

THE CANADA-NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR WATER SUPPLY EXPANSION PROGRAM

Ensuring long-term access to good-quality water

Why do we need to expand our water supply?

Depending on the weather to provide enough water to support their farm is a chance few Canadian producers can afford to take. In fact, producers often have to deal with water shortages and drought situations as a result of Canada's variable climate. Therefore, reducing the risk of water shortages by securing a long-term water supply simply makes good business sense.

The objectives of the National Water Supply Expansion Program

The National Water Supply Expansion Program (NWSEP) is a \$60-million Canada-wide initiative that will help improve the capacity of Canada's agriculture community to address water supply concerns. During the program's first year of operation, \$10 million was used to help develop high-priority water supply projects in drought-affected areas across Canada. In addition, a one-year National Scoping Study was funded through the NWSEP to determine agricultural areas of Canada experiencing or anticipating water shortages.

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Water Supply Expansion Program

Results from the National Scoping Study are being used to help create the foundation for federal-provincial framework agreements under the NWSEP across Canada. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the agreement is the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Water Supply Expansion Program (CNLWSEP). Through this initiative, Newfoundland and Labrador producers have access to support – both technical and financial – for the planning and development of projects that will improve their ability to develop and enhance long-term, sustainable agricultural water supplies.

Who can participate in the program?

Eligible applicants for CNLWSEP assistance in Newfoundland and Labrador include:

- individuals and/or incorporated groups of farmers;
- agricultural and conservation groups;
- rural communities and municipalities;
- agri-businesses and rural enterprises;
- educational institutions; and
- Provincial government departments, agencies and Crown corporations.

What kinds of projects are eligible?

The CNLWSEP will support three types of projects:

- **Tier One – On-farm water infrastructure projects:** individual on-farm water projects such as wells, ponds, off-stream and water storage systems, and field pipelines.
- **Tier Two – Multi-user infrastructure projects:** larger scale projects which provide water to a number of water users, such as tank-loaders and regional pipelines that will lead to growth in the agricultural sector.
- **Tier Three – Strategic work projects:** which include activities that will serve to increase opportunities for partnerships towards the understanding of the capabilities and limitations of the water resources in their communities (e.g. regional groundwater studies, groundwater exploration or testing, regional water management planning, water supply planning and feasibility studies, information extension activities, etc.).

In addition, projects must comply with all of the following criteria:

- reduce the risk of future water shortages;
- target priorities identified through the National Scoping Study;
- be scientifically, technically and financially feasible;
- be environmentally acceptable;
- enhance the potential for rural economic growth; and
- result in a long-term water-supply solution.

What financial assistance is available?

- **Tier One – On-farm infrastructure projects:** Canada will contribute up to one-third of the eligible costs, to a maximum of \$5,000 per project and up to \$15,000 per applicant.
- **Tier Two – Multi-user infrastructure projects:** Canada will contribute up to one-third of the eligible costs.
- **Tier Three – Strategic work projects:** Cost-sharing arrangements may vary and will be determined and approved on a project-by-project basis.

The Government of Canada is providing \$700,000 for projects under the CNLWSEP in Newfoundland and Labrador until March 31, 2008. The Province of Newfoundland and Labrador is providing up to \$50,000 of in-kind support towards water supply expansion activities.

How to apply

To apply for assistance under the CNLWSEP, complete the appropriate ***Application for Assistance*** form and send it to the designated CNLWSEP address below. In addition to providing information such as name, address and relevant contact telephone numbers, applicants must also provide initial project information such as location, description, estimated start and completion dates, estimated project costs, and sources of funding.

For copies of the Tier One application form, please contact:

The Provincial Department of Natural Resources
Land Resource Stewardship Division
P.O. Box 2006
4 Herald Avenue, Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J8
Telephone: 709-637-2081 Facsimile: 709-637-2586
Once completed, please return to the above address.

For copies of the Tier Two and Three application form, please contact:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
308 Brookfield Road
P.O. Box 39009 / Building 5
St. John's, NL
A1E 5Y7
Telephone: 709-772-4063
Fax: 709-772-4803

Application forms are also available on the web site at: www.agr.gc.ca/h2o/

Once completed, please return to the above address

Reviewing your application

A CNLWSEP committee consisting of federal and provincial representatives will establish criteria to assess all proposals based on the quality of each project plan, the degree to which project plans are incremental or complementary to other existing federal programs, and the degree to which projects provide broad-based public or environmental benefits.

All applications will be screened, reviewed and rated to ensure program funds are directed to those projects which best meet CNLWSEP objectives and priorities. Before approving a proposal, the CNLWSEP committee will ensure that the proposed project addresses and enforces all technical and environmental standards for water-development projects.

Note: You must receive written approval for your project prior to beginning the proposed work. Any projects started before receipt of written approval are not eligible for funding.

Once a project is approved for financial assistance, the applicant will receive a letter specifying the amount of assistance they are eligible to receive, as well as a deadline for which to complete the project. If the project is not completed by the deadline, you will not receive any financial assistance.

Application will be reviewed as received.

Please note: The Canada- Newfoundland and Labrador Water Supply Expansion Program ends March 31, 2008.