

Newfoundland offers investors a new incentive package

The government of the province of Newfoundland is offering an attractive package of incentives to companies that invest in the establishment of new businesses in the province.

The EDGE (Economic Diversification and Growth Enterprises) Programme

The EDGE Programme includes:

- A ten-year holiday from provincial corporate income, post-secondary school, health (payroll) and retail sales taxes, followed by a five-year phase-in of these taxes.
- An incentive of \$2,000 for each permanent job the new enterprise creates.
- Lease for a nominal fee of unserviced Crown (government-owned) land to approved EDGE applicants. The companies also have the option to purchase the land for \$1.
- Help from a government appointed facilitator in obtaining permits, licences, options for the use of government assets and other authorizations a company needs to execute its business plan.

Eligibility

- To be eligible for the programme, the company must receive government designation as an Economic Diversification and Growth Enterprises (EDGE) corporation.

To qualify for designation, the company must demonstrate:

- The potential to make a minimum capital investment of \$300,000 or to register incremental sales of \$500,000 per year.
- The potential to create and maintain at least ten permanent jobs.

Other criteria include consistency with the province's strategic economic plan and with the principle of sustainable development, and evidence that the EDGE incentives do not give the incoming company a competitive advantage over firms already established in the province.

A board of government officials and non-competing private sector representatives evaluates each EDGE application. Decisions are made within 30 days. ♦

For more information on the EDGE programme, readers may contact the Department of Industry, Trade and Technology, Government of Newfoundland.

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QUOTABLE *quote*

*Japanese businessmen have been paying too much attention to the United States. They haven't seen the **strength of Canada***"

Michiro Ejiri, former chairman of Mitsui and Co. Ltd. and head of the Japan-Canada economic committee of the Keidanren, representing more than 900 of Japan's largest companies.

