



# Rural economic development engagement: federal and provincial supports

## Provincial Supports

### AgriRecovery Program

The Government of Alberta made \$136 million available under this joint program with the Government of Canada. Alberta has asked the federal government to provide an additional \$204 million for a total relief package of \$340 million. This will provide support for drought-stricken livestock producers. <https://afsc.ca/income-stabilization/agrirecovery/>

### Alberta Biz Connect

Alberta Biz Connect provided tailored up-to-date information to help small businesses comply with public health requirements, access supports, and find answers to questions during the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx>

### Aboriginal Business Investment Fund

The Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF) can partially or completely fund capital costs for Indigenous community-owned economic development projects. Projects like these improve social and economic outcomes for Indigenous Peoples and their communities. To get funding, projects should be close to starting operations or breaking ground within the fiscal year following funding. <https://www.alberta.ca/aboriginal-business-investment-fund.aspx>

### Alberta Export Expansion Program

Funding to help export-ready companies and non-profit organizations enhance access to international markets and attract global buyers. <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-export-expansion-program.aspx>

### Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation

With up to \$1 billion in loan guarantees. Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) helps to reduce the cost of capital for Indigenous groups and make it easier to raise capital to invest in natural resource projects. The range for a loan guarantee is a minimum \$20 million to a maximum \$250 million. AIOC also have limited capacity supports available to help you connect with investment experts to assess large-scale investments. From legal advice to financial due diligence, support is available. <https://www.theaioc.com/program/overview/>

### Alberta Innovates Micro Vouchers (Alberta Innovates)

Micro vouchers are aimed to help Alberta's small- and medium-sized enterprises in the technology and knowledge-based sector hire a service or product provider to advance their technology closer to commercialization. Eligible applicants can apply for up to \$10,000, paid directly to the service provider, to cover eligible expenses charged by the service provider. <https://albertainnovates.ca/programs/micro-voucher/>

### Alberta Innovates Vouchers (Alberta Innovates)

Vouchers help Alberta's high potential, high growth, technology and knowledge-based small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with technologies in the mid-to-late developmental stages but may include some early developmental stages. Eligible applicants can apply for funding up to \$100,000 to help cover the costs of up to three service providers for the purpose of business and technology development. <https://albertainnovates.ca/programs/voucher/>

## **Alberta Jobs Now Program**

An investment of up to \$370 million to encourage employers to hire and train employees into jobs in the private and non-profit sectors. <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-jobs-now-program.aspx>

## **Alberta Petrochemicals Incentive Program**

The Alberta Petrochemicals Incentive Program will enhance certainty and flexibility for investors and cut red tape to attract investment into Alberta's petrochemicals sector. Grants worth 12% of a project's eligible capital costs (capital investment must be at least (CAD) \$50 million) will be issued to companies after projects are operational. <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-petrochemicals-incentive-program.aspx>

## **Canada - Alberta Job Grant**

The Canada-Alberta Job Grant is a training program where an employer applies on behalf of their present or future employees for eligible training costs. Employers decide who gets training and what type of training may be needed for their employees. Funding provided by the Government of Canada through the Workforce Development Agreement. <https://www.alberta.ca/canada-alberta-job-grant.aspx>

## **Canadian Agricultural Partnership**

A five-year, \$3 billion federal-provincial-territorial investment in the agriculture, agri-food, and agri-based products sector that began in April 2018. In Alberta, the Canadian Agricultural Partnership represents a federal-provincial investment of \$406 million in strategic programs and initiatives for the agricultural sector. <https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/>

## **Commercialization Associate Program (Alberta Innovates)**

Alberta's high potential, high growth, technology and knowledge-based small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) may be eligible for funding to enable them to employ a highly trained resource with the goal of advancing business readiness levels and/or accelerating product commercialization. This program is designed to fund SMEs to employ a commercialization professional, for one year. <https://albertainnovates.ca/programs/commercialization-associates/>

## **Critical Worker Benefit**

This program has expanded and new categories of workers are now eligible, including workers in full-service restaurants and limited service eating-places. <https://www.alberta.ca/critical-worker-benefit.aspx>

## **Energy Savings for Business (Emissions Reduction Alberta)**

Energy Savings for Business will help eligible Alberta businesses reduce emissions, decrease operating costs, grow their operations and become more competitive, while creating skilled jobs and boosting economic recovery. <https://eralberta.ca/energy-savings-for-business/>

## **Film and Television Tax Credit (FTTC)**

A total budget of \$50 million has been committed to this program in 2021-22, and the \$10 million per project cap on the existing FTTC program has been removed, to make the province a more desirable location for larger film productions. <https://www.alberta.ca/film-television-tax-credit.aspx>

## **Funding to post-secondary institutions**

Alberta is providing approximately \$30 million to post-secondary institutions across the province, to support leading-edge research in areas such as quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and energy efficiency. <https://www.alberta.ca/publicly-funded-institutions-government-support.aspx>

## **Innovation Employment Grant**

Some \$166 million has been committed to this program over three years. It provides a grant of up to 20 per cent for qualifying research and development (R&D) spending. The program uses an incremental approach that rewards increased R&D spending. <https://www.alberta.ca/innovation-employment-grant.aspx>

## **Job Creation Tax Cut**

The Job Creation Tax Cut moved the general business tax rate from 10 per cent to 8 per cent, making Alberta the lowest corporate tax jurisdiction in Canada. <https://www.alberta.ca/job-creation-tax-cut.aspx>

## **Partnership Intake Program (Emissions Reduction Alberta)**

Working with our Trusted Partners across the Canadian innovation ecosystem creates a unified approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and securing Alberta's lower carbon success. The Partnership Intake Program allows Emissions Reduction Alberta to evaluate proposed projects referred by Trusted Partners, organizations with rigorous, fair, and transparent processes comparable to ERA's. <https://eralberta.ca/funding-technology/partnership-intake-program/>

## **Product Demonstration Program (Alberta Innovates)**

The Product Demonstration Program is designed to de-risk the commercialization process by providing funds and coaching to high potential, high growth technology Alberta small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to commercialize their products. It also helps them achieve an optimal market position to increase revenue and potentially expand into global markets. <https://albertainnovates.ca/programs/product-demonstration-program/>

## **R&D Associates (Alberta Innovates)**

Alberta's high potential, high growth, technology and knowledge-based small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) may be eligible for up to \$67,500 per year for one year to enable them to employ in-house professional research and development capability, to advance the technology readiness level and accelerate new product commercialization. <https://albertainnovates.ca/programs/rd-associates/>

## **REP Implementation Grant**

Alberta's government will soon offer a one-time payment of \$2,000 to Alberta small- and medium-sized businesses that are eligible for and choose to implement the Restrictions Exemption Program. This program allows participating businesses to operate as usual if they require patrons 12 and over to show proof of vaccination or a recent negative test result or medical exemption. Alberta businesses eligible for the REP Implementation Grant can use the funding as they see fit. <https://www.alberta.ca/restrictions-exemption-program-implementation-grant.aspx>

## **REP Training Grant**

An additional \$1 million will be available for training to support the safety of workers when implementing the Restrictions Exemption Program.

Eligible industry associations across Alberta can use the REP Training Grant to develop or procure training to help workers assess and manage challenging situations that may arise during their daily work. Workers and employers will be able to access this training through select industry associations.

## **Rural Entrepreneur and Rural Renewal Immigration Streams**

To attract entrepreneurs and skilled newcomers to support the growth of rural communities, Alberta will launch these new streams under the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program. <https://www.alberta.ca/ainp.aspx>

## Stabilize Live Music Grant Program

Allocated \$32 million to help cultural and sport organizations continue to operate and re-open when it is safe to do so. This investment is expected to save up to \$141 million in gross domestic product and up to 1,778 jobs that otherwise would have been lost due to venues and organizations closing. <https://www.alberta.ca/stabilize-program-phase-2.aspx>

## Technology Business Accelerators and Scale-up

The Government of Alberta is putting forward \$25 million towards technology accelerators in Alberta through Alberta Innovates to support start-ups and small and medium-sized technology companies.

## Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER)

\$50 million in funding over three years is managed by Jobs, Economy and Innovation, with Alberta Innovates as the delivery partner. The program supports clean technology and energy projects that will accelerate innovation, support long-term competitiveness, and stimulate growth.

The government's overall \$750-million TIER investment will attract additional dollars from industry, leading to more than \$1.9 billion in total funding. <https://www.alberta.ca/technology-innovation-and-emissions-reduction-regulation.aspx>

## Tourism Investment Program (Travel Alberta)

Offers a tourism investment program to assist tourism businesses, municipalities, not-for-profits, and destination organizations through a series of grant programs. <https://industry.travelalberta.com/programs-tools/tourism-investment-program/capital-investment>

## Federal Supports

### Accelerated Investment Incentive (Government of Canada)

A 50% increase in the available capital cost allowance deduction for property acquired after November 20, 2018 that becomes available for use before 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/businesses/topics/sole-proprietorships-partnerships/report-business-income-expenses/claiming-capital-cost-allowance/accelerated-investment-incentive.html>

### AgriInnovate Program (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada)

The AgriInnovate program provides repayable contributions for projects that aim to accelerate the commercialization, adoption and/or demonstration of innovative products, technologies, processes or services that increase agri-sector competitiveness and sustainability. <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-programs-and-services/agriinnovate-program>

### Canada Community Revitalization Fund (PrairiesCan)

The Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF) aims to help communities across Canada build and improve community infrastructure projects so they can rebound from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. With a national investment of \$500 million over two years, the fund's purpose is to support not-for-profit organizations, municipalities and other community groups, as well as Indigenous communities build new community infrastructure and revitalize existing assets, bring people back to public spaces safely as health measures ease, and create jobs and stimulate local economies. <https://www.wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/20175.asp>

### Clean Tech Fund (Sustainable Development Technology Canada)

SDTC provides funding to promising clean technology development and demonstration projects that are start-ups or scale-ups. The technology must demonstrate the potential for GHG emissions reductions, reductions in water consumption and/or the reduction of water, soil or air contamination. The project must include some further development of the technology, mitigate existing technology risk and include validation of the economic viability of the technology. <https://www.sdtc.ca/en/cleantech-fund/>

## **Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) – Onshore Program (Natural Resources Canada)**

The new \$675 million ERF – Onshore Program is helping Canadian onshore oil and gas companies invest in green solutions to continue their progress toward reducing methane emissions while facing the current economic crisis and COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/science-and-data/funding-partnerships/funding-opportunities/current-funding-opportunities/emissions-reduction-fund/onshore-program-emissions-reduction-fund/23050>

## **Jobs and Growth Fund (PrairiesCan)**

The Jobs and Growth Fund provides funding to businesses and organizations to help create jobs, and position Canada's economy for an inclusive recovery and long-term growth. The JGF will provide \$700 million nationally over three years to position the regional economies for long-term growth by transitioning to a green economy, fostering an inclusive recovery, enhancing competitiveness, and creating jobs across Canada. <https://www.wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/20183.asp>

## **National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP) (National Research Council of Canada)**

NRC IRAP provides advice, connections, and funding to help Canadian small and medium-sized businesses increase their innovation capacity and take ideas to market. <https://nrc.canada.ca/en/support-technology-innovation>

## **Regional Economic Growth through Innovation (PrairiesCan)**

Regional Economic Growth through Innovation (REGI) is a national program delivered by Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) across Canada to fuel economic growth through innovation and create more well-paying jobs for Canadians. It comprises several program streams, which, along with tailored programming in each region, will foster the right environment to start and grow businesses and create the conditions for the development of strong, dynamic and inclusive regional innovation ecosystems across the country. <https://www.wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/19774.asp>

## **Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) Program (Canada Revenue Agency)**

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. These tax incentives come in three forms: an income tax deduction, an investment tax credit and, in certain circumstances, a refund. Eligible SR&ED work, will result in your investment tax credit being at least 15% and can be as much as 35% of qualified SR&ED expenditures. Any unused investment tax credits, can be carried back three years or forward 20 years and applied against tax payable for other years.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/scientific-research-experimental-development-tax-incentive-program/overview.html>

## **Strategic Innovation Fund (Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada)**

The Strategic Innovation Fund's (SIF) objective is to spur innovation for a better Canada by providing funding for large projects (over \$10 million in requested contribution). <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/125.nsf/eng/home>

## **Tourism Relief Fund (PrairiesCan)**

The Tourism Relief Fund, administered by Canada's regional development agencies and Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), supports tourism businesses and organizations adapt their operations to meet public health requirements while investing in products and services to facilitate their future growth. With a budget of \$500 million over two years (ending March 31, 2023), including \$50 million specifically dedicated to Indigenous tourism initiatives, and \$15 million for national initiatives, this fund will position Canada to be a destination of choice when domestic and international travel is once again safe. This fund will empower tourism operators to create new or enhance existing tourism experiences and products to attract more visitors and help the sector reposition itself to welcome international visitors by offering the best Canadian tourism experiences we have to offer the world. <https://www.wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/20179.asp>