

Inclusive Economic Growth

Government is focused on building and promoting a more innovative and diverse economy – an economy where more doors are open for people who have faced barriers to employment and where the benefits of growth are shared with those who need it most.

Budget 2018–19 includes

Inclusive Growth

- \$1.7 million to expand the Graduate to Opportunity program, which includes a larger subsidy for hiring diverse graduates and women in non-traditional careers, bringing the total program investment to \$6.5 million
- \$1.7 million to continue to implement the Innovate to Opportunity program
- \$356,000 to create 89 additional student research internships through the Mitacs Accelerate program, for a total of \$1 million and 250 placements
- \$1.5 million to increase work incentives for people receiving income assistance
- \$460,000 increase to the Office of Immigration to help international marketing and recruitment efforts
- \$600,000 in permanent funding for immigrant settlement services to help new residents adapt to life in Nova Scotia

Sector Growth and Innovation

- Launching Research Nova Scotia to manage a multi-year fund to support research projects in key sectors
- \$500,000 more for incubators and accelerators, which support startup companies
- \$485,000 to create a market-readiness program to help startup companies
- \$2.5 million more to encourage private sector innovation and productivity projects through the Innovation Rebate program, for a total of \$5 million
- \$3 million investment in the Centre for Ocean Ventures Entrepreneurship (COVE) project to foster innovation in the ocean sector in partnership with the federal government
- \$3 million for the new Building Tomorrow Fund to support innovation in agriculture, fisheries, and aquaculture sectors
- \$5.8 million added to the province's contribution to the Atlantic Fisheries Fund, in partnership with the federal government and other Atlantic Canadian provinces
- \$657,000 to conduct geoscience work as part of the \$14 million, four-year Offshore Growth Strategy

- \$700,000 to create the Mineral Resources Development Fund to increase prospecting, mine development, and research
- \$10 million added to the Nova Scotia Film and Television Production Incentive Fund, for a total fund of \$20 million in 2018–19
- \$275,000 to make permanent the successful Business Navigators pilot program, which guides businesses through government regulations and compliance
- \$3 million contribution in the first year of a four-year, federal-provincial initiative to deliver more low-carbon efficiency programs, while supporting jobs in local businesses