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Nova Scotia Business Inc.

Life Sciences

Nova Scotia is advancing
medical technology.

Our province boasts a thriving health and life sciences industry with major innovative research centres, leading hospitals, and a vibrant post-secondary sector that supports R&D and commercialization.

Our collaborative interdisciplinary network, quality STEM talent pool, and research infrastructure provide the foundation for a vibrant life sciences sector. Nova Scotia's health and life sciences sector is expanding and capitalizing on areas of emerging potential, from natural health products to AI-enabled medical technologies.

Nova Scotia's capital city, Halifax, is the health care center for the Atlantic region. Innovators from around the globe have discovered the benefits of conducting research and commercializing in Nova Scotia.

About the sector

Nova Scotia is Canada's University capital, home to 10 universities and 14 community college campuses. Our education institutions partner with government and industry to develop tailor-made programs to support sector growth, and the homegrown talent pool is complemented by immigration programs that support companies to attract the best global talent to Nova Scotia.

Researchers in Nova Scotia are making breakthroughs in areas such as:

- **Immune Health** – Dalhousie University scientists invented the first new class of antibiotics in 30 years, and the province is home to the Canadian Center for Vaccinology (CCFV), an interdisciplinary vaccine research group bringing together world-class expertise in vaccine discovery, clinical trials, and vaccine evaluation.
- **Natural Health Products** – The first processes to extract omega-3 fish oils were developed in Nova Scotia, launching a multi-billion-dollar global industry. Today, the province continues to lead in algal and marine biotechnology, while exploring other functional foods and nutraceuticals.
- **Diagnostics and Precision Therapeutics** - From new imaging technologies and techniques, to novel biomaterials and precision radiotherapy, we are improving healthcare from detection to treatment.
- **Medical Technologies and Digital Health** - Nova Scotian researchers use advanced analytics in areas such as bioinformatics, drug discovery for orphan diseases, human-computer interaction, and advanced AI-assisted healthcare.

Clinical Trials and Pilots

Unlike many other jurisdictions, Nova Scotia has a unified health authority that grants approvals for clinical trials across the province. At any given time, there are about 400 clinical trials underway at Nova Scotia Health.

The Nova Scotia Health Innovation Hub addresses the need for rapidly advancing health innovation. Their Innovation Launchpad is a transformational approach for clinicians and companies looking to test, try, and de-risk solutions.

Research and Innovation

Nova Scotia has a critical mass of students and scientists undertaking exciting R&D in many of our post-secondary institutions, research hospitals, and research centres including:

- The Nova Scotia Health Authority
- Innovacorp Enterprise Centre
- The Life Sciences Research Institute
- The National Research Council (NRC)
- The Biomedical Translational Imaging Centre (BIOTIC)
- Genome Atlantic

Relevant programs and incentives:

Canada offers some of the world's best R&D incentives. Nova Scotia offers additional R&D top-ups, alongside a supportive business climate.

Industry-relevant incentives include:

- **Research and Development Tax Credits:** Up to 50% of qualified Scientific Research & Experimental Development expenditures made in Nova Scotia are eligible as a tax credit.
- **The Capital Investment Tax Credit (CITC):** Up to \$30 million on eligible capital equipment acquired for use in Nova Scotia can be claimed as a refundable corporate income tax credit.
- **Strategic Innovation Fund:** Repayable and non-repayable contributions to projects for firms of all sizes in Canada's industrial and technology sectors, with specific funding dedicated to life sciences and biomanufacturing.
- **Payroll Rebate:** Return on a company's eligible gross payroll, based on performance.
- **Innovation Rebate Program:** A 25% rebate on eligible project costs for investments in innovation, capacity expansion, and sustainability.
- **Productivity and Innovation Voucher:** Direct financial assistance for small and medium-sized businesses to conduct research with expertise from our post-secondary institutions.
- **Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP):** NRC provides advice, connections, and funding to help small and medium-sized businesses increase their innovation capacity and take ideas to market.

Learn more at novascotiabusiness.com/lifesciences

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