

# INSERC

Industry-focused  
R&D Partnership Tools



# Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)

NSERC is the largest natural sciences and engineering (NSE) research granting council in Canada

- \$1.1 billion dollars
- 30,500 post-secondary students and post-doctoral fellows
- 11,300 professors
- 3,500 Canadian companies



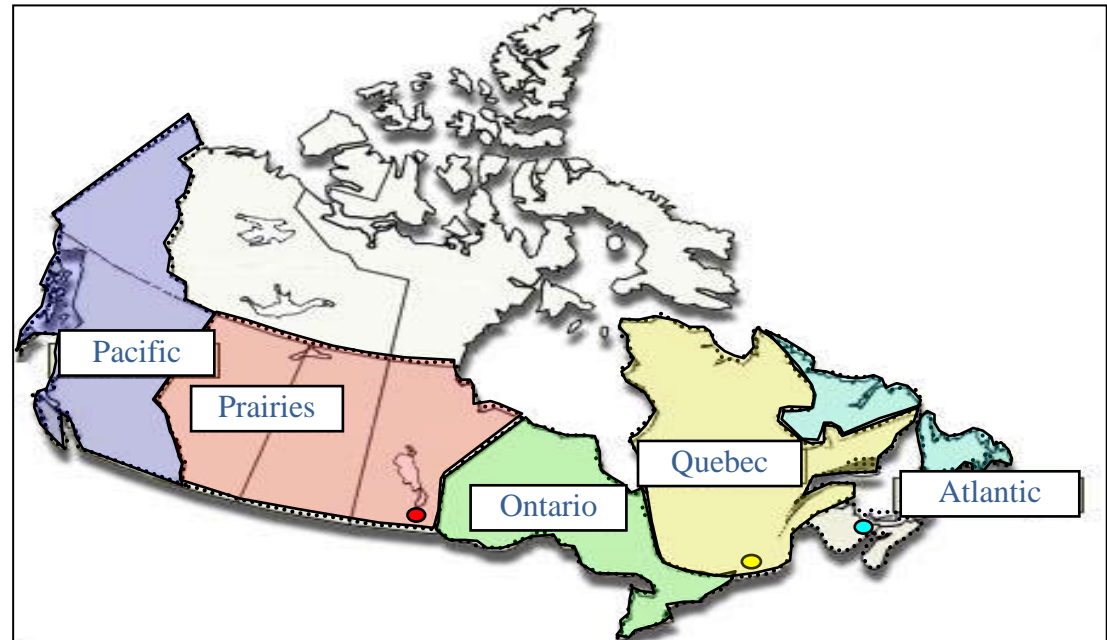
# NSERC Stats in 2014 - 2015

- 63 M invested in Atlantic Canada
- 852 regional professors supported
- 484 awards students and fellows
- 77 NSERC sponsored research chairs



# Role of NSERC – Regional Office

- Build private and public sector awareness of NSERC
- Increase the number of academic-industry partnerships
- Increase academic-industry participation rates in NSERC's research programs



# Main NSERC Tools

## Research Partnerships

Connect Grants (1, 2 & 3)

Engage & Engage Plus Grants

Collaborative R&D Grant

Applied R&D Grants

## Industrial Scholarships

Experience Award



# Connect Grant

Level 1

- Up to \$5,000 for up to three months
- Travel, accommodation and meeting costs
- Allow researchers to meet with Canadian companies with the objective of forming new research partnerships
- No application deadline
- NSERC will reach a funding decision within 30 days of receipt of a complete application



# Engage Grant

- Funds: **new** research partnership between an academic researcher (university or college) and a company
- Addresses: a **company-specific problem**
- Value: up to **\$25,000** from NSERC (no cash required from company)
- Project Timeframe: up to **6 months**
- **Deadline:** none, apply anytime
- Decision: **~6 weeks (85% success rate)**
- **IP:** company owned



# Changes to Engage Grant

- **Company partners:** Must have at least 2 full-time employees, and have been in operation at least 2 years
- **Applicants:** Limited to one Engage award per fiscal year
- **Industry Associations as industrial partners:** new requirements

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# Engage Plus Grant

- **Build on Engage project after completion.**
- Six months in duration.
- Same academic researcher and the same industrial partner as in the original Engage application.
- **Cash requirement** from the company for Engage Plus grants.
  - NSERC will match industry cash with a simple direct **1:1 funding ratio**, up to a **total project value of \$25K.**
  - Company cash directed to university/college overhead would not be matched by NSERC.



# Collaborative Research & Development Grant (CRD)\*

- 1 to 5 years in duration
- Academic can have prior relationship with company
- Industrial cash contribution (min \$10K)
- NSERC levers cash and in-kind contributions
- Active involvement of company required
- Apply at any time; peer reviewed (university\*)
- 85% success rate & seeing 10% growth annually



# DAL Engage to CRD Project Example

**Vasantha Rupasinghe**, Environmental Science &  
**Richard Ablett**, Agriculture

**Project:** Optimization of manufacturing processes for incorporation of plant-based bioactives in dehydrated honey lozenges

**Company Partner:** Farmer John's Herbs, Island Abbey Foods Inc.

**NSERC CRD Award:** \$ 300K over 3 years

**Industry contribution:** \$150K cash and \$150K in-kind



# Applied R&D Grants (College)

## Projects requesting up to \$75K per year from NSERC

- Private sector partner(s) contribute at least half of the amount requested from NSERC
- At least \$10,000 annually must be in cash
- External peer

## Projects between \$75K and 150K per year from NSERC

- Projects up to 3 years:
- Private sector partner(s) contribute  $\frac{1}{2}$  of project costs in cash and in-kind
- External peer review and committee review



# What are companies saying?

- NSERC project was a success 94%
- Problem was partially or completely solved 86%
- Intend to apply the results 76%
- New technology or knowledge gained 95%
- 15% of surveyed companies hired one of the students
- Majority of participating companies have experienced growth in revenue & number of employees



# NSERC Experience Awards

\$67,500 for companies to hire up to 15 undergraduate NSE students per year!



- Student works full-time on a research project at an eligible Canadian company
- NSERC pays up to \$4,500 per award, requires a minimum 25% supplement from industry partner for 12 to 16 weeks
- Student must at least have cumulative B or B- average



# **N SERC Atlantic Regional Office**

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