



# Other Grants and Programs

## **AgrilInvest**

### Overview:

AgrilInvest helps you manage small income declines, and provides support for investments to mitigate risks or improve market income. Your AgrilInvest account builds as you make annual deposits based on a percentage of your Allowable Net Sales and receive matching contributions from federal, provincial, and territorial governments.

Starting with the 2013 program year, you can deposit up to 100% of your Allowable Net Sales annually, with the first 1% matched by governments. The limit on matching government contributions is \$15,000 per year.

Deposits are made to your AgrilInvest account held at a participating financial institution. Simply bring your Deposit Notice to your financial institution, and deposit any amount up to 100% of your Allowable Net Sales as shown on your notice. You have 90 days from the issue date on the Deposit Notice to make a deposit to your account. Your financial institution will notify Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada once you have made a deposit and the matching government contributions will be credited to your account. You have the flexibility to withdraw funds at any time throughout the year.

AgrilInvest is cost shared on a 60/40 basis between the federal, provincial and territorial governments.

<http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/?id=1291828779399>

## **Business Opportunity Grant (Agriculture)**

### Overview:

Under the *Growing Forward 2* Business Opportunity Program, successful applicants are eligible for reimbursement of between 50% and 75% of certain non-capital costs related to researching and planning a new business venture.

[http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/Programs/index.htm?contentId=BUS\\_OPRTY\\_PRG&useSecondary=true&active=yes](http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/Programs/index.htm?contentId=BUS_OPRTY_PRG&useSecondary=true&active=yes)

- Producers, agri-processors, new industry entrants and agricultural organizations are eligible to apply for funding under the *Growing Forward 2* Business Opportunity Program.
- Eligible non-capital costs including feasibility studies for new opportunities, business plans (expansion and diversification), market research, value chain development, marketing plans, business management coaching sessions and succession plans (once per farm business).
- Established producers and processors will be reimbursed for 50% of eligible consulting fees to a maximum of \$5,000 per activity to a maximum of \$30,000 for the life of the program.
- New entrants will be reimbursed for 75% of eligible consulting fees to a maximum of \$5,000 per activity to a maximum of \$30,000 for the life of the program.
- *Agricultural Organizations* will be reimbursed for 75% of eligible consulting fees to a maximum of \$30,000 for the life of the program

## Enabling Accessibility Fund

The Enabling Accessibility Fund is a federal Grants and Contributions program that supports capital costs of construction and renovations related to improving physical accessibility and safety for people with disabilities in Canadian communities and workplaces.

<http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/disability/eaf/index.shtml#t2h2>

Eligibility:

Eligible recipients for this CFP are:

- not-for-profit organizations, including social enterprises;
- small businesses (maximum 99 full-time equivalent employees);
- small municipalities (population under 125,000 as per census data);
- Indigenous organizations (including band councils, tribal councils and self-government entities);  
and
- territorial governments.

\*\*See more on eligible projects via the link

## Work-Sharing

Work-Sharing (WS) is an adjustment program designed to help employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary reduction in the normal level of business activity that is beyond the control of the employer. The measure provides income support to employees eligible for Employment Insurance benefits who work a temporarily reduced work week while their employer recovers.

Work-Sharing is a three-party agreement involving employers, employees and Service Canada. Employees on a Work-Sharing agreement must agree to a reduced schedule of work and to share the available work over a specified period of time.

[http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/work\\_sharing/index.shtml](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/work_sharing/index.shtml)

#### Eligibility:

To be eligible for a WS agreement, employers must:

- Have been in business in Canada year-round for at least two years;
- Be a private business, a publicly-held company, or a not-for-profit organization;
  - A publicly-held company is a for-profit company whereby its shares/stocks are owned by the general public. Public sector employers, including government or publicly-owned corporations, such as crown corporations, are not eligible for Work-Sharing.
  - For a not-for-profit employer to be eligible, the shortage of work must be directly associated with a reduction in the organizations normal level of business activity. A reduction in revenue levels alone (e.g. grants, donations, memberships, etc) would not meet the Work-Sharing eligibility criteria. Business activity is defined as the selling of goods or services with an objective to earning profit.
- Demonstrate that the shortage of work is temporary and beyond their control, and is not a cyclical/recurring slowdown;
- Demonstrate a recent decrease in business activity of approximately 10%; and,
- Submit and implement a recovery plan designed to return the Work-Sharing unit(s) to normal working hours by the end of the Work-Sharing agreement. There must be a reasonable expectation that recovery (i.e. a return to normal work hours for all participating employees) will be achieved by the end of the agreement.

Note: A franchise will be treated as a stand-alone business.

Employees being proposed for a Work-Sharing agreement must:

- be "core employees" (i.e. year round permanent full-time or part-time employees who are required to carry out the everyday functions of normal business activity);
- be eligible to receive Employment Insurance benefits; and,
- agree to a reduction of their normal working hours in order to share the available work.

Although members of the Work-Sharing unit must qualify to receive Employment Insurance benefits, eligibility cannot normally be determined until after members have actually filed for benefits. Therefore, all members of a Work-Sharing unit are considered eligible for benefits unless they are told otherwise by an Employment Insurance official. Employees are not required to inform their employer of the status of their eligibility for Employment Insurance benefits.

Temporary (i.e. term or contract) employees are only eligible if they are not employed on a seasonal basis and if they have maintained hours similar to permanent full-time or part-time employees within the last 12 months.

Core employees who were laid off prior to the agreement start date are eligible to participate.

A minimum of two employees is required for a Work-Sharing agreement.