



2025 Ontario Grants

A Strategic Guide to Government Grants
for Business Expansion and Innovation

Prepared by CanGrant
2025.05.09





Executive Summary

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of government funding opportunities available to Ontario businesses, with a specific focus on programs designed to foster business expansion and drive innovation. Navigating the complex landscape of government grants can be a daunting task; this guide aims to simplify that process by organizing available support into key thematic categories. These themes include: Powering Innovation, R&D, and Technological Advancement; Accelerating Business Growth and Market Reach; Dedicated Support for Key Ontario Sectors; Building a Skilled Workforce and Inclusive Growth; and Region-Specific and Community-Focused Economic Development.

The analysis reveals a robust ecosystem of support from both federal and provincial levels of government, offering a spectrum of financial assistance such as non-repayable contributions (grants), repayable loans, conditional contributions, cost-sharing arrangements, and, in some cases, advisory services and collaborative opportunities. A significant emphasis is placed on supporting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) as key drivers of economic growth and innovation. Furthermore, there is a clear trend towards funding projects that align with strategic government priorities, including technological advancement (particularly in AI and digitalization), clean technology and sustainability, domestic supply chain strengthening, export development, and inclusive growth for underrepresented entrepreneurs and communities.

For Ontario businesses, understanding these themes and the strategic priorities



underpinning them is crucial for successfully securing government funding. This report offers detailed examinations of individual programs within each theme, highlights eligibility criteria, and provides strategic considerations to help businesses align their projects with funding mandates. By leveraging these opportunities, Ontario businesses can de-risk ambitious ventures, accelerate their growth trajectories, enhance their competitive edge, and contribute to the overall economic vitality of the province.



1. Introduction: The Strategic Imperative of Government Funding for Ontario Businesses

Government financial interventions, in the form of grants, contributions, and other support mechanisms, represent strategic investments by public bodies aimed at stimulating economic activity, fostering innovation, and enhancing the overall competitiveness of Ontario's business landscape. These programs are not merely financial aids but catalysts that enable businesses to de-risk ambitious projects, accelerate their growth trajectories, and contribute to broader socio-economic objectives such as job creation, regional development, and technological leadership. For businesses operating within Ontario, understanding and leveraging these funding avenues can be a critical component of their strategic planning and execution.

This report specifically focuses on government funding opportunities pertinent to two core pillars of business development: **business expansion** and **innovation**. In this context, "business expansion" encompasses initiatives such as scaling up operations, penetrating new domestic or international markets, increasing production capacity, and improving overall productivity. "Innovation" refers to a broad spectrum of activities including research and development (R&D), the adoption of new technologies, the creation of novel products or services, and the implementation of improved processes. By concentrating on these areas, the report aims to provide actionable intelligence for Ontario businesses



poised for growth and transformation.

The landscape of government funding is often perceived as complex and multifaceted. This report endeavors to demystify this ecosystem by providing a structured, thematic overview of available grants and programs. The goal is to equip Ontario-based entrepreneurs, SME owners, and business development managers with the knowledge to efficiently identify opportunities that align with their specific expansionary and innovative ambitions.

The subsequent sections of this report will delve into key thematic categories of government support. Each theme will explore relevant sub-themes and provide analyses of specific programs, including their objectives, eligibility criteria, and the nature of support offered. The report will also offer strategic insights for navigating the application process and maximizing the potential for securing funding. Finally, a concluding section will synthesize the findings and offer overarching recommendations.

It is important to note that while a comprehensive list of URLs was provided for research, access to some of these ¹¹⁷ was not possible at the time of this analysis. Consequently, programs exclusively detailed on those specific pages could not be directly incorporated. However, where supplementary research materials provided information relevant to these, or similar programs (such as the National Research Council Industrial Research Assistance Program, Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund financing, FedNor's Regional Innovation Ecosystems and Community Economic Development initiatives, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation's Community Enhancement Program, and the Canada Council for the Arts' Market Access Strategy for Official Language Minority Communities Fund), this information has been integrated to ensure the report is as comprehensive as possible.



2. Key Thematic Categories for Government Grants in Ontario

Government funding programs, while diverse, often share common strategic objectives. To provide clarity and facilitate targeted searches for Ontario businesses, this report categorizes available grants and contributions into five overarching themes. It is important to recognize that many programs possess multifaceted objectives and could logically align with multiple themes. For the purpose of this report, programs are primarily grouped based on their most dominant feature relevant to business expansion and innovation. This thematic organization aims to help businesses quickly identify clusters of support that resonate with their specific strategic goals.

2.1. Theme 1: Powering Innovation, R&D, and Technological Advancement

This theme delves into the crucial government support available for Ontario businesses at every stage of the innovation lifecycle. It covers funding for initial groundbreaking research, the development and refinement of new technologies, the strategic protection of intellectual property, and the eventual commercialization and adoption of these innovations. For Ontario businesses, particularly Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), these programs are crucial for developing competitive advantages, pioneering new solutions, and contributing to a knowledge-based economy. The support mechanisms often extend beyond mere financial aid, sometimes including access to



expert advice, specialized facilities, and collaborative networks, all designed to nurture an idea from its nascent stage to market reality.

2.1.1. Foundational R&D and Pre-Commercial Science

This sub-theme details grants and contributions that support the earliest stages of innovation, including fundamental research, proof-of-concept development, feasibility studies, and pre-commercial scientific activities. These programs are vital for businesses venturing into uncharted territory with novel ideas, where the risks are high but the potential for breakthrough discoveries is significant.

A cornerstone program in this area is the **National Research Council Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP)**. This federal initiative provides substantial non-repayable funding, potentially up to \$10 million, to incorporated, profit-oriented Canadian SMEs with fewer than 500 full-time employees. The funding supports R&D projects aimed at developing and commercializing innovative, technology-driven new or improved products, services, or processes, covering up to 80% of salaries and 50% of contractor costs.¹ A key feature of NRC IRAP is the provision of advisory services from a network of Industrial Technology Advisors (ITAs) who offer technical and business guidance throughout the project lifecycle.² Its reputation as "Canada's premier innovation assistance program for SMEs" underscores its importance.⁴ The recent announcement that Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC) programming will transition to the NRC, and the eventual integration of NRC IRAP into the new Canada Innovation Corporation (CIC), signals an evolving landscape but a continued federal commitment to supporting SME innovation.³

For the agricultural sector, the **AgriScience Program – Projects**, administered by



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), offers non-repayable contributions. It supports pre-commercial science activities and research that benefits the agriculture and agri-food sector. Funding can reach up to \$5 million per project, with a maximum of \$10 million per applicant over the program's duration. This federal program encourages projects intended to mobilize industry, government, and academia through partnerships, and also supports collaborative research and development with AAFC scientists.⁵ This dual approach of funding and potential direct collaboration with government researchers provides a unique advantage for businesses in the agri-food space looking to innovate.

Facilitating collaboration between industry and academia is the **Mitacs Accelerate program**. It supports R&D projects by connecting businesses (both for-profit and eligible not-for-profit organizations) with post-secondary students (undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral fellows) for research internships. Partner organizations contribute starting at \$7,500 for a standard internship, which leverages Mitacs funding to create a \$15,000 research award for the intern. This program helps businesses access highly skilled talent and research expertise from Canadian academic institutions to solve complex challenges.⁶ It is important for Ontario-based applicants to note that for the 2025–2026 fiscal year, limited funding is available for Accelerate in Ontario, and consultation with a Mitacs advisor is recommended.⁶

Regionally, the **Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) Innovation Stream** provides targeted support for businesses in Northern Ontario. This provincial program offers conditional contributions to support the research, development, and commercialization of new and innovative technologies. Funding can be up to \$500,000 for projects focused solely on applied R&D, and up to \$2 million for projects that combine applied R&D with demonstration and commercialization activities. Private-sector businesses can apply independently or in partnership with public sector academic or



research institutions, with the private-sector business acting as the lead applicant.⁷

The prevalence of programs supporting SME-led R&D, such as NRC IRAP and Mitacs Accelerate, points to a strategic government focus on leveraging smaller, agile businesses as significant engines of innovation. This approach recognizes that SMEs can often be more nimble in their R&D efforts, and supporting them can lead to broader economic diversification and job creation. It reflects a policy choice to foster innovation from the ground up, complementing support for larger, industry-wide initiatives.

Furthermore, a recurring pattern across these foundational R&D programs is the strong emphasis on collaboration, particularly between industry and academic or research institutions. Programs like Mitacs Accelerate, the AgriScience Program, and the NOHFC Innovation Stream are structured to incentivize or even require such partnerships. This policy direction aims to bridge the gap between theoretical research and practical market application. By fostering these collaborations, the government seeks to facilitate the transfer of knowledge from academia to industry, provide businesses with access to specialized equipment and expertise, and expose researchers to real-world challenges, thereby making research more relevant and impactful. This creates a synergistic relationship intended to accelerate the entire innovation pipeline. Consequently, businesses that can clearly articulate a path from research to market impact, and those that proactively seek and establish partnerships with academic institutions, are often better positioned to secure these types of R&D funds.

2.1.2. Technology Development, Commercialization, and Adoption

This sub-theme focuses on programs designed to move innovations beyond the initial R&D phase towards market readiness. This includes funding for technology development,



demonstration projects, pilot programs, commercialization activities, and encouraging the adoption of new technologies by businesses to enhance productivity and competitiveness. Specialized areas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital technologies, and clean technologies receive particular attention.

Innovative Solutions Canada (ISC), a federal program under Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), offers a unique pathway for Canadian small businesses. It operates through two streams: a Challenge stream, where businesses develop prototypes in response to specific government challenges, and a Testing stream, where businesses can test their existing innovative solutions in real-world government settings, with potential for procurement.⁸ This program not only funds development but can also act as a crucial first customer and validation point.

For larger-scale, transformative projects, the **Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF)**, also administered by ISED, plays a significant role. The Business Innovation and Growth stream supports for-profit businesses with repayable contributions for R&D, commercialization, and firm expansion projects.⁹ The Collaborations and Networks stream supports large, collaborative, business-led innovation networks and projects, with either a for-profit corporation or a not-for-profit organization as the lead applicant. These projects aim to develop new technology-driven products, processes, or services and enhance supply chains.¹⁰ SIF is geared towards initiatives with substantial economic impact and often involves significant investment.

At the provincial level, the Ontario Centre of Innovation (OCI) leads several key initiatives. The **Critical Industrial Technologies initiative** supports the commercialization and adoption of critical technologies in Ontario's mining, advanced manufacturing (non-auto), construction, and agri-food sectors. It includes a *Development and Commercialization*



Program offering SMEs up to \$100,000 to access Technology Development Sites, a Technology Access Program, and a Sector Adoption Program providing up to \$1 million for multi-partner consortiums addressing sector challenges.¹¹ This initiative fosters an ecosystem approach, connecting SMEs with larger industry players.

To address the broader need for digital transformation, the OCI also leads the **Digitalization Competence Centre (DCC)**. This Ontario program offers two main streams for SMEs: the Digital Modernization and Adoption Plan (DMAP) stream provides up to \$15,000 (at a 50% cost-share) for SMEs to work with an approved consultant to develop a tailored digital strategy.¹² Following this, the Technology Demonstration Program offers up to \$150,000 (also at a 50% cost-share) for SMEs that have completed a DMAP to adopt and implement digital technologies identified in their plan.¹² The DCC is pivotal for enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of Ontario SMEs through targeted digital upgrades.

In the realm of environmental sustainability, the **Agricultural Clean Technology (ACT) Program**: Research and Innovation Stream, a federal AAFC initiative, provides repayable and non-repayable contributions. It supports pre-market innovation, including R&D, demonstration, and commercialization activities, to develop transformative clean technologies and enable the expansion of current technologies within the agriculture and agri-food sector.¹³

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a significant focus for government funding.

The Regional Artificial Intelligence Initiative (RAII) for Northern Ontario, administered by FedNor, supports AI productization, commercialization, and adoption by SMEs in Northern



Ontario. Funding is repayable for for-profit entities and non-repayable for not-for-profits.¹⁴

The NRC Artificial Intelligence for Design Challenge program is a federal NRC initiative fostering R&D collaboration to develop AI technologies that accelerate discovery and innovation processes in areas like health, materials for clean fuels, and high-throughput networks.¹⁵

More broadly, the NRC Challenge Programs engage the NRC with private and public sector partners, academia, and other research organizations to advance high-risk, high-reward research in various transformative fields including AI, electric vehicles, and construction digitalization. These programs offer grant and contribution funding to collaborators, including SMEs.¹⁶

Anticipated for Spring 2025, the federal AI Compute Access Fund, under ISED, will offer financial support to help SMEs access cutting-edge AI compute infrastructure. It proposes to cover two-thirds of costs (up to \$3.35 million) for Canadian cloud-based AI compute services and half of costs (up to \$2.5 million) for non-Canadian cloud services, for projects ranging from \$100,000 to \$5 million.¹⁷ This initiative directly addresses a critical infrastructure barrier for AI development and adoption.

For businesses in the aerospace sector, the **Space Technology Development Program (STDP)**, administered by the Canadian Space Agency, offers contracts, contributions, and grants to Canadian organizations for the development of innovative space technologies.¹⁹

The array of programs supporting technology development, commercialization, and adoption reveals a "pipeline" approach in government funding. Different programs are tailored to various Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs), guiding innovations from



early-stage R&D (often supported by programs in sub-theme 2.1.1) through to later-stage commercialization and market adoption. For instance, ISC focuses on early development and prototyping ⁸, while SIF ⁹ and RAIL ¹⁴ target commercialization and market entry. The upcoming AI Compute Access Fund specifically requires an existing AI compute service agreement, indicating it's for businesses already engaged in AI development.¹⁷ This structured support system reflects a deliberate strategy to nurture innovations throughout their lifecycle, minimizing drop-offs at critical transition points and increasing the likelihood of market success.

Furthermore, digitalization and AI are evidently not treated as niche sectors but as foundational technologies critical for broader economic competitiveness. This is demonstrated by the existence of dedicated programs like the DCC for general SME digitalization ¹², specific AI commercialization funds like RAIL ¹⁴ and the AI Compute Access Fund ¹⁷, and AI R&D initiatives like the NRC AI for Design program.¹⁵ Additionally, AI is being integrated into sectoral programs, such as the NRC Challenge Programs which include AI applications for manufacturing, clean technology, and agriculture.¹⁶ This multi-pronged strategy signals a recognition that digital and AI capabilities are becoming indispensable for enhancing productivity and fostering innovation across virtually all sectors of the economy, not just the technology industry itself. Businesses, therefore, should accurately assess their TRL to target the most appropriate programs. Moreover, integrating digital or AI components into projects, even within traditional sectors, may enhance the attractiveness of a funding application.

2.1.3. Intellectual Property (IP) Development and Strategy

Recognizing that innovation without robust protection can lead to lost economic benefits, several programs now offer support for businesses to develop, manage, and leverage their



intellectual property.

ElevateIP is a national program of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, with Invest Ottawa leading IP support for startups in Eastern Ontario. This program is designed to help SMEs (fewer than 500 full-time employees, Canadian-Controlled Private Corporation status) protect, manage, and grow through their IP. It provides grants to cover professional services fees for activities such as drafting and filing patents, registering trademarks, creating licensing agreements, and developing comprehensive IP protection strategies.²⁰ This program addresses a critical need for many SMEs that may lack the resources or expertise to navigate the complexities of IP, which is vital for attracting investment and maintaining a competitive edge.

Within Ontario's creative industries, **Ontario Creates** administers the **IP Fund**, which has distinct streams for different types of content. The Interactive Content Stream provides non-refundable contributions for the Pre-Production (up to \$50,000) and Production (up to \$500,000, depending on track record) phases of video games and XR content.²¹ The Linear Content Stream offers similar non-refundable contributions for the Development (up to \$25,000) and Production (up to \$400,000 for dramatic film, \$200,000 for documentary/digital series) of feature films and digital series.²² While these funds are primarily for content creation, their designation as "IP Funds" underscores an emphasis on developing and retaining valuable intellectual property within Ontario's burgeoning creative sector.

The emergence of dedicated IP support programs like ElevateIP signifies a maturing understanding at the policy level: intellectual property is not just a legal formality but a key asset and driver of value in the innovation economy. Historically, grant programs may have focused more directly on R&D activities and commercialization outputs. The specific



allocation of funds for IP strategy development, patent filing, and trademark registration, as seen in ElevateIP²⁰, indicates a more sophisticated approach to innovation policy. It represents a proactive measure to help Canadian SMEs build, protect, and ultimately monetize their innovations, ensuring that the economic benefits derived from these creative and technological advancements are retained within Canada. For businesses, especially those operating in technology-intensive or creative sectors, proactively developing and funding an IP strategy should be an integral part of their innovation and growth plans. Accessing specialized IP funding can provide a distinct competitive advantage and strengthen their position for future investment and market leadership.

Table 1: Selected Programs for Innovation, R&D, and Technological Advancement

Grant Name	Administering Body (Gov Level)	Primary Focus	Target Applicant	Typical Funding Type	Max Funding/Support Level (if specified)
NRC IRAP	NRC (Federal)	R&D, Commercialization	SME (<500 FTEs)	Non-repayable contribution	Up to \$10M
AgriScience Program – Projects	AAFC (Federal)	Pre-commercial R&D (Agri)	Industry, Academia	Non-repayable, AAFC collaboration	\$5M/project; \$10M/applicant
Mitacs Accelerate	Mitacs (Federal/Provincial support)	R&D Collaboration (Internships)	Businesses, NFPs	Leveraged funding award	Partner contrib. from \$7,500 for \$15k award
NOHFC Innovation Stream	NOHFC (Provincial – N. Ontario)	R&D, Commercialization (N. ON)	Private Sector	Conditional contribution	Up to \$500k (R&D), \$2M (R&D+Comm.)
Innovative Solutions Canada (ISC)	ISED (Federal)	Prototype Dev/Testing (Gov Challenges)	Small Businesses	Funding (details vary)	Varies by challenge
Strategic Innovation	ISED (Federal)	Large-scale R&D,	For-profit, NFP leads	Repayable/Other	Project-dependent



Fund (SIF)		Commercialization, Expansion		contributions	(large scale)
Critical Industrial Technologies initiative	OCI (Provincial - Ontario)	Tech Commercialization/A adoption (Key Sectors)	SMEs, Consortiums	Funding (up to \$100k or \$1M)	Up to \$100k (SME Dev/Comm), \$1M (Sector Adoption)
Digitalization Competence Centre (DCC)	OCI (Provincial - Ontario)	Digital Modernization (Strategy & Adoption)	SMEs	Cost-share reimbursement	DMAP: up to \$15k (50%), Tech Demo: up to \$150k (50%)
Agricultural Clean Technology (ACT) - R&I	AAFC (Federal)	Clean Tech R&D, Commercialization (Agri)	Varies	Repayable/Non-repayable contrib.	Varies
Regional AI Initiative (RAII) - N. ON	FedNor (Federal - N. Ontario)	AI Productization, Commercialization, Adoption	SMEs, Indigenous orgs	Repayable (profit), Non-repayable (NFP)	Varies
NRC AI for Design Challenge	NRC (Federal)	AI R&D Collaboration (Design/Discovery)	Collaborators	R&D Collaboration	N/A (Collaboration-based)
AI Compute Access Fund (Spring 2025)	ISED (Federal)	AI Compute Infrastructure Access	SMEs	Cost-share	Up to \$3.35M (CDN cloud), \$2.5M (Non-CDN cloud)
ElevateIP	ISED (Federal), Invest Ottawa (E. ON)	IP Strategy, Protection, Management	SMEs (E. ON)	Grant for IP services	Covers most/all professional fees
Ontario Creates IP Fund (Interactive/Linear)	Ontario Creates (Provincial - Ontario)	IP Creation/Production (Creative Ind.)	Ontario Creative Cos.	Non-refundable contribution	Interactive: up to \$500k; Linear: up to \$400k

This table provides a comparative snapshot, enabling businesses to quickly identify programs aligning with their specific innovation stage—be it foundational research,



technology development, AI integration, or intellectual property strategy—and to understand the typical scale and nature of support offered by federal and provincial bodies.

2.2. Theme 2: Accelerating Business Growth and Market Reach

This theme focuses on programs designed to help established Ontario businesses scale their operations, improve productivity, enhance competitiveness, and expand into new domestic and international markets. These initiatives are critical for businesses looking to move beyond the start-up phase and achieve significant, sustainable growth. Support often comes in the form of financial contributions for capital investments, technology adoption, and market development activities, sometimes complemented by advisory services.

2.2.1. Scaling Operations, Enhancing Productivity, and Capital Investment

This sub-theme details funding mechanisms aimed at enabling businesses to make significant capital investments, adopt advanced technologies to boost productivity, and generally scale up their operational capacity. These programs are often crucial for businesses seeking to modernize, meet growing demand, or improve their competitive standing.

For businesses in Northern Ontario, several federal and provincial programs offer substantial support. The **FedNor Business Scale-up and Productivity (BSP)** Stream is a federal initiative designed to help Northern Ontario SMEs and Indigenous businesses accelerate their growth and adopt or adapt new, innovative technologies. It typically provides repayable contributions of up to \$500,000, covering up to 50% of eligible project costs.²³ This program is vital for established businesses in the region looking to



make significant capital investments or integrate leading-edge technologies.

Complementing this, FedNor also runs the **Targeted Manufacturing Initiative** for Northern Ontario. This has two components: Productivity Improvements, which offers repayable assistance to established Northern Ontario manufacturers for upgrading capital equipment (including ICT) to enhance competitiveness and productivity (covering up to 33% of capital costs and 50% of non-capital costs)²⁴; and Operational Assessments, which provides non-repayable contributions of up to \$15,000 (50% of costs) for manufacturers to engage qualified experts for in-depth assessments in areas like lean manufacturing, ISO certification, ICT integration, or market analysis.²⁵ This structured approach allows manufacturers to first identify areas for improvement and then secure funding for the necessary capital upgrades.

Provincially, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) Invest North – Grow program assists existing businesses in Northern Ontario with their growth objectives. It supports projects that enhance productivity, innovation, business competitiveness, revenue growth, export capacity, and job creation/retention. The program offers flexible funding options, including conditional contributions up to \$400,000 (covering 20% of eligible costs), a combination of a conditional contribution (\$400,000) and a loan (\$600,000), or a loan of up to \$1 million (covering up to 50% of eligible costs).²⁶

In other regions of the province, the Southwestern Ontario Development Fund (SWODF) and the Eastern Ontario Development Fund (EODF) are key provincial instruments. These funds support businesses that have been in operation for at least three years, employ at least 10 people (or 5 in rural Ontario), and are investing a minimum of \$500,000 (or \$200,000 if in rural Ontario) in projects that aim to grow their operations, improve productivity, invest in innovation and skills development, pursue new markets, and create



jobs. Both funds offer loans of up to 15% of eligible project costs (to a maximum of \$5 million), which are interest-free during the project period (up to 4 years). A significant feature is that up to 30% of the loan (to a maximum of \$500,000) may be forgiven if the business achieves its investment and job targets. Grants are also available in specific circumstances: up to \$500,000 for companies with fewer than 100 employees based in rural Ontario, and up to \$1.5 million for strategic projects involving foreign direct investment or competition against other jurisdictions. These funds also provide complementary advisory services.²⁷

For specific sectors, the federal Supply Management Processing Investment Fund (SMPIF), administered by AAFC, offers non-repayable contributions to dairy, poultry, and egg processors. This funding is intended to help them adapt to market changes from international trade agreements by investing in new automated equipment and technology to improve productivity and efficiency.²⁹ Similarly, the provincial Forestry Sector Investment and Innovation Program (FSIIP) provides funding for strategic investments in Ontario's forest sector. For business projects with at least \$3 million in eligible costs, it offers a performance-based loan of up to 30% of eligible costs (of which up to 50% may be forgivable), or grants up to 15% in exceptional cases. For collaboration projects (minimum three partners, including at least one Ontario-based for-profit forestry company, with at least \$3 million in eligible costs), grants of up to 30% of eligible costs (maximum \$3 million) are available.³⁰

Many of these scale-up and productivity programs exhibit a distinct regional focus, such as the FedNor and NOHFC programs for Northern Ontario ²³ and the SWODF/EODF for their respective areas.²⁷ This geographical targeting suggests a governmental strategy to address regional economic disparities and leverage specific regional strengths or address particular needs. For instance, Northern Ontario programs often have a strong emphasis



on resource-based industries like manufacturing and forestry, reflecting the economic makeup of the region. This tailored approach allows for more nuanced support aligned with local economic realities and development priorities, rather than a one-size-fits-all national strategy.

A common thread running through productivity-focused funding is the intrinsic link to technology adoption and capital equipment upgrades, as seen in programs like FedNor's Targeted Manufacturing Initiative ²⁴, the SMPIF ²⁹, and the FSIP.³⁰ This highlights a clear understanding that technological advancement is fundamental to improving efficiency and maintaining competitiveness in a globalized economy. Governments are actively incentivizing businesses to invest in modern machinery, automation, and digital tools because these are proven drivers of productivity gains. This is particularly evident in manufacturing and processing sectors where international competition is intense and margins can be tight. The available funding helps to de-risk these often substantial capital expenditures, encouraging businesses to modernize their operations. Businesses seeking scale-up funding should therefore clearly articulate the regional economic benefits of their project if applying to these geographically specific funds. For productivity grants, a robust case demonstrating how new technology or equipment will lead to measurable efficiency gains, cost savings, or output increases is crucial for a successful application.

2.2.2. Domestic and International Market Development

This sub-theme explores grants and programs designed to assist Ontario businesses in exploring, entering, and expanding their presence in new markets, both within Canada and internationally. These initiatives are crucial for companies looking to diversify their customer base, increase sales, and build a global footprint.



A primary federal tool for SMEs aiming to internationalize is CanExport SMEs.

Administered by the Trade Commissioner Service, this program provides non-repayable funding of up to \$50,000, covering 50% of eligible costs for SMEs (1–500 FTEs, \$100,000 to \$100 million in declared Canadian revenue) to develop new export opportunities and markets. Eligible activities include travel to foreign markets, participation in trade missions and shows, market intelligence gathering, international IP protection, and adaptation of marketing materials for target markets.³¹

The agriculture and agri-food sector benefits from several market development programs. The AgriMarketing Program, a federal AAFC initiative, offers non-repayable contributions (up to \$2 million per year, \$10 million over 5 years, typically at a 50% cost-share, with potential for up to 70% for projects targeting the Indo-Pacific region or led by underrepresented groups). This program supports industry-led promotional activities to differentiate Canadian products and producers globally, focusing on increasing and diversifying exports. It primarily targets not-for-profit organizations and Indigenous individuals or organizations to undertake these collective marketing efforts.³² AAFC also runs the Canada Pavilion Program, which simplifies trade show participation for Canadian food and beverage companies at major international events by providing turn-key booths and offsetting booth costs. This program prioritizes SMEs, new-to-market participants, and companies with innovative products.³³

Ontario's creative industries receive targeted support for global market development through Ontario Creates. The Global Market Development Fund provides funding for Ontario-based book publishers (up to \$15,000, 50% cost-share) and music managers (up to \$10,000, 50% cost-share) to participate in international activities such as targeted sales trips and attendance at international market events, all aimed at supporting company



growth and achieving measurable business results.³⁴

For the film and television sector, Telefilm Canada offers the International Promotion Program. This federal program provides financial support to Canadian-owned and controlled production and distribution companies, as well as sales agencies, for participation in international festivals, forums, and events, and for international promotion campaigns for their Canadian content.³⁶

The Canada Council for the Arts provides a suite of programs under its Arts Abroad banner designed to facilitate the international presence of Canadian artists and arts organizations. These include grants for:

- Co-productions: Supporting new artistic works or exhibitions through partnerships between Canadian and foreign arts organizations, covering up to 50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$50,000.³⁷
- Residencies: Funding for Canadian artists and arts professionals for international artistic and cultural exchanges and networking within an international residency, with grants up to \$20,000.³⁸
- Translation: Supporting the translation of Canadian literary or dramatic works for international presentation or publication, with grants up to \$20,000 per translation.³⁹
- Representation and Promotion: Funding travel for Canadian arts organizations to represent Canadian artists internationally and develop their presence in global markets, with grants up to \$30,000.⁴⁰



- Travel: Supporting travel for Canadian artists and arts professionals for international presentation, collaboration, networking, and market opportunities, with funding up to \$30,000 per year.⁴¹

Additionally, the Canada Council for the Arts' Market Access Strategy for Official Language Minority Communities (OLMC) Fund offers up to \$60,000 to increase the access of OLMC artists and arts organizations to diverse markets and publics. It supports activities like market research, participation in cultural trade fairs and showcases, professional development focused on market access, and translation of promotional materials.⁴²

An examination of these market development programs reveals a dual approach by government bodies. On one hand, there is direct support for individual company export activities, exemplified by CanExport SMEs³¹ and Ontario Creates' Global Market Development funds.³⁴ This type of funding helps individual SMEs overcome the often-significant initial cost barriers associated with exploring new international territories. On the other hand, programs like the AgriMarketing Program³² and the Canada Pavilion Program³³ support sector-wide or collective promotional efforts. These initiatives aim to build broader "Brand Canada" recognition in international markets and create platforms, such as national pavilions at trade shows, that benefit multiple companies simultaneously, especially those that are new to exporting or smaller in scale. This comprehensive strategy combines targeted, firm-level assistance with broader ecosystem development to enhance Canada's overall export performance.

Furthermore, many market development programs tailored to the creative industries—such as those offered by Ontario Creates³⁴, Telefilm Canada³⁶, and the Canada Council for the Arts³⁷—place a strong emphasis on participation in international



festivals, markets, and industry events. This highlights the unique "go-to-market" strategy prevalent in these sectors. Unlike some other industries where direct sales calls or digital marketing might be primary channels, creative content often relies on showcases, festivals, and specialized industry markets for discovery, rights sales, co-production deals, and building international networks. The funding structures reflect a nuanced understanding of these sector-specific business models and the critical role that physical presence at key international gatherings plays in their success. Businesses, therefore, should consider a strategic mix of pursuing individual export development initiatives and leveraging sector-wide promotional programs. Creative businesses, in particular, should prioritize international event participation as a core component of their market development strategies, aligning their applications with the clear focus of these funding bodies.

Table 2: Selected Programs for Accelerating Business Growth & Market Reach

Grant Name	Administering Body (Gov Level)	Primary Focus	Target Applicant	Typical Funding Type	Max Funding / Support Level
FedNor BSP Stream (N. ON)	FedNor (Federal)	Scale-up, Productivity, Tech Adoption (N. ON)	SMEs, Indigenous Businesses (N. ON)	Repayable contribution	Up to \$500k (50% costs)
FedNor Targeted Manufacturing (N. ON)	FedNor (Federal)	Capital Upgrades, Op. Assessments (N. ON Mfg)	Manufacturers (N. ON)	Repayable (Upgrades), Grant (Assessments)	Upgrades: varies; Assessments: \$15k (50% costs)
SWODF / EODF	Ontario Government (Provincial)	Growth, Productivity, Innovation (SW/E ON)	Businesses (SW/E ON)	Loan (potential forgiveness), Grant	Loan: \$5M (15% costs); Grant: \$500k-\$1.5M
NOHFC Invest North – Grow (N. ON)	NOHFC (Provincial)	Business Growth, Productivity (N. ON)	Businesses (N. ON)	Conditional contrib., Loan	Up to \$400k (contrib.), \$1M (loan)



CanExport SMEs	Trade Commissioner Service (Federal)	International Market Development	SMEs (1-500 FTEs)	Non-repayable funding	\$50k (50% costs)
AgriMarketing Program	AAFC (Federal)	Export Promotion (Agri-food sector-led)	NFPs, Indigenous orgs/individuals	Non-repayable contribution	\$2M/yr; \$10M/5yrs (50-70% costs)
Canada Pavilion Program	AAFC (Federal)	International Trade Show Support (Food/Bev)	Canadian Companies (SME priority)	Booth cost offset	Varies by show
Ontario Creates GMD (Book/Music Mgrs)	Ontario Creates (Provincial)	International Market Dev (Creative)	ON Book Publishers, Music Mgrs	Grant	Book: \$15k (50%); Music: \$10k (50%)
Telefilm Int'l Promotion Program	Telefilm Canada (Federal)	International Promotion (Film/TV)	CDN Film/TV Prod/Distro Cos.	Financial support	Varies
Canada Council – Arts Abroad	Canada Council (Federal)	International Co-prod, Residencies, Travel etc	CDN Artists, Arts Orgs	Grant	\$20k – \$50k (component-dependent)
Canada Council – OLMC Market Access	Canada Council (Federal)	Market Access (OLMC Artists/Orgs)	OLMC Artists, Arts Orgs	Grant	Up to \$60k

This table assists businesses in differentiating between programs focused on internal capacity building and productivity enhancements versus those aimed at external market expansion. It also clarifies whether the market development focus is primarily domestic or international, allowing for strategic alignment of growth objectives with the most suitable funding opportunities.

2.3. Theme 3: Dedicated Support for Key Ontario Sectors



Ontario's diverse and dynamic economy features several key sectors that are significant contributors to its prosperity and employment. Recognizing their unique challenges and growth potential, various government programs offer targeted support to foster innovation, competitiveness, and sustainability within these specific industries. This section details programs specifically designed for sectors such as agriculture and agri-food, manufacturing and industrial technologies, creative and cultural industries, and life sciences and healthcare technologies.

2.3.1. Agriculture and Agri-Food

The agriculture and agri-food sector in Ontario benefits from a comprehensive suite of federal and provincial programs addressing a wide range of needs, from on-farm improvements and risk management to market development, innovation, and sustainability.

Federal support through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is extensive:

- The AgriDiversity Program provides non-repayable contributions (up to \$200,000 per year, \$1 million total) for projects that help underrepresented and marginalized groups (including Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, persons with disabilities, visible minorities, 2SLGBTQI+ communities, and official language minority communities) fully participate in the Canadian agriculture sector. It also aims to enhance their entrepreneurial capacity and business skills.⁴⁴
- The AgriInnovate Program offers repayable contributions, typically up to \$5 million, to encourage targeted commercialization, demonstration, and/or adoption of commercial-ready innovative technologies and processes in the agricultural and



agri-food sector.⁴⁵

- The AgriScience Program – Projects (detailed in Theme 1) supports pre-commercial science activities and research.⁵
- The AgriCompetitiveness Program delivers non-repayable funding (up to \$1 million per year, \$5 million total) for national, industry-led projects that focus on sector development, environmental information and benchmarking, capacity building, and sharing best practices.⁴⁶
- AgriInvest is a joint federal-provincial initiative (delivered federally in Ontario) offering a self-managed producer-government savings account to help producers manage small income declines and make investments to manage risk and improve market income.⁴⁷
- The AgriMarketing Program (detailed in Theme 2) supports sector-wide export promotion.³²
- The Market Development Program for Turkey and Chicken allocates over \$44 million over 10 years to national industry organizations (Turkey Farmers of Canada and Chicken Farmers of Canada) to increase domestic demand and consumption of Canadian turkey and chicken products through promotional activities, product development, and research.⁴⁸
- The Poultry and Egg On-Farm Investment Program (PEFIP) provides almost \$759 million in non-repayable contributions over 10 years to help supply-managed poultry and egg producers adapt to market changes from trade agreements by supporting



on-farm investments in efficiency, productivity, food safety, biosecurity, environmental sustainability, and animal welfare.⁴⁹

- The Wine Sector Support Program offers non-repayable grant payments to licensed Canadian wineries, calculated based on eligible wine production (maximum \$25 million per fiscal year per recipient), to help them transition and adapt to ongoing and emerging challenges.⁵⁰
- The Supply Management Processing Investment Fund (SMPIF) (detailed in Theme 2) aids processors of supply-managed commodities.²⁹
- The Special Milk Class Permit Program (SMCPP), administered by the Canadian Dairy Commission (CDC), provides eligible further processors and animal feed manufacturers access to Canadian-manufactured dairy ingredients at prices that allow them to remain competitive.⁵¹

Provincially, Ontario offers targeted programs often delivered through organizations like the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA):

- The Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP), part of the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (a federal-provincial-territorial initiative), provides cost-share funding to Ontario farmers for projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon, such as natural grassland establishment, tree planting, and reduced tillage.⁵²
- The Ontario On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF), funded by AAFC and delivered by OSCIA, offers 65% cost-share funding to Ontario farmers for implementing best



management practices (BMPs) in nitrogen management, cover cropping, and rotational grazing to tackle climate change.⁵³

- The NOHFC Regional Tile Drainage Program provides conditional contributions (50% of contractor costs up to \$500 per acre, plus administration fees) to consortium service providers in Northern Ontario to assist groups of producers with the installation of tile drainage, aiming to increase arable land and improve crop yields.⁵⁴
- The Grassroots Growth Program (GGP) offers provincial funding for initiatives that create broader opportunities and benefits for Ontario's agri-food sector and rural communities, focusing on public engagement, youth leadership, safety, and public trust.⁵⁵
- The Beef Cattle Financial Protection Program, administered by Agricorp, provides financial protection to Ontario beef cattle sellers in the event of payment default by a licensed dealer or buyer.⁵⁶

The agricultural sector clearly benefits from a multi-layered support system. This comprehensive approach addresses everything from fundamental on-farm practices and risk management ⁴⁷ to fostering innovation ⁵, developing markets ³², and helping the sector adapt to significant external pressures like international trade agreements and climate change.²⁹ The sheer number and variety of these programs underscore the strategic importance of agriculture to Canada's economy, food security, and rural vitality. They are designed to address the sector's unique challenges, including market volatility, the impacts of climate change, the need for continuous improvement in practices and products, and the pressures of global trade.



A particularly strong emphasis within agricultural funding is on sustainability and climate action, as evidenced by programs like RALP ⁵², OFCAF ⁵³, and the Agricultural Clean Technology Program.¹³ This reflects a broader policy shift towards environmentally responsible agricultural practices. With growing concerns about climate change and its impact on agriculture—as well as agriculture's own contribution to greenhouse gas emissions—governments are actively incentivizing farmers to adopt practices that mitigate these issues. This dual focus not only helps Canada meet its national environmental targets but can also enhance the long-term viability and resilience of farms, while simultaneously meeting increasing consumer demand for sustainably produced food. Agri-businesses in Ontario should therefore explore a portfolio of grants that align with their specific operational needs, innovation goals, and market strategies. Highlighting sustainability or climate adaptation aspects in project proposals may significantly increase the likelihood of funding success, given this clear governmental priority.

2.3.2. Manufacturing, Industrial, and Resource Technologies

This sub-theme covers support for the modernization, productivity enhancement, innovation, and critical infrastructure development within Ontario's manufacturing sector, as well as industries related to critical minerals, forestry, and other resource-based technologies.

Northern Ontario's manufacturing and resource sectors receive specific attention through federal FedNor programs like the Targeted Manufacturing Initiative for Northern Ontario (covering both Productivity Improvements ²⁴ and Operational Assessments ²⁵), which were detailed in Theme 2.



Provincially, the Critical Industrial Technologies initiative, led by the Ontario Centre of Innovation (OCI), aims to drive commercialization and adoption of critical technologies in mining and advanced manufacturing (non-auto), among other sectors.¹¹ Ontario's Forestry Sector Investment and Innovation Program (FSIIP) provides strategic investments to improve productivity, innovation, and market access for manufacturers and processors of wood and forest biomass.³⁰

A major federal strategic investment is the Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund (CMIF), administered by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). This fund will provide up to \$1.5 billion by 2030 (with an initial call for \$500 million in contributions) for infrastructure projects—both preconstruction and shovel-ready—that enable the sustainable development and expansion of critical minerals in Canada. Funding is available as non-repayable contributions, conditionally repayable contributions, and grants, generally up to \$50 million per project for most applicants and up to \$100 million for provincial and territorial government applicants.⁵⁷ This initiative is pivotal for building Canada's capacity in the critical minerals supply chain, which is essential for the clean energy transition and high-technology manufacturing.

Related to clean energy, the federal Clean Fuels Fund, also from NRCan, supports clean fuel production capacity projects (e.g., clean hydrogen, advanced biofuels, renewable natural gas) and feasibility studies. A notional amount of funding is reserved to support Indigenous-led projects.⁵⁸ This fund is designed to drive investment in the production of fuels crucial for decarbonizing hard-to-abate sectors.

For businesses developing technologies with potential defence applications, the Department of National Defence's Innovation for Defence Excellence and Security (IDEaS) program aims to accelerate concepts and propel solutions forward to address challenges



faced by the Canadian Armed Forces. It offers various funding mechanisms, including Competitive Projects (up to \$6.75 million), Innovation Networks (up to \$3 million), contests, sandboxes for testing, and test drives for technology evaluation by military experts.⁵⁹

For large Canadian enterprises (approximately \$300 million or more in annual Canadian revenue) significantly impacted by tariffs and countermeasures, the federal Large Enterprise Tariff Loan (LETL) facility, managed by Canada Development Investment Corporation (CDEV) via Canada Enterprise Emergency Funding Corporation (CEEFC), provides financing support. It offers interest-bearing term loans with a minimum size of \$60 million to help these businesses maintain operations and employment while navigating trade challenges.⁶⁰

A clear pattern in this area is the strong governmental focus on building resilient domestic supply chains, particularly for "future-facing" industries such as critical minerals (supported by CMIF ⁵⁷) and clean fuels (supported by the Clean Fuels Fund ⁵⁸). This emphasis suggests a policy direction aimed at reducing reliance on foreign sources for strategic materials and energy, and capturing more economic value domestically. Global supply chain disruptions and evolving geopolitical landscapes have underscored the vulnerability of extended supply lines and the strategic importance of domestic capacity in these critical sectors. Funding infrastructure for critical mineral extraction and processing, alongside production facilities for clean fuels, represents direct investment in building these robust domestic supply chains, which are foundational for future economic growth, energy security, and environmental goals.

Simultaneously, programs targeting traditional sectors like manufacturing ²⁴ and forestry ³⁰ are increasingly emphasizing innovation, technology adoption, and environmental



performance, rather than solely focusing on increasing capacity. To remain competitive globally and meet evolving sustainability targets, these established sectors must modernize. The grant structures are therefore steering them towards adopting advanced technologies, improving energy efficiency, reducing waste, and developing higher-value, innovative products. This represents a strategic shift from simply supporting existing production models to actively promoting smarter, cleaner, and more resilient industrial practices. Businesses in these sectors should frame their project proposals around contributions to strategic Canadian supply chains or highlight how they are adopting innovative and clean technologies to modernize their operations and enhance their environmental footprint.

2.3.3. Creative and Cultural Industries

Ontario's vibrant creative and cultural industries benefit from a wide range of federal and provincial support mechanisms covering content creation, production, market development, and industry infrastructure. These programs acknowledge the unique economic and cultural contributions of sectors such as book and magazine publishing, film and television, music, and interactive digital media.

Federal support is prominent through several agencies. The Department of Canadian Heritage administers the Canada Book Fund – Support for Organizations, which provides funding to Canadian-owned book publishing organizations and professional associations for projects in marketing, professional development, internships, and technology adoption to strengthen the Canadian book industry.⁶¹

Ontario Creates, a provincial agency, offers a suite of programs:



- The Global Market Development Fund (detailed in Theme 2) supports Ontario book publishers and music managers in accessing international markets.³⁴
- The Industry Development Program funds established Ontario trade and event organizations for initiatives that expand skills, business capacity, market share, sales, and innovation for Ontario companies in the book, magazine, film, television, and interactive digital media sectors.⁶²
- The IP Fund (detailed in Theme 1) has streams for Interactive Content (video games, XR) ²¹ and Linear Content (feature film, digital series) ²², providing non-refundable contributions for pre-production, development, and production.
- The Magazine Fund offers up to \$80,000 (capped at 75% of project budget) to independent Ontario-based magazine publishers to support business development and marketing initiatives.⁶³
- The Ontario Music Investment Fund (OMIF) – Music Industry Initiatives (MII) stream provides grants (minimum \$10,000, total up to \$300,000) to Ontario's established music trade associations and music service organizations for strategic initiatives that build market share, increase sales, promote innovation, and expand regional capacity. This includes support for professional development, training, networking, business analytics, and export activities.⁶⁴

Telefilm Canada is a key federal agency supporting the Canadian audiovisual industry. Its programs cover various stages of feature film development, production, and post-production, as well as support for festivals, activities, cinemas, and international initiatives like the Export Assistance program.⁶⁵ The International Promotion Program



specifically offers financial support for Canadian film and television companies to participate in international festivals, forums, events, and conduct promotion campaigns.³⁶

FACTOR Canada (Foundation Assisting Canadian Talent on Recordings), with support from the Government of Canada, provides funding for Canadian artists and music companies. A notable program is Artist Development, which offers a \$5,000 subsidy toward a year of artist development activities including recording, touring, showcasing, video production, and marketing.⁶⁶ This is critical for emerging and established Canadian musical artists.

The Canada Council for the Arts, a federal body, offers a vast array of support:

- Numerous Prizes recognize artistic excellence across disciplines, with some awards available to organizations, such as the York Wilson Endowment Award for art museums and public galleries.⁶⁷
- Specific Initiatives like Digital Originals and The Creation Accelerator (often in partnership with CBC/Radio-Canada) support the development and online sharing of digital artistic projects.⁶⁸
- The Arts Abroad program (detailed in Theme 2) includes components for Co-productions, Residencies, Translation, Representation & Promotion, and Travel, facilitating international collaboration and market access.³⁷
- The Arts Across Canada program includes components for Arts Festivals & Presenters (supporting the presentation of art to Canadian audiences) ⁶⁹, Public Outreach (funding events and publications that build connections between artists



and audiences)⁷⁰, and Foreign Artist Tours (supporting Canadian organizations in circulating exhibitions or touring international artists in Canada).⁷¹

- The Supporting Artistic Practice program offers core and project funding to National Arts Service Organizations⁷², Support Organizations (like artist-run centres and arts magazines)⁷³, and Literary Publishers⁷⁴ that reinforce and develop Canadian art practice.
- The Creating, Knowing and Sharing program (detailed in Theme 4) provides specific support for Indigenous artists and arts organizations.⁷⁵

At the provincial level, the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) provides grants to Ontario-based artists and arts organizations across all disciplines. Funding supports activities such as creating and presenting art, building audiences and markets, engaging communities and schools, and developing careers and arts services.⁷⁷

The creative industries benefit from a complex and layered web of federal funding (from bodies like Canadian Heritage, Telefilm Canada, FACTOR, and the Canada Council for the Arts) and provincial support (primarily through Ontario Creates and the Ontario Arts Council). This funding is often highly specialized, targeting specific sub-sectors (e.g., music, film, publishing) or distinct activities (e.g., content creation, export development, industry-wide initiatives). This layered approach reflects the inherent diversity of the creative economy. Different art forms and media possess unique creation processes, distinct business models, and specific market access challenges. Tailored funding programs acknowledge these nuances, providing more effective and relevant support than a generic business grant could offer. For instance, the requirements and objectives for film funding through Telefilm⁶⁵ differ significantly from those for book publishing



support via the Canada Book Fund ⁶¹ or music touring assistance from FACTOR.⁶⁶

A significant emphasis within funding for creative industries is placed on "market development" and achieving "international reach." This is evident in programs like Ontario Creates' Global Market Development funds ³⁴, Telefilm Canada's International Promotion Program ³⁶, and the Canada Council's Arts Abroad suite.³⁷ This focus suggests a strong recognition that domestic markets alone may not be sufficient to ensure the sustainability and growth of many Canadian creative businesses and artists. Canadian creative content often competes in a globalized marketplace. Funding for international travel, participation in key festivals and markets, translation of works, and targeted promotion helps Canadian creators and businesses access larger audiences, secure international sales and co-production deals, and build global reputations. This international exposure is crucial for economic viability in sectors frequently characterized by project-based work and the need for widespread distribution to recoup investments and achieve profitability. Creative businesses must therefore be highly strategic in identifying the specific funding body and program that aligns with their particular sub-sector, project type, and market ambitions. For larger or multi-faceted projects, a strategy involving applications to multiple complementary funding programs may be necessary.

2.3.4. Life Sciences and Healthcare Technologies

The life sciences and healthcare technology sectors are characterized by long research and development cycles, high capital requirements, and complex regulatory pathways. Government funding in this area aims to support innovation from early-stage discovery through to commercialization and ecosystem development.

Grand Challenges Canada (GCC), with financial support from the Government of Canada



via Global Affairs Canada, funds high-impact innovations addressing significant global health and development barriers. While global in its scope, Canadian innovators, including Ontario-based businesses, can apply for Seed funding (up to \$250,000 CAD) to test early-stage ideas and generate proof-of-concept. GCC also offers Transition to Scale funding (up to \$3M CAD, by invitation) and larger Scale funding through choreographed investments. The organization employs a blended finance approach, combining grants, equity, loans, and catalytic investments, and provides venture advisory and technical guidance.⁷⁸ One of its focus areas is Indigenous innovation.

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is the primary federal agency investing in health research across four pillars: biomedical, clinical, health systems services, and population health. CIHR offers a variety of funding programs, including Project Grants, Foundation Grants, various Initiatives, and Prizes.⁷⁹ While much of CIHR's funding supports academic research, there are opportunities for industry collaboration and initiatives focused on the commercialization of discoveries. For example, CIHR's Planning and Dissemination Grants can support activities such as the exploration of the commercial potential of discoveries and network-building events.⁸²

Genome Canada, a national organization with federal funding, works to translate cutting-edge genomics research and innovation into solutions for national and global challenges, including in health, agriculture, and the environment. It supports various projects and initiatives, such as the "Canadian Precision Health Initiative." Ontario Genomics acts as a regional partner, facilitating access for Ontario-based researchers and businesses to Genome Canada's funding opportunities.⁸³

More targeted support for SMEs in Ontario is available through provincially-backed programs. The BioCreate Program, administered by Ontario Genomics and supported by



FedDev Ontario, is designed for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in southern Ontario looking to commercialize genomics and engineering biology-enabled products or technologies in the health, food and agriculture, and cleantech sectors. Eligible companies (at TRL 4+) can receive direct, non-repayable funding of up to \$150,000 in Phase I (which must be matched by at least \$100,000 from the company). This is followed by 18 months of intensive business mentorship, access to critical infrastructure through partner organizations, and culminates in an Investor Showcase to attract follow-on investment.⁸⁴

The Life Sciences Innovation Fund (LSIF), administered by the Ontario Centre of Innovation (OCI), is an early-stage co-investment fund. It supports Ontario or Canadian incorporated, Ontario-headquartered companies in the Life Sciences and Healthcare Technologies sectors related to human health. The LSIF aims to help startups raising pre-seed or seed rounds (total rounds \$1 million to \$5 million, with less than \$3 million in prior third-party capital raised) to de-risk their ventures and become investor-ready. Eligible companies can receive up to \$500,000 in co-investment capital.⁸⁵

The funding landscape for life sciences in Ontario and Canada reveals a structured pathway from initial discovery to market application. Broad research grants from agencies like CIHR⁷⁹ and Genome Canada⁸³ often fuel the foundational scientific breakthroughs, frequently within academic or institutional settings. Subsequently, more targeted commercialization and SME support programs, such as the BioCreate Program⁸⁴ and the Life Sciences Innovation Fund⁸⁵, step in to help translate these discoveries into viable products and services. These later-stage programs provide crucial capital and business development support necessary for navigating the complexities of clinical trials, regulatory approvals, and market entry, which are characteristic of the long and costly



development timelines in the life sciences sector.

There is also a discernible and growing emphasis on "ecosystem" approaches within life sciences funding. Programs like BioCreate⁸⁴ explicitly incorporate mentorship, access to specialized infrastructure, and investor connections as integral components of their support, rather than solely providing direct funding. This reflects a sophisticated understanding of the sector's unique needs. Life science startups, in particular, require more than just capital; they depend on specialized scientific and business expertise, access to often expensive laboratory equipment and facilities, and connections to clinical partners, regulatory advisors, and investors who understand the sector. Programs that provide this comprehensive "wrap-around" support are more likely to foster successful commercialization outcomes and contribute to the growth of a vibrant life sciences cluster in Ontario. Life science businesses, especially those in the early stages, should therefore actively seek out programs that offer these multifaceted support systems, prioritizing those with strong mentorship, networking, and infrastructure access components alongside financial assistance.

Table 3: Selected Programs for Dedicated Support for Key Ontario Sectors

Sector	Grant Name	Administering Body (Gov Level)	Specific Focus within Sector	Target Applicant	Typical Funding Type	Max Funding / Support Level
Agri-Food	AgriDiversity Program	AAFC (Federal)	Participation of underrepresented groups, entrepreneurial capacity	Canadian orgs, Indigenous groups	Non-repayable contribution	\$200k/yr; \$1M total
	AgriInnovate	AAFC (Federal)	Commercialization	For-profit orgs	Repayable	Up to \$5M



	Program		n/adoption of innovative tech	(incorporated)	contribution	
	PEFIP	AAFC (Federal)	On-farm investments (efficiency, safety, sustainability)	Poultry/Egg Producers	Non-repayable contribution	Varies by quota (70-85% cost-share)
	RALP (Ontario)	OSCIA (Provincial/Federal funding)	GHG reduction, carbon sequestration (on-farm)	Ontario Farmers	Cost-share	Varies (detailed in Program Guide)
	OFCFAF (Ontario)	OSCIA (Provincial/AAFC funding)	Climate action BMPs (N-mgt, cover crops, grazing)	Ontario Farmers	Cost-share (65%)	Varies (detailed in Program Guide)
Manufacturing, Industrial, Resource	Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund (CMIF)	NRCan (Federal)	Infrastructure for critical minerals development	Legal entities in Canada (for-profit, NFP)	Non-repayable/Conditionally repayable, Grant	\$50M/project (\$100M for prov/terr)
	Forestry Sector Invest. & Innov. Prog. (FSIIP)	Ontario Government (Provincial)	Productivity, innovation, market access (Forestry)	For-profit mfrs/processors, Collaborations	Loan (forgivable), Grant	Loan: 30% costs; Grant: up to \$3M (30% costs)
	IDEaS	DND (Federal)	Defence innovation, R&D, solutions	Canadian Innovators	Phased funding, Grants, etc.	Up to \$6.75M (Competitive Proj.)
Creative/Cultural	Canada Book Fund – Support for Orgs	Canadian Heritage (Federal)	Marketing, prof. dev, tech (Book Publishing)	CDN Book Publishing Orgs/Assocs.	Funding	Varies
	Ontario Creates – Magazine Fund	Ontario Creates (Provincial)	Business/marketing dev (Magazines)	ON Magazine Publishers	Grant	Up to \$80k (75% budget)
	Telefilm Canada –	Telefilm Canada	International	CDN Film/TV	Financial support	Varies



	International Promotion	(Federal)	promotion (Film/TV)	Prod/Distro Cos.		
	FACTOR – Artist Development	FACTOR Canada (Federal support)	Artist career development (Music)	Artists	Subsidy	\$5,000
	Canada Council – Supporting Artistic Practice	Canada Council (Federal)	Support for arts service orgs, literary publishers	Arts Orgs, Literary Publishers	Grant	Up to 60% revenue / \$120k-\$300k (publisher type)
Life Sciences/Healthcare Tech	Grand Challenges Canada	GCC (Federal support)	Global health innovation (Seed, TTS)	Innovators (Global, incl. CDN)	Grant, Blended Finance	Seed: \$250k; TTS: \$3M
	BioCreate Program (S. Ontario)	Ontario Genomics (Provincial/Federal)	Commercialization (Genomics/Eng. Bio SMEs)	SMEs (S. ON, Health, Agri, Cleantech)	Non-repayable funding, Mentorship	\$150k (Phase I funding)
	Life Sciences Innovation Fund (LSIF) (Ontario)	OCI (Provincial)	Early-stage co-investment (Life Sci/Health Tech)	ON/CDN incorporated, ON HQ startups	Co-investment	Up to \$500k

This table allows businesses to quickly navigate to funding programs most relevant to their specific industry. It highlights the tailored nature of support available, which often addresses unique sectoral challenges and opportunities, thereby enabling businesses in key Ontario industries to find support designed for their distinct operational realities and growth pathways.

2.4. Theme 4: Building a Skilled Workforce and Inclusive Growth



The sustained success and expansion of Ontario businesses are intrinsically linked to the availability of a skilled workforce and an economic environment that fosters inclusive participation. This theme covers government programs designed to support businesses in hiring and training talent, including apprenticeship incentives, as well as initiatives specifically aimed at bolstering entrepreneurship and economic development within underrepresented communities.

2.4.1. Hiring, Training, and Apprenticeship Incentives

This sub-theme focuses on programs that provide financial assistance to employers for wage subsidies, training costs, and the development of apprenticeship programs. These are crucial for businesses looking to expand their teams, upskill existing employees, and cultivate the next generation of skilled professionals.

The federal Compensation for Employers of Reservists Program (CERP), a Department of National Defence grant with administrative support from ESDC, offers one-time financial support to civilian employers. This funding is intended to offset operational costs incurred when their reservist employees are deployed on full-time operational duty.⁸⁶

At the provincial level, Ontario Job Creation Partnerships, administered by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, provides funding to eligible employers (including businesses and not-for-profits) for projects that offer meaningful work experience to unemployed Ontarians. While the primary aim is to help job seekers, businesses benefit by accessing talent for specific projects that are not part of their normal operations.⁸⁷

For businesses in the skilled trades, Skilled Trades Ontario serves as an information hub,



indicating that sponsors who train or hire apprentices may qualify for various grants and/or federal tax credits.⁸⁸ Further supporting this area, the provincial Skills Development Fund (SDF): Capital Stream offers non-repayable funding to eligible organizations, including employers, to build new training centres, upgrade existing ones, or convert buildings into training facilities. These centres are intended to train individuals for emerging and in-demand jobs in critical sectors like skilled trades, healthcare, and IT.⁸⁹ While not a direct hiring grant for all businesses, employers can be primary applicants for establishing their own training facilities, thereby directly addressing their skilled workforce needs.

A sector-specific initiative, Career-Ready with CTMA: Expanding Opportunities, is an Employment Ontario program delivered by the Canadian Tooling & Machining Association (CTMA) with federal and provincial funding. It provides non-repayable wage subsidies (50% of wages paid, up to \$5,000 per placement, for up to four placements) to eligible employers in the tooling and machining sector for new hires or for upskilling existing employees.⁹⁰

For fostering youth entrepreneurship, the provincial Summer Company program assists students aged 15–29 in starting and running their own summer business by providing up to \$3,000 in grant funding along with advice and mentorship from local business leaders.⁹¹ While not for existing businesses, it contributes to the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Similarly, the Starter Company Plus program, also provincial, supports individuals aged 18 and older who are starting, expanding, or buying a small business in Ontario. It offers training, mentoring, and the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to \$5,000.⁹²

A significant focus on skilled trades development is evident across several programs, including those facilitated by Skilled Trades Ontario ⁸⁸, the SDF Capital Stream ⁸⁹, and the



CTMA's Career-Ready program.⁹⁰ This reflects a recognized labour shortage in these critical occupations and a concerted government effort to address this gap. Ontario, like many other jurisdictions, faces ongoing challenges in sourcing sufficient numbers of skilled trades professionals. These programs are strategically designed to incentivize employers to invest in apprentices, contribute to the development of training infrastructure, and upskill their existing workforce in these high-demand areas. This is a direct and pragmatic response to pressing labour market needs.

Furthermore, many hiring and training programs involve active partnerships between government bodies, industry associations (such as the CTMA ⁹⁰), and educational institutions. This collaborative model underscores an understanding that effective workforce development requires the coordinated input and participation of multiple stakeholders. Industry associations possess deep insights into sectoral skill requirements, educational institutions provide the necessary formal training and certification, and government offers the policy direction and financial backing. This multi-stakeholder approach aims to create training programs that are not only relevant and responsive to current industry needs but also lead to sustainable employment outcomes. Businesses, particularly those in skilled trades or manufacturing, should therefore proactively explore apprenticeship and training subsidy programs. Engaging with industry associations or local training providers can often enhance access to these funds and ensure that training aligns with recognized standards.

2.4.2. Support for Underrepresented Entrepreneurs and Communities

Recognizing the importance of an inclusive economy, numerous programs are specifically designed to support businesses led by Indigenous peoples, Francophone communities, women, youth, and other underrepresented groups, or to fund projects that directly



benefit these communities.

The federal AgriDiversity Program (AAFC) ⁴⁴ is a prime example, supporting projects that help Indigenous Peoples and other underrepresented groups (women, youth, persons with disabilities, visible minorities, 2SLGBTQI+ communities, official language minority communities) to fully participate in the Canadian agriculture sector.

For Francophone communities, the Economic Development Initiative (EDI) for Southern Ontario, administered by FedDev Ontario, provides non-repayable contributions (up to \$500,000 per year) to incorporated Francophone or bilingual not-for-profit organizations in southern Ontario. These funds support projects that encourage economic diversification, business development, innovation, and partnerships within these communities, and can include initiatives that further distribute funding to eligible SMEs.⁹³ A similar EDI for Northern Ontario is administered by FedNor.⁹⁴ The Canada Council for the Arts' Market Access Strategy for Official Language Minority Communities (OLMC) Fund also provides targeted support.⁴²

Indigenous businesses and entrepreneurs receive dedicated support through several channels:

- FedDev Ontario's Funding and support for Indigenous businesses and organizations in Southern Ontario provides financial contributions for projects aimed at increasing production capacity, developing new products/services, accessing expertise, market development, and strengthening business capacity.⁹⁵
- The Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF) is an Indigenous financial institution providing a range of financing options (general loans, microloans, specific funds for



youth and women entrepreneurs, winter road financing) and grants to Indigenous entrepreneurs and businesses within the Nishnawbe Aski Nation territory in Northern Ontario.⁹⁶

- The provincial NOHFC Indigenous Workforce Development Program offers conditional contributions to Northern Ontario businesses covering up to 75% of an Indigenous intern's salary and Mandatory Employment Related Costs (up to \$52,500 per year).⁹⁸
- Several broader programs also have specific components or priorities for Indigenous participation, such as Grand Challenges Canada (Indigenous Innovation focus area)⁷⁸, the Clean Fuels Fund (notional funding reserved for Indigenous-led projects)⁵⁸, the Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund (advancing reconciliation through Indigenous partnerships and benefits)⁵⁷, and the 2 Billion Trees Program (Indigenous organizations eligible to apply).⁹⁹
- The Canada Council for the Arts' Creating, Knowing and Sharing: The Arts and Cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples program offers grants to Indigenous organizations (core funding) and artists/groups (for short-term projects) to support a wide range of contemporary, customary, or traditional artistic and cultural activities.⁷⁵

There is a significant and growing portfolio of programs specifically targeting Indigenous businesses and communities. These often feature dedicated funding streams, preferential eligibility criteria, or a focus on culturally relevant support, as seen with FedDev Ontario's Indigenous funding⁹⁵, NADF's tailored financial products⁹⁶, NOHFC's Indigenous internship program⁹⁸, and specific allocations within broader initiatives like the Clean Fuels Fund⁵⁸ and CMIF.⁵⁷ This strong emphasis reflects a clear government commitment



to economic reconciliation and fostering Indigenous self-determination. These programs aim to address historical disadvantages, build capacity within Indigenous organizations, and ensure that Indigenous peoples are active participants in and beneficiaries of resource development and economic growth, particularly in their traditional territories.

Support for Francophone communities, such as through the Economic Development Initiatives⁹³ and the Canada Council's OLMC Fund⁴², often centers on fostering economic development within the unique context of official language minority communities. These programs aim to preserve cultural vitality while simultaneously promoting business growth and ensuring that services and opportunities are available in French. This dual focus helps maintain the vibrancy of Francophone communities across Ontario and Canada. Businesses led by individuals from these underrepresented groups, or those undertaking projects that significantly benefit these communities, have access to these dedicated funding channels and should actively explore them. It is also noteworthy that mainstream programs are increasingly incorporating criteria to provide enhanced support or priority to projects involving underrepresented groups, as seen in the AgriMarketing Program³², AgriInnovate Program⁴⁵, and PEFIP.⁴⁹

Table 4: Selected Programs for Building a Skilled Workforce & Inclusive Growth

Grant Name	Administering Body (Gov Level)	Primary Focus	Target Applicant / Beneficiary	Typical Funding Type	Max Funding / Support Level
Ontario Job Creation Partnerships	ON Min. of Labour, Imm., Train., Skills	Work Experience for Unemployed	Employers (Businesses, NFPs)	Funding for projects	Varies
Skills Development Fund (SDF): Capital Stream	Ontario Government (Provincial)	Training Centre Construction/Upgrades	Employers, Training Orgs, NFPs, etc.	Non-repayable funding	Varies



Career-Ready with CTMA	CTMA / Employment Ontario (Prov./Fed.)	Wage Subsidy (Tooling/Machining hires/training)	Employers (Tooling/Machining)	Non-repayable contribution	\$5k/placement (50% wages), max 4 placements
FedDev Ontario – Indigenous Support (S. ON)	FedDev Ontario (Federal)	Indigenous Business/Org. Dev. (S. ON)	Indigenous Businesses, Orgs, NFPs (S. ON)	Financial contributions	Varies
NOHFC Indigenous Workforce Dev. (N. ON)	NOHFC (Provincial)	Indigenous Intern Salary/MERCs (N. ON)	Businesses (N. ON) hiring Indigenous interns	Conditional contribution	\$52.5k/yr (75% costs)
Economic Development Initiative (EDI) – S. ON	FedDev Ontario (Federal)	Francophone Community Econ. Dev. (S. ON)	Francophone/Bilingual NFPs (S. ON)	Non-repayable contribution	Up to \$500k/yr
Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF)	NADF (Indigenous Financial Institution)	Indigenous Business Financing/Support (NAN Terr.)	Indigenous Entrepreneurs/Businesses (NAN Territory)	Loans, Grants	Varies (e.g., grants up to \$500k mentioned)
Canada Council – Creating, Knowing, Sharing	Canada Council (Federal)	Indigenous Arts & Culture Support	Indigenous Artists, Orgs, Groups	Grant	Orgs: up to 60% rev/\$100k; Projects: up to \$100k
Canada Council – OLMC Market Access Fund	Canada Council (Federal)	Market Access (OLMC Artists/Orgs)	OLMC Artists, Arts Orgs	Grant	Up to \$60k

This table helps businesses identify opportunities related to human capital development and inclusive growth. It distinguishes general hiring and training incentives from programs specifically dedicated to supporting particular demographic groups or communities, allowing for more targeted searches. This highlights pathways not only to build their teams but also to contribute to broader social and economic inclusion goals, which can



be a strategic advantage.

2.5. Theme 5: Region-Specific and Community-Focused Economic Development

Beyond broad provincial or national programs, significant funding is allocated to foster economic growth and address specific needs within defined geographic regions of Ontario—notably Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Southwestern Ontario—and for community-level initiatives that have a broader economic or environmental impact. These programs often reflect local priorities and aim to leverage regional strengths.

2.5.1. Northern Ontario Initiatives

Northern Ontario benefits from a robust, two-tiered government support system involving federal initiatives primarily through FedNor (Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario) and provincial programs via the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC). This comprehensive suite of programs addresses the region's unique economic landscape, which includes resource-based industries, a vast geography, smaller population centres, and significant Indigenous communities.

FedNor Programs (operating under Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada) focus on fostering innovation, enhancing infrastructure, and promoting partnerships, including with Indigenous communities:

- Business Scale-up and Productivity (BSP) Stream ²³ and the Targeted Manufacturing Initiative (for Productivity Improvements ²⁴ and Operational Assessments ²⁵) have been detailed under Theme 2, targeting established businesses for growth and



modernization.

- The Regional Artificial Intelligence Initiative (RAII) for Northern Ontario ¹⁴ (detailed in Theme 1) supports AI commercialization and adoption.
- The Regional Innovation Ecosystems (RIE) Stream, for which FedNor is the regional development agency for Northern Ontario, aims to create, grow, and develop strong and inclusive regional innovation ecosystems. It supports business growth and innovation by funding not-for-profit organizations, business accelerators/incubators, SMEs, post-secondary institutions, and Indigenous organizations.¹⁰⁰
- The Economic Development Initiative (EDI) for Northern Ontario provides funding to projects fostering economic growth within Francophone communities, supporting activities like enhancing governance, promoting cultural sectors, and developing niche products. It can offer up to 90% funding, with a maximum contribution of \$57,500 towards internship-related expenses.⁹⁴

NOHFC Programs (a provincial agency) offer a wide range of support for Northern Ontario:

- The Invest North Program, with its Launch Stream providing conditional contributions up to 50% of costs (\$200,000 maximum) for businesses starting operations in Northern Ontario ¹⁰², and its Grow Stream ²⁶ (detailed in Theme 2) for existing businesses.
- The Innovation Stream ⁷ (detailed in Theme 1) supports R&D and commercialization



of new technologies.

- The Industrial Research Chair Program provides funding (50% of eligible costs, up to \$1 million conditional contribution) to Northern Ontario universities, colleges, and research institutions to establish and enhance research capacity, ultimately benefiting key economic sectors and attracting highly qualified personnel.¹⁰³
- The Community Events Program offers conditional contributions (up to 30% of costs, \$15,000 maximum) to Northern Ontario municipalities, Indigenous communities, not-for-profit organizations, and Local Services Boards for new or recurring community or tourism-based events that boost community visibility and promote economic growth.¹⁰⁴
- The Regional Tile Drainage Program ⁵⁴ (detailed in Theme 3) assists agricultural producers.
- The Broadband and Cellular Expansion Program provides conditional contributions (up to 50% of eligible costs, \$1 million maximum per project) to Northern Ontario municipalities, Indigenous communities, not-for-profits, and ICT community champions to address broadband gaps in unserved or underserved areas.¹⁰⁵
- The Rural Enhancement Funding Program offers conditional contributions to rural municipalities, Indigenous communities, not-for-profits, and Local Services Boards in Northern Ontario (serving populations under 30,000) for incremental improvements, repairs, or renovations to community infrastructure like social and recreational facilities. Funding can be up to 90% of costs (maximum \$200,000) for communities under 1,500 residents, and up to 75% (maximum \$500,000) for communities with



1,500 to 30,000 residents.¹⁰⁶

- The Enhance Your Community Program provides conditional contributions (up to 50% of eligible costs, \$2 million maximum) to Northern Ontario municipalities, Indigenous communities, not-for-profits, and Local Services Boards for projects that implement priority economic development initiatives, support business retention and attraction strategies, identify investment opportunities, or construct/renovate capital assets supporting community economic development.¹⁰⁸

Additionally, localized support is available through organizations like IION (Innovation Initiatives Ontario North), whose Step Forward Entrepreneurs Program (SFEP) provides non-repayable grants (\$5,000–\$10,000, at 50% cost-share) to innovative, growth-oriented for-profit businesses (with under \$5 million in annual revenue) in the specific Northern Ontario districts of Nipissing, Timiskaming, Parry Sound, or Muskoka. This funding supports projects promoting market growth, product development, and productivity enhancement.¹¹⁰

The distinct mandates of FedNor (a federal Regional Development Agency) and NOHFC (a provincial Crown corporation) create a comprehensive two-tiered government support system for Northern Ontario. This dual structure allows for a broader range of assistance, from funding large-scale industrial projects and fostering regional innovation ecosystems (often the purview of FedNor) to supporting community infrastructure development and smaller business start-ups or expansions (typically addressed by NOHFC programs). This layered approach provides multiple access points and funding mechanisms tailored to the diverse needs of the region's economy and communities.

A significant focus of NOHFC funding, in particular, is on infrastructure development,



including broadband and cellular expansion ¹⁰⁵, and enhancements to community facilities.¹⁰⁴ This emphasis recognizes that foundational infrastructure is often a prerequisite for business growth, talent attraction, and overall community well-being in the North. Unlike more urbanized parts of the province, Northern Ontario frequently faces gaps in essential infrastructure. NOHFC programs directly address these by co-funding projects that improve connectivity, upgrade community amenities, and enhance agricultural land productivity. This, in turn, creates a more enabling environment for businesses to operate, innovate, and attract skilled workers. Businesses located in Northern Ontario have a rich and varied landscape of dedicated funding to explore. It is advisable for them to investigate programs from both FedNor and NOHFC, as well as more localized initiatives like the IION SFEP ¹¹⁰, and to consider how their projects align with the articulated regional development priorities of these funding bodies.

2.5.2. Southern, Eastern, and Southwestern Ontario Funds

These highly populated and economically significant regions of Ontario benefit from specific provincial development funds and targeted federal support designed to address their unique opportunities and challenges.

The Southwestern Ontario Development Fund (SWODF) ²⁷ and the Eastern Ontario Development Fund (EODF) ²⁸ (both detailed in Theme 2) are cornerstone provincial programs providing loans and, in some cases, grants to established businesses making significant investments to grow, improve productivity, innovate, and create jobs in these respective regions.

FedDev Ontario (Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario) plays a crucial role in this part of the province. While it delivers national programs, it also has



specific initiatives for Southern Ontario:

- The Economic Development Initiative (EDI) for Southern Ontario ⁹³ (detailed in Theme 4) focuses on Francophone community economic development.
- Funding and support for Indigenous businesses and organizations in Southern Ontario ⁹⁵ (detailed in Theme 4) aims to increase Indigenous participation in the regional economy.
- FedDev Ontario also supports specialized initiatives like the BioCreate Program ⁸⁴ (detailed in Theme 3), which aids life sciences SMEs in Southern Ontario.

The provincial Ontario Together Trade Fund (OTTF) provides grants or loans (up to \$5 million, maximum 75% of costs) to eligible Ontario companies that have been impacted by trade disruptions. The fund helps these businesses enhance resilience, build local supply chains, expand their market reach (especially interprovincially), and invest in advanced technology. Projects must have a minimum investment of \$200,000.¹¹¹ This fund is particularly relevant for businesses in Southern Ontario's established industrial base.

The Community Futures Program, a federal initiative, is delivered in Ontario through local, non-profit Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs). These CFDCs receive support from FedDev Ontario for Southern Ontario operations and from FedNor for Northern Ontario. They provide small business loans (e.g., Nventure in Northumberland offers loans up to \$250,000), business development tools, training, and advisory services, primarily targeting businesses in rural and remote communities.¹¹² This program fills a crucial niche by offering grassroots financial and advisory support often not available from



traditional lenders.

Regional funds like SWODF ²⁷ and EODF ²⁸ typically require significant private investment from applicant businesses and have explicit job creation targets. This structure indicates a focus on catalyzing larger, impactful projects that can drive substantial regional economic growth. These funds aim to leverage public money with private capital to support established, growing companies in enhancing productivity, fostering innovation, and expanding market access, thereby delivering tangible economic outcomes for their respective regions.

FedDev Ontario's role in Southern Ontario is multifaceted. Beyond administering broad programs, it also supports specialized initiatives like the BioCreate program for life sciences ⁸⁴ and targeted programs for specific communities, such as Indigenous entrepreneurs ⁹⁵ and Francophone economic development.⁹³ This demonstrates a tailored approach even within a large and diverse region like Southern Ontario. This strategy allows FedDev Ontario to combine broad-based support with targeted interventions designed to nurture specific high-potential sectors (like life sciences) and ensure inclusive growth by addressing the unique needs of underrepresented groups. Businesses operating in these regions should be prepared for potentially rigorous application processes for funds like SWODF and EODF, emphasizing strong business cases, demonstrated financial capacity, and clear projections for job creation and economic impact. Exploring FedDev Ontario's broader range of offerings and partnerships is also highly advisable to identify all potential avenues of support.

2.5.3. Broader Community and Environmental Impact

This sub-theme covers programs that, while not exclusively business grants, support



projects with significant community economic development or environmental benefits. Businesses can often participate as partners, service providers, or direct beneficiaries of these initiatives.

The federal 2 Billion Trees Program (2BT) aims to invest up to \$3.2 billion by 2031 to support new tree planting projects across Canada. Provinces, territories, for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, and Indigenous organizations are eligible to apply for funding for afforestation (creating new forests) and reforestation (regenerating lost forests).⁹⁹ While the primary goals are environmental (GHG reduction, habitat restoration), this large-scale initiative creates substantial business opportunities for for-profit organizations such as forestry companies, land management businesses, nurseries, and planting contractors, thereby generating green jobs.

Impact Canada Challenges, a federal initiative, uses a challenge-based approach to source innovative solutions for pressing social and economic issues. An example is the "Simplify the Job Search Challenge" by Employment and Social Development Canada.¹¹⁴ These challenges offer opportunities for businesses to develop and propose novel solutions, potentially leading to funding, prizes, and contracts if their proposals are selected.

In the transportation sector, the Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (OVIN), a provincial body, administers R&D Partnership Funds focused on future mobility. These include streams for Connected and Autonomous Vehicle (C/AV) and Smart Mobility¹¹⁵ and Electric Vehicle (EV) technologies.¹¹⁶ Both programs offer co-investment of up to \$100,000 (requiring a minimum 2:1 match from applicants/partners) to Ontario SMEs (fewer than 500 employees) for projects involving R&D, testing, validation, and demonstration of relevant technologies (TRL 3-9). These initiatives support innovation in a transformative



sector with broad societal implications for transportation, environmental sustainability, and urban planning, while fostering public-private partnerships.

There is an increasing trend in government to utilize "challenge-based" procurement and funding models, as seen with Impact Canada ¹¹⁴, the NRC Challenge Programs ¹⁶, and the IDEaS program.⁵⁹ These programs aim to stimulate novel approaches to complex problems by clearly defining the desired outcome rather than prescribing a specific solution or methodology. This model encourages out-of-the-box thinking and can be more effective than traditional grant application processes for certain types of innovation, particularly those requiring breakthrough or disruptive solutions. It opens the door for a wider range of actors, including innovative businesses of all sizes, to contribute their expertise.

Furthermore, large-scale environmental initiatives, such as the 2 Billion Trees program ⁹⁹, can create significant ancillary business opportunities even if their primary objective is not direct business support. Achieving ambitious environmental targets, like planting two billion trees, requires substantial operational capacity across various stages, from seedling production to planting and long-term monitoring. This creates a derived demand for services and products from businesses that can contribute to these efforts, such as commercial nurseries, specialized planting contractors, land management consultants, and technology providers for monitoring and verification. This acts as an indirect form of economic stimulus for related sectors, fostering growth in the green economy. Businesses should therefore monitor government challenge platforms and large environmental initiatives for opportunities to apply their existing expertise and technologies, or to develop new ones, even if these are not framed as traditional "business grants."

Table 5: Selected Programs for Region-Specific and Community-Focused Economic



Development

Region / Focus	Grant Name	Administering Body (Gov Level)	Specific Objective	Target Applicant / Beneficiary	Typical Funding Type	Max Funding / Support Level
Northern Ontario	FedNor – Regional Innovation Ecosystems (RIE)	FedNor (Federal)	Grow regional innovation ecosystems, support business innovation	NFPs, BAIs, SMEs, Academia, Indigenous orgs (N. ON)	Varies (Grant, Funding)	e.g., \$25k mentioned for some RIE aspects
	NOHFC – Industrial Research Chair	NOHFC (Provincial)	Enhance research capacity at N. ON institutions	N. ON Universities, Colleges, Research Inst.	Conditional contribution	\$1M (50% costs)
	NOHFC – Community Events Program	NOHFC (Provincial)	Boost community visibility, econ. growth via events (N. ON)	Municipalities, Indigenous comm., NFPs, LSBs (N. ON)	Conditional contribution	\$15k (30% costs)
	NOHFC – Broadband & Cellular Expansion	NOHFC (Provincial)	Increase connectivity in un/underserved N. ON areas	Municipalities, Indigenous comm., NFPs, LSBs (N. ON)	Conditional contribution	\$1M (50% costs)
	NOHFC – Rural Enhancement Funding	NOHFC (Provincial)	Improve community facilities in rural N. ON (<30k pop)	Rural Munic., Indigenous comm., NFPs, LSBs (N. ON)	Conditional contribution	\$200k (90% for <1.5k pop) / \$500k (75% for >1.5k pop)
	IION – Step Forward Entrepreneurs Prog. (SFEP)	IION (Regional Innovation Centre)	SME growth, commercialization (Specific N. ON Dists)	For-profit SMEs (<\$5M rev, specific N. ON dists)	Non-repayable grant	\$5k–\$10k (50% cost-share)
Southern/Eastern/ SW Ontario	SWODF / EODF	Ontario Government (Provincial)	Business growth, productivity, innovation (SW/E ON)	Businesses (SW/E ON)	Loan (potential forgiveness), Grant	Loan: \$5M (15% costs); Grant: \$500k–\$1.5M



	FedDev Ontario – EDI (Southern ON)	FedDev Ontario (Federal)	Francophone community econ. dev. (S. ON)	Francophone/Bilingual NFPs (S. ON)	Non-repayable contribution	Up to \$500k/yr
	Ontario Together Trade Fund (OTTF)	Ontario Government (Provincial)	Resilience to trade disruption, supply chain, market exp.	Ontario Companies (impacted by trade)	Grant or Loan	Up to \$5M (max 75% costs)
	Community Futures Program (Ontario)	CFDCs (Federal support via FedDev/FedNor)	SME loans, advisory, training (Rural/Remote)	SMEs (Rural/Remote)	Loans, Advisory	e.g., Nventure up to \$250k loan
Broader Community/Environmental	2 Billion Trees Program (2BT)	Government of Canada (Federal)	Tree planting (afforestation/reforestation)	Provinces, Territories, For-profit/NFP Orgs, Indigenous Orgs	Funding	Up to \$3.2B program total
	Impact Canada Challenges	Various Federal Depts.	Innovative solutions to social/economic issues	Varies by challenge (often open to businesses)	Prizes, Funding	Varies by challenge
	OVIN – C/AV & Smart Mobility / EV R&D Funds	OVIN (Provincial)	R&D, demo of C/AV, EV tech (Ontario)	Ontario SMEs (<500 employees)	Co-investment	Up to \$100k (matched 2:1)

This table helps businesses identify funding opportunities tied to their specific geographic location within Ontario or those that align with broader community or environmental impact goals. It underscores the importance of local context in accessing certain funds and highlights how businesses can leverage regional development priorities or contribute to large-scale initiatives.



3. Strategic Insights for Securing Government Funding

Successfully navigating the government funding landscape requires more than just identifying a relevant program; it demands a strategic approach to application development and a clear understanding of the motivations behind these public investments. The following insights are designed to help Ontario businesses enhance their chances of securing funding for expansion and innovation.

- **Understanding the "Why": Aligning with Government Priorities**
Government funding is rarely disbursed without a clear strategic purpose. These programs are instruments of public policy, designed to achieve specific economic or social outcomes, such as job creation, innovation leadership, export growth, regional economic balance, environmental sustainability, or targeted support for specific demographic groups or industries. For instance, the Southwestern Ontario Development Fund (SWODF) and Eastern Ontario Development Fund (EODF) explicitly aim to generate broad positive regional economic impact and create new, sustainable jobs.²⁷ Similarly, CanExport SMEs is focused on helping businesses grow into global markets ³¹, and the Agricultural Clean Technology (ACT) Program aims to support the development and adoption of clean technologies in agriculture.¹³ To maximize the chances of success, businesses must thoroughly research and understand the stated objectives of any program they target. This information is typically found in program guidelines, on the funder's website (often in "About Us" or



"Program Objectives" sections), and in official announcements. Applications should then be meticulously tailored to demonstrate, with clear evidence and compelling narrative, how the proposed project directly contributes to these governmental aims. Using language and keywords found in the program materials can further strengthen this alignment.

- Navigating Eligibility: The Crucial First Step

Each government funding program operates with a specific and often strict set of eligibility criteria. These can pertain to the applicant's business type (e.g., SME, corporation, not-for-profit), size (often defined by employee count or annual revenue), years in operation, geographic location (e.g., Northern Ontario, Southwestern Ontario), the scope and nature of the proposed project, and what constitutes eligible versus ineligible costs. For example, NRC IRAP is generally for incorporated, profit-oriented SMEs with 500 or fewer full-time equivalent employees.¹ FedNor's Business Scale-up and Productivity Stream targets Northern Ontario SMEs with at least two years of operations.²³ ElevateIP is for Canadian-Controlled Private Corporations with fewer than 500 employees headquartered in Eastern Ontario.²⁰

Before investing significant time and resources into preparing an application, a rigorous self-assessment against all eligibility criteria is paramount. Businesses should consider creating a master "eligibility profile" that consolidates key characteristics (legal structure, revenue, employee count, location, etc.) to quickly cross-reference against program requirements. It is essential to pay close attention to precise definitions provided by the funder (e.g., what constitutes an "SME" or "Northern Ontario" for a particular program, or what types of expenditures are deemed "eligible costs"). Attempting to apply for programs where fundamental



eligibility is not met is a common pitfall and a waste of valuable resources.

- The Spectrum of Support: Grants, Loans, Contributions, and Beyond
Government support is not a monolithic entity; it encompasses a variety of financial and non-financial mechanisms. Understanding these distinctions is critical for financial planning and managing expectations.
 - Non-repayable contributions (often referred to as grants) are highly sought after as they do not need to be paid back. Examples include NRC IRAP ², the AgriMarketing Program ³², CanExport SMEs ³¹, and many NOHFC programs like the Step Forward Entrepreneurs Program.¹¹⁰ However, these are often the most competitive and typically come with stringent reporting requirements.
 - Repayable contributions (effectively interest-free or low-interest loans) are common for programs that support projects with clear commercial outcomes. The Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) ⁹, FedNor's Business Scale-up and Productivity Stream ²³, and the SWODF/EODF ²⁷ often utilize this model. Repayment terms and schedules vary significantly.
 - Conditional contributions represent a hybrid model. The funding may be initially provided as a contribution, with a portion (or all) becoming forgivable if specific performance targets (such as job creation or revenue milestones) are met. Conversely, repayment may be triggered under certain conditions (e.g., sale of funded assets). The NOHFC Invest North program ²⁶ and the Forestry Sector Investment and Innovation Program ³⁰ offer such conditional contributions.
 - Cost-Sharing/Matching Funds are a very common feature. Most programs



require the applicant business to contribute a certain percentage of the total project costs, either in cash or sometimes through eligible in-kind contributions. For example, the Digitalization Competence Centre programs require a 1:1 match¹², while CanExport SMEs covers 50% of eligible costs.³¹

- Advisory Services and Collaboration Opportunities are also valuable forms of support. Some programs, like NRC IRAP with its Industrial Technology Advisors², Mitacs Accelerate which facilitates R&D partnerships⁶, the BioCreate Program with its intensive mentorship⁸⁴, and the SWODF/EODF which offer advisory services²⁷, provide access to expertise, networks, and collaborative R&D opportunities that can be as crucial as direct financial aid. The prevalence of cost-sharing models across many programs indicates a governmental preference for partnership rather than sole funding. This approach ensures that businesses have "skin in the game," which is believed to increase commitment to the project's success and promote prudent use of public funds. It also acts as a market validation signal, as businesses willing to invest their own capital are presumably more confident in the project's viability. Similarly, the use of repayable contributions for later-stage commercial projects suggests a focus on fostering sustainable economic impact rather than providing perpetual subsidies. Successful ventures are expected to return value to the public purse, which can then be reinvested into supporting other innovative enterprises. Businesses must carefully assess the implications of each funding type for their cash flow, debt load, and future obligations, and be realistic about their capacity to meet matching fund requirements and ongoing reporting duties.

- The Application Process: Preparation is Key
Government grant applications are typically detailed and rigorous, demanding



comprehensive information and a well-articulated project plan. Common requirements include a thorough business plan, detailed financial projections (often for several years), market analysis, a clear description of project methodology and timelines, and quantifiable expected outcomes (e.g., jobs created, revenue growth, export sales). Many programs operate with specific intake periods or are highly competitive, meaning only the strongest applications are successful.

The key to navigating this process is meticulous preparation and starting early. Many program administrators, such as those for the IION SFEP¹⁰ or Ontario Creates programs³⁵, encourage potential applicants to contact program officers or attend information sessions. These interactions can provide invaluable insights into program priorities, application nuances, and common pitfalls. Developing a robust project plan before seeking funding is essential, as the application is often a formal presentation of this pre-existing strategy. Businesses should also be prepared for a due diligence process, where funders may scrutinize financial statements, business models, and project feasibility in detail.

- Stacking and Leveraging: Understanding the Rules

"Stacking" refers to the practice of combining funding from multiple government sources (federal, provincial, municipal) to support the same project or components of a project. The rules around stacking vary significantly between programs. Some programs explicitly allow it up to a certain percentage of total project costs, while others may prohibit combining their funds with other specific government programs, particularly if they are from the same level of government or target the exact same cost items. For example, FedNor's Business Scale-up and Productivity stream specifies limits on total government assistance²³, while the Eastern and Southwestern Ontario Development Funds explicitly state that their funding cannot be stacked with other provincial programs.²⁷



It is imperative for businesses to clarify the stacking rules for each program they are considering. This information is usually found in the detailed program guidelines. Stacking rules are generally in place to prevent over-subsidization of any single project and to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of limited public funds. However, where permitted, strategically combining complementary federal and provincial programs (e.g., one program supporting R&D activities and another supporting the export development of the resulting product) can significantly enhance a project's overall financial viability and accelerate its path to market. Businesses should therefore map out their entire project lifecycle, identify potential funding sources for different stages or distinct cost categories, and carefully verify the stacking limitations for each potential funding partner to create an optimal, compliant funding package.



4. Conclusion: Navigating the Path to Funded Growth and Innovation

The landscape of government support for Ontario businesses is both extensive and multifaceted, offering a wealth of opportunities for companies poised for expansion and committed to innovation. As this report has detailed, funding mechanisms span a wide array of themes, from foundational research and development and technological advancement, through to operational scale-up, market reach diversification, sector-specific enhancements, workforce development, and regionally targeted economic growth. Federal and provincial bodies provide a spectrum of support, including non-repayable grants, strategic loans, conditional contributions, and vital advisory services, all designed to catalyze business success.

A strategic approach is paramount for businesses seeking to leverage these resources. Success in securing government funding is rarely a matter of chance; rather, it hinges on a meticulous alignment of project goals with stated government priorities, thorough preparation of application materials, and a clear, demonstrable understanding of program objectives and eligibility prerequisites. The most compelling proposals are those that not only articulate a strong business case but also resonate with the broader economic, social, or technological aims of the funding agency.

It is also crucial to recognize that the benefits of these programs often extend beyond the purely financial. Many initiatives offer invaluable non-monetary support, such as access to



expert mentorship, specialized infrastructure, networking opportunities with industry peers and potential partners, and enhanced credibility that can attract further private investment.

For Ontario businesses ambitious to grow and innovate, the path to government funding requires proactive research, diligent preparation, and often, direct engagement with program administrators to clarify nuances and strengthen applications. By developing a "funding roadmap" that aligns with their overarching strategic business plan, companies can systematically identify and pursue the most relevant opportunities. Leveraging these public investments effectively can significantly de-risk transformative projects, accelerate development timelines, and ultimately contribute to the sustained growth and innovation that defines Ontario's dynamic economy.



Appendix I: Master List of Analyzed Grants

Grant Program Name	Administering Body	Gov Level	Primary Objective Focus	General Eligibility for Ontario Businesses	General Funding Type	Max Funding/Range (if stated)	Source ID(s)
NRC IRAP	NRC	Federal	R&D, Commercialization, Advisory	Yes (SME <500 FTEs)	Non-repayable contribution, Advisory	Up to \$10M	¹
Innovative Solutions Canada (ISC)	ISED	Federal	Prototype Dev/Testing (Gov Challenges)	Yes (Small Businesses)	Funding (details vary)	Varies by challenge	⁸
Grand Challenges Canada	Grand Challenges Canada	Federal (GAC support)	Global Health Innovation (Seed, Scale)	Yes (for seed, if relevant innovation)	Grant, Blended Finance, Advisory	Seed: \$250k; TTS: \$3M	⁷⁸
Innovation for Defence Excellence & Security (IDEaS)	DND	Federal	Defence Innovation, R&D, Solutions	Yes (Canadian Innovators)	Phased funding, Grants, Collaboration	Up to \$6.75M (Competitive Proj.)	⁵⁹
CanNor Business Scale-up and Productivity	CanNor	Federal	Business Scale-up, Tech Adoption (Northern Territories)	Unlikely (Targets North: YT, NT, NU)	Funding	Not specified	¹²⁴
AgriDiversity	AAFC	Federal	Underrepresent	Yes (Agri Orgs,	Non-repayable	\$200k/yr; \$1M	⁴⁴



Program			ed Groups in Agri, Entrepreneurship	targeting specific groups)	contribution	total	
AgrInnovate Program	AAFC	Federal	Commercialization/Adoption of Innovative Tech (Agri)	Yes (For-profit, incorporated in Canada)	Repayable contribution	Up to \$5M	45
AgriScience Program – Projects	AAFC	Federal	Pre-commercial R&D (Agri), Collaboration	Yes (Industry, Academia)	Non-repayable, AAFC collaboration	\$5M/project; \$10M/applicant	5
AgriCompetitiveness Program	AAFC	Federal	Sector Dev, Capacity Building, Best Practices (Agri)	Yes (Industry-led efforts, Agri-businesses)	Non-repayable funding	\$1M/yr; \$5M total	46
Compensation for Employers of Reservists (CERP)	DND (ESDC admin)	Federal	Offset costs for Reservist Deployment	Yes (Employers of Reservists)	Grant (one-time)	Not specified	86
R&D Partnership Fund – C/AV & Smart Mobility	OVIN / OCI	Provincial	C/AV & Smart Mobility R&D, Demo, Commercialization	Yes (SMEs <500 FTEs, Ontario ops)	Co-investment (non-repayable)	Up to \$100k (2:1 match required)	115
Southwestern Ontario Development Fund (SWODF)	Ontario Government	Provincial	Growth, Productivity, Innovation (SW ON)	Yes (Businesses in SW ON, specific criteria)	Loan (potential forgiveness), Grant, Advisory	Loan: \$5M; Grant: \$500k–\$1.5M	27
Canada Book Fund – Support for Organizations	Canadian Heritage	Federal	Marketing, Prof. Dev, Tech (Book Publishing)	Yes (CDN Book Publishing Orgs/Assocs.)	Funding	Varies	61



Economic Development Initiative (EDI) – S. ON	FedDev Ontario	Federal	Francophone Community Econ. Dev. (S. ON)	Indirectly (via NFPs serving Francophone SMEs)	Non-repayable contribution (to NFPs)	Up to \$500k/yr (to NFPs)	⁹³
Ontario Creates – GMD Fund (Book)	Ontario Creates	Provincial	International Market Dev (Book Publishing)	Yes (Ontario Book Publishers)	Grant	Up to \$15k (50% cost)	³⁴
Ontario Creates – Industry Development Program	Ontario Creates	Provincial	Sector Dev (Book, Mag, Film, TV, IDM)	Indirectly (via Trade/Event Orgs serving ON cos.)	Non-repayable funding (to Orgs)	Varies	⁶²
Summer Company	Ontario Government (SBECs)	Provincial	Youth Entrepreneurship (Student Start-ups)	No (For students starting new businesses)	Grant, Advisory	Up to \$3k	⁹¹
Starter Company Plus	Ontario Government (SBECs)	Provincial	Entrepreneurship (Start, Expand, Buy Small Biz)	Yes (Individuals for ON small biz)	Training, Mentoring, Potential Grant	Up to \$5k grant	⁹²
Beef Cattle Financial Protection Program	Agricorp	Provincial	Financial Protection (Beef Cattle Sellers)	Yes (ON Beef Cattle Sellers/Dealers)	Financial Protection	Not specified	⁵⁶
Ontario Job Creation Partnerships	ON Min. of Labour, Imm., Train., Skills	Provincial	Work Experience for Unemployed	Yes (Employers, incl. Businesses)	Funding for projects	Varies	⁸⁷
Special Milk Class Permit Program (SMCPP)	Canadian Dairy Commission (CDC)	Federal	Competitive Dairy Ingredient Pricing	Yes (Further Processors, Feed Mfrs in Canada)	Price Access	Not applicable (price mechanism)	⁵¹
Telefilm Canada – General	Telefilm Canada	Federal	Film/TV Dev, Prod,	Yes (Canadian Film/TV)	Funding	Varies by program	⁶⁵



Programs			Post-Prod, Festivals, Int'l	Companies)			
FACTOR – Artist Development	FACTOR Canada	Federal (Gov support)	Artist Career Development (Music)	Yes (Canadian Artists)	Subsidy (non-repayable)	\$5,000	66
Canada Council – Prizes	Canada Council for the Arts	Federal	Artistic Excellence Recognition	Some for Orgs (e.g., Galleries)	Monetary Prizes (non-repayable)	\$1k – \$50k+	67
AgriMarketing Program	AAFC	Federal	Export Promotion (Agri-food sector-led)	Yes (NFPs, Indigenous orgs/individuals)	Non-repayable contribution	\$2M/yr; \$10M/5yrs	32
AgriInvest	Federal Gov (ON) / La Financière (QC)	Federal/Provincial	Risk Management, Investment (Producers)	Yes (Agricultural Producers)	Matched Savings Account	Gov matches 1% of Allowable Net Sales	47
Eureka	NRC (National Office for Canada)	Federal	International R&D Collaboration	Yes (Canadian Innovators, esp. NRC IRAP clients)	Access to Networks, Funding, Advisory (via IRAP)	Varies (facilitates access)	125
FedNor – Targeted Mfg Initiative (Prod. Improve)	FedNor	Federal	Capital Upgrades (N. ON Mfg)	Yes (Manufacturers in N. ON)	Repayable contribution	Varies (33% capital, 50% non-capital)	24
CIHR Funding Programs (General)	CIHR	Federal	Health Research	Yes (Often via collaboration with academia/research)	Grants, Awards	Varies by program	79
Genome Canada – Projects &	Genome Canada	Federal (support)	Genomics R&I (Health, Agri, Enviro)	Yes (Often via collaboration, Ontario)	Funding	Varies by opportunity	83



Funding Opps				Genomics)			
CanExport SMEs	Trade Commissioner Service	Federal	International Market Development	Yes (SMEs 1-500 FTEs)	Non-repayable funding	\$50k (50% costs)	³¹
Space Technology Development Program (STDP)	Canadian Space Agency (CSA)	Federal	Innovative Space Technology Development	Yes (Canadian Organizations)	Contracts, Contributions, Grants	Varies	¹⁹
Mitacs Accelerate	Mitacs	Fed/Prov Support	R&D Collaboration (Internships)	Yes (Businesses, NFPs in Canada)	Leveraged funding award	Partner from \$7.5k for \$15k award	⁶
FedNor – Business Scale-up & Productivity (BSP)	FedNor	Federal	Growth, Tech Adoption (N. ON SMEs, Indigenous)	Yes (SMEs, Indigenous Biz – N. ON)	Repayable contribution	Up to \$500k (50% costs)	²³
Ontario Together Trade Fund (OTTF)	Ontario Government	Provincial	Resilience to Trade Disruption, Supply Chain, Market Exp.	Yes (Ontario Companies impacted by trade)	Grant or Loan	Up to \$5M (max 75% costs)	¹¹¹
Critical Industrial Technologies initiative (CIT)	OCI	Provincial	Tech Commercialization/Adoption (Key ON Sectors)	Yes (Ontario SMEs, Consortiums)	Funding (Dev/Comm \$100k; Sector Adopt \$1M)	Up to \$100k or \$1M	¹¹
Large Enterprise Tariff Loan (LETL) facility	CDEV / CEEFC	Federal	Financing for Large Enterprises (Tariff Impact)	Yes (Large CDN companies, \$300M+ rev)	Loan (Interest-bearing term)	Min \$60M loan	⁶⁰
AI Compute Access Fund	ISED	Federal	AI Compute Infrastructure	Yes (SMEs incorporated in	Cost-share	Up to \$3.35M (CDN), \$2.5M	¹⁷



(Spring 2025)			Access	Canada)		(Non-CDN)	
Ontario Arts Council (OAC) - General Programs	OAC	Provincial	Arts Creation, Presentation, Audience Dev.	Yes (ON Artists & Arts Orgs)	Grants	Varies by program	77
ElevateIP	ISED (Invest Ottawa - E. ON lead)	Federal/Regional	IP Strategy, Protection, Management	Yes (SMEs in Eastern Ontario)	Grant for IP services	Covers most/all professional fees	20
Ontario Creates - IP Fund (Interactive Content)	Ontario Creates	Provincial	Pre-Prod/Production (Video Games, XR)	Yes (Ontario Interactive Content Cos.)	Non-refundable contribution	Pre-Prod: \$15k-\$50k; Prod: \$50k-\$500k	21
Ontario Creates - IP Fund (Linear Content)	Ontario Creates	Provincial	Dev/Production (Film, Digital Series)	Yes (Ontario Linear Content Cos.)	Non-repayable contribution	Dev: \$5k-\$25k; Prod: up to \$400k	22
Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP)	OSCIA (ON) (Fed/Prov funding)	Prov/Fed	GHG Reduction, Carbon Sequestration (ON Farms)	Yes (Ontario Farmers)	Cost-share funding	Varies (Program Guide)	52
FedNor - Regional AI Initiative (RAII) (N. ON)	FedNor	Federal	AI Productization, Commercialization, Adoption (N. ON)	Yes (SMEs, Indigenous Orgs - N. ON)	Repayable (profit), Non-repayable (NFP)	Varies	14
NRC - AI for Design Challenge Program	NRC	Federal	AI R&D Collaboration (Design/Discovery)	Yes (Collaborators, incl. businesses)	R&D Collaboration	N/A (Collaboration)	15
NRC - Challenge Programs (General)	NRC	Federal	High-risk R&D (AI, e-Auto, Quantum, etc.)	Yes (Collaborators, incl. SMEs)	Grant & Contribution, R&D Collaboration	Varies	16



FedNor – Targeted Mfg (Operational Assess.)	FedNor	Federal	Operational Assessments (N. ON Mfg)	Yes (Manufacturers in N. ON)	Non-repayable contribution	Up to \$15k (50% costs)	25
Wine Sector Support Program	AAFC	Federal	Financial Support for Wineries (Adaptation)	Yes (Licensed Canadian Wineries)	Non-repayable grant	Max \$25M/yr per recipient (based on production)	50
Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund (CMIF)	NRCan	Federal	Infrastructure for Critical Minerals Dev.	Yes (Legal entities in Canada)	Non-repayable/ Conditionally repayable, Grant	Up to \$50M/project (\$100M for prov/terr)	57
FedDev Ontario – Indigenous Support (S. ON)	FedDev Ontario	Federal	Indigenous Business/Org. Dev. (S. ON)	Yes (Indigenous Businesses, Orgs, NFPs – S. ON)	Financial contributions	Varies	95
Skilled Trades Ontario – Hire an Apprentice	Skilled Trades Ontario	Provincial	Apprentice Hiring/Training Incentives	Yes (Ontario Employers/Sponsors)	Potential Grants/Tax Credits	Varies (see specific incentives)	88
Canada's Digital Technology Cluster (DIGITAL)	DIGITAL (Global Innovation Cluster)	Federal (support)	Digital Tech Dev. & Adoption (Health, Enviro, Talent)	Yes (Members of DIGITAL, pan-CDN)	Co-investment (non-dilutive)	Varies by call (e.g., \$5M–\$65M DIGITAL portion)	126
Incentives for Med/Heavy-Duty ZEVs (iMHZEV)	Transport Canada	Federal	Adoption of Med/Heavy-Duty ZEVs	Yes (Canadian Orgs/Businesses)	Point-of-sale Incentive	Up to \$200k/vehicle	128
Skills Development Fund (SDF): Capital Stream	Ontario Government	Provincial	Training Centre Construction/Upgrades	Yes (Employers, Training Orgs, etc. in ON)	Non-repayable funding	Varies	89
BioCreate	Ontario	Prov/Fed	Commercialization	Yes (SMEs in S.	Non-repayable	Up to \$150k	84



Program (S. Ontario)	Genomics (FedDev ON support)		on (Genomics/Eng. Bio SMEs)	ON – Health, Agri, Cleantech)	funding, Mentorship, Infra Access	(Phase I funding)	
SIF – Collaborations and Networks	ISED	Federal	Large Collaborative R&D, Innovation Networks	Yes (NFP or For-profit lead, incorporated in Canada)	Financial funding	Varies (large scale)	¹⁰
SIF – Business Innovation and Growth	ISED	Federal	R&D, Commercialization, Firm Expansion	Yes (For-profit biz/coop in Canada)	Repayable contribution	Varies (large scale)	⁹
Supply Management Processing Investment Fund	AAFC	Federal	Productivity/Efficiency (Supply-Managed Processors)	Yes (Processors of supply-managed commodities in Canada)	Non-repayable contribution	Varies (part of \$397.5M program)	²⁹
Life Sciences Innovation Fund (LSIF) (Ontario)	OCI	Provincial	Early-stage Co-investment (Life Sci/Health Tech)	Yes (ON/CDN incorporated, ON HQ startups)	Co-investment	Up to \$500k	⁸⁵
Collaborate 2 Commercialize (C2C)	OCI	Provincial	Academia-Industry R&D for Commercialization	Yes (For-profit, ON incorp. min 2 yrs, 5+ FTEs)	R&D Collaboration, Training Support	Varies	¹²⁹
Digitalization Competence Centre (DCC)	OCI (ON Gov initiative)	Provincial	Digital Modernization (Strategy & Adoption for SMEs)	Yes (Ontario SMEs 1-499 employees)	Advisory (DMAP), Cost-share Reimb. (Tech Demo)	DMAP: \$15k (50%); Tech Demo: \$150k (50%)	¹²
Ontario On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)	OSCIA (ON) (AAFC funding)	Prov/Fed	On-Farm Climate BMPs (N-Mgt, Cover Crop, Grazing)	Yes (Ontario Farmers)	Cost-share funding (65%)	Varies (Program Guide)	⁵³



2 Billion Trees Program (2BT)	Government of Canada	Federal	Tree Planting (Afforestation/Reforestation)	Yes (For-profit/NFP Orgs, Indigenous Orgs)	Funding	Up to \$3.2B program total	99
IION – Step Forward Entrepreneurs Prog. (SFEP)	IION (Regional Innovation Centre)	Regional (ON North)	SME Growth, Commercialization (Specific N. ON Dists)	Yes (For-profit SMEs <\$5M rev, specific N. ON dists)	Non-repayable grant	\$5k–\$10k (50% cost-share)	110
NOHFC – Industrial Research Chair Program	NOHFC	Provincial	Research Capacity at N. ON Institutions	Indirectly (benefits N. ON sectors/businesses)	Conditional contribution	Up to \$1M (50% costs)	103
OVIN – R&D Partnership Fund (EV Stream)	OVIN / OCI	Provincial	EV & Battery Tech R&D, Demo	Yes (SMEs <500 FTEs, Ontario ops)	Co-investment (non-repayable)	Up to \$100k (2:1 match required)	116
Ontario Creates – Magazine Fund	Ontario Creates	Provincial	Business Dev (Independent ON Magazine Publishers)	Yes (Ontario Magazine Publishers)	Grant	Up to \$80k (75% budget)	63
Clean Fuels Fund	NRCan	Federal	Clean Fuel Production & Feasibility (Indigenous focus)	Yes (Legal entities in Canada, Indigenous priority)	Contribution agreements	Varies (notional for Indigenous)	58
Ontario Creates – OMIF GMD for Music Managers	Ontario Creates	Provincial	International Market Dev (ON Music Managers)	Yes (Ontario Music Management Companies)	Grant	Up to \$10k (50% cost)	35
Natural Products Canada – Fast-Track to	Natural Products Canada	Federal (implied)	Business/Commercialization Plan Dev (Natural	Yes (Canadian incorporated SMEs/Start-ups)	Non-repayable funding (for experts)	Up to \$25k (40% costs)	130



Financing			Products)				
Career-Ready with CTMA	CTMA / Employment Ontario	Prov/Fed	Wage Subsidy (Tooling/Machining hires/training)	Yes (Ontario Employers in Tooling/Machining)	Non-repayable contribution	\$5k/placement (50% wages), max 4 placements	⁹⁰
Grassroots Growth Program (GGP)	Ontario Government	Provincial	Agri-food Sector & Rural Dev Initiatives	Yes (Eligibility in GGI Guidelines)	Funding	Varies (Program Guidelines)	⁵⁵
Ontario Creates - OMIF Music Industry Initiatives	Ontario Creates	Provincial	Strategic Initiatives (ON Music Trade Assocs/Serv Orgs)	Indirectly (via Assocs/Orgs serving ON music biz)	Direct grants (to Assocs/Orgs)	Min \$10k, Max \$300k total (to Assocs/Orgs)	⁶⁴
Agricultural Clean Technology (ACT) - R&I Stream	AAFC	Federal	Pre-market Clean Tech Innovation (Agri)	Yes (Canadian businesses likely eligible)	Repayable/Non-repayable contributions	Varies	¹³
Market Development Program for Turkey & Chicken	AAFC	Federal	Domestic Market Dev (Turkey/Chicken via Nat'l Orgs)	Indirectly (via Nat'l Industry Orgs)	Funding (to Nat'l Orgs)	\$44M over 10 yrs (to Orgs)	⁴⁸
Poultry & Egg On-Farm Investment Prog. (PEFIP)	AAFC	Federal	On-Farm Investments (Efficiency, Safety, Sustainability)	Yes (Supply-Managed Poultry/Egg Producers)	Non-repayable contribution	Varies by quota (70-85% cost-share)	⁴⁹
NOHFC - Indigenous Workforce Development Prog.	NOHFC	Provincial	Indigenous Intern Salary/MERCs (N. ON)	Yes (Businesses in N. ON hiring Indigenous interns)	Conditional contribution	\$52.5k/yr (75% costs)	⁹⁸



NOHFC – Community Events Program	NOHFC	Provincial	Community/Tourism Events (N. ON)	Indirectly (via Munic/NFP/Indigenous event orgs)	Conditional contribution	\$15k (30% costs)	104
NOHFC – Regional Tile Drainage Program	NOHFC	Provincial	Tile Drainage Installation (N. ON Agri via consortium)	Yes (N. ON Agri Producers via consortium)	Conditional contribution	50% costs (\$500/acre) + admin fees	54
NOHFC – Invest North – Grow	NOHFC	Provincial	Business Growth, Productivity (N. ON)	Yes (Existing Businesses in N. ON)	Conditional contrib., Loan	Up to \$400k (contrib.), \$1M (loan)	26
NOHFC – Investment – Launch Stream	NOHFC	Provincial	Business Start-up Operations (N. ON)	Yes (Businesses starting in N. ON)	Conditional contribution	Up to \$200k (50% costs)	102
NOHFC – Innovation Stream	NOHFC	Provincial	R&D, Commercialization of New Tech (N. ON)	Yes (Private Sector Businesses in N. ON)	Conditional contribution	Up to \$500k (R&D), \$2M (R&D+Comm.)	7
NOHFC – Broadband & Cellular Expansion Prog.	NOHFC	Provincial	Increase Connectivity (Un/underserved N. ON areas)	Indirectly (via Munic/NFP/Indigenous project leads)	Conditional contribution	\$1M/project (50% costs)	105
Telefilm Canada – International Promotion Program	Telefilm Canada	Federal	International Promotion (Film/TV)	Yes (Canadian-owned Film/TV Cos.)	Financial support	Varies	36
Canada Council – Initiatives (General)	Canada Council for the Arts	Federal	Various Artistic Projects, Collaborations	Yes (Artists & Arts Orgs, varies by initiative)	Funding, Partnership	Varies by initiative	68



Appendix II: Links to Grant Programs

1. Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) — Financial Assistance – helloDarwin, accessed on May 9, 2025, <https://hellodarwin.com/business-aid/programs/nrc-irap>
2. Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) — Financial Assistance – helloDarwin, accessed on May 9, 2025, <https://hellodarwin.com/business-aid/programs/industrial-research-assistance-program-irap-financial-assistance>
3. Support for technology innovation – National Research Council Canada, accessed on May 9, 2025, <https://nrc.canada.ca/en/support-technology-innovation>
4. National Research Council – Industrial Research Assistance Program | Small Business Accelerator – The University of British Columbia, accessed on May 9, 2025, <https://sba.ubc.ca/national-research-council-industrial-research-assistance-program>
5. AgriScience Program – Projects: Step 1. What this program offers ..., accessed on May 9, 2025, https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-programs-and-services/agriscience-program-projects?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FT



[F&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises](#)

6. Boost Innovation with Research-Based Internships – Mitacs Accelerate, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.mitacs.ca/our-programs/accelerate-core-business/#business?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
7. Innovation Stream – NOHFC Portal, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://myportal.nohfc.ca/en/public/stream/?sdcid=189540f9-dc0d-ed11-b83d-000d3af4f400&utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
8. Innovative Solutions Canada, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/innovative-solutions-canada/en>
9. Business Innovation and Growth projects, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/strategic-innovation-fund/en/project-requirements/business-innovation-and-growth?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
10. Collaborations and Networks projects, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/strategic-innovation-fund/en/project-requirements/collaborations-and-networks?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises



[eprises](#)

11. Critical Industrial Technologies initiative – Ontario Centre of Innovation, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.oc-innovation.ca/programs/cit/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
12. Digitalization Competence Centre – Ontario Centre of Innovation, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.oc-innovation.ca/programs/digitalization-competence-centre/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
13. Agricultural Clean Technology Program: Research and Innovation ..., accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-programs-and-services/agricultural-clean-technology-program-research-and-innovation-stream?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
14. Regional Artificial Intelligence Initiative (RAII) for Northern Ontario, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://fednor.canada.ca/en/our-programs/regional-artificial-intelligence-initiative-raii-northern-ontario?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises



15. Artificial Intelligence for Design Challenge program – National ..., accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://nrc.canada.ca/en/research-development/research-collaboration/programs/artificial-intelligence-design-challenge-program?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
16. Challenge programs – National Research Council Canada, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://nrc.canada.ca/en/research-development/research-collaboration/programs/challenge-programs?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
17. AI Compute Access Fund – Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/ised/en/canadian-sovereign-ai-compute-strategy/ai-compute-access-fund>
18. AI Compute Access Fund – Program Details | Natural Resources Canada, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/corporate/statistics/neud/dpa/policy_e/details.cfm?searchType=default&oranditems=all%7C0&max=10&pageId=1&categoryID=0&ionalDeliveryId=5&programTypes=4&keywords=&ID=7086
19. Space Technology Development Program (STDP) | Canadian ..., accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/funding-programs/programs/stdp/default.asp?utm_s



[source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises](#)

20. ElevateIP Benefits for Women- and Indigenous-owned Businesses ..., accessed on May 9, 2025,
[https://www.investottawa.ca/venture-path/elevateip-benefits/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises](#)
21. Interactive Content Stream – Ontario Creates, accessed on May 9, 2025,
[https://www.ontariocreates.ca/investment-programs/content-creation/intellectual-property-fund/interactive-content-stream?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises](#)
22. Linear Content Stream – Ontario Creates, accessed on May 9, 2025,
[https://www.ontariocreates.ca/investment-programs/content-creation/intellectual-property-fund/linear-content-stream?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises](#)
23. Business Scale-up and Productivity in Northern Ontario, accessed on May 9, 2025,
[https://fednor.canada.ca/en/our-programs/core-programs/business-scale-and-productivity](#)
24. Targeted Manufacturing Initiative for Northern Ontario – Productivity ..., accessed on May 9, 2025,



<https://fednor.canada.ca/en/targeted-manufacturing-initiative-northern-ontario-productivity-improvements>

25. Targeted Manufacturing Initiative for Northern Ontario – Operational ..., accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://fednor.canada.ca/en/our-programs/regional-economic-growth-through-innovation-regi/targeted-manufacturing-initiative-northern-ontario-operational-assessments?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
26. Invest North – Grow – Home | NOHFC, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://nohfc.ca/private-programs/invest-north-grow/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
27. Southwestern Ontario Development Fund | ontario.ca, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.ontario.ca/page/southwestern-ontario-development-fund?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
28. Eastern Ontario Development Fund | ontario.ca, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.ontario.ca/page/eastern-ontario-development-fund?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
29. Supply Management Processing Investment Fund – Step 1. What this ..., accessed on May 9, 2025,



https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/programs/supply-management-processing-investment-fund?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises

30. Forest Sector Investment and Innovation Program | ontario.ca, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.ontario.ca/page/forestry-sector-investment-innovation-program?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
31. Funding that helps your company grow into global markets, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.tradecommissioner.gc.ca/funding-financement/canexport/sme-pme/index.aspx?lang=eng&utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
32. AgriMarketing Program: Step 1. What this program offers ..., accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-programs-and-services/agrimarketing-program?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
33. Canada Pavilion Program – agriculture.canada.ca, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/international-trade/trade-show-service/canada-pavilion-program?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises



34. Global Market Development Fund – Book – Ontario Creates, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://www.ontariocreates.ca/our-sectors/book/funding/global-market-development-fund-book>
35. OMIF – Global Market Development for Music Managers, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://www.ontariocreates.ca/our-sectors/music/ontario-music-investment-fund/omif---global-market-development-for-music-managers>
36. International Promotion Program | Telefilm Canada, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://telefilm.ca/en/financing/international-marketing-festival-participation>
37. Co-productions | Canada Council for the Arts, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/arts-abroad/co-productions>
38. Residencies | Canada Council for the Arts, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/arts-abroad/residencies>
39. Translation Grants for Arts Abroad | Canada Council for the Arts, accessed on May 9, 2025, <https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/arts-abroad/translation>
40. Representation and Promotion | Canada Council for the Arts, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/arts-abroad/representation-and-promotion>
41. Travel | Canada Council, accessed on May 9, 2025,



<https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/arts-abroad/travel>

42. Market Access Strategy for Official Language Minority Communities (OLMC) Fund
Canada Council for the Arts – Alberta Business Grants, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://albertabusinessgrants.ca/grants/market-access-strategy-for-official-language-minority-communities-olmc-fund-%E2%94%82canada-council-for-the-arts/>
43. Market Access Strategy for Official Language Minority Communities (OLMC) Fund
–, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://ontariobusinessgrants.com/grant/market-access-strategy-for-official-language-minority-communities-olmc-fund/>
44. AgriDiversity Program: Step 1. What this program offers – agriculture ..., accessed on
May 9, 2025,
https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-programs-and-services/agridiversity-program?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
45. AgriInnovate Program: Step 1. What this program offers – agriculture ..., accessed on
May 9, 2025,
https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/programs/agriinnovate?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
46. AgriCompetitiveness Program: Step 1. What this program offers ..., accessed on May
9, 2025,
<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-programs-and-services/agricompetitiv>



[eness-program?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises](#)

47. AgriInvest – Step 1. What this program offers – agriculture.canada.ca, accessed on May 9, 2025,
[https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-programs-and-services/agriinvest?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises](#)
48. Market Development Program for Turkey and Chicken – agriculture ..., accessed on May 9, 2025,
[https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-programs-and-services/market-development-program-turkey-and-chicken?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises](#)
49. Poultry and Egg On-Farm Investment Program: Step 1. What this ..., accessed on May 9, 2025,
[https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-programs-and-services/poultry-and-egg-farm-investment-program?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises](#)
50. Wine Sector Support Program: Step 1. What this program offers ..., accessed on May 9, 2025,
[https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/programs/wine-sector-support?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises](#)



[er-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises](#)

51. Special Milk Class Permit Program (Classes 5a, b, c) | Canadian ..., accessed on May 9, 2025, <https://www.cdc-ccl.ca/en/node/741>
52. Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program – Ontario Soil Crop, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/resilient-agricultural-landscape-program/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
53. Ontario On-Farm Climate Action Fund – Ontario Soil Crop, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/ontario-on-farm-climate-action-fund/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
54. Regional Tile Drainage Program – Home | NOHFC, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://nohfc.ca/public-program/regional-tile-drainage-program/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
55. Grassroots Growth Program | ontario.ca, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.ontario.ca/page/grassroots-growth-program?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises



56. Beef Cattle Financial Protection Program – Agricorp, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/Programs/OBCFPP/Pages/Overview.aspx>
57. Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund – Contribution funding – Canada ..., accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.canada.ca/en/campaign/critical-minerals-in-canada/federal-support-for-critical-mineral-projects-and-value-chains/critical-minerals-infrastructure-fund/critical-minerals-infrastructure-fund-contribution-funding.html?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
58. Indigenous clean fuels projects – Clean Fuels Fund – Natural ..., accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://natural-resources.canada.ca/energy-sources/clean-fuels/indigenous-clean-fuels-projects-clean-fuels-fund?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
59. Innovation for Defence Excellence and Security (IDEaS) – Canada.ca, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/programs/defence-ideas.html?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
60. LETL Overview | Canada Enterprise Emergency Funding Corporation, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://ceefc-cfuec.ca/letl-overview/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website



[&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises](#)

61. Support for Organizations — Canada Book Fund – Canada.ca, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/book-fund/support-organizations.html?utm_source=bbf-ora&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
62. Industry Development Program – Ontario Creates, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://www.ontariocreates.ca/investment-programs/industry-development/industry-development-program>
63. Magazine Fund – Ontario Creates, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://www.ontariocreates.ca/our-sectors/magazine/funding/magazine-fund>
64. OMIF – Music Industry Initiatives – Ontario Creates, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://www.ontariocreates.ca/our-sectors/music/ontario-music-investment-fund/omif-music-industry-initiatives>
65. Programs | Telefilm Canada, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://telefilm.ca/en/we-finance-and-support/our-programs>
66. Our Programs – FACTOR Canada, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.factor.ca/our-programs/our-programs-overview/?utm_source=bbf-ora&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises



[r-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises](#)

67. Prizes | The Canada Council for the Arts, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/prizes?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
68. Initiatives | Canada Council for the Arts, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://canadacouncil.ca/initiatives?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
69. Arts Festivals and Presenters | Canada Council for the Arts, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/arts-across-canada/arts-festivals-and-presenters>
70. Public Outreach | Canada Council for the Arts, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/arts-across-canada/public-outreach>
71. Foreign Artist Tours | Canada Council for the Arts, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/arts-across-canada/foreign-artist-tours>
72. National Arts Service Organizations | Canada Council for the Arts, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/supporting-artistic-practice/national-arts-s>



[ervice-organizations](#)

73. Support Organizations | Canada Council for the Arts, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/supporting-artistic-practice/support-organizations>
74. Literary Publishers | Canada Council for the Arts, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/supporting-artistic-practice/literary-publishers>
75. Indigenous Organizations | Canada Council for the Arts, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/creating-knowing-sharing/indigenous-organizations>
76. Short-Term Projects | Canada Council for the Arts, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/creating-knowing-sharing/short-term-projects>
77. Home – Ontario Arts Council, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.arts.on.ca/home?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
78. How we fund – Grand Challenges Canada, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.grandchallenges.ca/what-we-do/how-we-fund/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder



-outil recherche aide aux entreprises

79. Funding overview – CIHR, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/37788.html?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
80. Funding overview – CIHR, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/37788.html>
81. Welcome to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research – CIHR, accessed on May 9, 2025, <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/193.html>
82. Funding Opportunity – Canadian Institutes of Health Research Planning and Dissemination Grants – Summer 2025, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://opportunitiesforyouth.org/2025/05/06/funding-opportunity-canadian-institutes-of-health-research-planning-and-dissemination-grants-summer-2025/>
83. Projects & funding opportunities – GenomeCanada, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://genomecanada.ca/projects-funding-opportunities/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
84. BioCreate Program – Ontario Genomics, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://www.ontariogenomics.ca/funding-opportunity/bicreate-program/>
85. Life Sciences Innovation Fund – Ontario Centre of Innovation, accessed on May 9,



2025,

https://www.oc-innovation.ca/programs/life-sciences-innovation-fund/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises

86. Funding: Compensation for Employers of Reservists Program ..., accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/employer-compensation-reservists-guide.html?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
87. Ontario Job Creation Partnerships | ontario.ca, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-job-creation-partnerships?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
88. Sponsor an apprentice – Skilled Trades Ontario, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.ontario.ca/page/hire-apprentice#section-3?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
89. Skills Development Fund: Capital Stream | ontario.ca, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.ontario.ca/page/skills-development-fund-capital-stream?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises



90. Information for Employers – Canadian Tooling & Machining ..., accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://ctma.com/information-for-employers/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
91. Start a summer company: students | ontario.ca, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.ontario.ca/page/start-summer-company-students?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
92. Starter Company Plus | ontario.ca, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.ontario.ca/page/starter-company-plus?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
93. Economic Development Initiative in southern Ontario, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://feddev-ontario.canada.ca/en/funding-southern-ontario/economic-development-initiative-southern-ontario?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
94. FedNor — Economic Development Initiative (EDI) | Program Guide 2025 – helloDarwin, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://hellodarwin.com/business-aid/programs/economic-development-initiative-northern-ontario>



95. Funding and support for Indigenous businesses and organizations, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://feddev-ontario.canada.ca/en/indigenous-businesses-and-organizations?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
96. NADF Financing | Program Guide 2025 – helloDarwin, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://hellodarwin.com/business-aid/programs/nadf-financing>
97. Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund Funding Programs | 2025 – helloDarwin, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://hellodarwin.com/business-aid/organizations/nishnawbe-aski-development-fund>
98. Indigenous Workforce Development Program – Home | NOHFC, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://nohfc.ca/private-programs/indigenous-workforce-development-program/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
99. 2 Billion Trees Program – Canada.ca, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.canada.ca/en/campaign/2-billion-trees/2-billion-trees-program.html?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
100. Regional Innovation Ecosystems – Happly, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://opportunities.happly.ai/grants/government-of-canada/regional-innovation-e>



[cosystems](#)

101. Regional Innovation Ecosystems – Province of British Columbia – Gov.bc.ca, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/economic-development/funding-and-grants/regional-innovation-ecosystems>
102. Investment – Launch Stream – NOHFC Portal, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://myportal.nohfc.ca/en/public/stream/?sdcid=31beb18f-dd0d-ed11-b83d-000d3af4f400&utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
103. Industrial Research Chair Program – Home | NOHFC, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://nohfc.ca/public-program/industrial-research-chair-program/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
104. Community Events Program – Home | NOHFC, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://nohfc.ca/public-program/community-events-program/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
105. Broadband and Cellular Expansion Program – Home | NOHFC, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://nohfc.ca/public-program/broadband-and-cellular-expansion-program/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises



[ss_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises](#)

106. Rural Enhancement Program – Home | NOHFC, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://nohfc.ca/public-program/rural-enhancement-funding-program/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
107. Community Enhancement Program – Rural Enhancement Funding Stream | Program Guide 2025 – helloDarwin, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://hellodarwin.com/business-aid/programs/community-enhancement-program-rural-enhancement-funding-stream>
108. Enhance Your Community Program – Home | NOHFC, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://nohfc.ca/public-program/enhance-your-community-program/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
109. NOHFC Community Enhancement Program | Ryan, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://funding.ryan.com/government-funding/human-resources-and-training/nohfc/nohfc-community-enhancement-program/>
110. Step Forward Funding – IION Innovation Initiatives Ontario North, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://iion.ca/sfep/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
111. Ontario Together Trade Fund | ontario.ca, accessed on May 9, 2025,



https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-together-trade-fund?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises

112. Community Futures Program – Nventure, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://nventure.ca/community-futures>
113. Community Futures Canada, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://communityfuturescanada.ca/>
114. Impact Canada: Homepage, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://impact.canada.ca/en?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
115. R&D Partnership Fund – C/AV & Smart Mobility: Stream 1 – OVIN, accessed on May 9, 2025,
<https://www.ovinhub.ca/rd-partnership-fund-connected-and-autonomous-vehicle-c-av-smart-mobility-stream-1/>
116. R&D Partnership Fund – Electric Vehicle (EV): Stream 1 – OVIN, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.ovinhub.ca/programs-overview/rd-partnership-fund-electric-vehicle-ev-stream/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
117. accessed on December 31, 1969,



https://nrc.canada.ca/en/support-technology-innovation/financial-support-technology-innovation-through-nrc-irap?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises

118. accessed on December 31, 1969,
http://www.nadf.org/financing?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
119. accessed on December 31, 1969,
<https://fednor.canada.ca/en/our-programs/core-programs/community-economic-development>
120. accessed on December 31, 1969,
<https://fednor.canada.ca/en/our-programs/core-programs/regional-innovation-ecosystems>
121. accessed on December 31, 1969,
https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/ised/en/canadian-sovereign-ai-compute-strategy/ai-compute-access-fund?auHash=GTHNe9LqBZm1EqOZTXtSNm1O5_t4LzsqXTbuwYeeu8&utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
122. accessed on December 31, 1969,
https://myportal.nohfc.ca/en/public/stream/?sdcid=14ec9702-dd0d-ed11-b83d-000d3af4f400&utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises



[m_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises](#)

123. accessed on December 31, 1969,

https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/strategic-funds/market-access-olmc-fund?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises

124. Business scale-up and productivity, accessed on May 9, 2025,

https://www.cannor.gc.ca/eng/1544469202261/1544469251225?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises

125. Eureka – National Research Council Canada, accessed on May 9, 2025,

https://nrc.canada.ca/en/support-technology-innovation/eureka?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises

126. Canada's Digital Technology Cluster, accessed on May 9, 2025,

<https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/global-innovation-clusters/en/canadas-digital-technology-cluster>

127. Call For Innovative Projects – DIGITAL – Digital Supercluster, accessed on May 9, 2025,

https://www.digitalsupercluster.ca/innovate-with-us/call-for-projects/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises



128. Incentives for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicles, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://tc.canada.ca/en/road-transportation/innovative-technologies/zero-emission-vehicles/medium-heavy-duty-zero-emission-vehicles?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
129. Collaborate 2 Commercialize – Ontario Centre of Innovation, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.oc-innovation.ca/programs/collaborate-2-commercialize/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises
130. Fast-Track to Financing – Natural Products Canada, accessed on May 9, 2025,
https://www.naturalproductscanada.com/fast-track-to-financing/?utm_source=bbf-orae&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=FTF&utm_term=business_benefits_finder-outil_recherche_aide_aux_entreprises