



South Coast

Self Employment Benefit Program Information Sheet

IS THIS PROGRAM FOR YOU?

Are you unemployed and interested in becoming self employed by establishing your own business or purchasing an existing business? If you are, you may be entitled to assistance through a program sponsored by the CBDC South Coast which will enable to you receive income support for the first year of your business and business counseling during business planning, start-up and operation.

ABOUT THE CBDC SOUTH COAST

The CBDC South Coast is one of 15 Community Business Development Corporations (CBDC's) located throughout the province dedicated to development of small businesses and job creation in rural NL. These Corporations are regional autonomous non-profit organizations and partner of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA).

GEOGRAPHICAL JURISDICTION

The geographical jurisdiction of the CBDC South Coast is the Coast of Bays region. The office of the CBDC South Coast is located in the Regional Resource Centre on Cormier Avenue in St. Alban's. Staff travels within the region and it is only a matter of a phone call and one of our qualified staff can meet with you to discuss your business idea.

WHAT IS THE SELF EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT (SEB) PROGRAM

The Self Employment Benefit (SEB) program is a tool that helps individuals create jobs for themselves and others through self employment. This program provides various types of support during the initial start of a business.

- The SEB Program is designed to supplement the loss of personal income when starting a business.
- If you are receiving or are eligible to receive Employment Insurance (EI) benefits, you may qualify for the program.
- The SEB Program also provides business counseling, training, guidance, assistance with completion of a business plan, and ongoing support in business startup and operation.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THIS PROGRAM?

- You must be unemployed and have an established EI benefit claim or one that has ended in the past three years. This time frame can go up to the past five years if you had established a parental EI claim and you remained out of the work force to care for a child.
- You must start or take over an existing business in which you had no prior ownership.
- You must make a 25% contribution of funding received to the business, i.e. \$23,764 your contribution would be \$5,941. You must be legally entitled to work in Canada and the business must not provide new competition for existing businesses in your area.
- Sometimes more than one applicant can qualify for the same business (equal partnerships).
- Projects or business concepts considered are subject to competitive impact restrictions. Typically, business concept must not introduce "new" competition into the marketplace. For instance, support under the program cannot be provided to start a new business where products and/or services are already provided.
- Other restriction may apply, which will be reviewed with the SEB Coordinator.

What are the SEB Client's Responsibilities?

- EI eligibility must be determined with the assistance of the EAS Officer in Hr. Breton or St. Alban's.
- The applicant is required to meet with the SEB Coordinator to assess the business idea and plan.
- Upon review by the CBDC South Coast, a recommendation for the SEB program will be made to Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Human Resources and Labour Employment office in Grand Falls-Windsor where the final decision will be made.
- Upon approval for the program client has up to 10 weeks to complete a comprehensive business plan showing potential for long term self employment.
- Monthly reports which include an income and expense summary with a narrative on the progress of the business must be submitted to CBDC South Coast office
- Business site visits will be conducted by the staff of the CBDC South Coast.
- You are required to work a minimum of 35 hours per week and into the business only.

For further information on the SEB program please call:

CBDC South Coast
Telephone: 709-538-3846
Toll Free: 1-888-303-2232 (CBDC)