

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

Agriculture Skills Student Bursary Program Guidelines

2026-2027



Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership is a 5-year, \$3.5-billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of Canada's agriculture, agri-food, and agri-based products sector. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and a \$2.5-billion commitment that is cost-shared 60% federally and 40% provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

In Nova Scotia, \$46 million will be invested through a federal-provincial partnership that is linked to five program streams: 1) Building Sector Capacity, Growth and Competitiveness; 2) Climate Change and Environment; 3) Market Development and Trade; 4) Science, Research, and Innovation; and 5) Resiliency and Public Trust.

We are also committed to the development of diverse and inclusive industries. We welcome individuals from all underrepresented and underserved communities including but not limited to women, persons with disabilities, Black and African Nova Scotians, Mi'kmaq, Indigenous peoples, 2SLGBTQI+ and racialized individuals to apply to programming.

Program Objective

The objective of the Agriculture Skills Student Bursary Program is to introduce agriculture to students as a viable career option and help address the labour gap for agriculture producers in Nova Scotia. Students gain important skills by working on registered farms.

Eligible Applicants

- Post-secondary students

Program Criteria

Post-secondary students must:

- be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.
- be a resident of Nova Scotia.
- be enrolled as a full-time or part-time student in an accredited post-secondary institution in September 2026.
- provide Confirmation of Enrollment in an accredited post-secondary educational institute. Student ID number and / or date of birth must also be supplied.
- be employed (or have been employed) by a Nova Scotia registered farm guaranteeing a minimum work term of 250 to 500 hours between April 1, 2026 – September 12, 2026 (Farm registration will be confirmed by Programs staff).
- provide a Record of Employment(s) (ROE) for the hours worked between April 1, 2026 – September 12, 2026. We understand that students may continue working past these dates, however the program relies on the ROE to support bursary payments. Applicants may be required to supply a copy of their T-4 for audit purposes.

Note: Students who are employed by their family farm are eligible to apply.

Financial Assistance

Applicants can apply to receive Program funding up to a maximum of \$1500.

A student who has worked a minimum of 250 hours can receive:

- a bursary of \$500 in year one.
- a bursary of \$750 for students returning to farming work for a second year and any subsequent years for each year beyond year one (for the duration of the program).

A student who has worked a minimum of 500 hours can receive:

- A bursary of \$1,000 in year one.
- a bursary of \$1,500 for students returning to farming work for a second year and any subsequent years for each year beyond year one (for the duration of the program).

Note: This program is anticipated to be offered again in 2027-28. However, programs may be modified or discontinued based on budget availability, industry feedback, and government priorities.

Application Process

To apply for the Agriculture Skills Student Bursary program:

- Submit a complete application by **November 30, 2026**.
- The application must be signed by the applicant. If the applicant is under the age of 19, a parent or legal guardian is to sign.
- The application must also be signed by the registered farm representative.

Application Intake	Activity Period
September 1, 2026 – November 30, 2026	April 1, 2026 – September 12, 2026

Note: An applicant may only complete one application per year for this program.

Approval Process

1. Complete applications will be reviewed by the Department of Agriculture as they are received.
2. If approved, applicants will receive **an award letter** that identifies the Program funding offered and the terms and conditions under which Program funding is approved.
3. The applicant is responsible for reporting any errors in the award letter, including the program funding amounts provided.
4. The Program funding will be issued to the accredited post-secondary educational institute in which the applicant is enrolled.

Note: Approval of applications is subject to availability of Program funding. The total amount of Program funding awarded to each applicant, or to associated applicants, may be limited at the discretion of the Department of Agriculture to ensure opportunities for additional applicants to access Program funding.

Authority

The Department of Agriculture shall have the authority to deny an application if it does not meet the requirements described in the Program Guidelines or there is evidence of misrepresentation of pertinent information.

Evaluation and Audit

Evaluation and audit of projects may be carried out by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Canada, or other parties chosen by the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of audit, analysis, evaluation, program development and determining financial assistance. This review and evaluation process may be conducted prior to project commencement, during work and/or upon project completion. Applicants may be asked to complete an evaluation survey related to their final claim.

Conflict of Interest

No current or former Federal public servant or public office holders will receive benefits from this funding except in compliance with Conflicts of Interest Act (Canada), the Conflicts of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons, or the Federal “Values and Ethics Code” for the public sector and the Federal “Policy on Conflicts of Interest and Post-Employment”. No Member of Parliament or Senator will be allowed to obtain financial benefit from this funding except in accordance with the Parliament of Canada Act.

Contact Information

Submit all documents to Programs at the address or email below. For more information, contact Programs or your regional office.

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Programs Office

74 Research Drive

Bible Hill, Nova Scotia B6L 2R2

Telephone: 902-893-6377

Toll Free: 1-866-844-4276

Email: prm@novascotia.ca

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Regional Offices		
<p style="text-align: center;">Western (Covering West Hants, Kings, Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens, and Lunenburg counties)</p>	Yarmouth	902-223-8085
	Digby	902-638-2395
	Kentville	902-679-6021
	Lunenburg	902-634-7575
<p style="text-align: center;">Eastern (Covering Colchester, Cumberland, East Hants, Halifax - including HRM, Pictou, Antigonish, Guysborough, Richmond, Inverness, Cape Breton, and Victoria counties)</p>	Truro	902-893-6575
	Nappan	782-370-2278
	Antigonish	902-863-7180
	Sydney	902-563-2000