



FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY Funding & Financial Assistance Sources

Funding options vary depending on the individual organization's need for assistance. The food processing industry, and in particular, SMEs within this industry, are challenged in areas of global competitiveness, innovation, investment in capital equipment, research and development, labour shortages, debt financing and export funding, knowledge and assistance. The sources included in this report, provide a summary of sources supporting these challenge areas. For additional information, Industry Canada maintains a detailed search engine on Canadian financial providers at www.strategis.ic.gc.ca.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS & SOURCES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE		
Program / Organization	Description	Source
ABORIGINAL CAPITAL COMMISSION	A number of commercial lending corporations have been set up with capital provided under the former Native Development Program.	www.abc.gc.ca
ACOA ATLANTIC INNOVATION FUND	The main thrust of the program is to promote R&D in Atlantic Canada in the area of natural and applied sciences, including R&D which leads to the launch of new products.	www.acoa.ca
ACOA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency provides financial assistance to firms wishing to develop new export markets or other trade related activities.	www.acoa.ca
ADVANCING CANADIAN AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD PROGRAM	\$240 million program aimed at positioning Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector at the leading edge to seize new opportunities. Program is ending March 31, 2009.	www.agr.gc.ca
AGRI-INNOVATION PROGRAM	To accelerate the rate of identification, assessment, development and adoption of innovation based products, thereby providing new market-oriented, commercialization opportunities for the agri-food sector. Program is ending March 31, 2009.	www.agr.gc.ca
AGRI-OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM	A 5-year program started in January 2007, to accelerate the commercialization of new agricultural products, processes or services that are currently not produced or commercially available in Canada. Until March 31 st , 2011.	www.agr.gc.ca
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BANK OF CANADA	Offers a variety of flexible and innovative consulting products designed to help business grow.	www.bdc.ca

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BANK OF CANADA - INNOVATIVE FINANCING	To help innovative businesses take advantage of new markets and technologies. SME focused.	www.bdc.ca
CANADA SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING PROGRAM	To help entrepreneurs across Canada access financing for establishing, expanding, modernizing and improving small business.	www.ic.gc.ca
CANADA SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING PROGRAM - CAPITAL LEASING PROJECT	To help small businesses across Canada access lease financing for new or used equipment.	www.ic.gc.ca
CANADIAN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM	Matches industry funds dollar for dollar to support activities that enhance or promote Canada's reputation as a world leader in providing safe, high quality agriculture, agri-food, beverage and seafood products that meet the changing demands of world markets.	www.agr.gc.ca
CANADA DAIRY COMMISSION	Provides innovation support funds and direct access funds. Cost-share financial and technical support for food and dairy companies to develop new and innovative products utilizing dairy ingredients.	www.cdc.ca
CANADA REVENUE AGENCY	Provides direct funds and/or tax credit grants for encouraging businesses to conduct research and development in Canada that will lead to technologically advanced products and services.	www.cra-arc.gc.ca
COMMUNITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS	Supported by ACOA. Assists in creation of small businesses and expansion, modernization and stabilization. Atlantic Canada.	www.cbdc.ca
EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CANADA	Provides commercial financial solutions to companies of all sizes to help them succeed in the global marketplace.	www.edc.ca
FARM CREDIT CANADA	Provides financial solutions to farm families and agri-businesses.	www.fcc-sca.ca
FOOD AND BEVERAGE CANADA	Cost-sharing for attendance at trade shows, conferences and other industry events.	www.foodbeveragecanada.com
FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE PROGRAM	Financial assistance for food processors to adopt GMPs and HACCP.	www4.agr.gc.ca
INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE FUND	Objective is to work with other investment programs to contribute to the achievement of the regional economic development objectives, especially broadening the economic base and strengthening Northerners' ability to take advantage of economic opportunities.	www.ainc-inac.gc.ca
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM WITH INNOVATIVE SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES	Provides financial assistance to innovative SMEs for the hiring of post-secondary graduates to work on innovation projects. Under IRAP program.	www.irap-pari.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca

NRC - INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (IRAP)	Industrial Research Assistance Program provides contributions to SMEs interested in growing using technology to commercialize services, products and processes in Canadian and International markets.	www.irap-pari.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca
PLANNING AND INVESTMENT FOR VALUE-ADDED ENTERPRISES	Helps cover the cost of hiring a business planning professional who will assist in developing a feasibility assessment or business plan related to your value-added business opportunity.	www.agr.gc.ca
PROGRAMS FOR SMES AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS (CANADA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR QUEBEC REGIONS)	To Support economic development activities as identified by the different Quebec regions. The fund is aimed at supporting the regions in adapting to the new global environment, particularly in rural areas. Total fund is \$250 million. Will operate until 2010 or 2012.	www.dec-ced.gc.ca
SERVICE CANADA - NATIONAL CAREER FOCUS	Provides financial support to Canadian employers and organizations to provide post-secondary graduates with career related work experience in Canada to help them acquire advanced employment skills and to become leaders in their field.	www.hrsdc.gc.ca
SERVICE CANADA - TARGETED WAGE SUBSIDY	Available to employment insurance eligible individuals who have difficulty finding work due to employment barriers.	www.hrsdc.gc.ca
SMALL BUSINESS FUNDING CENTRE	Provides grants and loans to Canadian small businesses.	www.grants-loans.org
WESTERN ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION CANADA	Responsible for promoting the development and diversification of the western economy. Includes assisting SMEs prepare for exporting, through information, training, planning, and trade financing.	www.wc.gc.ca
WORKPLACE SKILLS INITIATIVE	Provides financial assistance for training and education of staff. \$3 million a year. Completion 2010.	www.entrepreneurcanada.ca

SPECIFIC PROVINCIAL PROGRAMS

APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (ON)	Aims to increase the overall competitive position of Northern Ontario private sector firms by supporting the commercialization of intellectual property, value-added product development, and productivity improvement.	www.2ontario.com
GUELPH FOOD TECHNOLOGY CENTRE (ON)	Provides \$29,000 funding for the development and implementation of a food safety program.	www.gftc.ca
TORONTO REGION SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM ONTARIO CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL TECH. ADVANCEMENT (ON)	Provides SMEs (manufacturing enterprises) in the GTA with technical assistance, financial incentives to address root causes of their pollutants/waste streams. \$5000 toward a P2 assessment.	www.oceta.on.ca

ALBERTA HACCP ADVANTAGE (AB)	Provides recognition for food safety and HACCP systems implemented by food processors. Funding available up to \$20,000	www.agric.gov.al.ca
ALBERTA WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS (AB)	AWE loan program is designed to aid women entrepreneurs with small-business loans	www.awebusiness.com
FOOD PROCESSING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (AB)	To develop the human resources in the food processing industry in Alberta. Provides funds for training courses, tuition, purchase of training materials, related travel, etc.	www.afpa.com/hr/
ON-FARM DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM, ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (AB)	To provide financial assistance to applied research projects that enhance the adaptation, transfer and adoption of proven technology by Alberta's primary producers and processors. \$8.2 million.	www.aari.ab.ca
AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND (SK)	Provides three programs under which assistance can be provided. Research and Development Projects Program, the Agri-Value Program, and a Strategic Research Program. Approved projects may receive up to 100% of eligible costs.	www.argiculture.gov.sk.ca
WOMAN ENTREPRENEURS OF SASKATCHEWAN (SK)	Assists women to start-up, purchase or expand their business.	www.womenentrepreneurs.sk.ca
AGRI-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (MB)	Designed to assist in providing business planning and market development assistance to develop the value added agri-food sector in Manitoba.	www.gov.mb.ca
COMMUNITY FUTURES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS (BC)	Provides a variety of services and loans to SMEs, self employment assistance programs, and services targeted to youth and entrepreneurs with disabilities.	www.communityfutures.ca/provincial/bc
FOOD AND BEVERAGE PROCESSING INITIATIVE (BC)	\$1.5 million available in funding for projects to assist in the development of food, beverage and nutraceutical processing industry.	www.iafbc.ca
INVESTMENT AGRICULTURE FOUNDATION OF B.C. (BC)	The help the agri-food industry in British Columbia adapt to change, diversify and grow. Some areas of focus: enhance food safety and quality and value-added processing.	www.iafbc.ca
MEAT TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PHASE 2 (BC)	Provides funding to help cover costs of construction, equipment and business services, for newly built or upgrades to provincial standards in under served areas of the province. Last date for application March 31, 2009.	www.bcfpa.ca/mies.html
WOMEN'S ENTREPRISE CENTRE (BC)	Offering B.C. women business skill development and loans.	www.womensenterprise.ca
WORKING OPPORTUNITY FUND (BC)	A labour sponsored venture capital fund that provides equity capital to SMEs in BC. Targets investments in business that are in the early stages of development, expansion, financing, internal acquisition and turnaround financing.	Phone Contact only: 604.688.9631

NEW BRUNSWICK INNOVATION FOUNDATION (NB)	An independent corporation focused on stimulating innovation as a means of improving productivity. \$35 million.	www.nbif.ca
COMMERCIALIZATION PROGRAM (NFLD)	Funding is available to private sector enterprises for activities leading to the development of innovative, market-ready products and services.	www.intrd.gov.nl.ca
AGRICULTURE RESEARCH INVESTMENT FUND (PEI)	The \$1.2 million fund is aimed at improving the competitiveness and sustainability of PEI's agriculture and agri-food industry.	www.gov.pe.ca

NOTES:

- IN SOME PROVINCES THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. SOME ARE PART OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES OTHERS MAY BE FUNDED BY SEPARATE AGENCIES OR ASSOCIATIONS.
- THERE ARE ALSO A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS GEARED TO ESTABLISHING A BUSINESS FOR WOMEN, YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS, AND ABORIGINALS. EACH PROVIDES LOANS OR GRANTS FOR ASSISTANCE.