

Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs

Office of the Minister

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Ministère de l'Agriculture, de
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December 6, 2022

Magda Badura
CAO/Treasurer
Municipality of West Elgin
treasurer@westelgin.net

Dear Ms. Badura:

Our government is committed to supporting job creation and the economic development of rural Ontario, and the Rural Economic Development (RED) program is an important tool to enable municipalities, Indigenous communities, and not-for-profits to succeed. I am pleased to share with you that the next intake for the RED program will open on January 23rd, 2023. A formal announcement of the new intake will be made in late January. In addition to launching a new intake, we are updating the guidelines to clearly identify program objectives and clarify eligibility criteria to help make the application process easier for applicants.

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

The RED program provides cost-share funding to rural municipalities, Indigenous communities, and not-for-profit entities that will have tangible impacts in rural Ontario, measurable by one or more of the following outcomes:

- Jobs retained or created
- Investments attracted or retained
- Businesses attracted, retained and/or expanded
- Enhanced strategic economic infrastructure
- Regional partnerships that drive growth

These outcomes align with our government's priorities to remove barriers to investment, open doors to rural economic development and create good jobs across the province. Our government is committed to supporting economic growth in rural communities and ensuring Ontario is open for business.

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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, I look forward to seeing many of you at the 2023 Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference.

Sincerely,



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/>.