

Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs

Office of the Minister

77 Grenville Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1B3
Tel: 416-326-3074
www.ontario.ca/OMAFRA

Ministère de l'Agriculture, de
l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales

Bureau du ministre

77, rue Grenville, 11^e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1B3
Tél. : 416 326-3074
www.ontario.ca/MAAARO



January 23, 2023

Rox-Anne Moore
Chair
The Local Services Board of Nolalu
lsbnolalu@live.com

Dear Ms. Moore:

I am pleased to announce that the next application intake for the Rural Economic Development (RED) program is now open and accepting applications until February 23, 2023.

You can find all program information, including how to apply, on my ministry's website at: ontario.ca/REDprogram.

The RED program is focused on outcome-based projects that will have tangible benefits for Ontario's rural and Indigenous communities. This aligns with our government's priorities to remove barriers to investment, open doors to rural economic development and create good jobs across the province.

The program has two project streams:

- The **Strategic Economic Infrastructure** stream provides up to 30 per cent, to a maximum of \$250,000 in cost-shared funding for minor capital projects that advance economic development and investment opportunities.
- The **Economic Diversification and Competitiveness** stream provides up to 50 per cent, to a maximum of \$150,000 per project in cost-shared funding for projects that remove barriers to business and job growth, attract investment, attract or retain a skilled workforce, strengthen sector and regional partnerships and diversify regional economies.

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OMAFRA staff will be conducting public webinars to provide an overview of the RED program and discuss the process for applying to the program. You may sign up for the webinars at www.eventbrite.ca/e/rural-economic-development-red-information-sessions-tickets-488124021087. If you have further questions or need assistance with your application, contact us at 1-877-424-1300 or ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca.

Our government is committed to supporting economic growth in rural communities and ensuring Ontario is open for business.

I encourage you to take advantage of this funding opportunity and submit an application for your economic development project. Together, we can ensure Ontario's communities thrive.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa M. Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and last name "Thompson" clearly legible.

Lisa M. Thompson
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Did you know about the Farmers' Wellness Initiative?

- Your mental health is important! If you're a farmer or a member of a farm family and in need of mental health support, please call 1-866-267-6255 and arrange to speak with a professional today.
- For additional resources visit: <https://farmerwellnessinitiative.ca/>.