

The background features several overlapping geometric shapes. A large, light blue trapezoidal shape is positioned in the upper right. A dark blue triangle is on the left side. A grey trapezoidal shape is located in the lower right, partially overlapping the light blue shape. The text is placed in the white space at the bottom right.

Polar Vortex Industry Recovery Guidelines

Phase 2

2024 - 2025

Program Objective

The objective of Phase 2 of the Polar Vortex Industry Recovery program is to address the needs of industries who were affected by the February 2023 Polar Vortex weather event, including cane fruit, high bush blueberries, grapes, and fruit trees. Phase two activities will include assistance for virus testing, plant material cost, as well as crop maintenance.

Eligible Applicants

- Producers that own or operate farms containing eligible crops with a minimum size of ½ acre impacted by the Polar Vortex in February 2023.
- Mi'kmaq conducting farming activities in a Mi'kmaw community.

Program Criteria

- Applicants must be currently and properly registered in the correct income category under the *Farm Registration Act*
- Applicants must be at least 19 years of age, a resident of Nova Scotia, and actively farming in the program year.
- The cropping location is within the region of recorded low temperatures during the Polar Vortex Period (February 4/5th, 2023)

Eligible Crops

- Cane Blackberry
- Cane Raspberry
- Grapes
 - Vinifera
 - Hybrids
- High Bush Blueberries
- Peaches/Nectarines
- Plums
- Sweet & Sour Cherries

Financial Assistance / Eligible Expenses

STREAM 1: VIRUS TESTING (GRAPES)

To support and encourage disease free replanting and on-farm propagation, Stream 1 will fund up to 100% of the testing cost for vines to a maximum of \$2500 per farm. Testing must be done at a recognized lab.

Tests supported under this stream include: Leafroll-1, Leafroll-3, GPGV and Red Blotch

Eligible expenses include cost of virus testing only.

STREAM 2: MAINTENANCE RECOVERY

Maintenance recovery will be calculated based on the total number of acres of each eligible crop at an assistance level of 70%. The maintenance recovery rate has been calculated using producer data submitted through the Polar Vortex Impact Survey.

Crop	Maintenance Rate	Program support	Maximum funding per acre
Cane Berries (Raspberry & Blackberry)	\$800	70%	\$560
Grapes	\$3900		\$2730
High Bush Blueberries	\$1400		\$980
Peaches	\$1400		\$980
Plums	\$500		\$350
Sweet/Sour Cherries	\$800		\$560

Note 1: Funding for the program is limited and the final decision to support will be determined by Horticulture Nova Scotia

Note 2: If applicant did not apply for Polar Vortex Industry Recovery Phase One then PID's are required for each field.

Note 3: Maintenance Recovery Phase 2 is based on extraordinary pruning costs to maintain trees/vines/plants because of excessive growth caused by the Polar Vortex Event in February 2023. For Grapes it also includes the extraordinary costs of tying.

STREAM 3: REPLANT RECOVERY SUPPORT

Crop	Program support	Maximum funding
Cane Berries (Raspberry & Blackberry)	50%	\$5.62
Grapes Hybrid		\$1.11
Grape Vinifera		\$2.50
High Bush Blueberries		\$3.37
Peaches		\$6.00
Plums		\$6.00
Sweet/Sour Cherries		\$6.00

This stream covers 50% of your invoice to a maximum per plant (as listed in the chart above) for new plant material needed to replace dead or significantly damaged plants in order for the industry to recover from the Polar Vortex event in February 2023.

Note 1: If you have already purchased plant material in 2023 to replant because of your losses from Polar Vortex you are eligible to apply for this replant recovery support.

Note 2: Submit proof of use of planting material from certified sources that is produced from virus-tested rootstock and scion material (is highly recommended) or own propagated virus-tested rootstock.

Ineligible Activities

These include but are not limited to:

- administrative / general overhead
- small construction tools
- operating expenses / existing staff salaries / travel
- HST

Application Process

To apply for the Polar Vortex Industry Recovery Phase 2 Program:

1. Complete and submit the application.
2. Complete and submit the affidavit.
3. Include all required support documentation.
 - a. PID's listed (Stream 2). Required if you did not apply for Phase 1.
 - b. Paid invoices for plant material purchases & virus testing (for Stream 1 & Stream 3). Attach proof of payment for each invoice – e-transfer confirmation, debit slips, cleared cheques, or credit card/bank statements. (Invoices marked paid and signed by the supplier are not accepted)
4. Eligible project expenses will be recognized within the Activity Period stated in the table below.

Application Intake	Activity Period
March 15, 2024–May 30, 2024	April 30, 2023 – April 30, 2024

Approval Process

Applications will be accepted, processed, and reviewed upon receipt and on a weekly basis.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee consisting of representatives from Horticulture Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, and Perennia. Applications will be screened according to recorded weather data collected on February 4th/5th, 2023 compared to the temperature thresholds for each crop as listed in phase 1 program guidelines.

All approved applications will be sent an approval letter and payments once all of the required documentation is submitted.

Note 1: No payment will be made for claims under \$20.00.

Note 2: At least 20% of all projects will be audited to verify program objectives.

Permits and Regulations

The Recipient must ensure that all work in respect of the Project is carried out in accordance with federal and provincial legislation and regulations regarding environmental impact, food safety and animal welfare. It is the Recipient's responsibility to research legislative and regulatory requirements, obtain required permits and ensure environmental compliance for the Project.

Authority

Horticulture Nova Scotia shall have the authority to deny an application if there is evidence of misrepresentation of pertinent information or if Horticulture Nova Scotia believes that an application does not conform to the spirit of the Program.

Evaluation and Audit

Review and evaluation of projects may be carried out by Horticulture Nova Scotia for the purpose of audit, analysis, evaluation, program development and determining financial assistance. This review and evaluation process may be conducted prior to project commencement, during work or upon project completion. Applicants may be asked to complete an evaluation survey related to their final claim.

Confidentiality

Applicants consent to the release of their name and the amount of support received under the Program. This specific information is deemed to be public information, to be actively disseminated by Horticulture Nova Scotia. Horticulture Nova Scotia may provide any information from an applicant to another public body or a law-enforcement agency in Canada to assist in an investigation, undertaken with a view to a law-enforcement proceeding or from which a law-enforcement proceeding is likely to result. Any other information provided, unless disclosed in the manner and for the purposes stated above, will be subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) Act.

Contact Information

Please submit all documents related to Polar Vortex Recovery Program to Horticulture Nova Scotia at the address, email or fax number below. For more information about the program, please contact Horticulture Nova Scotia.

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