

# 2024-25 Nova Scotia Mineral Resources Development Fund (MRDF) Education, Outreach and Engagement Grant

## Education/Outreach/Engagement Grants

- Grants are available for projects intended to raise awareness, build public confidence, train, provide support, educate, build capacity, and engage communities in relation to the geoscience and mining sector. These activities are intended for youth, students, Indigenous groups, prospectors, the public, communities, professional associations, and others.
- The maximum funding available is \$50,000.

## Eligibility

- Applications are welcomed from geoscience and mining industry associations and societies, museums, consultants, prospectors, students, academia, Indigenous groups, and others.
- Activities supported by the grants include:
  - professional development and educational events,
  - training sessions,
  - activities to raise awareness of, and build public confidence in, the mining industry,
  - events to engage communities and other select groups.

## Eligible Expenses

NOTE: All expenses over \$5,000 require three quotes/estimates unless this requirement is waived by the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables. Exceptions may be considered where there is a lack of available venues for that specific proposed activity/event. The request for an exemption for providing three quotes for an expense over \$5,000 must be included in the proposal. If requesting a sole-source contract, please include the reason.

Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- hiring of a subject matter expert or professional services required to work on the project/event. Please include this information in your proposal,
- student wages and stipends,
- staff wages for approved activities only,
- hiring of guest speakers, instructors for the event,

- costs associated with designing material for or planning and hosting an Education/Outreach/Engagement event.

## **Ineligible Expenses**

Ineligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- capital purchases,
- alcoholic beverage expenses,
- expenses not approved in the signed contribution agreement/Acceptance Letter,
- Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). HST is excluded as an eligible grant expense for applicants eligible for federal government reimbursement of the tax.

## **Responsibilities**

- Grantees must follow travel and travel expense rules defined within the Government of Nova Scotia's travel policy (<https://novascotia.ca/treasuryboard/manuals/PDF/200/22601-07.pdf>).
- Grantees will be required to demonstrate fiscal responsibility while managing MRDF funds.
- Grantees shall keep and preserve all books, accounts, and records relating to the project or event, and keep them available for examination and audit by the Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables for a period of not less than two years after receipt of funding.

## **Application Procedure**

- Written proposals will be accepted and continue to be evaluated by the department throughout the year, providing funding remains available. If funding has been fully allocated for the year, a notice will be posted on the MRDF website.
- Proposals must be accompanied by:
  - A completed Education/Outreach/Engagement Grant Summary Page (found on MRDF webpage),
- Proposals for an Education/Outreach/Engagement Grant must include:
  - an executive summary, clearly stating how the education/outreach/engagement project to be funded will educate, provide outreach, and/or result in engagement,

- a project plan, and a statement of project/event objectives (both strategic and tactical), which must include a tool or plan for the evaluation and effectiveness of the project/event,
- a detailed description of the project and its planned outcomes for measuring success and potential impact on the target audience or group,
- a detailed budget, including a detailed list of activities required to complete the project/event, and an estimate of time required for each activity. Unit costs for each activity must be stated to support the total proposed budget for the project/event.
- The name of the project lead/s, their qualifications, organizational affiliation, and contact information.
- Key performance indicators
  - Proposals must provide a timeline from project commencement to completion that includes the key milestones in the progression of the project. This includes a detailed work plan for the duration of the project/event.
  - Proponents must commit to a date, prior to or on February 14, 2025, for submission of deliverables to the department.

## Deliverables

- Expected deliverables will depend on the scope and nature of the project or conference or trade show event, but would include the following:
  - a Final Report due on or before February 14, 2025, describing the event, education/outreach/engagement activities and its success. If the Final Report cannot be completed by February 14, 2025, because the event date is too close to the Final Report deadline, the recipient may request an extension by e-mail to the department.

Proposals must be submitted by e-mail to: [mrdf@novascotia.ca](mailto:mrdf@novascotia.ca).

- Proposals will be accepted starting March 1, 2024.

Please study the Terms and Conditions carefully before you apply. Omission of critical information may lead to an application being unsuccessful.

***Novascotia.ca e-mail accounts can only receive 30MB of data per e-mail; if the application and data exceed this, please notify the MRDF Administrator, who will send you a secure file transfer link. (It is recommended you check with your e-mail provider to inquire about size limits for sending e-mails with large data amounts).***

## Proposal Review and Evaluation

Applications will be evaluated by the department based on:

- the completeness of the application and inclusion of any required documentation,
- the organization and clarity of the application, the educational, outreach, and engagement significance of the project, including whether the educational, outreach, and engagement plan is well conceived and likely to achieve the stated goals on the application,
- the methodology and approach of the project,
- the applicability and relevance of the project to the geoscience and mining sector in Nova Scotia,
- the forecast budget for the educational, outreach, and engagement activities,
- past performance of applicant if they have received previous Nova Scotia Mineral Incentive Program (NSMIP) or Mineral Resources Development Fund (MRDF) grants,
- Successful applicants will receive a Contribution Agreement (to be signed by the applicant) confirming that their project has been approved and listing the expenses that will be covered under the MRDF. Only approved expenses incurred starting April 1, 2024, will be eligible for reimbursement under the MRDF.

## Fund Disbursement

- Seventy-five percent (75%) of the awarded funds will be issued upon receipt of the signed Contribution Agreement.
- The remaining twenty-five percent (25%) of the grant will be awarded when the Final Report, expense statement, paid receipts, and digital data have been received, and approved by the department. All invoices submitted for reimbursement for work allowed under the terms of the Contribution Agreement must be fully paid for and dated no earlier than April 1, 2024.
- Upon completion of a project, unspent funds can be re-allocated at the discretion of the department, in consultation with the MRDF Review and Evaluation Committee.

## Withdrawal of Funding

- If it appears to the department that the project is not going to proceed, then funding may be withdrawn. The grantee may be required to attend a meeting with the department to explain delays in the project.

## Reporting Requirements

### Final Report

- A Final Report is to be submitted digitally at a date agreed upon between the grantee and the department.
- The Final Report must include a clear statement of only eligible MRDF costs, and receipts totaling 100% of grant funding. We require official receipts from vendors confirming payment of invoices directly related to the costs incurred. Receipts are only eligible for work that commenced on or after April 1, 2024. Please make sure that work submitted to be reimbursed under the MRDF is allowable under the Contribution Agreement.
- The Final Report must include a completed Education, Outreach and Engagement Expense Form (available on the MRDF webpage)
- All data must be conveyed electronically to [mrdf@novascotia.ca](mailto:mrdf@novascotia.ca)
- The Final Report, expense statement, any digital data obtained using MRDF funds, and scanned receipts, are to be sent to [mrdf@novascotia.ca](mailto:mrdf@novascotia.ca). Receipt of the Final Report and any additional data will be confirmed by the MRDF Administrator by e-mail.
- Final payment will not be issued until the department has given approval that the final report and additional data are satisfactory.
- Grantees are asked to acknowledge support from the MRDF in the Final Report, and in any other communications and media releases.
- Grantees shall keep and preserve all books, accounts, and records relating to the MRDF grant, and keep them available for examination and audit by the Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables for a period of not less than two years after receipt of funding. The recipients shall have complied with all applicable provincial and federal laws and regulations, including those respecting mineral resources, surface rights, health, environment, safety, and conditions of labour.

## Notes

- Any changes to the proposed budget or work proposal must be submitted by e-mail to the department, and the MRDF Administrator's approval returned by e-mail. Failure to do so will mean work related to those changes will not qualify for reimbursement.
- It is recommended that the grantee maintain regular contact with the MRDF Administrator throughout the duration of the project. If the grantee requires a change in project scope, they must request this to the MRDF Administrator by email and receive approval in writing.