



SDG Counties Economic Development Newsletter - March 8, 2024

**INVEST IN
WOMEN:
ACCELERATE
PROGRESS**

Canada



**International
Women's
Day 2024**

March 8 is International Women's Day. It's a global day to recognize and celebrate women's and girls' social, economic, cultural, and political achievements. It's also a time to raise awareness of the progress made towards achieving gender equality and the work remaining to be done. The beginnings of International Women's Day can be traced back to the early twentieth century. It emerged from the activities of labour movements in North America and Europe and reflected a growing call for women's equal participation in society. International Women's Day first took place on March 19, 1911, in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland. That day, over a million women and men attended public events to show their support. Other countries began to observe and celebrate this day in the years that followed. The United Nations recognized 1975 as International Women's Year and began celebrating March 8 as **International Women's Day**.

Free leadership training available to agricultural societies

Investment will enhance leadership and governance skills

The Ontario government is investing up to \$836,250 over three years to increase the capacity of rural volunteers and organizations across the province. The Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies is partnering with the Rural Ontario Institute to build upon the good work done by agricultural society volunteers by providing training and workshops that will enhance leadership and governance skills as well as management practices.

“Ontario’s agricultural societies play an important role in leading amazing, annual rural community activities. This educational initiative will enhance the leadership, governance skills and best management practices in important rural organizations, and by extension our agriculture and food industry across the province,” said Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. “By investing in people who give so much to maintain our rural traditions and communities, we are showing our appreciation for their commitment and leadership.”

This funding will help the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies partner with the Rural Ontario Institute to provide educational supports focused on leadership, governance, and community engagement to more than 200 agricultural societies across the province. It will also aid the development of other resources that will help agricultural societies hold fairs and events promoting agriculture and the agri-food industry.

[Learn more](#)

Wine Sector Support Program extended by Federal Government

In March 2024, the [Government of Canada announced a 3-year extension](#) to the Wine Sector Support Program (2024-25 to 2026-27), with an additional investment of up to \$177 million.

The program aims to provide short-term financial support to

licensed Canadian wineries as they transition and adapt to ongoing and emerging challenges impacting the financial resilience and competitiveness of the wine industry. The program provides non-repayable grant payments to licensed Canadian wineries based on their production of bulk wine fermented in Canada from domestic and/or imported primary agricultural products.

[Learn more:](#)

Calling all farmers! Partake in the Agri-Action Lunch & Learn



March 27 event, from 10 am - 3 pm

ALUS Ontario East – a program which helps farmers and ranchers deliver nature-based solutions on their land – is hosting a free Agri-Action Lunch & Learn event in Long Sault on March 27. The event will bring together local farmers interested in agricultural stewardship practices and to share available resources and funding opportunities for their implementation.

“Stewardship best management practices can have a transformative impact on your farm’s sustainability by improving soil health, reducing erosion, retaining valuable nutrients, and much more,” said Brendan Jacobs, ALUS Ontario East Coordinator. “This not only provides on-farm benefits such as increased average yields, but also improves the overall health of our local watersheds.”

Lunch & Learn participants will hear from local farmers describing their experiences with stewardship projects such as constructed wetlands,

windbreaks, buffers, regenerative agriculture, and more. Representatives from organizations and agencies supporting sustainable farming practices – such as ALUS Ontario East and the Raisin Region (RRCA) and South Nation (SNC) Conservation Authorities – will also provide guidance on opportunities for farmers looking to incorporate stewardship practices into their operations.

“In the beginning, we were a bit skeptical of the principles of regenerative agriculture and other best management practices,” said Kirkview Farms’ Mike MacGillivray, a participant in the RRCA’s Agri-Action Land Stewardship Program as well as the ALUS Ontario East program. “But after seeing the difference in our soil quality, and subsequently our pasture health, we’re amazed at the increase in productive capacity we saw by working with nature.”

The Agri-Action Lunch & Learn takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the South Stormont Community Hall at 2 Mille Roches Road and includes a complimentary lunch and refreshments. As spaces are limited, farmers are urged to secure their spot by pre-registering online at rrca.on.ca/Events or by contacting (613) 938-3611 ext. 224 or info@rrca.on.ca.




“All farmers in ALUS Ontario East’s area of operation – which includes the RRCA’s and SNC’s watersheds and other areas - are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to network, learn, and access stewardship resources and funding to elevate their operations’ sustainability,” said Jacobs.

The Agri-Action Land Stewardship Program is a project undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada through the federal Department of Environment and Climate Change. The project also received funding support from the Government of Ontario.

Expansion of Ontario Electricity Support Program launches today

Save Money with these Programs



-  Ontario Electricity Support Program
-  Low-income Energy Assistance Program
-  Energy Affordability Program

TORONTO – The Ontario government is keeping electricity costs down for about 100,000 additional families by expanding the eligibility for the **Ontario Electricity Support Program** (OESP). New income eligibility thresholds, which have increased by up to 35 per cent, take effect today.

“Our government is increasing our investment in the Ontario Electricity Support Program by \$50 million to provide targeted support to those who need it most,” said Todd Smith, Minister of Energy. “While previous governments implemented schemes that led to skyrocketing energy prices, we’re using every tool in our toolbox to keep costs down for families.”

The government’s increased investment in the OESP will support a significant **expansion of the program**. For example, a four-person household can now have a combined maximum income of \$65,000 after tax deductions, to qualify for a monthly rebate of \$40. That’s an increase of \$17,000 from the previous maximum of \$48,000.

Households eligible for the OESP can receive credits of \$35 to \$75 through the program depending on household size. Higher monthly credits of between \$52 to \$113 are available to customers who are Indigenous, living with Indigenous family members, using electric heating, or using certain electricity-intensive medical devices.

In addition to the OESP, the Ontario Electricity Rebate (OER) keeps electricity bills for families and small business affordable. Last fall, the on-bill **OER was increased from 11.7 per cent to 19.3 per cent**– reducing a typical household’s electricity bill by a total of \$26 each month – or \$312 a year.

[Learn more about the Ontario Electricity Support Program](#)

North Dundas Chamber of

Commerce - Business Networking Tax Talk on March 14, 9:30 am



Sue Lanthier from *S Lanthier Bookkeeping* and Beth Carthart from *Nunniyer Business*, share some expert tips on preparing for year end taxes and how to stay organized throughout the year to find valuable savings. Bring your questions! This is an open networking event sponsored by the North Dundas Chamber of Commerce.

Location: The Royal Canadian Legion (482 Main St, Winchester) Time: 9:30am
Extend an invite to a business friend who you think would like to come out with you, or join the event solo to be welcomed in a casual environment.

[Register on the event Facebook Page](#)

North Dundas Business Breakfast- Ask an expert

The next North Dundas Business Breakfast will be held on Wednesday, March 27th at the Country Kitchen in Winchester.

The format for the breakfast will be to divide attendees up into five tables and our experts will travel from table to table, you'll have an opportunity to ask all of your questions and learn from each other. There is no formal agenda for the morning, just a free flowing conversation at each table. The doors open at 8:00am, a free plated breakfast will be provided and then

the meetings get underway at 8:30am and wrap up shortly after 9:30am.
RSVP to Stephen Mann at smann@northdundas.com by March 25th.
Free to attend.



Main Street businesses could be eligible for a grant of up to \$20,000

Applications are now open for My Main Street, a \$15-million Government of Canada investment, through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario to continue to support main street businesses and communities across southern Ontario.

My Main Street is being delivered by the Canadian Urban Institute offering two streams that open for applications on February 22, 2024.

The Business Sustainability stream provides up to \$20,000 directly to businesses for productivity enhancements. Funding will be made available to businesses that employ between 1 and 50 staff, have demonstrated revenue growth, and provide a business case on how the funding will strengthen their existing capacity and support their growth.

The Business Sustainability stream is open for applications between February 22 and March 31, 2024.

The Community Activator stream funds up to \$250,000 for high-impact community placemaking projects.

Thinking about applying? Join a My Main Street virtual information session on February 29 or March 1, 4 or 5 and find out how to apply.

Learn more or register for an info session at

www.mymainstreet.ca

Download the Business Sustainability Applicant Guide here:



April 8th total solar eclipse to impact workers and visitors in SDG Counties

Learn more at SDGCounties.ca

Seniors Community Grant Applications now open

Community organizations can apply for
funding for initiatives benefitting
Ontarians aged 55+

Applications for 2024-25 are open now until March 28, 2024. Community organizations interested in applying can visit Ontario.ca/getfunding for more information.

Learn more about the Seniors Community Grants

Agri-Tech Innovation Initiative intake open!

Intake closes March 28,

2024 at 11 am EST

The purpose of the Agri-Tech Innovation Initiative (the Initiative) is to support growth and productivity through innovation, advanced manufacturing, improved food safety and enhanced cyber security, and energy efficiency within the agri-food sector.



The Initiative will be delivered under three streams, as follows:

- Stream 1 – Agri-Tech Innovation (total Eligible Costs per Project less than \$100,000)
- Stream 2 – Agri-Tech Innovation (total Eligible Costs per Project \$100,000 and greater)
- Stream 3 – Agri-Tech Energy Costs Savings

How to apply

- Read the Initiative Guidelines
- Applicants will apply through the AAC's Application Portal available online at https://adaptcouncil.smartsimple.ca/s_Login.jsp.
- The intake will close at 11:00 a.m. EST on Thursday, March 28, 2024.
- Applications will be reviewed after the intake closes on March 28, not on a first-come, first-served basis.

Have a question?

- Please contact the AAC at info@adaptcouncil.org or 1 (800) 769-3272.
- Click on the date to register for one of our virtual information webinars at:
 - 12:00 p.m. EST on **Thursday, February 22, 2024** or
 - 7:00 p.m. EST on **Wednesday, March 6, 2024**.

[Learn more](#)

Agriculture Economic Development Training

FREE Interactive 2-part webinar training

- This training will provide key agriculture economic development concepts; introduce the range of agriculture economic development activities your community can

explore; give you tools to develop a plan for agricultural economic development in your

- community; provide an overview of the Agriculture Economic Development guide and its three stages: Plant, Grow and Harvest

When:

- Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 10am – 11:30am
- Tuesday April 23, 2024, 10am – 11:30am

Register online with OMAFRA:

2024 Agriculture Economic Development Training
([site.com](https://www.ontario.ca/site))

Agriculture Economic Development Training

Is Agriculture a key sector in your community?

This 2-part interactive webinar training is for economic developers, land-use planners, municipal councilor's and community leaders who want to explore agriculture as an economic development opportunity.

RT-09 Partnership Funding accepting applications for tourism grants

RTO 9's Partnership Fund initiative is designed to introduce new tourism products and build on existing tourism products that enhance the region's diversity of tourism attractions. Intake #1 Applications will be for projects beginning April 1, 2024 - September 6, 2024.

The opportunity to apply for partnership funding will close on March 3rd, 2024.

[Learn more about RT-09 Partnership Funds](#)

Register your employment booth

now for the April 24th 2024 Cornwall and Area Job Fair- Featuring Skills Ontario

The Employability Network will once again be hosting the "2024 Cornwall and Area Job Fair", which will return to the Cornwall Civic Complex on Wednesday, April 24, 2024. This year the event will feature Skills Ontario. The day will roll out in two sessions, with employer setup from 8:30 am to 10:00 am, on the date of the event.

The first public session for job seekers will run from 1 pm to 3 pm and the second session will run from 6 pm to 7 pm.

The registration deadline is March 11th

[Register here:](#)

Cornwall and Area Lifestyle Expo happening April 26-28

The Cornwall and Area Lifestyle Expo represents a dynamic revival of the renowned Home & Leisure Show!

Vendors, door prizes, seminars and a kid zone! The event is being hosted by the Cornwall and Area Chamber of Commerce at the Benson Centre, located at 800 Seventh Street, in Cornwall.

Expo Hours: April 26 (4 pm - 9 pm); April 27 (10 am - 6 pm); April 28 (10 am - 4 pm).

General admission: \$5. Free entry for seniors (65+) and children (under 12).



[Visit our Website](#)

SDG Counties is dedicated to supporting our residents and businesses. Subscribe to our free newsletter to stay informed about

grants, supports and news impacting our community.

Subscribe to our newsletter here



**The United Counties of
Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry
Department of Economic
Development**

Tara Kirkpatrick, Manager of Economic
Development

tkirkpatrick@sdgcounties.ca

www.madeinsdg.ca

T. 613-932-1515 ext. 1227

United Counties of SDG | 26 Pitt Street, Cornwall, K6J 3P2 Canada

[Unsubscribe kbelanger@sdgcounties.ca](mailto:kbelanger@sdgcounties.ca)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by tkirkpatrick@sdgcounties.ca powered by



Try email marketing for free today!