

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

Post-Fiona Maple Recovery Program Guidelines

2023-2024



Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) is a five-year (2023-2028), \$3.5-billion investment by federal-provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and \$2.5 billion in cost-shared programs and activities by federal, provincial, and territorial governments.

In Nova Scotia, \$46 million will be invested through a federal-provincial partnership that is linked to five program priority areas: 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 support the development of diverse and inclusive industries. We welcome individuals from all equity-deserving communities including but not limited to women, persons with disabilities, Black and African Nova Scotians, First Nations, Indigenous peoples, 2SLGBTQI+ and racialized individuals, to apply to programming.

Program Objectives

The Post-Fiona Maple Recovery Program is intended to support maple syrup producers with extraordinary costs associated with recovery of production levels to pre-Fiona levels by accessing new areas.

Eligible Applicants

Maple producers who have experienced the loss of maple trees in production and maple syrup production equipment as a result of Post-Tropical Storm Fiona on September 23, 2022.

Program Criteria

- currently registered in the correct income category under the Farm Registration Act; or Mi'kmaq conducting farming activities in Mi'kmaq Communities;
- applicant is at least 19 years of age and actively farming in the program year;
- member of the Maple Producers Association of Nova Scotia (MPANS);
- has restored or intends to restore maple production to a level prior to Post-Tropical Storm Fiona;
- owns or leases the property and is responsible for the expenses related to the operation of maple sap collection systems.

Financial Assistance

See below for eligible expenses and maximum funding allocations. Expenses incurred after September 22, 2022 up to October 31, 2024 are eligible.

Program Activity	Allowable Amounts and Maximum Funding
Mainline piping into new maple production areas	\$4.61 per meter
Silviculture	\$375.00 per acre for thinning \$300.00 per acre for pruning
New extraction equipment (vacuum pumps, extractor, transfer pump and power source) required to access new areas	70% of expenses up to \$15,000
Construction of access roads with Class E specifications	\$12.00 per meter up to \$15,000
Labour	70% of contracted labour Compensation for in-kind labour not associated with silviculture or road construction will be paid at \$15.00/hour

Note 1: All program funding is subject to funding availability.

Note 2: No more than 100% of non-repayable funding can be received for any eligible project cost incurred and paid for by the applicant. This applies to all Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA) Programs.

Ineligible Expenses

These include but are not limited to:

- administrative / general overhead
- buildings / building modifications
- HST
- travel
- expenses incurred before September 22, 2022
- expenses associated with increasing the total number of taps above the number that were in production on September 22, 2022
- expenses that were already covered under the Fiona Agricultural Disaster Assistance Program

Application Process

To apply for Post-Fiona Maple Recovery Program:

1. Submit a complete application by **April 30, 2024**.
2. Eligible project expenses will be recognized within the Activity Period stated in the table below.

Application Intake	Activity Period	Claim Deadline
January 16, 2024 – April 30, 2024	September 22, 2022 – October 31, 2024	November 30, 2024

Note 1: An applicant may only complete one application.

Note 2: Clients new to Programs since 2023 must complete the Program Funding Registration form (PFR). Returning clients, must update the form as needed with any changes to business information including contact information, structure, commodities, environmental farm plan and Premise ID.

Approval Process

1. Applications will be reviewed by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture.
2. Programs will verify membership status with Maple Producers Association of Nova Scotia.
3. If approved, applicants will receive a **Letter of Agreement (LOA)** which identifies the eligible project activities, Program funding offered, and the terms and conditions under which Program funding is approved.
4. Review, sign, and return the LOA to Programs within **30 days** of the date of the letter or your Program funding will be forfeited.

Claiming Process

1. After Programs receives your signed Letter of Agreement, a **Program Claim Form** will be sent to you.
2. Complete and sign the Program Claim Form by **November 30, 2024**.
3. Attach copies of all invoices for eligible project costs incurred and paid for by the applicant.

4. Attach proof of payment for each invoice – e-transfer confirmation, debit slips, cleared cheques, or credit card/bank statements. (Invoices marked paid and signed by the supplier are not accepted)
5. Submit your claim with the required supporting documentation (Final Report if required) to the Programs office by the claim deadline.

Note: No payment will be made for claims under \$20.00.

Inspection

Projects approved for program funding will be subject to a mandatory inspection once the work has been completed.

Leased Land

Eligible projects must be directly applicable to the registered farm qualifying for assistance on agricultural land owned or leased. A copy of the long-term lease (10 years) or rental agreement must accompany the Application for all physical projects applicable to the leased/rented land. It is a condition of approval that the lease be of at least 10 years duration. You must advise us immediately, in writing, if the lease is terminated, if the term of the lease changes or if the identity of the lessor changes in any way (for example, if the lessor assigns the lease or if the lease changes in composition).

Authority

NSDA shall have the authority to deny an application if there is evidence of misrepresentation of pertinent information or if NSDA believes that an application does not conform to the spirit of the Program.

Evaluation and Audit

Review and evaluation of projects may be carried out by NSDA, Government of Canada or other parties chosen by NSDA 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 or upon project completion. Applicants may be asked to complete an evaluation survey related to their final claim.

Confidentiality

Applicants consent to the release of their name and the amount of support received under the Program. This specific information is deemed to be public information, to be actively disseminated by NSDA. NSDA may provide any information from an applicant to another public body or a law-enforcement agency in Canada to assist in an investigation, undertaken with a view to a law-enforcement proceeding or from which a law-enforcement proceeding is likely to result. Any other information provided, unless disclosed in the manner and for the purposes stated above, will be subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) Act.

Contact Information

Please submit all documents to Programs at the address, email or fax number below. For more information, please 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
Fax: 902-893-75797
Email: prm@novascotia.ca

Programs: Telephone: 902-893-6377 Toll Free: 1-866-844-4276		
Western Region Offices	Yarmouth	902-223-8085
	Digby	902-638-2395
	Kentville	902-679-6021
	Lunenburg	902-634-7575
Eastern Region Offices	Truro	902-893-6575
	Nappan	782-370-2278
	Antigonish	902-863-7180
	Sydney	902-563-2000