

# Regional Economic Development Strategy for Eastern Ontario

Supported by:

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# Agenda Slide

- Presentation of key findings:
- Discuss emerging themes:
  - Did we get it right?
  - What themes are most important to reflect in a Regional Economic Development Strategy for Eastern Ontario?
  - Are there regional initiatives you consider most relevant?



## The Project

- Identify opportunities to advance the economy of Eastern Ontario that also leverages the ongoing efforts of EOWC
    - EORN, CFDC's OEEDC, EOMC
  - Improve the underlying conditions for economic development throughout the region
    - Workforce development, workforce attraction infrastructure, sector specific initiatives
  - Generate a series of strategic actions/flagship initiatives at the regional level that enables the creation of jobs, wealth and investment across the region
    - Need uptake at the organizational level
    - Needs to be relevant to the municipalities, business community
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## Consultation Program

- Success of moving this forward premised on input from a broad based consultation effort
  - Meeting and small group discussions with key stakeholders (120+)
  - On-line surveys for economic development community and business leaders (500+)
  - focus group sessions that will test the major themes (140+)
- Premised on understanding of where local challenges and efforts require a more regional approach
- Broaden the narrative around where the EOWC can show leadership on economic development matters



## Emerging Themes

1. Redoubling our efforts on workforce development and attraction
  - Attraction and retention of workers
  - Quality of life in the region isn't what we think it is
  - Finding workers with the 'right fit'
  - Finding people for low-pay, part-time jobs
  - Assisting displaced workers with career transitions
  - Better access to training
  - Opportunities for career progression
  - Need for quality and timely labour market information
  - Sector-specific labour force challenges (e.g. manufacturing, forestry)



## Emerging Themes

### 2. Delivering innovation services

- Entrepreneurship training and supports (e.g. business mentors)
- Access to capital
- Build on sector-based innovations already taking place (e.g. Ottawa Valley wood products)
- Changing mandates of traditional funders
- Focus on the supply chain of activities
- Take a more disciplined approach to provision of incubation space



## Emerging Themes

### 3. Reinventing traditional sectors

- Perceived industry concentrations vs. reality of local and regional economy
- Transform tourism sector
- Value added and niche opportunities in agriculture, forestry and mining
- Niche and higher value added opportunities in manufacturing
- Supply chain development (people, materials and transportation)



## Emerging Themes

4. Providing the 'right' infrastructure for business
  - Quality and level of Municipal infrastructure varies
  - Consistency of broadband and mobile infrastructure
  - Concept of growth corridors (Hwy 7, 401, 416, 417, 35/115)
  - Education and training services
5. Adopting new technologies
  - EORN shifting to technology adoption and business education
  - application of industrial robotics
  - Concept of smart region and smart technologies





## Emerging Themes

6. Focusing on Eastern Ontario's energy sector
  - Potential in bio-energy and bio-products
  - Opportunities in energy efficiency
  - Concerns with the supply of electricity in Eastern Ontario
  - Energy pricing
  - Nuclear energy and related supply chain



## Emerging Themes

7. Creating a stable and predictable environment to do business
  - Creating environment that helps retain employees
  - Stability and certainty of transportation services
  - Preparing for weather disruptions
  - Local attitudes about business
  - Understanding business needs to stimulate the economy



## Emerging Themes

8. Introduce a new regional approach to economic development
  - lack of regional economic development infrastructure/resources for Eastern Ontario (underfunded and fragmented)
  - FEDDEV and CFDC's retooling their mandates for economic development
  - Regional performance should drive economic development planning and programming
  - Marketing efforts need to be refreshed
  - Need for stronger understanding of supply chains for various industries
  - Ontario East has opportunity to refresh/adapt its mandate to changing times



## Today's Questions

- Discuss emerging themes:
  - Did we get it right?
  - What themes are most important for Economic Development in Eastern Ontario?
  - Are there other regional initiatives you consider relevant?



## Emerging Themes - Summary

- Redoubling our efforts on workforce development and attraction
- Delivering innovation services
- Reinventing traditional sectors
- Providing the 'right' infrastructure for business
- Adopting new technologies
- Focusing on Eastern Ontario's energy sector
- Creating a stable and predictable environment to do business
- Introducing a new regional approach to economic development