

# **The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs**

## **Aboriginal Economic Development Supports**

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Ontario Library Association Superconference  
January 29, 2014

# Supporting Aboriginal Economic Development

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- The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA) coordinates and supports the development of provincial Aboriginal economic initiatives to increase economic opportunities for Aboriginal people in Ontario.
- MAA works with other provincial ministries, Aboriginal partners, industry, and the federal government to coordinate Aboriginal economic development initiatives, increase business partnerships and facilitate Aboriginal economic development opportunities.
- MAA is focusing its efforts on the following four priority areas:
  - Community and business development
  - Employment and training
  - Outreach and information sharing
  - Partnership and relationship building
- MAA is also reviewing supports we've developed in the past few years (Aboriginal Procurement Pilot, Aboriginal Business Directory and Aboriginal Business Development Toolkit), and looking at ways to continue advancing Aboriginal economic development and address ongoing gaps.

# Aboriginal Business Development Toolkit

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- The Aboriginal Business Development Toolkit provides Aboriginal communities, Economic Development Officers and ministry field staff with a business development resource for Aboriginal entrepreneurs.
- The Toolkit touches on many aspects of starting, owning and operating a successful business while providing useful resources, links to key government programs and supports, and extensive business-related contact information.
- The Aboriginal Business Development Toolkit brings together information from a variety of sources into a single, easy to read document that also includes workbook-like templates and planning exercises, which sets it apart from other business development resources that are more prescriptive than practical.
- Since its release in June 2011, nearly 6000 hard copies of the Toolkit have been distributed in both English and French formats. Many more copies have been accessed online.
- An evaluation project is currently underway that will help inform us of the value of the Toolkit and help us to improve it going forward.

To view or download the Toolkit, please visit [www.ontario.ca/aboriginaleconomy](http://www.ontario.ca/aboriginaleconomy).

# Ontario Aboriginal Business Directory

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- The Ontario Aboriginal Business Directory ([www.ontario.ca/aboriginalbusiness](http://www.ontario.ca/aboriginalbusiness)) was developed to provide government and the public with the first dedicated directory of Aboriginal-owned businesses in Ontario.
- The Directory is a resource developed in partnership with Aboriginal and private sector partners and was made available to registrations by Aboriginal businesses in August 2010.
- Through the Directory, Aboriginal business owners can expand their network of business contacts, build their existing markets and grow their business.
  - For the purposes of the Directory, Aboriginal businesses are defined as a business operating in Ontario that is at least 51% owned and controlled by an Aboriginal person.
  - To date, 198 businesses have registered with the Directory.
- The Directory is also:
  - Improving awareness of Aboriginal businesses based on sector and geography.
  - Providing a tool for provincial ministries to identify eligible businesses for the Aboriginal Procurement Pilot Program.

# Aboriginal Procurement Pilot Program

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- Launched in March 2012, the two-year Aboriginal procurement pilot program allows ministries to use Aboriginal procurement methods for:
  - Enhancing the participation of Aboriginal businesses in public procurement, and
  - Advancing Aboriginal economic and business development during the term of the pilot.
  
- The pilot program is helping:
  - Support Aboriginal businesses and communities by increasing opportunities for Aboriginal companies to do business with the Ontario government.
  - Build partnerships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal businesses.
  - Aboriginal businesses develop resources, capacity and skills to enhance economic-development partnership opportunities with the Ontario government and be successful in other business endeavours.
  
- Examples of contracts include tree clearing and planting, road construction, Aboriginal language translation services, catering services, consulting services (e.g., for evaluations and for the development of Aboriginal awareness training for OPS staff), and contracts related to the clean-up of the Mid Canada Radar Line in Northern Ontario.

# New Relationship Fund

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- The purpose of the NRF is to assist Aboriginal communities and organizations participation in meaningful consultation and engagement with government and the private sector on lands and resources issues.
- Between 2008 and 2012/13, the NRF has invested \$77.4 million in funding to support over 520 projects in 128 First Nations, 33 Métis communities, and 32 other Aboriginal communities and organizations (total of 193 recipients), and creating more than 540 jobs. An additional \$14.5 million in funding has been committed for 2013/14 to fund 50 new projects.
- There are two components:
  - **Core Consultation Capacity** is designed to assist First Nations and Métis communities in building consultation and engagement capacity and expertise related to lands and resources issues.

**Deadline:** January 24, 2014

- **Enhanced Capacity Building** is designed to fund specific projects by First Nations, Métis communities and Aboriginal organizations. These projects allow for building capacity over and above core consultation, capacity for engaging in economic development activities, and for engaging with government (provincial, municipal) and industry.

**Deadline:** February 7, 2014

<http://www.ontario.ca/ministry-aboriginal-affairs>

# Aboriginal Community Capital Grants Program

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- The ACCGP provides funding for community facilities that provide a central location for community services and business activity.
  - The Ontario Native Community Infrastructure Projects (ONCIP) component funds facilities that provide a focus in Aboriginal communities to deliver essential community services and activities; and
  - The Native Small Business Centres (NSBC) component of the Program funds facilities that promote the development of local market-based economic activity, support entrepreneurial activities and provide opportunities for business development.
- Since 2003, we have provided approximately \$30.57 million in funding to Aboriginal communities through over 112 major and minor capital grants and related feasibility studies.

# Métis Voyageur Development Fund

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- The Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF) is an independent Métis-controlled economic development fund, officially launched in 2012.
- Ontario is providing the MVDF with up to \$30M over 10 years to support Métis economic development.
- The MVDF uses provincial funding to provide grants and loans on an application basis to Métis entrepreneurs and Métis-owned businesses operating or proposing to operate in a resource-sector, such as mining, renewable energy or forestry.
- For more information on the MVDF, visit their website at: [www.mvdf.ca](http://www.mvdf.ca)



# First Nations Economic Development Readiness Questionnaire

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- Developed by the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment, in partnership with the MAA, AANDC, OFNEDA, COO and a number of First Nation communities.
- Assists communities in assessing their readiness for economic development and in developing strategic plans.
- The Questionnaire helps communities identify their strengths, challenges, and economic opportunities and improves their ability to plan for such opportunities.
- The Questionnaire is available online in English, Cree, Ojibway and Oji-Cree at <http://www.chiefs-of-ontario.org/node/425>

## Key Contacts

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### **Economic Development Supports**

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### **New Relationship Fund**

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**THANK YOU**

**Questions and Comments?**