

**Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de l'Agriculture, de
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January 30, 2017

His Worship Fred Eisenberger
 Mayor
 Hamilton
 c/o clerk@hamilton.ca

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

On behalf of the Ontario government, I am pleased to announce the launch of the renewed community-focused Rural Economic Development (RED) program. Applications are now being accepted for the program and the current intake will conclude on March 31, 2017.

As we have heard from our municipal partners, the RED program helps remove barriers to economic development for communities in rural Ontario. This program is designed to help rural communities become better positioned to attract investment, retain and create jobs, and sustain a highly skilled workforce.

The renewed RED program is part of a range of initiatives that address infrastructure, health care, education and other issues of importance to rural Ontario residents. The Ontario government supports rural communities by delivering on its commitment to create jobs, make economic growth more inclusive and ensure Ontario's growing economy delivers real benefits in the lives of workers and families.

Applications are welcome from rural communities, Indigenous communities and organizations, regions and not-for-profit organizations. While partnerships are not required, we are encouraging collaborative approaches to create more competitive and diverse rural and regional economies across the province.

For more information visit ontario.ca/REDprogram or contact the Agricultural Information Contact Centre (1-877-424-1300).

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I look forward to working with you to help strengthen Ontario's rural economy, create jobs and make everyday life easier for rural Ontarians.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Jeff Leal
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs



Good Things Grow in Ontario
À bonne terre, bons produits