

2020-21 Nova Scotia Mineral Resources Development Fund (MRDF) Innovation Grant Terms and Conditions

Please review the Terms and Conditions carefully before submitting a proposal. Omission of critical information may lead to a proposal being unsuccessful.

Innovation Grants

- Innovation Grants are available through the Mineral Resources Development Fund (MRDF) to support research and innovation in the mining industry and promote development of Nova Scotia's mineral resources.
- For 2020-21, the maximum Innovation Grant is \$100,000. Projects may extend in phases over more than one year, but each phase must be applied for in separate applications.

Eligibility

- Innovation Grant proposals are invited from consultants, academics, mineral producers, mineral end-users and mining industry service companies, either local to Nova Scotia or located outside of the province.
- Successful proposals must demonstrate a benefit to the broader mining industry by reducing the risks and costs associated with any part of the mining cycle and/or provide an economic benefit to the Province. MRDF-funded Innovation projects are not intended for the benefit of individual prospectors or companies.
- The types of innovation projects that may be considered for funding includes, but is not limited to:
 - Projects designed to reduce the cost of extracting, processing, adding value to or transporting mineral resources to market.
 - Projects leading to a new end-use application for a mineral produced, or that could be produced, in Nova Scotia.
 - Projects leading to the development or implementation of new products, tools or applications that can aid in the discovery, understanding and evaluation of mineral deposits in Nova Scotia.

- Projects designed to reduce the costs of, or create new or improved processes associated with, mine and tailing reclamation or management.
- Projects intended to develop comprehensive business plans (feasibility studies) for adding value to minerals in Nova Scotia by manufacturing end-use products for local use or for export.

Application Procedure

- Applications must be submitted using only the current form provided at <https://novascotia.ca/natr/meb/mrdp.asp> to the Department at mrdf@novascotia.ca by **no later than 4:00 pm, Wednesday, April 15, 2020.**
- Proposals for an Innovation Grant must include:
 - An executive summary clearly stating how the project will improve the efficiency of discovery, evaluation, developing, processing or using Nova Scotia's mineral resources or reclaiming land after extraction.
 - A statement of project objectives.
 - A detailed description of the project and its potential impact on the Nova Scotia economy, and its potential impact on the reputation and image of Nova Scotia in the mining industry.
 - A detailed budget, including a list of activities required to complete the project 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.
 - 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.
 - Proponents must commit to a start and end date for the project and submission of deliverables to the Department.
 - A list of the principal researchers or project leads, their qualifications, organizational affiliation, and contact information.
- Expected deliverables will depend on the scope and nature of the project, but could include the following:

- Reports, supporting data, analysis, forecasts, studies, etc.
- Publication of results in a technical journal; or
- Presentation of results at a relevant conference.

Note: All deliverables for the project will be released to the public, unless specific limitations to the public release are stated in the Innovation Grant proposal and confirmed in the Contribution Agreement.

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Novascotia.ca e-mail accounts can only receive 30MB of data per e-mail; if the application and data exceed this, please send multiple e-mails. (It is recommended you check with your email provider to inquire about size limits for sending emails with large data amounts).

Proposal Review and Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated by the Department based on:

- Clarity of the proposal.
- Relevance or potential impact of the project to improve the efficiency of discovery, evaluation, developing, processing or using Nova Scotia's mineral resources or reclaiming land after extraction.
- Potential impact on the reputation and image of Nova Scotia in the mining industry.
- Potential economic impact for the Province.

Response Process

- All correspondence with respect to MRDF grants must be communicated through the MRDF Administrator at mrdf@novascotia.ca or 902-424-8157.
- Successful applicants will receive a grant 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, 2020, will be eligible for re-imburement under the MRDF.

- Unsuccessful applicants will receive a letter stating that their project has not been approved for funding and an explanation why it has not been approved. Unsuccessful applications will be considered closed files, and decisions made by the Review and Evaluation Committee may not be appealed. Applicants are welcome to supply a revised application. Resubmissions will be considered new applications and be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis, if funding remains or becomes available.

Fund Disbursement

- Forty percent (40%) of the MRDF matching funds will be paid on project approval, twenty percent (20%) will be paid on the approval (by the Department) of the Interim Report, and the remaining forty percent (40%) of the MRDF funds will be paid upon confirmed completion of the approved work program.
- Completion of the work program means that the Final Report, expense statement, paid receipts, and digital data obtained using MRDF funds have been received and approved by the Department. All invoices submitted for re-imbusement for work allowed under the terms of the Contribution Agreement must be fully paid for and dated no earlier than April 1, 2020.
- Unspent funds at the completion of a project 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 the funding may be withdrawn. The grantee may be required to attend a meeting with the Department to explain delays in the project.

Reporting Requirements

Preliminary Report

- Successful applicants are required to e-mail a Preliminary Report to the Department at mrdf@novascotia.ca no later than 4:00 pm, July 8, 2020. The purpose of this report is to confirm that funding is in hand or has been arranged, that land access has been cleared with property owners, and that contractors have been engaged to complete the work in a timely manner.

Interim Report

- Successful applicants are required to submit an Interim Report to the Department at mrdf@novascotia.ca no later than 4:00 pm, September 1, 2020. The report must be an e-mail to the Department providing an update on the status and progress of the project.

Final Report

- A Final Report must be submitted digitally no later than 4:00 pm, February 16, 2021.
- The final report must describe the results, successes or failures of the project to improve the efficiency of discovery, evaluation, developing, processing or using Nova Scotia's mineral resources or reclaiming land after extraction.
- All data must be conveyed electronically. The Final Report must be a PDF with all components (figures, assay information, etc.) in one file. Maps must clearly show location of completed work, claim boundaries, and include an index map showing approximate location of the project area in the province. Maps must be submitted at an appropriate scale, clearly showing detailed geology, legends, structural data, relevant geophysical/geochemical data and previous drill collar locations (including longitudinal sections if applicable).
- The Final Report, Expense Statement, any digital data obtained using MRDF funds, and scanned paid receipts are to be sent to the Department at mrdf@novascotia.ca. Receipt of the Final Report and any additional data will be confirmed by the Department by e-mail.
- Payment will not be issued until the Department has given approval that the Final Report and additional data are satisfactory.
- Please ensure that the Final Report and any media releases note that the project was funded by the MRDF.
- The grant recipient 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 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.
- The recipients shall be solely responsible for any declaration required under the *Income Tax Act* relative to the contribution made in respect of this program. HST is excluded as eligible grant expense for applicants eligible for federal government re-imbusement of

the tax. Please check the web page <http://novascotia.ca/sns/paal/tax/paal050.asp> to confirm whether you need to register for an HST number.

Notes

- Projects funded by an MRDF Innovation Grants may also receive funding from additional sources (e.g., government, industry, industry associations).
- Any changes to the proposed project must be submitted by e-mail for prior approval to the Department, and the manager's approval returned by e-mail before any changes are made.
- An on-site inspection of projects may be conducted to verify project work and compliance.
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