

Investments to grow the economy, enhance community supports

March 15, 2018

The province has an opportunity to invest in important projects that will have lasting impact over the next 10 years. These investments support economic growth in rural and urban communities, research and innovation, sport and recreation, and events and culture. They also support communities by helping Nova Scotians who have specific needs.

These investments are possible because of our offshore resources and the revenue they generate.

Supporting Economic Growth

Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust	\$120M
Research Nova Scotia Trust	\$20M
Offshore Growth Strategy	\$11.8M
International Air Service Investment	\$11.1M
Saint Mary's University Innovation Hub	\$11M
DeepSense Big Data Initiative/Oceans	\$5M
Innovation Team	\$1.5M
Sandboxes	\$850K
*Other	\$4.8M

***Other indicates investments where partners are working out final details with other parties – details will be provided once finalized.*

High-Speed Internet: The creation of the Trust and today's investment of approximately \$120 million will connect more homes and businesses, and enhance service for under-served communities. Improving high speed internet will be an economic game-changer for Nova Scotia, helping more businesses start and grow and creating jobs for Nova Scotians, particularly young Nova Scotians.

International Air Service Investment: This will improve our connections to key markets in Asia, Europe, and the northeastern and central United States and help us continue to increase trade, tourism and immigration. Halifax Stanfield International Airport will work with the Department of Business, Tourism Nova Scotia and NSBI to explore new markets and negotiate agreements that benefit all Nova Scotians.

Research Nova Scotia Trust: Funding for post-secondary research related to oceans and oceans technologies, life sciences, health and wellness, ICT, clean technologies, social innovation and the resource sectors. This will create jobs and training opportunities for researchers, undergrads, grad students, post-docs, technicians, research associates, and others.

Offshore Growth Strategy: Offshore work in petroleum geoscience will be extended for another four years. This will include supplier development initiatives, as well as the continuing improvement of offshore regulations. The geoscience work will improve our understanding of our offshore potential, and help market new opportunities to investors.

Saint Mary's University Entrepreneurship, Discovery and Innovation Hub: The Hub will be a physical location that will help advance creativity, innovation and commercialization. It will act as an on-campus "innovation superhighway" with traffic in all directions, connecting students and professors with entrepreneurs, businesses, and the external community.

DeepSense: Nova Scotia continues to be a leader in the oceans sector. This investment will help support the creation of a world class ocean data analytics platform to help grow the regional ocean economy, called DeepSense. The project will be a partnership between academia, government and industry, including the Institute for Ocean Research Enterprise (IORE), Centre for Ocean Ventures & Entrepreneurship (COVE), IBM Canada, Dalhousie, and ACOA.

Innovation Team: This team of government representatives and post-secondary institutions helps grow the provincial economy by delivering quality programs that attract students and expand research and development opportunities. A new round of projects will be supported with this investment.

Sandboxes: Nova Scotia Sandboxes are collaborative spaces hosted by universities and the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC). They bring together students, mentors and external advisors in spaces where students can explore entrepreneurship and take business and social enterprise concepts from ideas to execution. There are eight sandboxes established throughout the province, and this funding will support a ninth sandbox for Southwest Nova Scotia, which is a partnership between the Nova Scotia Community College and Université Sainte-Anne. This sandbox will make the program inclusive of all universities and NSCC campuses.

Supporting Communities

HomeWarming	\$12.2M
Opioid Use and Overdose Framework	\$1.6M
Employment coaching for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder	\$1.4M
Shelter Nova Scotia	\$1.1M
Workplace Health and Safety for health-care workers	\$520K
Atlantic Division – Canoe/Kayak NS – Pan Am Games	\$320K
Sherbrooke Restoration Commission	\$246K
Rugby Nova Scotia	\$200K
*Health investments	\$18.2M
**Other	\$22.7M

**Health investments indicates investments in the health system that are currently under negotiation. More information will be shared when details are finalized.*

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Homewarming: This program offers no-charge energy assessments and free home upgrades for low-income Nova Scotians in non-electrically heated homes. This includes draft-proofing, insulation and other efficiency options to make homes more comfortable. The program also helps Nova Scotians reduce emissions and save money on their energy bills.

Opioid Use and Overdose Framework: This funding will support additional work under the plan launched in 2017. This includes \$1.4M to stabilize needle distribution and exchange programs delivered throughout Nova Scotia by three community-based organizations. This funding will allow for better long-term planning and greater outreach to marginalized and rural populations. In addition, \$200K in funding will ensure police and corrections continue to carry naloxone.

Employment coaching for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Nova Scotians with Autism Spectrum Disorder need services that can respond to a variety of challenges, including those related to employment. This investment will help people better transition into the workforce and stay employed.

Shelter Nova Scotia: Shelter Nova Scotia is very important to our communities and the people they serve. The organization oversees Metro Turning Point – the largest men’s shelter in Nova Scotia. This funding will help the organization hire more staff, replace mattresses and provide breakfast to Nova Scotians in need.

Rugby Nova Scotia: Funding will support the international rugby series hosted by Rugby Nova Scotia between June-August 2018.

Atlantic Division – Canoe/Kayak Canada – Pan Am Games: Funding will help recipient host the 2018 Pan American Canoe Sprint Championships in September 2018, bringing 20 teams from around the world to Nova Scotia. The department will provide an additional \$200,000 for a total of \$520,000.

Workplace health and safety for healthcare workers: This will fund training to help staff in home care and long-term care facilities to safely lift and move patients. This is just part of an overall investment from across government to support the Workplace Safety Action Plan coming in 2018-19.

Sherbrooke Restoration Commission: To support the transition of the Sherbrooke pension plan to the Public Service Superannuation Plan.