

# Integrated Design Process (IDP) Training Program

Building Capacity for High-Performance Part 3 Buildings in Nova Scotia

**A new financial incentive program** is now open to applications from building design and planning teams looking to upskill and become competitive within a sector that is increasingly requiring net-zero practices.

The information provided in this document should answer many questions and help you decide how to participate.

## IDP Defined

The Integrated Design Process (IDP) is a collaborative, whole-systems approach to building planning. The capstone of IDP is the successful engagement of all stakeholders - owners, architects, engineers, contractors, and others - early in the planning process. What sets IDP apart from other building processes is the end goal, which is advancing toward voluntary performance building standards.

## About the Program

The IDP Training Program is a set of incentives developed to attract Nova Scotia's building professionals to engage in IDP. The benefits to participants are upgraded skills, mentorship access, and real-world work experience needed to add IDP to Part 3 buildings (multi-unit residential, commercial, institutional, industrial, and public sector, etc.) to their planning processes.

Led by Building to Zero Exchange (BTZx) with expert trainers from Sustainable Buildings Canada and Nova Scotian IDP experts, this program includes two phases:

- **Phase 1: Intro to IDP Workshop:** In-person, hands-on, 2-day workshop for all participants. (November 2025).
- **Phase 2: Applied Learning:** Applicant teams work through a real project or case study over a 12-month period with mentorship from an IDP expert from Nova Scotia providing ongoing guidance.

## Who should participate?

Professions involved with the full lifecycle design of a building, including but not limited to:

- Building Owners
- Developers
- Architects,
- Engineers,
- Contractors,
- Energy Modellers

- Planners, and other stakeholders

BTZx is committed to supporting greater participation of African Nova Scotian and Indigenous professionals who live and work in Nova Scotia. The IDP Training Program is designed to build capacity, strengthen professional development, and increase representation in the building sector.

### Why participate?

- Add to your resume or C.V. more practical knowledge and skills to deliver IDP-aligned projects.
- Gain a competitive edge for bidding on government and institutional projects that increasingly require IDP.
- Strengthen relationships across project teams for better outcomes.
- Receive a possible financial incentive to bring your project through the program.

### Eligibility and Incentives

There are three different application pathways designed to match different levels of need. Each pathway has conditions for the applicant and cost eligibility and a maximum amount for financial incentive. Depending on your pathway type, your organization may be eligible for financial support.

#### Pathway 1 - Pre-Planning Builds:

- **Up to \$10,000 CAD** per organization to support project coordination. Eligible costs include covering the cost of trainee's time while in the program, large workroom rental fees, and additional expenses that are directly related to the project and occur in the planning phase of the project.
- Applicants must have a building project in pre-planning or early planning phase in Nova Scotia.
- Eligible costs include covering the cost of trainee's time while in the program, large workroom rental fees, and additional expenses that are directly related to the project and occur in the planning phase of the project.

#### Pathway 2 - Case Study (Self-Provided):

- **Up to \$2,500 CAD** per organization to support participation. Eligible costs include covering the cost of trainee's time while participating in the program.
- Applicants must provide their own case study.
- Trainees must be residents of Nova Scotia.

#### Pathway 3 - Case Study (Case-study provided):

- Free access to training and a year of mentorship. Eligible costs may include covering the cost of African Nova Scotia or Indigenous trainee's time while participating in the program.
- Trainees must be residents of Nova Scotia.
- Applicants must commit to a training plan.

#### Additional Funding for African Nova Scotian and Indigenous Participation

- Organizations may nominate one or more employees who identify as African Nova Scotian or Indigenous to take part in the program. To help reduce barriers to participation, organizations will receive an additional incentive **of up to \$5,000 CAD** per organization, provided on a milestone basis. Eligible costs are to be determined in collaboration with the IDP Training Program team.
- If a nominated employee does not have an active project to bring forward, the program will provide a case study for them to work on, ensuring they receive the full benefit of the workshop and one year of mentorship.

#### Participant Commitments

**Team Participation:** Up to three representatives from each organization may take part in the program.

**Communications and Marketing:** Participants agree to reasonable inclusion in communications and marketing coverage (photos, stories, videos) highlighting the program's impact.

**Reporting:** Organizations must share project or case study details for evaluation and reporting purposes, supporting the growth of sector-wide capacity.

**Engagement:** Participants are expected to attend the full workshop and engage in mentorship activities over the one-year period.

#### Program Details

**Start Date:** November 2025

**End Date:** December 2026

**Format:** In-person workshop for all participants + one year of personal mentorship (online or in-person).

**Facilitators:** Sustainable Buildings Canada and Nova Scotian IDP experts

**Spots are limited:** Only a select number of organizations and professionals will be accepted for the 2025–26 cohort.

#### How to Apply

Applicants **must** complete all application sections that apply to the pathway to which they are applying. It is highly encouraged to add a 1-page brief about why they would like to participate in the IDP training program:

#### How Applications Will Be Reviewed

Applications will be reviewed by the IDP Training Program team and Advisory Committee. Selection is based on alignment with program goals, organizational commitment, and sector impact. Priority will be given in the following order:

**Active Builds** – Projects entering planning in the next 6 months (highest priority).

**Own Case Study** – Applicants bringing a relevant case study (medium priority).

**Program-Provided Case Study** – Applicants who wish to participate with a case study assigned by the program.

Additional factors that strengthen an application include:

- Clear alignment with Part 3 building types (multi-unit residential, commercial, institutional, industrial, and public sector, etc.) and goals toward voluntary performance standards.
- Commitment of up to three participants from the organization to fully engage in the workshop and mentorship year.
- A willingness to share project or case study details for reporting, and to participate in communication and marketing coverage (photos, stories, videos).
- Potential to build capacity in Nova Scotia's building sector, especially for public sector and underrepresented communities.
- Applications from African Nova Scotian and Indigenous organizations and employees are strongly encouraged.

**Note:** All successful applicants will receive up to 36 hours of mentorship over a year with Nova Scotian IDP experts, regardless of project type.

**Deadline to Apply:** October 1, 2025

**Submit Applications to:** [stseng-rhoades@buildingtozero.ca](mailto:stseng-rhoades@buildingtozero.ca)

*Applicants will be notified by email by October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, if they have been chosen to participate in the program*