



Program Guidelines

Program Overview & Objective

Under the Atlantic Growth Strategy, the four Atlantic Canadian provinces and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) offer the Launch Export Atlantic Incubator Program. This exporter readiness program builds the export capacity of small businesses in Atlantic Canada with the goal of enabling long-term economic growth in the region.

Launch Export selects up to 32 eligible SMEs annually (eight from each Atlantic Province to participate in the program). With the support of the provincial and federal governments, participation gives each SME access to an estimated \$15,000 of valuable export training, coaching and consultation.

Launch Export Goals and Objectives

Goals:

- Build an export culture of SMEs in the Atlantic Provinces
- Increase Atlantic Canada Exports
- Leverage sustainable growth in Atlantic Canada

Objectives:

- Increase the number of Atlantic Canadian SMEs exporting
- Increase the value of Atlantic Canadian SME exports
- Increase the percentage of Atlantic Canadian SMEs exporting to more than one market

Eligible Applicants

To be considered for the Launch Export Program, you must be a registered business in Atlantic Canada that qualifies as an SME. As there are only eight available spots per province, there will be a selection process to finalize applicants. It is important to note that all selected businesses must agree to fully participate in all the required stages of the Launch Export Program.

To be eligible for Launch Export, the SME must:

- Have interest to sell its products and/or services outside of Canada.
- Have a developed product and/or service ready to sell in new markets.
- Be available to fully participate in all required program activities, including:
 - Needs Assessment Interview
 - Training Program: 15 virtual sessions on export topics over 7 months

- Participate in coaching activities (virtual)
- Participate in all program surveys

Pending funding approval, participants accepted into the Launch Export Program will also be invited to apply to the Educational Trade Mission in Fall 2026 (up to 20 companies are accepted).

Immediate Benefits

The short-term quantitative benefits for each organization based on the services and training you will receive are estimated to be \$15,000 of value. If you are selected for participation in the Launch Export program, you will receive:

- Targeted export educational sessions covering Business Foundations, Export Readiness, Export Education & Market Entry Strategy
- Coaching opportunities on how to solve export challenges and enter foreign markets
- Digital Marketing Asset Allowance to support generation of durable digital marketing assets
- Potential Educational Trade Mission in Fall 2026 for up to 20 companies - includes travel funding support. **Mission is not confirmed; it is pending funding approval.**

Intermediate to Long-term Benefits

Participation in Launch Export should result in one or more of the following outcomes:

- Entering a new market(s) outside of Canada
- Introducing a new product or service to a new market outside of Canada
- Increased export sales outside of Canada
- Participation in a global value and/or supply chain
- Increased investment in the business
- Understanding the requirements needed (i.e. certifications) to enter a specific market outside of Canada

Application Process

To apply for Launch Export, please complete the application form at this link:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019db69486e676b7869605a78bbc03ec>

Launch Export will be taking 8 qualifying SMEs from each Atlantic province to participate. Please note, if accepted the fee to participate in the training and coaching components is \$250.

Application Intake

Applications for Launch Export Program 2026 Cohort will be accepted until Friday, July 3, 2026

Personal Information

As the purpose of this program is to build an export culture of SMEs in the Atlantic Provinces, all program partners and participants will have access to your name, contact information and company profile to promote collaboration and growth.

As well, to assess the effectiveness and to improve the quality of services supporting international business development efforts in Atlantic Canada, data gathered during this program will be shared among the following organizations: Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Global Affairs Canada, NSACBDCs, the provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Contact Information

For more information, contact your provincial representative.

PE - Shelby McDonald, Trade Officer, Global Trade Services, Innovation PEI, (902) 213-0673, shelbymcdonald@gov.pe.ca

NL – Kevin Pomroy, Provincial Trade Commissioner, 709-729-1946, kevinpomroy@gov.nl.ca

NB – Ana Paula De Castilho, Export Development Executive/Chargée de l'expansion des exportations, Opportunities NB/Opportunités NB, (506) 478-2561, ana.decastilho@onbcanada.ca

NS – Valerie Caswell, Export Development Executive, Invest Nova Scotia, 902-943-3793
valerie.caswell@investnovascotia.ca

The Launch Export Atlantic Incubator is supported by the Government of Canada and the four Atlantic Provinces through the Atlantic Trade, Investment, and Growth Agreement.