Who We Are
CBDCs are not-for-profit organizations run by volunteers from the local business community who firmly believe in improving the economic viability of their region. Located throughout rural Atlantic Canada there are 41 CBDC offices dedicated to the development of small business and assisting entrepreneurs in accessing financing and other business training and resources.

What We Do
As Community Business Development Corporations (CBDCs), our objective is to help build stronger communities in Atlantic Canada by stimulating private sector employment in our rural areas. CBDCs work throughout rural Atlantic Canada in the creation, expansion and modernization of small and medium sized businesses.

What We Have To Offer Entrepreneurs
CBDCs have much to offer both new and existing entrepreneurs as you will see by our line-up of stellar products.

CBDC Youth Loan
Tailored business solutions for young entrepreneurs ages 18-34 interested in starting, expanding or modernizing projects that require financing to get the business moving.

CBDC First-Time Entrepreneur Loan
Targeted financing for those first-time entrepreneurs starting or purchasing their very first business.

CBDC General Business Loan
The CBDC General Business Loan is designed to assist entrepreneurs to obtain financing for their business, when traditional avenues of financing are not available. It can be used for key events in the business life cycle such as business creation, purchase, and business succession planning.

CBDC Innovation Loan
To assist in the development of the knowledge-based economy in the adoption and commercialization of technology by rural businesses.

CBDC Social Enterprise Loan
Tailored financing designed to assist social enterprises in rural based communities in Atlantic Canada.

Self-Employment Benefit (SEB) Program*
The SEB Program often provides a much needed catalyst for new entrepreneurs, helping them to realize their goal of becoming a business owner by providing them with financial and coaching support during the planning and start-up phases of their business.

Business Counselling
Business counselling in the form of advice to new and established entrepreneurs throughout Atlantic Canada.

Consultant Advisory Services (CAS)
Gives CBDCs the ability to offer consultant advisory services to small and medium-sized businesses and not-for-profit organizations throughout the Atlantic region. New and existing clients of CBDCs will be able to access technical and financial assistance by engaging consultants to assist them with various issues.

Skills Training
Tailored skills training in special areas such as market development, bookkeeping, feasibility studies and business analysis.

Where You Can Find Us
To find out more information about the many programs and services offered by the CBDCs of Atlantic Canada, call or visit us online: 1-888-303-CBDC (2232) — www.cbdca.ca

*SEB is funded by the government of Canada through the Canada-Provincial Governments Labor Market Agreements. Programs and services delivered by CBDCs may vary by region.
Take control of the opportunity with our
Youth Loan Program

Oftentimes obtaining start-up capital to open a business can be a frustrating experience for youth between the ages of 18 to 34. They may have exciting new business ideas that could generate positive revenue spillovers once the financial roadblocks are removed from their path, yet experience difficulty obtaining necessary financing. That’s where your Community Business Development Corporation (CBDCs) Youth Loan Program comes into play.

The Main Objectives of the CBDC Youth Loan are to:

- Improve access to capital opportunities and financial leveraging abilities for business start-up, expansion, or modernization for youth ages 18 – 34;

- Create and maintain jobs in Atlantic Canada.

Let Us Help You!

The CBDC Youth Loan can offer financial assistance to eligible borrowers, in the form of a repayable loan, while offering competitive interest rates and repayment terms.

Financing can be in the form of a term loan, demand loan, loan guarantee, or equity investment.

We also can assist with the costs of providing valuable training to ensure that your business starts off on the right foot.

The Next Step is Yours!

We know that going into business can sometimes be a daunting step for our youth. That’s why the CBDCs are committed to assisting you in taking the right steps to ensure your business’s future.

If you’re between the ages of 18 and 34 and need financial assistance to create your business, call or visit any of our 41 offices located throughout Atlantic Canada.

Are You Eligible?

As with all our programs, the CBDC has created guidelines that outline what business activities are eligible for the Youth Loan Program. Here are the main criteria necessary to apply:

- Business activities including start-up, expansion or modernization of a commercial activity for a Youth Borrower between the ages of 18 – 34;

- The business may be either a year-round or seasonal business activity;

- Loan may be used to finance any costs of the business including fixed assets, start-up costs, and/or working capital. Leasehold improvements and franchise purchases are also eligible;

- The Youth Loan can also be used to purchase assets of a former business provided the purchase transaction is at arm’s length and the business assets are purchased at or below their current market value;

- A borrower can be a sole proprietorship, a partnership (where the majority of the care and control is vested with the new entrepreneur), or a limited company;

- The proposed business activity should not have a negative impact on existing businesses.

The borrower’s business activity should demonstrate a reasonable expectation of economic viability, as well as job creation and/or maintenance in their community.

Please note, programs and services delivered by CBDCs may vary by region.

Where You Can Find Us

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Do you currently reside in a rural area and have recently made the decision to take the plunge into becoming a business owner? If your answer is a resounding yes, then your Community Business Development Corporation (CBDC) may have the perfect business loan that you need to put your plans into action.

We know that oftentimes it may be difficult to obtain financial assistance for a first-time entrepreneur through traditional lending channels, so we’ve developed a perfect solution, namely the CBDC First-Time Entrepreneur Loan.

We also offer assistance with training and counselling services as well as we’re here to help you become a self-sufficient and profitable business owner.

How We Can Help the First-Time Entrepreneur

The CBDC First-Time Entrepreneur Loan can provide up to $150,000* per eligible borrower, and this includes sole proprietors, partnerships (whereby the majority of the care and control is vested with the new entrepreneur), or a limited company.

The First-Time Entrepreneur Loan is a repayable loan with competitive interest rates and repayment terms. Financing can be in the form of a term loan, demand loan, loan guarantee, or equity investment.

Ready to Move Forward?

If you are ready to forge ahead with your business idea and are in need of financial assistance, feel free to give one of our trained business analysts a call.

First-Time Entrepreneur Loan Eligibility Criteria

Here are a few of the criteria that applicants must meet in order to be considered for the First-Time Entrepreneur Loan:

- You must be a new, first-time entrepreneur residing in a rural area;
- Loan can be applied to either a start-up of a new business or assist in the purchase of an existing business;
- Start-up costs, fixed assets, land, building, equipment, working capital, machinery, furniture and fixtures, and in some situations, vehicles used solely for business purposes are eligible. Leasehold improvements and franchise purchases are also acceptable expenditures;
- Year-round and seasonal business activities are acceptable.

*Please note, in certain circumstances, CBDCs can provide financial assistance that exceeds $150,000 per eligible borrower. Programs and services delivered by CBDCs may vary by region.

Where You Can Find Us

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Community Business Development Corporations

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
Agence de promotion économique du Canada atlantique
Canada
Business is booming and you need funding for an expansion of your existing premises or have to construct a new building. Perhaps it's time to purchase new equipment and additional materials in order to fulfill increased customer demand or your product or services.

Where can you go to make your plans a reality? To your local Community Business Development Corporation (CBDC) that's where!

The CBDC knows firsthand that arranging financing for expansion or the purchase of an existing business can sometimes be difficult through regular financial institutions. That's why we've created the CBDC General Business Loan which is our most flexible business loan product.

**Here's How We Can Assist You**

We can provide up to $150,000* per eligible borrower, in the form of a repayable loan with competitive interest rates and repayment terms. This financing can be in the form of a term loan, demand loan, loan guarantee, or equity investment.

All loans will be secured where appropriate, loans can be from one year to ten years which gives you time to grow your business without being financially stressed.

**Need More Information?**

CBDC personnel are always ready, willing, and eager to help business owners do what they do best, which is successfully run a thriving company.

**Do I Qualify?**

The CBDC General Business Loan is offered to applicants who meet the following guidelines:

- Existing entrepreneurs who are purchasing a business (both new and existing companies are eligible);
- Expanding a business or in need of additional working capital;
- Financing of any costs of the business including start-up costs, fixed assets, land, building, equipment, machinery, furniture and fixtures, and, in some situations, vehicles used solely for business purposes. Leasehold improvements and franchise purchases are also eligible;
- Should demonstrate a reasonable expectation of economic viability, as well as job creation and/or maintenance without impacting existing businesses in the area;
- Year-round and seasonal business activities are both eligible.

*Please note, in certain circumstances, CBDCs can provide financial assistance that exceeds $150,000 per eligible borrower. Programs and services delivered by CBDCs may vary by region.*

**Where You Can Find Us**

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[CBDC logo] Community Business Development Corporations

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency is pleased to provide financial support to the CBDCs in Atlantic Canada.
Innovation Loan

Advances in technology occur almost daily, and it's important for business owners to adapt to new methods and ways of producing their products and/or services if they wish to remain competitive in today's marketplace.

Got an idea for a new to market product/service or an idea to modify an exiting product/service?

To help promote the development of the knowledge-based economy and aid in the adoption or commercialization of new technology, the Community Business Development Corporation (CBDC) has designed the CBDC Innovation Loan, which encourages business productivity and effectiveness in rural Atlantic Canada.

New technologies may include existing methods that have been adapted or repurposed for commercial applications, as well as financing for new products or services, training, counselling as well as financial support.

What the CBDC Innovation Loan Covers

We can provide up to $150,000* per eligible borrower, in the form of a repayable loan with competitive interest rates and repayment terms. Financing can be in the form of a term loan, demand loan, or a loan guarantee. Equity investment may also be considered.

The CBDC Innovation Loan can be used to finance any costs of the purchase of equipment, software, processes, licenses, and other items that are clearly identifiable as “new” technology that will enhance the business.

Infrastructure, installation, and maintenance costs associated with the implementation and utilization of new technology are also included, and we can assist with the costs of training staff who will be working directly with the new technology as well.

Embrace Change!

Oftentimes change is a good thing, and adopting new technology is a way to keep up with potential competitors and ensure your company's reputation as a cutting edge business.

Who Can Apply?

Rural based businesses that meet the following criteria are encouraged to apply for the CBDC Innovation Loan:

- Business activities can include new and existing entrepreneurs;
- The borrower and the business activity must be located in rural areas;
- The business activity should demonstrate a reasonable expectation of economic viability, as well as job creation and/or maintenance. However, applications will be judged on the Borrower's commitment and dedication to the project as well as earning potential;
- Year-round and seasonal businesses are acceptable.

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Where You Can Find Us

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Take control of the opportunity with our
Social Enterprise Loan

Creating thriving rural communities where people are able to live, work, and enjoy social activities in their region has long been an objective of the Community Business Development Corporation (CBDC).

We are proud to support Social Enterprises that operate a business venture in rural-based communities.

What is a Social Enterprise?

A Social Enterprise is a business that is directly involved in the production and/or selling of goods and services for the purpose of generating earned income and achieving or contributing to social aims. It can take the form of a non-profit organization, a cooperative, or a membership organization, characterized by an entrepreneurial philosophy, i.e. the production of goods and services and revenue generation that is separate from public grants.

CBDC Social Enterprise Loans are available to non-profits, including societies, charities, and cooperatives in need of business support (in the form of a loan or loan guarantee), that will be used to purchase assets, renovate existing assets or expand a social enterprise. CBDC Social Enterprise Loans are to support the financing of revenue generating activities of registered non-profit organizations.

We Can Help!

The CBDC can provide up to $150,000* per eligible borrower, in the form of a repayable loan with competitive interest rates and repayment terms.

The Social Enterprise Loan can be used to finance the purchase of equipment or other items that are necessary to continue business activities.

We offer a loan amortization of generally up to ten years based on the life expectancy of the asset(s) the Social Enterprise is utilizing the loan monies to purchase.

Eligibility Criteria

If your Social Enterprise meets the following guidelines, then the CBDC Social Enterprise Loan may be for you.

- The Social Enterprise and the business activity must be located in rural areas;
- New and existing Social Enterprises carrying on business activity are eligible to apply for this loan;
- Start-up of a new Social Enterprise or the expansion, renovation, or upgrading of an existing one are acceptable;
- Social Enterprises conducting year-round and/or seasonal business activity qualify;
- The Social Enterprise’s business activity should demonstrate a reasonable expectation of economic viability, and ensure that fundamental business aspects are present, as well as job creation and maintenance is met.

Community Creation at its’ Best

It’s all about you and your neighbourhood! Being able to create sound economic and socially conscious communities fosters a strong and vibrant lifestyle for everyone to enjoy.

Where You Can Find Us

To find out more information about the many programs and services offered by the CBDCs of Atlantic Canada, call or visit us online: 1-888-303-CBDC (2232) — www.cbdca.ca

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The Self-Employment Benefit (SEB) Program often provides a much needed catalyst for new entrepreneurs, helping them to realize their goal of becoming a business owner by providing them with financial and coaching support during the planning and start-up phases of their business.

What is the SEB Program?

Self-Employment Benefit (SEB) is a program which provides various types of support to eligible unemployed Atlantic Canadians during the initial phase of their business, including financial assistance, counselling and technical advice.

What Financial Assistance Will You Receive?

Under the Self-Employment Benefit (SEB) Program, you must be receiving or have received Employment Insurance (EI) benefits within a certain timeframe. You will continue to receive your Employment Insurance (EI) benefits until your claim ends. At this time you will receive support at a provincially established rate for the duration of time remaining on the SEB Program.

OR

If you are approved for the SEB Program, but are not currently receiving Employment Insurance benefits, you will receive a weekly allowance at a provincially established rate. The Self-Employment Benefit Coordinator in your area can provide you with additional information on what other support may be available to you.

Please note: SEB is funded by the government of Canada through the Canada-Provincial Governments Labor Market Agreements. Programs and services delivered by CBDCs may vary by region.

How to Begin

Step 1- Initial meeting with the SEB Coordinator

To access the Self-Employment Benefit (SEB) Program, you must meet with the local Self-Employment Benefit Coordinator in your area to determine your eligibility for the program. The Self-Employment Benefit Coordinator will analyze your strengths and needs in order to recommend whether or not self-employment is a viable option for you.

Step 2- Completing Application Form and Preparing Business Plan

If self-employment is an option, you will be asked to complete and submit an application form and you will also need to prepare a business plan.

Your business plan must demonstrate potential for success. Your Self-Employment Benefit Coordinator will explain the key requirements for the business plan.

Step 3- Selection Process

The application and business plan will be presented by your Self-Employment Benefit Coordinator to a committee and evaluated according to provincially established program criteria. If you are a successful applicant, you will be officially made aware of your acceptance into the Self-Employment Benefit (SEB) Program by your Self-Employment Benefit Coordinator.
The Consulting Advisory Services (CAS) Program gives CBDCs the ability to offer consultant advisory services to small and medium-sized businesses and not-for-profit organizations throughout the Atlantic region. New and existing clients of CBDCs will be able to access technical and financial assistance by engaging consultants to assist them with various issues, opportunities and challenges.

**Eligible CAS Activities**

1. **Diagnostic Assessment:** To conduct a thorough review of all aspects of an existing operation in order to provide an objective assessment of its current performance, key issues and future prospects.

2. **Business Management Development Practices:** To undertake a comprehensive review of the management skills of an existing business in order to provide an objective assessment of its current status and identify opportunities to enhance operations/management performances.

3. **Access to Capital:** To source other options for capital beyond government sources of financing.

4. **Market Readiness/Export Potential:** To undertake an objective assessment of an existing company to determine its export readiness and identify areas that require enhancement to successfully enter the export market.

5. **Specific Studies/Business Plan Mentoring:** The consultant will assist the client with the development and initial implementation of a study or business plan.

6. **Aftercare/Mentoring and Follow-up:** To provide mentoring or assistance to a client who has proceeded with the implementation of advice/strategies developed in any of the above described CAS products.

Programs and services delivered by CBDCs may vary by region.

**Where You Can Find Us**

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![CBDC Logo]