

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

Office of the Minister

77 Grenville Street, 11th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1B3  
Tel: 416-326-3074  
[www.ontario.ca/OMAFRA](http://www.ontario.ca/OMAFRA)

**Ministère de l'Agriculture, de  
l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales**

Bureau du ministre

77, rue Grenville, 11<sup>e</sup> étage  
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July 29, 2019

His Worship Allan Thompson  
Mayor  
Town of Caledon  
[allan.thompson@caledon.ca](mailto:allan.thompson@caledon.ca)

Dear Mayor Thompson:

On behalf of the Ontario Government, I am pleased to announce the launch of the revitalized Rural Economic Development (RED) program.

Our government is committed to supporting economic growth in rural communities and ensuring that Ontario is open for business. That's why we've updated the RED program – to focus on projects that will bring real benefits to communities and help attract investment and create jobs, while also providing greater value for taxpayer dollars.

The updated program will continue to support projects that diversify and grow local economies and will now target more impactful projects with tangible community benefits. It will also reduce the burden for applicants, create efficiencies in program delivery, and better align with the government's priorities of creating jobs and removing barriers to investment and growth in Ontario's rural communities.

The program will offer two new project categories:

- Economic Diversification and Competitiveness Stream: will support projects that remove barriers to business and job growth, attract investment, attract or retain a skilled workforce or strengthen sector and regional partnerships and diversify regional economies.
- Strategic Economic Infrastructure Stream: will support minor capital projects that advance economic development and investment opportunities.

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The first application intake for eligible applicants will take place from July 29 to September 9, 2019. All program details including the program guide and application form will be available online on July 29, 2019, on the ministry [website](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernie Hardeman', with a large, stylized initial 'E'.

Ernie Hardeman  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs