



The Sobey School Business Development Center (SSBDC) is a full-service consulting firm engaging skilled professional business consultants while helping to link the business community with faculty, staff and students of the Sobey School of Business at Saint Mary's University.

The SSBDC is currently coordinating an employment subsidy called *Work Smarts NS*. Through support from Service Canada, *Work Smarts NS* provides employers a significant wage subsidy to hire a recent graduate from *any* post-secondary institution.

The objectives of *Work Smarts NS* are to give graduates the opportunity to apply the skill sets they developed at school in a work setting that is consistent with their past education, and to stimulate rural economies throughout Nova Scotia by providing businesses an opportunity for growth.

The SSBDC is currently accepting applications from employers in rural communities throughout Nova Scotia to take part in *Work Smarts NS*.

Work Smarts NS provides:

- An **\$8.50/hr subsidy** (based on a 35hr work week) for **26 weeks** of work experience
- Premium job advertising on boards such as CarrerBeacon and Indeed
- Training and mentoring for participants to enhance their work experience
- Advice and monitoring throughout the program to ensure participants and employers are receiving the best possible experience

Employer's requirements are as follows:

- Fit under the NAICS High Demand Sector classification for Atlantic region
- Provide a \$8.50/hr top up (making the minimum salary for a participant \$17/hr)
- Provide an additional 11.58% coverage of MERC (mandatory employment related costs - CPP, EI, Vacation Pay)
- Allow participant to attend training as required (two days at beginning, one day toward program end)
- Assign an organization mentor to act as a mentor for the participant. Mentors spend on average one hour a week with each participant.

If your business could benefit from receiving over **\$7,500** in funding to hire a recent graduate, please email WorkSmarts.NS@smu.ca or visit smu.ca/worksmarts.