a one-stop service centre to connect innovators—large and small—with BC government funding, tools, resources and support.

## Funding

There are five main funding programs available through Innovate BC:

- **Ignite Program**—provides up to \$300,000 to fund innovation projects in the areas of natural resources, applied science and engineering.
- **Tech Co-op Grants Program**—provides up to \$200,000 in funding to hire a co-op student.
- **Innovator Skills Initiative**—offers up to \$10,000 to hire a business or tech student.
- **BC Fast Pilot**—provides up to \$200,000 to help businesses design, build and operate a pilot plant or small demonstration of their technology in real-world conditions.
- **Mitacs Innovate BC Program**—contributes up to \$15,000 toward an intern's stipend to increase access to research during the COVID-19 pandemic.



[Get more program details](#)

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

# Alberta Innovates

## Purpose

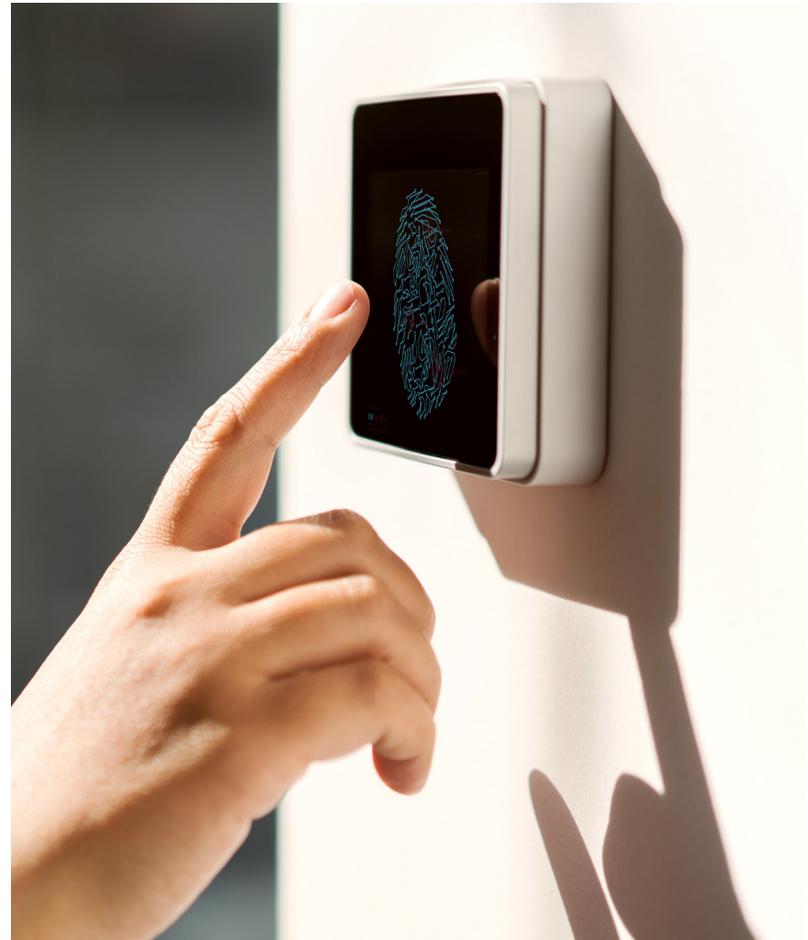
Alberta Innovates supports the entire innovation spectrum, from the generation of new ideas through applied testing to commercialization or end-use. In addition to funding, the organization provides advice, connections, technical expertise and applied research services to stimulate and grow research and innovation across Alberta.

## Funding

With annual investments of \$286 million, Alberta Innovates delivers a broad range of funding and grant opportunities through various programs, including funding for:

- Agriculture, forestry and food
- Business innovations
- Clean energy
- Health research
- Post-secondary institutions

[Get more program details](#)



GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

# Alberta Relaunch Grant

## Purpose

The Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant is offering financial assistance to Alberta businesses, cooperatives, and not-for-profit organizations ordered to close or reduce operations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligible organizations can apply for 15 per cent of their pre-COVID-19 revenue, up to a maximum of \$5,000 in funding, public health orders, and that experienced a revenue reduction of at least 50 per cent in April and/or May 2020, due to COVID.

## Funding



Total available funding

## Who should apply?

Organizations that experienced a revenue reduction of at least 50% in April and/or May can apply for 15% of their pre-COVID-19 revenue to a maximum of \$5,000.



[Get more program details](#)

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

# Creative Saskatchewan

## Purpose

Creative Saskatchewan helps convert creativity into cash flow by investing in a range of creative entrepreneurs and businesses. Its areas of focus include book publishing, craft and visual art, interactive digital, live performing arts, music, and film and television.

## Funding

In the interactive digital category, investments may be available to help you:

- Develop an interactive digital project
- Attend a market
- Market an interactive digital app
- Expand your business capacity
- Undertake industry research

[Get more program details](#)



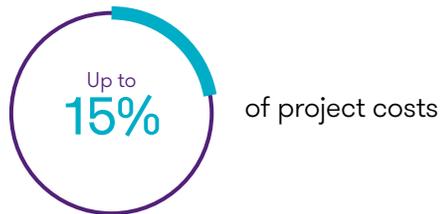
GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

# Ontario Development Funds

## Purpose

To support businesses with repayable and non-repayable funding that encourages economic development in Southwestern and Eastern Ontario.

## Funding



## Who should apply?

### Businesses that:

- Employ over 10 full-time equivalents;
- Are incorporated with three years of operations experience and financial statements;
- Invest at least \$500,000 over four years;
- Create 5–10 net new jobs over four years.

## Eligible costs

-  Facility modifications/retrofits
-  Equipment/machinery upgrades
-  Salaries/wages
-  Permits, fees, training

[Get more program details \(Southwestern\)](#)

[Get more program details \(Eastern\)](#)

[Get more program details \(Northern\)](#)

ONTARIO CREATES

# Interactive Digital Media Fund



## Purpose

The Global Market Development program will provide funding for eligible Ontario companies to participate in international activities that correspond to a strategy for company growth. These activities must produce measurable business and market development results for the participating company (sales, financing, licensing and/or publishing deals, audience awareness, media coverage, partnership development, etc.).

## Funding



capped at 50% of a participating company's eligible expenses\*

\* to engage in international business and market development activities between August 1, 2020 and August 31, 2021.

## Who should apply

Interactive digital media content production companies.

[Get more program details](#)

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JOB CREATION AND TRADE

# Ontario Automotive Modernization Program (OAMP)

## Purpose

This program helps auto parts suppliers receive support when they introduce new technology or lean manufacturing.

## Who is eligible?

- Small- or medium-sized Ontario-based in automotive supply chain
- For-profit business (with a business number)
- Less than 500 employees in Ontario
- Less than \$1 billion in global revenues
- Minimum of two years of financial statements
- At least 50% of the company's total sales revenue comes from the auto supply sector

## Funding



to help cover up to 50% of eligible project costs

Successful applicants must contribute 50% of remaining project costs.

Applications must be submitted no later than Wednesday, October 7, 2020 5:00 p.m. EST.

[Get more program details](#)

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

# Atlantic Innovation Fund (AIF)

## Purpose

To help Atlantic Canadians develop and bring to market new products and services that lead to market success, help grow strategic sectors or create research and commercialization partnerships.

## Funding



of eligible costs for  
**not-for-profits**



of eligible costs for  
**private sector projects**

## Eligible expenses



Salaries and wages



Capital costs



Other operating expenses  
directly related to the project

[Get more program details](#)

# Tax Credit programs



PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS: BC, MANITOBA, ONTARIO, NOVA SCOTIA

# Digital Media Tax Credit

## Purpose

A refundable tax credit for an eligible digital media product whose primary purpose is to entertain or educate users under 12.

## Funding



of related labour, and up to \$100K of marketing and distribution costs for the development of the eligible products.

## Who should apply?

Corporations developing digital media content and associated platforms that allow the user to navigate the product through a combination of text, sound and images.

## Focus areas



Digital games



Mobile applications



E-learning products for children

Note: Operating system software is not eligible for the tax credit.

[Get more program details \(Ontario\)](#)

[Get more program details \(Nova Scotia\)](#)

[Get more program details \(British Columbia\)](#)

[Get more program details \(Manitoba\)](#)

# Ontario Regional Opportunities Tax Credit

## Purpose

A new 10% refundable corporate income tax credit for eligible Class 1 and 6 property to help companies invest and grow in Ontario.

## Who is eligible?

A Canadian-controlled private corporation that makes qualifying investments that become available for use on or after March 25, 2020 in specified regions of Ontario.

The tax credit would be available for expenditures in excess of \$50,000 and up to a limit of \$500,000 for qualifying investments that become available for use by a Canadian-controlled private corporation in the taxation year.

[Get more program details](#)

## Focus areas

### Northern Ontario

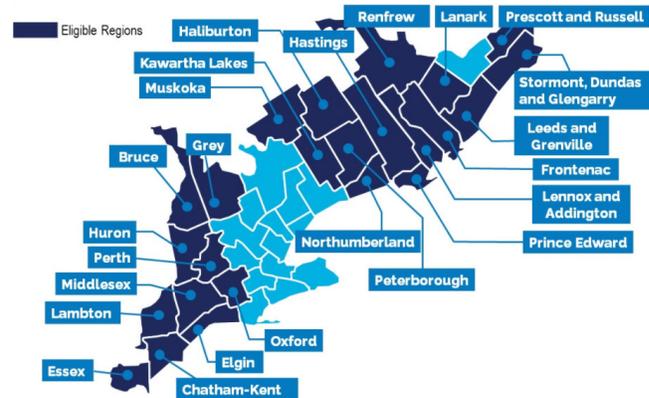
Regions eligible for Regional Opportunities Tax Credits



Source: Ontario Ministry of Finance.

### Southern Ontario

Regions eligible for Regional Opportunities Tax Credits



Source: Ontario Ministry of Finance.

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

# Scientific Research & Experimental Development (SR&ED)

## Purpose

The SR&ED Program uses tax incentives to encourage Canadian businesses of all sizes and in all sectors to conduct research and development (R&D) in Canada. The benefits are an income tax deduction, as well as a refundable investment tax credit (ITC) for Canadian Controlled Private Corporations (CCPCs).

In addition to the federal SR&ED credit, claimants can also benefit from related R&D provincial tax credits.

## Funding



## Who should apply?

A company must undertake a project that:

- addresses a technological uncertainty that could not be resolved using standard practices;
- leads to a technological advancement by generating new information or improving one's understanding of scientific relations or technology;
- includes a planned systemic investigation that is supported with documentation.

## Focus areas

-  Advanced manufacturing
-  Information and communications technology
-  Medical and pharmaceutical
-  Agri-food development

[Get more program details](#)

# Film & Video Production Tax Credits (CPTC)

## Purpose

This credit encourages both production in Canada and Canadian programming and is jointly administered by the Canada Revenue Agency and the Department of Canadian Heritage, through the [Canadian Audio-Visual Certification Office](#).

## Funding



Funding in the year cannot be

- tax-exempt at any time
- controlled by one or more tax-exempt person at any time

## Who should apply?

A company must undertake a project that:

- addresses a technological uncertainty that could not be resolved using standard practices;
- leads to a technological advancement by generating new information or improving one's understanding of scientific relations or technology;
- includes a planned systemic investigation that is supported with documentation.

## Focus areas



Advanced manufacturing



Information and communications technology



Medical and pharmaceutical



Agri-food development

[Get more program details](#)

# Supercluster programs



PROTEIN INDUSTRIES SUPERCLUSTER

# PIC Co-Investment Funding Program

## Purpose

Increase the value of key Canadian crops to satisfy growing markets in North America and Europe for plant-based meat alternatives and new food products. PIC will co-invest in collaborative consortia that leverage strengths, address gaps and incent innovation across the value chain.

## Funding



salaries and wages

## Who should apply?

Be submitted by a consortium of at minimum two (2) PIC members, at least one of which is a small or medium enterprise (SME) as defined by Statistics Canada as a business with 499 or fewer employees and less than \$50 million in gross revenues.

## Focus areas



Agri-food enabling technologies, including genomics, processing and information



Chosen projects will align to PIC's four priority areas (create, grow, make and sell) and will demonstrate impact up or down the value stream

[Get more program details](#)

AI-POWERED SUPPLY CHAINS SUPERCLUSTER (SCALE AI)

# Scale AI Co-Investment Funding Program

## Purpose

Investment for companies across a range of industries that are deploying AI to enhance their supply chain for the development of innovative, collaborative projects that leverage AI to make supply chains more intelligent and more efficient, such as:

- Supply chain operators
- Supply chain solutions providers
- AI and digital technology providers

## Funding

- Salaries, wages or contracts
- Costs of purchasing or renting equipment, supplies or services
- Dissemination costs
- Capital expenditures

## Focus areas



Artificial intelligence and supply chain technology



Augmented sourcing and procurement



Demand forecasting and planning



Automated in-plant logistics/warehousing



Capacity, resource utilization and inventory planning



Scheduling and predictive disruption analysis



Real-time data integration traceability and visibility

[Get more program details](#)

OCEAN SUPERCLUSTER

# Accelerated Ocean Solutions Program

## Purpose

The Ocean Supercluster is supplementing its core programs with a Call for Proposals. It is looking to finance smaller projects that deliver tangible outcomes on a shorter timeline. Projects should help build the resilience of the Supercluster, the ocean economy and ocean sectors.

## Funding

Reimbursement of 75% eligible contributions per project up to the maximums below:



for project types A, B and C



for project type D

## Focus areas

### Funding provided across three themes:



Remote operations



Digital/automate technologies



Environmental technologies

### And four project types:



A. Product/service advancement and commercialization



B. Capacity and infrastructure



C. Process enhancement



D. Innovation ecosystem

[Get more program details](#)

# Driving Canada's recovery, fueling your business

As the world transitions to a new normal, it can be difficult to adjust. Grant Thornton can help. Leveraging our familiarity with incentive programs across the country, [our advisors](#) can guide you through the application process to help get you the funding you need.

Contact [Martha Oner](#), our National R&D and Government Incentives Leader if you have questions about these programs.

Visit our [COVID-19 Hub](#) for timely information and resources, and connect with your [Grant Thornton advisor](#) to learn more.



Grant Thornton LLP wants to caution that these rules are still new and continue to evolve as the government continues to re-evaluate the economic impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We may still see changes to these measures—as well as new measures—as the government attempts to address the issues that have been raised by us and the tax community. Therefore, any analysis included herein reflects our knowledge as of the date and time of this publication and may no longer be applicable if changes do occur and you should proceed with caution before making any decisions.



[grantthornton.ca](http://grantthornton.ca)

Rev October 1, 2020

#### **Audit | Tax | Advisory**

© 2020 Grant Thornton LLP. A Canadian Member of Grant Thornton International Ltd. All rights reserved.

#### **About Grant Thornton LLP in Canada**

Grant Thornton LLP is a leading Canadian accounting and advisory firm providing audit, tax and advisory services to private and public organizations. We help dynamic organizations unlock their potential for growth by providing meaningful, actionable advice through a broad range of services. Grant Thornton LLP is a Canadian member of Grant Thornton International Ltd, whose member and correspondent firms operate in over 100 countries worldwide.