

**Ministry of
Rural Affairs**

**Ministère des
Affaires rurales**

Office of the Minister

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August 16, 2013

Head of Council
c/o Rose Caterini
City Clerk
City of Hamilton
clerk@hamilton.ca

Dear Head of Council:

On behalf of the Ontario government, I am pleased to announce the launch of the renewed Rural Economic Development (RED) program. Applications are now being accepted to the program.

The renewed RED program is designed to help rural communities become better positioned to attract investment, create jobs, and sustain a highly skilled workforce. While partnerships are not required, we are encouraging collaborative approaches to create more competitive and diverse rural and regional economies across the province.

Recognizing we live in a time of fiscal constraint, we are looking for projects that are creative, innovative and that will have significant economic impacts in your region relative to the project contribution requested. Projects will also be assessed on how they benefit rural Ontario and promote collaboration across communities, organizations and businesses.

The renewed RED program is part of a suite of rural initiatives that address infrastructure, health care, education and other issues of importance to rural Ontario residents. RED builds upon our government's previous investments, including the Eastern Ontario Development Fund, the Southwestern Ontario Development Fund, the Northern Ontario Fund Corporation, and the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative.

Applications are welcomed from municipalities; not-for-profit organizations; industry; economic development and regional-focused associations; businesses and corporations; First Nations, Metis and Inuit; as well as broader public sector organizations. For more information visit www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/rural/red/index.html or contact Mr. Joseph Dubonnet at red@ontario.ca or 519-826-3717.

I look forward to working with you to help rural Ontario's economy – and its communities – grow stronger.

Sincerely,

Jeff Leal
Minister of Rural Affairs