
Information

EASTERN ONTARIO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Eastern Ontario Development Program (EODP) is an economic development initiative first announced by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in August 2006, aimed at addressing socio-economic challenges in rural Eastern Ontario. The Program benefited from a \$10 million-a-year investment in 2006, 2007 and 2008. On May 1, 2009, the Honourable Tony Clement announced a two-year investment in the EODP totaling \$20 million. The longer-term commitment in the EODP is expected to result in a greater number of strategic economic development initiatives and improved partnerships to benefit Eastern Ontario communities.

The EODP is managed by Industry Canada through FedNor. Management of the Program will be transferred to the new Southern Ontario Development Agency once it is fully operational. The EODP provides resources to Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) which invest in projects within six key economic development priorities:

- Innovation and deployment of Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
- Business Development;
- Community Development;
- Skills Development;
- Attraction and Retention of Youth; and,
- Improved Access To Capital and Leveraged Capital.

The renewed Program will also enable Industry Canada/FedNor, in collaboration with local CFDCs, to invest directly in some regional projects if it can help boost benefits to Eastern Ontario rural communities.

Since 2006, community stakeholders from across Eastern Ontario have worked with their local CFDCs to develop and implement EODP projects to benefit the local economy. In 2008 alone, nearly \$50 million in EODP-related activity was generated including:

- more than 2,730 enquiries from stakeholders;
- in excess of 1,447 proposals being submitted and considered with a total value of more than \$13 million;
- 985 approved rural Eastern Ontario projects valued at more than \$7.5 million; and
- an additional \$29 million leveraged from other sources.

The benefits of the EODP on rural Eastern Ontario communities are widespread. EODP projects are selected through a local decision-making process to complement the needs and priorities identified by the community, and on their potential to stimulate local economic development and create jobs.