



OMAF/MRA and Libraries: *Opportunities to Partner in Economic Development*

Ontario Library Association Super Conference
Provincial Inter-ministerial Public Library Discussion Forum

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Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Ministry of Rural Affairs

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Celebrating 125 Years of Collaboration

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Ministry of Rural Affairs



- Working with farmers, food processors and rural communities since 1888



• 1880s – 1960s

- Concerns about expanding agriculture for a growing nation.
- Stakeholder focus – primary producers.
- Foundational marketing legislation in 1940 – 60 era



• 1970s – 1990s

- Trade becomes important.
- Funding programs for enhancing productivity
- Stakeholder focus – Primary producers, Food Processing and Rural



• 2000s

- Social concerns increase (food safety)
- First FPT Agricultural Policy Framework)
- Stakeholder focus – primary producers, food processing, bioeconomy, rural, consumers

Consumer Demands

Local Food Act, 2013



Foodland
ONTARIO

ORGANIC



Where Are We Going?



HM Government

Food 2030

Three small images: a market stall with carrots, two children holding vegetables, and a woman in a blue hairnet working with cheese.

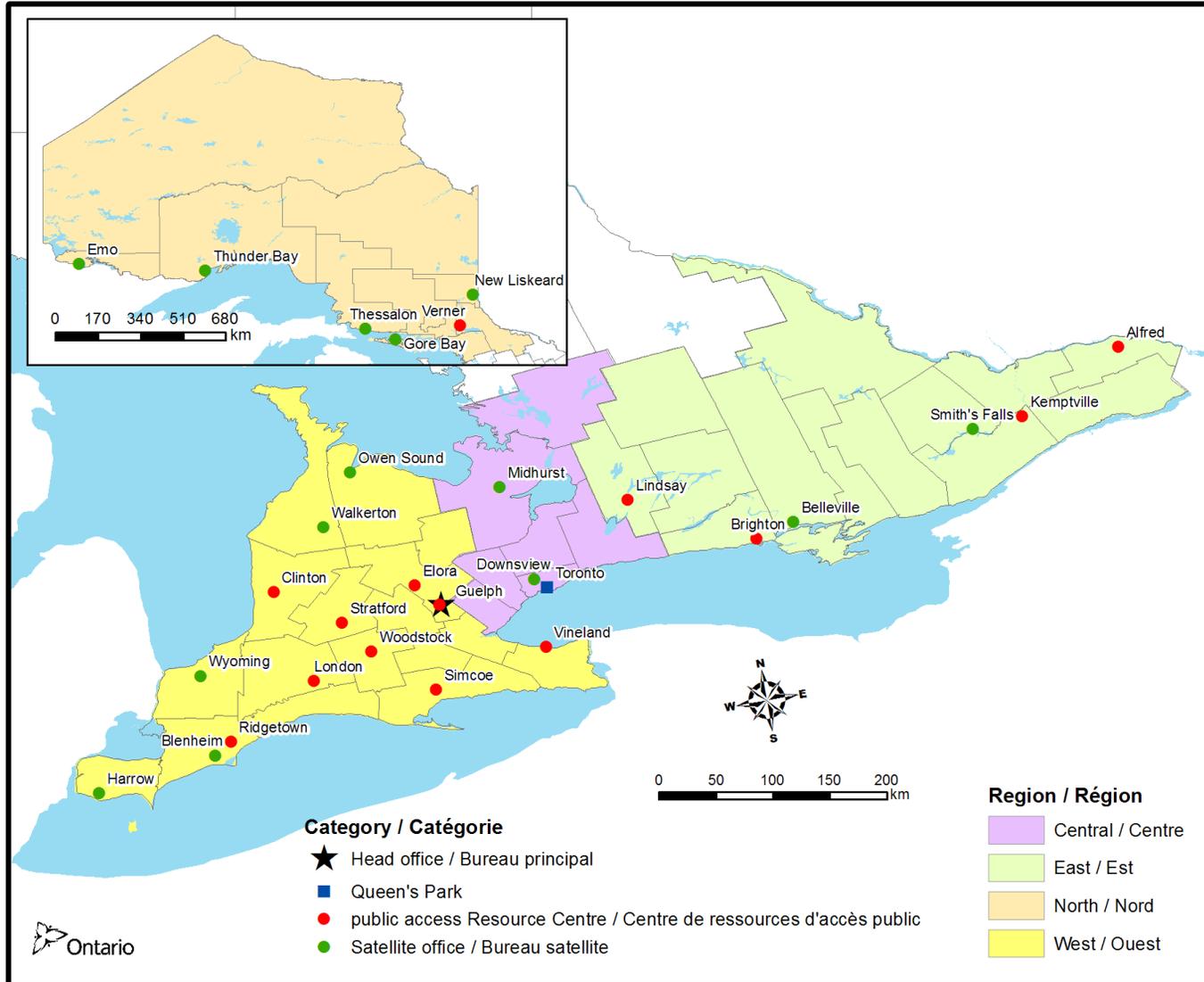
Opportunities for Collaboration

Libraries are important community hubs, particularly in rural areas, with potential to support ministry goals for economic development and job growth by:

- Providing information and/or orientation about programs and resources to the community;
- Offering facilities for seminars, training and community strategic planning exercises; and
- Building awareness and mobilizing community engagement in local community economic development.



Regional Economic Development Staff Supports – OMAF and MRA



Economic Programs and Resources

Business Retention and Expansion (BR+E)

First Impressions Community Exchange

Downtown Revitalization (DR)

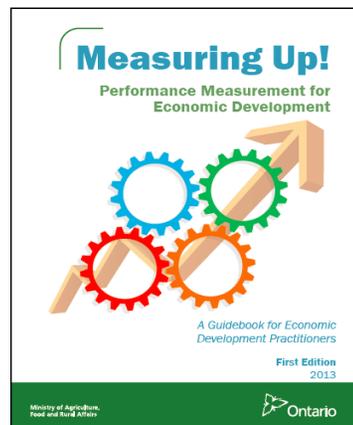
Rural Economic Development (RED) Program



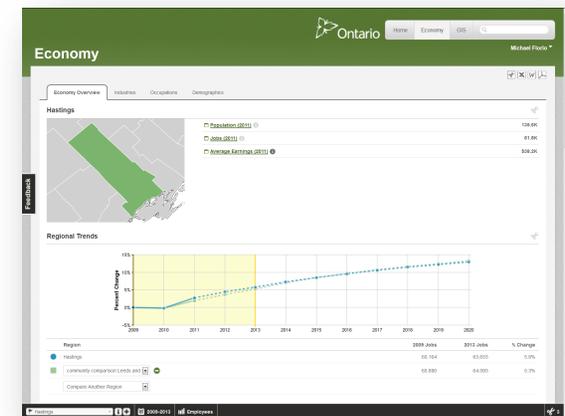
Economic Programs and Resources (cont'd)

Examples of OMAF and MRA resources and programs:

Performance Measurement for Economic Development



Economic Analysis Tools



Community Immigration Retention in Rural Ontario (CIRRO)



<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/about/about.html>

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/rural/about/about.html>

For More Information

- For more information on presentation: ***“OMAF/MRA and Libraries: Opportunities to Partner in Economic Development”***, please contact:

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- OMAF/MRA offer a wide variety of publications on **Ontario agriculture**, including factsheets, books, cds, epubS and maps. These resources can be found at:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/products/index.html>

- OMAF/MRA also offer a number of resources on **effective organizations**. These can be found at:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/rural/facts/factshts.htm>

Discussion

