

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

Speaker Series Assistance 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 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 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 Objectives

The objective of the Speaker Series Assistance program is to support industry associations with skills, development and awareness which will help to improve the competitiveness, sustainability and profitability of the Nova Scotia agricultural industry.

Eligible Applicants

- Agricultural industry associations

Program Criteria

Agricultural industry associations must:

- demonstrate not-for-profit status by providing documentation.
- represent identifiable Nova Scotia agriculture and agri-food products.

Note: Identifiable agriculture and agri-food products are products supporting economic growth using Nova Scotia primary agricultural ingredients.

Financial Assistance

Applicants can apply to receive Program funding up to **100%** of eligible expenses, to a maximum of **\$5,000**.

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.

Eligible Expenses

The following items are eligible in this program:

- Speaker fees for strategic events, industry workshops, annual general meetings (AGMs), held within Nova Scotia, which:
 - provide education and awareness activities for producers related to BMPs.
 - assist industry associations with bringing in research subject matter experts (mentors) to producer attended conferences to encourage leading edge industry learning.
 - strengthen market diversification and support the sector to take advantage of new market opportunities by receiving expert advice.
 - promote agricultural career opportunities.
 - provide communication, awareness, or educational activities which support success of the sector, including the implementation of best practices.

Expense Eligibility Requirements

- A budget table of expenses is required and must be provided with the application.

Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible expenses are expenses that will not be compensated under this program and include but are not limited to, the following expenses:

- travel expenses
- administrative/general overhead
- in-kind contributions
- operating expenses/existing staff wages/salaries
- nutrition breaks and meals
- entertainment
- HST

Application Process

To apply for the Speaker Series Assistance program:

- Submit a complete application with a project budget by **December 31, 2026**.

Application Intake	Activity Period	Claim Deadline
April 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026	April 1, 2026 – March 15, 2027	March 15, 2027

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

Note 2: Applicants new to Programs since 2023 must complete the Program Funding Registration form (PFR). Returning applicants 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. Complete applications will be reviewed by the Department of Agriculture as they are received.
2. If approved, applicants will receive a **Letter of Agreement (LOA)** which 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 LOA, including the Program funding amounts provided.
4. The applicant must review, sign, and return the LOA to Programs within **30 days** of the date of the LOA or the Program funding will be forfeited.

Note: Approval of applications are 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.

Claiming Process

A **Program Claim Form** will be sent to the applicant after the signed LOA is received.

To submit a claim, applicants must:

1. Complete and sign the Program Claim Form.
2. Attach copies of all invoices for eligible project costs incurred and paid.
3. Attach proof of payment for each invoice – eg. e-transfer confirmation, debit slips, cleared cheques, or credit card/bank statements. (Invoices marked paid and signed by the supplier are not accepted)
4. Submit your claim with the required supporting documentation to the Programs office by **March 15, 2027**.

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

Authority

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

Evaluation and Audit

Review and evaluation 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