



jobsHere

Budget 2011 builds on the province's plan for change by investing in the jobsHere plan to create good jobs and grow the economy.

Improved productivity and competitiveness are key to growing Nova Scotia's economy. jobsHere makes the most of our province's advantages—our people, resources, and geography—through three priorities to improve growth:

1. Learning the right skills for good jobs
2. Growing the economy through innovation
3. Helping businesses be more competitive globally

This government will invest more than \$200 million in jobsHere.

Learning the right skills for good jobs—\$28 million

The size and skills of the labour force are key drivers of economic growth. Budget 2011–2012 will invest in areas that help businesses be more productive, innovative, and globally competitive.

Through the Productivity Investment Program, jobsHere will

- Contribute 20 per cent, up to a maximum of \$1 million, toward the cost of technologically advanced machinery, clean technology, equipment, software, and hardware, with preference given to exporters.
- Provide funding to companies to encourage investment in skills development and certification, and to adapt to new technology and innovative processes.
- Double the capacity of the Workplace Education Initiative to support employers in providing skills training in the workplace, including literacy, communications, and supervisory skills.
- Grow the number of work placement opportunities available to university and community college students enrolled in cooperative education programs.

jobsHere will also

- Strengthen apprenticeships by modernizing the curriculum, particularly in skilled trades with rapidly evolving technology.
- Invest in the Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning, to help approximately 500 more learners over the next three years.
- Expand recognition of prior learning.
- Help the voluntary sector to support planning and management, and build human-resource capacity.

Growing the economy through innovation— \$22.9 million

Innovation breeds success. The budget will encourage more investment in research, new processes, equipment, and ideas, while improving productivity.

jobsHere will

- Address the economic impacts of new forestry policies through a reinvestment in the forest industry, which includes added silviculture and outreach funding.
- Create business opportunities in high-value agricultural areas.
- Introduce a new Innovation and Competitiveness fund that will support technology transfer and adoption, commercialization, mentoring, and entrepreneurship.
- Pursue Nova Scotia's proposal for a new, privately operated regional venture capital fund to improve access to capital for companies that want to innovate.

Helping businesses be more competitive globally— \$2.15 million

Nova Scotia businesses have unique strategic advantages, which can be leveraged to compete and succeed globally.

jobsHere will

- Position small businesses to be more competitive by reducing the Small Business Tax Rate from 4.5 per cent to 4.0 per cent.
- Coordinate commercial activities, including exchanges in investment, technology, and people, as well as international trade in goods and services.
- Increase capacity to gather intelligence on sectors that hold potential to attract, create, and grow high-value jobs.
- Improve conditions and protections for foreign workers.