

NS-IEG-4768

March 30, 2026

Kim Ramsay, CAO  
Municipality of the District of East Hants

Dear Kim Ramsay,

As you are aware, following the release of the 2026-27 provincial budget, *Defending Nova Scotia* (<https://novascotia.ca/budget/>), the Department of Growth and Development is implementing a revised framework for the Regional Enterprise Networks (REN). The new framework, Regional Economic Partnership Program (REPP), aims to provide consistent and focused business supports to small and medium sized businesses and stimulate regional economic development across rural Nova Scotia. There has been great success from the REN, and we look forward to continued partnership.

The provincial funding will move from providing core operational funding to an activity-based program delivery model focused on defined regional economic development activities that include:

- Business Navigation and Pathfinding
- Business Retention and Expansion
- Regional Coordination Functions

Enclosed in this email you find the following documents to support the application process under the revised framework:

- Application Guidelines
- Application Form

Applications are due to the Department of Growth and Development by April 24, 2026.

Department staff look forward to reviewing your application and have scheduled two virtual information sessions for the REPP application. The sessions will be held on April 7, 2026, at 10 am - 11:30 am and on April 9 at 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm. Should you be interested in attending a session, please reach out to the REPP team at [REPP@novascotia.ca](mailto:REPP@novascotia.ca) indicating which session works best for you and the contact information for the attendees.

We are working diligently to expedite the transition to minimize impacts and recognize the challenges the reduction in the program funding presents. We have ambitious timelines to review, evaluate, and disburse funds by mid-summer. In the interim there will be no transitional funding available.

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We look forward to your application as we work together to ensure businesses across Nova Scotia can access consistent support, regardless of location.

Sincerely,

Regional Economic Partnership Program Team  
Department of Growth and Development

Enclosures: Application Guide  
Application Form