

Project Summary

In rural Nova Scotia, there are a number of institutions, organizations and government agencies that are engaged in rural development, agri-food industries, food security, immigration attraction and retention. The objective of this initiative is to bring together the primary stakeholders involved in rural agri-business and immigration to identify a strategy of engaging the existing agri-food industry and creating strategic links to the newcomer population with an interest in food production and processing.

The research team will: 1) map and define the roles of existing organisations 2) look at the opportunities and challenges of engaging newcomers within the Nova Scotia agricultural production and processing industry 3) identify how traditional agri-business can be engaged and what resources are required to create new and innovative industries that will contribute to addressing the challenges of retention and capacity building facing agri-business. 4) conduct research on previous success stories, for example the wine industry in NS, to identify key elements of success. 5) design and implement a strategy linking agri-food business and newcomers, including seed funding for one pilot program.

Projected Benefits

The project will bring to light the opportunities and challenges of engaging immigrants and refugees within the Nova Scotia agricultural production and processing industry, and highlight ways in which traditional agri-business can be engaged to create new and innovative industries that will create broader food security within Nova Scotia.

About the Community Partner

CBDC Blue Water is an important economic development agency in the rural Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). It supports the rural economy by helping small and medium sized businesses succeed. The Corporation provides loans, counselling and training support to the business communities in rural HRM. Blue Water covers a geographic area of approximately 5,100 square kilometers and services a population of more than 130,000 people. Since inception, CBDC Blue Water has approved more than 1480 loans and disbursed in excess of \$42.0 million in support of rural businesses. It is interested in fostering partnerships in an effort to achieve a vibrant rural economy and is part of a network of 13 community business development corporations in Nova Scotia.