

## Quality Improvement Support Program

The Quality Improvement Support Program enables Prince Edward Island companies to enhance their capabilities to pursue trade and export opportunities to improve their competitiveness in a global marketplace.

This program provides financial assistance to Prince Edward Island businesses to acquire the professional expertise that will provide quality assurance documentation, auditing, registration, certification leading to the creation or enhancement of a Quality Improvement Program or a certified Quality Education Program for management and employees. Innovation PEI encourages eligible Prince Edward Island manufacturers, processors and providers of exportable services to undertake quality initiatives while offsetting some of the costs with developing and implementing excellent improvement programs.

### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants to this program are manufacturers, processors and providers of exportable services. Applicants must be sole proprietorships, partnerships, cooperatives or limited liability companies with well-developed business and marketing plans.

### ELIGIBLE SECTORS

Manufacturers, processors and providers of exportable services in the following sectors:

- Food Development
- Information and Communications Technology
- Bioscience
- Manufacturing
- First-of-its-kind exportable services may be considered in other sectors

In order for a project to be eligible for assistance, it must be expected to provide economic benefit to the province and similar businesses cannot be jeopardized as a result of the proposed project.

### ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- the hiring of expertise to develop and implement a productivity or quality improvement plan
- the establishment of a quality assurance/quality control program (QA/QC) and the cost of technical equipment (used in testing, inspection and measurement of quality improvement) required for improved quality and productivity
- the provision of quality assurance documentation, auditing, registration, certification
- HACCP and other food safety projects
- the provision of certified quality education programs for management or key supervisory employees. Degree granting or credit courses are not eligible
- the provision of environmental management planning with a focus on increased efficiency through waste reduction

## LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE

- Up to 40 percent of the cost of engaging outside expertise associated for the design, development and implementation of plans aimed at improving productivity, quality, food safety, or environmental management
- Up to 40 percent of the cost of technical equipment used in testing, inspection or measurement of quality improvement and identified as being required for implementation of the plan
- Up to 40 percent of the purchase cost and/or the registration costs for certified quality education programs for management or key supervisory employees
- Maximum allowable assistance per project is the lesser of 40% of eligible costs or \$16,000.
- One application per business per calendar year.

### Other conditions when evaluating an applicant's request for assistance include:

- potential for long-term viability
- employment creation
- cost benefit to the province
- qualifications and track records of managers
- level of assistance from other government programs offered or available
- export sales
- import substitution
- environmental impact
- availability of program funds

## PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The Quality Improvement Support Program requires monitoring for a two year period. In addition to yearly financial statements, applicants must be prepared to provide information, as requested, on the ongoing activities of the business.

For each project approved, a letter of offer will be forwarded to the applicant(s) which, when accepted, shall constitute a contract between Innovation PEI and the applicant(s).

Should the project fail to comply with the terms of the contract or be discontinued, Innovation PEI may at its sole discretion:

- declare the applicant to be in non-performance (default) of the contract
- request the applicant to repay, in full, the incentive received
- take necessary legal action to collect the incentive amount, in full, with interest

***Application must be submitted before any financial or legal commitment is made on the project.***

## For More Information

Innovation PEI specializes in providing one-on-one business advisory services. Our qualified staff can also provide information regarding most business development programs offered by government agencies across Prince Edward Island. Application forms and additional program information can be obtained from Innovation PEI.