

# EXPORT DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

Ontario's Rural Ontario Development Program (ROD) - Business Development will contribute 35% up to \$10,000 towards the following activities undertaken by rural Ontario businesses with 1-20 employees.

1. Market development:
2. Enhancing cyber security to increase cyber security.
3. Succession planning
4. Accessibility improvements to increase accessibility. The minimum provincial contribution is \$1,000. Total eligible activity costs must exceed \$2,857.

To be eligible applicants must:

Have 1 to 20 employees on its current payroll and for the duration of the Project, excluding the owner(s). Indigenous businesses are exempt from the minimum employee requirement, Be in a community with less the 100,000 employees and/or 100/sq.km. or in a census subdivision located in northern Ontario, or in a rural postal code within areas considered urban - "0" as the second character of a postal code identifies a rural postal code

Pay agricultural, commercial or industrial property taxes. Indigenous businesses are exempt from this requirement.

**Application Deadline: February 26, 2026, at 5 p.m. ET.**



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Canada's **FedDev Ontario** program is advertising up to 50% to a maximum of \$10 million in interest-free loans for Ontario businesses to adopt/adapt innovative technologies, processes and/or services, as well as for investments that lead to business growth.

Program intake priorities for 2024 are:

**Clean economic growth** – projects that support the greening of the economy, that can contribute to emissions reductions, and that create sustainable and green jobs.

**Growth companies** – projects that accelerate business development and growth.

**Technology** – projects in cutting-edge sectors (e.g., artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, medical technologies, digital health, and agri-tech).

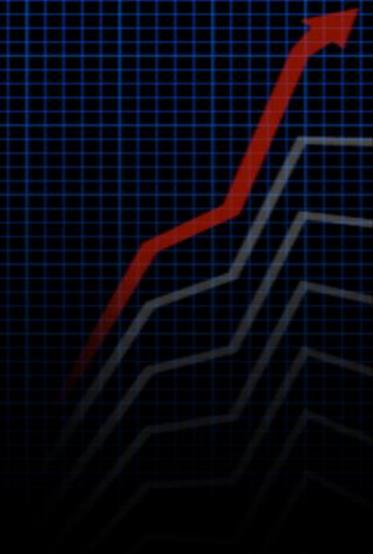
**Industrial transition** – projects that support change in traditional sectors to adopt new technologies and other innovations to improve their competitiveness and build new opportunities (e.g., the adoption of automation in manufacturing to increase efficiency and productivity).



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Ontario's Forest Sector Investment and Innovation Program: offers 30% 4-year interest-free loans towards projects costing \$3 million or more. Of the loan, up to 50% may be forgiven if project hiring and investment targets are reached. Funding is for equipment, consultants, building retrofits, export marketing, R&D, training, plus project-related wages. Available to Ontario wood product manufacturers and processors. Projects are assessed on number of jobs to be created and overall benefits to the sector and to Ontario. Repayment loan rate is 3%.. **Next deadline to submit a pre-proposal (Stage I) is March 20, 2026. Deadline for proposals (Stage II) is April 28, 2026.**

Ontario's Southwestern Ontario Development Fund (SODF) (SODF), and Eastern Ontario Development Fund (EODF) offers 15% up to \$5 million in grants and four-year interest-free loans towards investments that create jobs and lead to economic growth. Eligible expenditures include equipment, consulting services, facility retrofits and expansions, as well as employee training and other project-related costs incurred over a 3-to-4-year period. Businesses are required to have 3 years financial statements and be (or plan to be) located a rural Southwestern or Eastern Ontario. **Next funding deadline is May 27, 2026.**



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Ontario's Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Competitiveness Stream Program advertises 15% up to \$5 million in interest-free loans and \$1.5 million in grants towards investments that create jobs and lead to economic growth/expansion/global competitiveness. Eligible expenses include new equipment/technology, consulting services, facility retrofits and expansions, plus employee training and other project-related costs. Only expenses incurred after December 17, 2026, will be supported. Eligible businesses must be or planning to operate in Ontario, have 10 or more employees, and have 3 years audited or reviewed financial statements. Projects need to be 3-4 years in duration, with \$500,000 or more eligible expenses, create and/or upskill a minimum of 5 jobs.

Businesses in a municipality with populations under 100,000 or per square kilometre population density of 100 or under can request 15% up to \$500,000 in grant funding. Conversely, business in higher populated areas (e.g., Toronto and Hamilton), can apply for interest-free loans of 15% up to \$5 million with 30% up to \$500,000 of the loan being forgiven (i.e., a grant) if the applicant meets promised job and investment targets. Strategic new investments to Ontario (companies without a presence in Ontario), or companies whose investment plans (including new mandates, expansion, or re-shoring/relocation) are subject to significant risk due to incentives offered from other jurisdictions, are eligible to receive 15% up to \$1.5 million as a grant. **Applications open June 30, 2026. Application deadline: September 23, 2026.**



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Canada's *ECO Digital Skills for Youth* program offers 80% grant funding up to \$18,000 (plus up to \$4,000 in additional training expenses) to hire a post-secondary graduate for an environment-focused position requiring digital abilities.

Canada's *ECO Youth Employed in Natural Resources* program will contribute 75% up to \$20,000 towards the wages of a new employee (candidate) for up to 12 months. Employers must be in the natural resource sector or undertaking activities focused on achieving positive environmental outcomes.

The *Ontario Together Trade Fund* is advertising interest-free loan and/or grant funding up to 75% to a maximum of \$5 million to assist businesses in increasing interprovincial sales, developing new markets and re-shoring critical supply chains in the face of U.S. tariffs. Priority will be given to projects that aim to capitalize on domestic market opportunities and address gaps in Ontario's supply chain caused by potential trade barriers and supply disruptions.



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Canada's Regional Tariff Response Initiative (RTRI) offers 75% project funding up to \$10 million in interest-free loans for southern Ontario businesses impacted by U.S. and China tariffs to strengthen productivity, supply chains, and market diversification. Non-repayable contributions of 50% up to \$1 million are available for eligible wood cabinet, furniture, and upholstery, steel and automotive sector projects.

Businesses with 5 to 499 employees that have been incorporated for at least three years are eligible for support. Applicants must demonstrate that at least 25% of revenues are in tariff-affected markets or show direct negative impacts such as increased costs, reduced sales, or lost market access.

Eligible activities include adopting or adapting technologies, automating or digitizing production, reshoring R&D or manufacturing, expanding into new markets, as well as strengthening domestic supply chains and compliance standards.

Eligible expenditures include incremental employee wages, consulting fees, equipment purchases and installation, facility retrofits, marketing and outreach, training, and direct project materials.



# EXPORT DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

The Ontario Forest Biomass Program offers non-repayable (i.e., grants) of up to \$10 million towards projects that will expand the sustainable use of forest biomass and enhance the provinces forest biomass supply chain. Eligible applicants include Ontario businesses, municipalities, Indigenous communities, and not-for-profit organizations.

- Up to 80% funding to a maximum \$250,000 for projects that support Indigenous-owned businesses operating in Ontario's forest sector and bioeconomy.
- Up to 80% funding (maximum \$130,000) for private sector projects that improve public/private sector understanding about the feasibility, capacity, economics, and environmental impacts of forest biomass technologies
- Up to 50% project funding (maximum of \$5 million) for the development and commercialization of new and/or innovative technology that will increase the use of forest biomass in Ontario.
- Up to 35% funding (maximum \$10 million) for projects focused on the modernization and expansion of existing bioeconomy facilities, infrastructure, and technologies



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The Investments in Forest Industry Transformation program offers grant funding of up to 50% to a maximum of \$20 million to Canadian forestry sector businesses towards demonstrating innovative technologies at pilot or commercial scale levels. Projects should lead to new or increased production of bioenergy, biomaterials, biochemicals or next generation building products, the adoption of first-in-Canada technologies or new applications of existing technologies, and/or the creation of non-traditional partnerships. Eligible recipients include pulp, paper, lumber, furniture and cabinets mills, and manufacturers of other forest products. Eligible expenditures include:

- Capital expenses (including equipment), material and supplies
- Technical/environmental audits and assessments, licensing and permit fees
- Sub-contractors and consultants
- Salaries, benefits and training for employees involved in project implementation
- Travel, meals and accommodation

Applications will be accepted beginning in mid-February 2026.

