

2022-23 Nova Scotia Mineral Resources Development Fund (MRDF) Innovation Grant

Innovation Grants

- Innovation Grants support research and innovation in the mining industry and promote development of Nova Scotia's mineral resources.
- The maximum Innovation Grant is \$100,000. Projects may extend in phases over more than one year, but each phase of the proposed work 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 projects that may be considered for funding include, but are 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.
- Geoscience and Engineering are regulated professions in Nova Scotia and provincial legislation requires that individuals and companies who offer, provide, or undertake geoscience and/or engineering in the province must be registered. Geoscientists, engineers, and companies receiving Innovation Grants should contact relevant professional associations regarding professional registration if they are not already registered.

Application Procedure

- Applications must be submitted to the department at mrdf@novascotia.ca **no later than 4:00 pm, Monday May 16, 2022.**

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.

Please study the Terms and Conditions carefully before applying. 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 direct you to an ftp site. (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

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.
- All correspondence with respect to MRDF grants must be communicated through the MRDF Administrator at mrdf@novascotia.ca.
- Grantees will receive a grant contribution agreement (to be signed by the grantee) 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, 2022, will be eligible for reimbursement under the MRDF.

Fund Disbursement

- Forty percent (40%) of the grant will be awarded on project approval, twenty percent (20%) will be awarded upon receipt of an approved Interim Report, and the remaining forty percent (40%) will be awarded 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 reimbursement for work allowed under the terms of the Contribution Agreement must be fully paid for and dated no earlier than April 1, 2022.
- Upon completion of a project, unspent funds can be re-allocated at the discretion of the department.

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

- Grantees are required to e-mail a Preliminary Report to the department at mrdf@novascotia.ca no later than 4:00 pm, Monday July 25, 2022. 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

- Grantees are required to submit an Interim Report to the department at mrdf@novascotia.ca no later than 4:00 pm, Monday, September 12, 2022. 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, Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

- 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 acknowledges that the project was funded by the MRDF.
- 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.
- Grantees 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 reimbursement 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 Grant 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 to mrdf@novascotia.ca for prior approval to the department, and the department's approval returned by e-mail before any changes are made.
- An on-site inspection of projects may be conducted by the department to verify project work and compliance.
- 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.
- Grantees shall comply with all applicable provincial and federal laws and regulations, including those respecting mineral resources, surface rights, health, environment, safety, and conditions of labour.
- 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.