# Ontario's Regional Development Program

## Ensuring all of Ontario is **Open for Business**

Competing and growing in today's fast-changing marketplace requires regular investments in equipment, training staff or adopting new technology. That's why Ontario is introducing a program designed to help your business access resources that will lead to growth, and to help you get government services to bring your project to life.

#### Making it easy to grow your business

The **Regional Development Program (RDP)** — **Eastern Ontario Development Fund** and **Southwestern Ontario Development Fund** — can help your business expand operations, improve productivity and become more globally competitive.

In addition to potential financial support (loans and in some cases, grants), the RDP is using an updated, streamlined approach to help you get the right services from across government to support and expedite your project.



#### WHO CAN APPLY\*

Businesses with 10 or more employees, or five if located in a rural community, with three years of operating experience and financial statements.

\* See program guidelines for full eligibility criteria.

#### ELIGIBLE PROJECT CRITERIA

- Project investments of at least \$500K or \$200K if in a rural community;
- Projects that will invest in equipment, technology and/or staff training; and
- Projects that lead to broad economic impacts and new jobs.

#### COMPLEMENTARY SERVICES

Every business that applies will have access to complementary services which are tailored to the project's needs. These advisory services could include:

- Environmental compliance approvals;
- Addressing skills and talent needs; and
- Leveraging available tax credits.

#### Southwestern Ontario

Southwestern Ontario is defined as the following 18 geographic areas: Brant, Bruce, Chatham-Kent, Dufferin, Elgin, Essex, Grey, Haldimand, Huron, Lambton, Middlesex, Niagara, Norfolk, Oxford, Perth, Simcoe, Waterloo, and Wellington.

### **HOW TO APPLY**

Applications will be accepted four times a year and applicants will know within 60 business days after the application deadline if their application has been successful.

To learn more, including information on application details, eligibility and important deadlines, visit: ontario.ca/ regionaldevelopment



#### WE'RE HERE TO HELP

General inquiries: <u>RDP@ontario.ca</u> 1-800-267-6592

Help with your application: <u>SWODF@ontario.ca</u>

Help with the online application system: <u>TPONCC@ontario.ca</u>

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