

May 7, 2020 eNewsletter

Ontario East News

If you have any news that you would like us to share, please forward to info@ontarioeast.ca



The UCPR Announces the Creation of an Innovative Food Hub in Eastern Ontario

NEWS RELEASE - L'Original, April 22, 2020

The **United Counties of Prescott and Russell (UCPR)** announced the creation of an innovative food hub in Eastern Ontario. In partnership with the private sector, the UCPR will build a federal slaughterhouse, with food processing and distribution capacities, in order to meet the needs of regional and national markets.

This \$36-million project will create 65 jobs and will be located in one of the UCPR's municipalities, to be unveiled shortly, according to certain criteria. A potential expansion is planned in order to satisfy international demand.

"It is time for municipalities to launch innovative projects that will generate new revenue streams that will help cover municipal expenses with funds other than government subsidies and property taxes. Furthermore, the UCPR will be the majority shareholder of this agri-food company," stated UCPR Warden Pierre Leroux.

This business model, unique in Canada and perhaps worldwide, is modelled in part on American food hubs where producers send their cattle to slaughter, after which they are packaged and distributed in a predetermined market. This project is unique here because all types of meats and vegetables will be processed.

Research has also confirmed that retailers and consumers are increasingly interested in buying quality and traceable local products. The food hub will therefore take the lead in the recovery and revival of agri-food in the region, particularly following the Covid-19 pandemic.

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Helping the agri-food sector provide more local food online



Agri-Food Open for E-Business - Targeted Intake

A programming initiative under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership

The Agri-Food Open for E-Business initiative will help food producers, farmers markets, retailers, garden centres, greenhouses, nurseries, and agricultural associations develop online business, providing consumers with greater access to a wide variety of food and agriculture products.

This targeted application intake features two funding streams:

1. Bring Your Business Online. Eligible organizations and businesses can apply for a grant of up to \$5,000 to establish an online e-business and marketing presence. Funding under this stream will be quick and responsive for those needing immediate solutions.
2. Develop Online Business Opportunities. Eligible organizations, businesses and collaborations can apply for cost-share funding of up to \$75,000 to implement high-impact projects."

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Urgent Request: COVID-19 Recovery Planning for Rural Ontario Tourism

The Ministry of Heritage Sport Tourism and Culture Industries is working with the Regional Tourism Organizations (RTOs) to make plans for how the sector can recover after Covid-19 restrictions. Through rural and northern RTO members they are gathering recommended solutions for recovery for rural/northern tourism.

Only those specifically in tourism related industries are being asked to "Please share ideas on innovative short- and long-term sector-led approaches that can be taken in response to the economic challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic". These responses will then be collated and provided to the ministry for consideration in their recovery planning.

The time frame for turn-around is very tight, your response is required by **Monday, May 11, 2020, 12:00pm.**

Please send your response directly to:

david.maclachlan@tourismnorthernontario.com

bsullivan@rto7.ca

The following format is preferred – bullet point is fine.

Tourism Business Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Contact Name:

Regional Tourism Organization:

You do not have to address each bullet point or sub bullet point, only those that apply to your tourism business.

a. Are there opportunities to reduce red tape (e.g. existing legislation, regulations or policies) that given the unique environment we are in would impact the ability of the sector as it emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Business parties that are affected:
- Recommended Solution:
- Identified obstacles to your solution:
- Partners required:
- Time frame for action:

b. How can the entrepreneurial ingenuity of the sector be leveraged? Please identify the sector.

- Business parties that are affected:
- Recommended Solution:
- Identified obstacles to your solution:
- Partners required:
- Time frame for action:

c. What emerging opportunities exists for new collaborations within and across the sectors?

- Business parties that are affected:
- Recommended Solution:
- Identified obstacles to your solution:
- Partners required:
- Time frame for action:

d. What are potential re-skilling and /or training opportunities for the workforce as the sector emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Business parties that are affected:
- Recommended Solution:
- Identified obstacles to your solution:
- Partners required:
- Time frame for action:

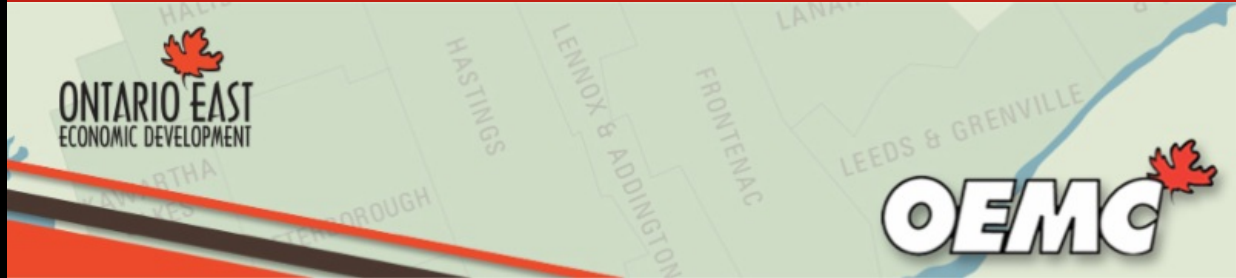
e. Provide insights on interdependencies and critical dependencies unique to your sector.

- Business parties that are affected:
- Recommended Solution:
- Identified obstacles to your solution:
- Partners required:

- Time frame for action:

Ontario East Events

Visit the Ontario East [Events Calendar](#) and stay up-to-date on what's happening in Eastern Ontario. If you have any on-line events that you would like us to share, please forward to info@ontarioeast.ca



Ontario East Municipal Conference (OEMC) 2020 NAV Centre, Cornwall September 16-18, 2020

The COVID-19 Outbreak is causing the rescheduling of many events around the world. However, we hope that by the autumn of this year that the risks of the virus will have sharply receded, thus enabling us to continue with our annual conference. We will continue to monitor the situation and will advise you as soon as possible should this change. In the meantime, we are continuing to work on the programming to ensure that OEMC 2020 is the great event you have come to expect and look forward to.

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Exhibition and Sponsorship Opportunities

OEMC Exhibits and Sponsorships are an excellent opportunity to showcase and demonstrate your products and services to, not only economic development officers, but to all municipal staff and elected officials.

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