

Employer Support Programs – Windsor, LaSalle, Tecumseh & Lakeshore

August 2026

Special Note: Please do not start spending money on your investment/project until speaking to Sean Columbus (sean.columbus@ontario.ca). Many programs do not allow spending until approval for funding has been granted.

Min./Agency	Program	Open MEDJCT Programs
MEDJCT	Southwestern Ontario Development Fund (SWODF) Regional Development Program (RDP) OPEN	Up to 15% grant (max \$500K) / loan (max \$5M) for job creation and investment. New first time FDI or Jurisdictional Competition element may be supported with grant of up to \$1.5m/15% Intake Open: June 30th 2026 – with deadline of September 23, 2026, Notification date is December 17th, 2026 Supports: • Investments in equipment, new technologies, talent and training to enhance business productivity and competitiveness, leading to growth. • Investment in new operations in Eastern or Southwestern Ontario. • Investment in existing operations that lead to business expansion and introduction of new products or services or new markets. Priority will be given to projects that generate regional economic impacts beyond the company. Check link for application process. www.ontario.ca/southwesternfund Local Contact: Sean Columbus sean.columbus@ontario.ca 519-259-5509
MEDJCT	Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Competitiveness Program (AMIC) Regional Development Program (RDP) OPEN	Up to 15% grant (max \$500K) for rural small companies or for others – a loan (max \$5M) with performance based partial forgiveness for job creation and investment. Intake Open: June 30th 2026 – with deadline of Nov 5, 2026, Notification date is Feb 3, 2027 Supports: Job creation and upskilling of talent, Investment in leading advanced technologies that improve competitiveness, Encourages leading edge processes, innovation, collaboration, and cluster development. Check link for dates and application process. https://www.ontario.ca/page/regional-development-program-advanced-manufacturing-and-innovation-competitiveness-stream Local Contact: Sean Columbus sean.columbus@ontario.ca 519-259-5509
MEDJCT	Ontario Together Trade Fund OTTF OPEN	Funding to help Ontario companies impacted by trade disruptions can get support to enhance resilience, strengthen capacity, build local supply chains in Ontario, and expand market reach. Continuous Intake. Funding will be provided through a grant or loan up to a maximum of \$5 million. Funding levels will be based on an assessment of the project impact. Guidelines: Ontario Together Trade Fund Program Guidelines ontario.ca Some projects may be considered up to a maximum of 75 per cent of eligible costs but this will only be considered if the project can demonstrate exceptional benefits to Ontario. OTTF offers conditional funding to support eligible project activities. Website: Ontario Together Trade Fund ontario.ca Self-assessment: Ontario Together Trade Fund eligibility self-screener ontario.ca

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MEDJCT Ontario Gov't	Protect Ontario Financing Program OPEN	The new Protect Ontario Financing Program (POFP) provides immediate relief (loan program) for businesses that are facing significant tariff related disruption as a result of section 232 tariffs on steel, aluminum and autos. Working capital loans (ie. payroll, lease payments, utility payments) may be provided if approved by a third-party financial partner. Term loan parameters include: • Min. of \$250,000 and repayable over 72 months (6 years) • No penalty for prepayment • Annual repayment frequency • Applicant must demonstrate ability to meet repayment and provide security satisfactory to the province. For more information visit Protect Ontario Financing Program ontario.ca. The application process is a bit different for this program: you must first complete a short questionnaire, found at Protect Ontario Financing Program: Who Can Apply ontario.ca. You will then be contacted and assigned a Senior Business Advisor to help with the funding.
		CAPITALIZATION AND FINANCING
Gov't of Canada includes programs from Ontario	Business Benefit Finder	National interactive search engine to help pinpoint gov't funding programs. Answer details about what you are looking for (funding, wage subsidies, R & D, etc.) and it will produce a list of programs for you. Canada.ca - Business Benefits Finder
Business Development Canada	Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)	BDC offers financing solutions for entrepreneurs, whether you're looking to expand production, purchase equipment or access financing for a special project. Loans available to help with working capital, buying a business, investing in real estate, purchasing equipment, start-up financing, technology financing, transferring a business or business expansion. BDC also offers entrepreneurs help with venture capital as well as growth and transitional capital. The BDC has special Tariff relief programs as well. www.bdc.ca Local contact: Asif Rehmani (780)-884-7161 / Asif.Rehmani@bdc.ca
Federal – Canadian Crown Corporation	Export Development Canada (EDC)	Crown corporation that supports and develops, directly or indirectly, Canada's export trade and Canadian capacity to engage in that trade and to respond international business opportunities. EDC provides insurance and financial services, bonding products, and small business solutions to Canadian exporters and investors; EDC also provides online credit risk management tools. Services include export financing to customers, receivable insurance and due diligence. Export Express and Export Express Credit assists with marketing. http://www.edc.ca Local contact: Kyle Fratarcangeli 519 300 6794 KFratarcangeli@edc.ca
Gov't of Ontario	Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit OMMITC	The Gov't of Ontario has introduced the new Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit to help manufacturers lower their costs; innovate; and become more competitive. 15% corporate tax credit for eligible corporations on qualifying investments in buildings, machinery, and equipment for use in mfg. or processing. Up to \$3M/year. An eligible corporation must meet the following requirements: • it is a Canadian-controlled private corporation throughout the taxation year (for the refundable ITC, otherwise the ITC is non-refundable) • it is not exempt from Ontario corporate income tax for the taxation year • it carries on business in Ontario in the taxation year through a physical permanent establishment in Ontario (such as an office, a factory or a workplace) Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit ontario.ca. Date effective for enhanced/extended OMMITC is May 15, 2025. Previous benefit was set at 10% for investments after March 23, 2023 and before May 15, 2025
Government of Canada Environment and Climate change Canada	Clean Technology Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit (CTMI)	Clean Technology Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit offers a 30 percent refundable tax credit for the capital cost of investments in new machinery and equipment used to manufacture or process key clean technologies. Eligible activities for investment include the extraction and processing of critical minerals, nuclear energy equipment, upstream components, geothermal energy systems and many more. Also see: • 15 percent refundable Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credit • Clean Hydrogen Investment Tax Credit up to 40% support • Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage Investment Tax Credit – Up to 60%

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		See https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/businesses/topics/corporations/business-tax-credits/clean-economy-etc/clean-technology-manufacturing-etc.html or talk to your accountant for more information.
FedDev Ontario	FedDev Programs – 0% interest loans Open	Assists existing southern Ontario businesses to adopt new technologies that have the potential to improve productivity and expand their operations. For new technologies, processes and related skills, business/market development and expansion, facilities improvement, and expansion – up to 50% repayable contribution. 0% interest, flexible repayment terms. - Clean economic growth – projects that support the greening of the economy, that can contribute to emissions reductions, and that create sustainable and green jobs. - Growth companies – projects that accelerate business development and growth. - Technology – projects in cutting-edge sectors (e.g., artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, medical technologies, digital health and agri-tech). - Industrial transition – projects that support change in traditional sectors to adopt new technologies and other innovations to improve their competitiveness and build new opportunities (e.g., the adoption of automation in manufacturing to increase efficiency and productivity). matthew.thompson@FedDevOntario.gc.ca 1 519-317-3353 Fed Dev toll free help line 1-866-593-5505 https://feddev-ontario.canada.ca/en/funding-southern-ontario Matthew Thompson 519-317-3353 matthew.thompson@feddevontario.gc.ca
FedDev Ontario	Regional Tariff Response Initiative for businesses (RTRI) OPEN	RTRI is for businesses in southern Ontario impacted by Tariffs – Businesses must indicate their request for either a fully repayable OR a non-repayable contribution in their application. A business may only receive a non-repayable contribution from the RTRI once during the initiative's lifetime. For those seeking a loan – they may receive support via a fully repayable (\$125k-\$10M) 0% loans up to 75% of eligible costs Total project costs must be a minimum of \$125,000. Funding all government support can not exceed 90%. For those seeking a non-repayable contribution (Grant) preference will be given to the Steel and Auto sectors- however businesses in all impacted sectors may access support of \$100,000 up to \$1,000,000 in non-repayable financial support. Up to 50% funding. Funding from other government support like OTTF or POFP can not exceed 90% of the project. Determine if you are eligible by completing the online self-screening tool. See this LINK for detailed information. Projects can start as early as one year prior to application date, and must be completed by March 31st 2028. Fed Dev toll free help line 1-866-593-5505 https://feddev-ontario.canada.ca/en/funding-southern-ontario Local Contact Stephen.Barath@FedDevOntario.gc.ca
FedDev Ontario	Regional Defence Investment Initiative (RDII) Paused as of May 1st, 2026	FedDev's program to support businesses that want to participate in Canada's growing defense industry. The RDII will invest in targeted activities that support businesses and organizations seeking to enter or grow within defence supply chains and increase their industrial and innovation capacity. For projects that start on or after April 1, 2026, applications will be accepted until funding is fully committed. Funding for businesses is a minimum of \$125,000 to \$10 million in repayable funding at 0% interest rate. Up to 75% support. For details- Regional Defence Investment Initiative Defence Concierge service is also available: defence-defense@feddevontario.gc.ca to help navigate the defence sector processes. Local contact: Stephen.Barath@FedDevOntario.gc.ca
Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)	Strategic Response Fund (SRF) *NEW*	Strategic Response Fund (SRF) – Overview The SRF is a \$5 billion federal initiative designed to help Canadian industries and workers adapt to global trade disruptions, especially those caused by U.S. tariffs and protectionist policies. Projects must contribute to: - Trade diversification - Domestic production expansion - Development of value-added products - Supply chain reinforcement - Industrial transformation Support for Workers Reskilling programs for up to 50,000 workers

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		• Extended Employment Insurance (up to 65 weeks) • Digital job platforms and AI-powered job matching tools Canadian companies can apply for funding contributions starting at \$10 million, with projects typically valued at \$20 million or more. The fund is designed to support large-scale industrial transformation, and while the exact percentage of cost coverage isn't fixed, it generally aligns with federal innovation funding norms — often covering up to 50% of eligible project costs, depending on the project's scope, strategic value, and impact. For more information go to: Strategic Response Fund (SRF) Local Contact: Liana Daltoe / (519) 562-8492 / liana.daltoe@canada.ca
Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)	Canada Small Business Financing Program (CSBFP)	Loan available from chartered bank/credit unions for companies with less than \$10 M in revenues for capital acquisition. Up to \$1.15M max loan at prime + 3% +2% registration fee. Loan Guarantees from Government help make funds available. www.ic.gc.ca/csbfp 1.866.959.1699
FedDev Ontario	Southern Ontario Fund for Investment in Innovation (SOFII)	Loans of \$150,000 to \$500,000 are available to support such growth activities as late-stage commercialization, new product or service development new applications or market, or development or implementation of new processes or technologies. For more information, please go to the Western Ontario CFDC website at www.wocfdca.ca Sarah Meharg sarahm@wocfdca.com 519-312-1063. or Diane Malenfant / (519) 776-4611 x 16# / diane@cfsessexcounty.ca http://www.sofii.ca/
Futurpreneur Canada	Futurpreneur	Loan of \$20,000 to start business for individuals ages 18 to 39. Those who qualify can also apply for an additional \$40,000 through the Futurpreneur-BDC Start-Up Financing Program. http://www.futurpreneur.ca/en/resources/ Mentors provide business advice, as well as support and encouragement, to help young entrepreneurs remain focused on what is important for the success of their business. Find out more about being hand-matched with a Futurpreneur Canada mentor or about volunteering as a Futurpreneur Canada mentor. http://www.futurpreneur.ca/en/mentoring/ Sabrina DeMarco (519) 253-6900 sdemarco@webbusinesscentre.com
MEDJCT	Summer Company	Provides full-time students ages 15-29 an opportunity to start and run a summer business. Awards of up to \$3,000 + mentorship https://www.ontario.ca/page/start-summer-company-students General program information http://www.windsorsexsmallbusiness.com/summercompany Specific Program info for WindsorEssex Sabrina DeMarco (519) 253-6900 sdemarco@webbusinesscentre.com
MEDJCT	Starter Company Plus	Provides young people, ages 18-29, with the resources and knowledge they need to start and grow their business, includes Mentoring, Training and Advice. Candidates may be eligible to receive up to \$5,000 to put towards their business. https://www.ontario.ca/page/starter-company-plus Sabrina DeMarco (519-253-6900 / sdemarco@webbusinesscentre.com https://www.ontario.ca/page/small-business-advice-support-services-regulations
Canadian Trade Commissioner Service	CanExport SMEs Extended to August 31, 2026 at 12:00 PM (ET)	CanExport SMEs is designed to promote and enhance Canada's trade diversification efforts. It offers grants and contributions to Canadian companies to help them prepare for and establish a presence in international markets where they currently have little or no sales. CanExport SME is open to for-profit companies. The program funds up to 50% of eligible costs for \$10,000 to \$50,000 in funding per project. The applicant is responsible for the remaining 50% of eligible project costs (in-kind contributions are not permitted). CanExport SMEs will support up to 8 activities in up to 5 markets. Review eligibility checklist to ensure eligibility There are major changes to the program – What's new for 2026-27: CanExport SMEs program - Tradecommissioner.gc.ca CanExport SMEs - Tradecommissioner.gc.ca (main site) Funding and financing for international business - Tradecommissioner.gc.ca (Delegations, Innovation, Associations, and communities/Investments, cleantech, climate finance, Funding from partners. Directory – Ontario regional Office - https://www.tradecommissioner.gc.ca/ontario.aspx?lang=eng Local contact is Taylor Bentley – 416-573-2591 Taylor.Bentley@international.gc.ca Sean.columbus@ontario.ca can also support your application process.

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Communitech	Outpost Program	The Outpost Program that supports scale up Canadian companies to expand globally by simplifying the process of hiring international employees. They will quickly onboard, pay and manage global employees. They will handle payroll, benefits, severance, and compliance for employees in over 160 countries. They are the employer of record. You do not need to be a member to access this program. Fees apply. Communitech Outposts - Communitech. For more information contact Karen Klink at karen.klink@communitech.ca
Global Affairs Canada	Canadian International Innovation Program (CIIP)	Up to \$600,000 funding for SME's to pursue collaborative research & development (R&D) projects that have the potential for commercialization in the following markets: Brazil, China, Israel, India and South Korea. Some projects are response to opportunities through an Expression of interest (EOI), Others are proposals by the company. Assistance in identification of partners available. https://www.tradecommissioner.gc.ca/funding-financement/ciip-pcii/index.aspx?lang=eng innovation@international.gc.ca If there is a market you would like to apply to that is not eligible under CIIP, check out https://www.eurekanetwork.org/ as a possible alternative.
Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)	NGEN – Next Generation Manufacturing Supercluster (NGEN)	Next Generation Manufacturing Supercluster will build next generation manufacturing capabilities, incorporating technologies like advanced robotics and 3D printing. By focusing on training and technology adoption, this supercluster will help make the words "Made in Canada" synonymous with "innovative" and "value added" Support and collaboration https://www.ngen.ca/ More information: info@ngen.ca https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/093.nsf/eng/00010.html Advanced Manufacturing Supercluster (ISED - Canadian Government)
Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU)	Ontario Collaborative Innovation Platform	The Ontario Collaborative Innovation Platform (OCIP) is a new matchmaking program that connects Ontario companies with expert researchers at Ontario's postsecondary institutions to help businesses innovate and get to market more quickly and confidently. It creates opportunities for institutions to bring their vast research capabilities to bear on real-world challenges. Funded by MCU - Ontario Collaborative Innovation Platform OCIP OCIP (ecampusontario.ca)
MEDJCT	Ontario Automotive Modernization Program (O-AMP) closed	Ontario based SMEs with < 500 employees in Ontario in the auto supply chain to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) of passenger and commercial vehicles with at least 30% of total sales revenue coming from the auto supply sector could get funding up to \$150,000 to cover up to 50% of eligible project costs to improve operational efficiency and competitiveness through the adoption of Lean Manufacturing processes and/or Technology Adoption (i.e. using Industry 4.0, advanced manufacturing hardware, software or training). Aftermarket parts industry is not eligible. For more information, please see https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-automotive-modernization-program O-AMP program guide –includes:(1) The Program Guide and (2) The Eligible Project Costs.
MEDJCT	Life Sciences Scale-Up Fund (LSSUF) closed	The Ontario Gov'ts new LSSUF aims to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the life science sector. • Funding support: up to \$2.5 million, covering up to 33% of eligible project costs. The remaining 67% must be secured from other sources. • Eligibility: to qualify, SMEs must be for-profit, have at least two years of audited or review engagement financial statements and employ 5 – 500 full time employees in Ontario. • Objective: aims to drive growth, foster innovation, build domestic manufacturing capacity and strengthen Ontario's human healthcare supply chain. You must have or aim to have the IP for new products or discoveries. Life Sciences Scale-Up Fund ontario.ca To discuss your possible application/project,
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	Forest Sector Investment and Innovation Program (FSIIP)	Support is available for projects with at least \$3 million in eligible costs undertaken by for-profit manufacturers and processors of wood and forest biomass across Ontario, including sawmills, pulp and paper mills, secondary wood manufacturers and bio-economy projects. Funding support of up to 30% of eligible costs in the form of a performance-based loan (of which, up to 50% may be forgivable). Grants of up to 15% of eligible costs may be considered in exceptional situations at the discretion of the province. https://www.ontario.ca/page/forestry-sector-investment-innovation-program
IESO	Save on Energy Program	Get support incentives towards eligible energy-efficiency projects. Energy efficient retrofit incentives, Energy Manager, Energy Performance and Process and Systems Upgrades Program. New programs available. https://saveonenergy.ca/ 1-844-303-5542 email: saveonenergy@ieso.ca.

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Natural Resources Canada	Green Industrial Facilities and Manufacturing Program closed	Industrial Facility Track - eligible recipients will be Canadian facilities in any industrial sector that are engaged in energy consuming processes that involve the physical or chemical transformation of materials or substances into new products, regardless of the size of the facilities. Min per proposal support is \$40K, max is \$10M – up to 50% Eligible areas include energy assessments and audits, energy managers, energy management systems and capital investments. The application portal will open on Thursday, August 14, 2025 and will close on Friday, September 26, 2025 at 8pm (EST). Application packages are now available upon request by email. We strongly encourage each applicant to carefully review the new Application Package, updated for Round 3, before submitting their application. All applications must be submitted through NRCan's online portal. For more information please go to: Green Industrial Facilities and Manufacturing Program
BDC	Climate Action Centre	Find everything you need to reduce your business's carbon footprint. Turn climate action into meaningful business opportunities. https://www.bdc.ca/en/articles-tools/sustainability/climate-action-centre Discover the list of over 60 governmental active grants, tax credits and loan programs to support the environmental initiatives of Canadian businesses.
Angel Investors Ontario	Angel Investors Ontario	A community of professionals and industry leaders investing in innovative start-ups and providing mentorship to promising entrepreneurs. An number of localized chapters exist. https://www.angelinvestorsontario.ca/ www.WeAngelNetwork.com - WECAN (Windsor-Essex Capital Angel Network) info@weangelnetwork.com OR at Executive.Director@WeAngelNetwork.com 519.997.2855
Gov't of Canada	Enabling Accessibility Fund	The Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) provides funding for projects that make Canadian communities and workplaces more accessible for persons with disabilities. The small projects component provides grant funding for small-scale construction and communication technology projects that improve accessibility in communities and workplaces. Grants can be up to \$100,000 per project. Project examples may include building ramps, accessible doors and accessible washrooms; installing screen reader devices and hearing loop systems; constructing a universally designed office, etc. For more information visit the EAF websites at: Enabling Accessibility Fund - Canada.ca
Gov't of Canada	Science and Innovation	A summary of programs for investments around clean tech/climate change. Supports from federal, provincial, or territorial gov'ts. Includes funding, loans, wage subsidies, tax credits, etc. Funding opportunities - Clean Growth Hub (ic.gc.ca)
Gov't of Canada	Scale AI	Scale AI is a Global Innovation Cluster consortium of private entities, research centres, academia, and startups. They identify cross sector collaborative projects and provide funding for AI projects. For more information see their website: Scale AI
Community Futures Program	Community Futures Program	Community-based, not-for-profit organizations encouraging entrepreneurship and economic opportunities. Provides business services and access to capital in rural areas. Term loans up to \$300,000 available for start-up and growth of rural businesses. https://www.cfontario.ca/index.php/public-information Community Futures Essex County https://cfessexcounty.ca/ Diane Malenfant (519) 776.4611 x16#_ / diane@cfessexcounty.ca
Community Futures and WEtech Alliance	Rural Growth & Commercialization Loan	The WEtech Rural Growth & Commercialization Loan provides \$30,000 to \$200,000+ in flexible financing to help rural businesses in Essex County (excluding Windsor) and bring market-ready products to a wider market. It supports both startups and established companies commercializing proven innovations, covering costs like production, inventory, IP, market entry, and operational technology. Delivered with Community Futures as lenders, the loan is paired with hands-on commercialization support from WEtech Alliance to reduce risk and support sustainable growth. For more information contact Community Futures Essex County, Diane Malenfant, GM, diane@cfessexcounty.ca

		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCIALIZATION
Canada Revenue Agency	Scientific Research and Experimental Development Program (SR&ED)	Tax Incentive to achieve technological advancement to create new materials, devices, products or processes. 15-35% of eligible expenditures as defined by CRA. https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/scientific-research-experimental-development-tax-incentive-program.html / General Enquiry Line: 905-566-6010 Local contact: Duane Mills, 519-739-1228 or duane.mills@cra-arc.gc.ca
Ministry of Finance	Ontario Innovation Tax Credit	Adds 8% to SR&ED Program. 8% refundable tax credit for SR&ED carried out in Ontario. Harmonized with SR&ED https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-innovation-tax-credit
Ministry of Finance	Ontario Business /Research Institute Tax Credit (OBRITC)/ Ontario Research and Development Tax Credit (ORDTC)	OBRITC provides 20% additionally for SR&ED that takes place in an eligible Ontario research institute, college, or university. https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-business-research-institute-tax-credit ORDTC= 3.5% https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/businesses/topics/corporations/provincial-territorial-corporation-tax/ontario-provincial-corporation-tax/ontario-research-development-tax-credit.html/
NRC (National Research Council)	Industrial Research Assistance Program	IRAP assists firms to develop, adopt and adapt technologies and incorporate them into competitive products and services to be commercialized in the global marketplace, through advisory services, funding, networking and linkages as well as Youth Employment Programs. 80% funding for research and development (direct wages), 50% for contracted labor fees up to \$1 million contribution per R&D project- https://nrc.canada.ca/en/support-technology-innovation/financial-support-technology-innovation-through-nrc-irap Large Value Contribution up to \$3 million per R&D project for high growth firms (minimum \$3 million in sales, 3-year Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) ≥ 50%) Large Value Contribution up to \$10 million per R&D project for steady growth firms (minimum \$10 million in sales, 3-year Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) ≥ 15%) Funding to help hire young graduates (between 15 – 30 years of age) - https://nrc.canada.ca/en/support-technology-innovation/nrc-irap-funding-hire-young-graduates (100% of wages covered up to \$30,000 for minimum 6 months and maximum 12 months). Intellectual Property (IP) Assist program (80% of direct wages, 75% of contracted labor fees up to \$40,000) for developing and executing IP strategy. IRAP clients can get a metal 3D prototype part printed at no cost (value of \$5,000). MMTC benchmarking service for manufacturers at no cost (value of \$1500). Cybersecurity Advisory services up to 24 hours. Funding for not-for-profit organizations that provide innovation support services to Small to Medium Enterprises. Funding for international R&D projects (various countries as per individual calls for proposals). https://nrc.canada.ca/en/support-technology-innovation/nrc-irap-advisory-services 1-877-994-4727 Local contacts: Vlad Franjo / (519) 562-2837 / vladimir.franjo@nrc.gc.ca Nick Dimitrov, Nikola.Dimitrov@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca (226) 759-3407 Robert Whent / (519) 551-1626 / Robert.Whent@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca
NRC (National Research Council)	IRAP Defence Industry Assist *NEW*	IRAP has launched Defence Industry Assist, or DI Assist. Through DI Assist, IRAP provides advisory services, funding, and connections to help businesses access defence markets and strengthen their role in Canada's supply chain. Information on DI Assist can be found here: NRC IRAP support for SMEs developing defence and dual-use technologies - National Research Council Local contacts: Nick Dimitrov, Nikola.Dimitrov@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca (226) 759-3407 Robert Whent / (519) 551-1626 / Robert.Whent@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca
NRC (National Research Council)	IRAP Clean Technology *NEW*	Funding to jump-start promising clean technologies from proof of concept through to larger-scale, multi-year projects that create long-term environmental benefits. Additional supports can include the staff and materials needed to execute the project and upfront funding where specific needs exist. To see if your business is eligible, please visit NRC IRAP support for clean technology - National Research Council Canada Local contacts: Nick Dimitrov, Nikola.Dimitrov@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca (226) 759-3407 Robert Whent / (519) 551-1626 / Robert.Whent@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca

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NRC (National Research Council-IRAP and In-Sec-M	In-Sec-M Canadian Cybersecurity Supercluster IRAP	For IRAP clients only. A 25hr Cyber Security Advisory Service for an IRAP SME client, delivered by an In-Sec-M member firm. The advisory can be on any cyber security topic, popular topics include cyber security gap analysis, cloud security best practice guidance, penetration testing, SOC2, data privacy etc. The cost to client is \$250. Value delivered is approximately \$5K. Also offered: 90-minute virtual Cyber Security Best Practice Guidance Session The cost to client is \$0 SME Cyber Security Support Program - In-Sec-M Local contacts: Nick Dimitrov, Nikola.Dimitrov@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca (226) 759-3407 Robert Whent / (519) 551-1626 / Robert.Whent@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca
Government of Ontario	Intellectual Property Ontario (IPON)	The Government of Ontario created Intellectual Property Ontario (IPON) to provide intellectual property (IP) supports and services to help businesses and researchers innovate and grow. IPON delivers program support via Universities (including U Windsor) and to companies. To apply for their IP Bootcamp, Partner Program or their Self Guided Program see: https://www.ip-ontario.ca/apply For more information see: https://www.ip-ontario.ca/ info@ip-ontario.ca
NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada)	Alliance Grant (For University Research)	Alliance Grants connect College and University researchers and companies- range from \$20,000-\$1 million from 1-5 years in duration http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/alliance-alliance/index_eng.asp Support ranges from 50% to 90% (based on size of business). Nserc-ontario@nserc-crsng.gc.ca Local contact: University of Windsor – Tom Schnekenburger (519) 253-3000 ext:3961 tschnek@uwindsor.ca
NSERC	Applied Research and Development Grants	ARD Grants support well-defined applied research and development projects undertaken by college researchers with their private-sector partners. Direct project costs are shared by the company partner(s) and NSERC. Projects may range from one year to three years in duration. NSERC and MITACS joint funding available – College and Community Innovation program. Local contacts: St. Clair College-Sonja Popovski 519-564-4407 spopovski@stclaircollege.ca Local contact: University of Windsor – Tom Schnekenburger (519) 253-3000 ext:3961 tschnek@uwindsor.ca Katie Facecchia, Mitacs Inc. (519) 560-1582 kfacecchia@mitacs.ca www.mitacs.ca https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/RPP-PP/ARD-RDA/index_eng.asp
St. Clair College	Research and Innovation & Fee for Service Programs	For support with Research and Development see Contact Us – St. Clair College Research & Innovation -Sonja Popovski 519-564-4407 spopovski@stclaircollege.ca Funding Initiatives. For Fee for Service projects see: Fee for Service and contact John Lopez, <i>Program Manager, Research and Innovation</i> 519-972-2727 ext.5079 jlopez@stclaircollege.ca
OCI (Ontario Centres of Innovation)	Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network	As a pillar of the Autonomous Vehicle Innovation Network (AVIN), the AV R&D Partnership Fund supports projects related to the development and demonstration of technologies in the Connected and Autonomous Vehicle (C/AV) sector. Up to one-third of eligible project costs up to a maximum of \$100,000. https://www.ovinhub.ca/ OVIN https://www.oc-innovation.ca/ OCI OCI contact : Juan Camilo Sarmiento JSarmiento@oc-innovation.ca (226) 926-0810
OCI (Ontario Centres of Innovation)	Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network/ FedDev – Technology Pilot Zones (TPZ)	The Technology Pilot Zones program has established locations for testing of new technologies in real road conditions in Toronto (urban streets) and 2 international border crossings at the Bluewater Bridge and at the Windsor/Detroit Tunnel. The program can provide up to \$100k/50% funding to test any technologies that can support cleaner, and more efficient automotive and mobility innovation.: https://www.ovinhub.ca/programs/ovin-technology-pilot-zones/ or Contact Corey Shenken at CShenken@oc-innovation.ca or 416-560-7077

For assistance with any of these programs, contact: sean.columbus@ontario.ca 1 (519) 259-5509

OCI (Ontario Centres of Innovation)	ENCQOR 5G SME Technology Development Program (5G SDP)	The ENCQOR 5G SME Technology Development Program (5G SDP) partners Ontario-based small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with <u>ENCQOR 5G Anchor Firms</u> on 5G technology development projects. Areas of technology interest are defined in <u>Challenge Statements</u> submitted to OCI by the ENCQOR 5G Anchor Firms and posted to the OCI website on a rolling basis. Not currently accepting applications. https://www.oc-innovation.ca/programs/encqor-5g/ Juan Camilo Sarmiento JSarmiento@oc-innovation.ca (226) 926-0810
OCI (Ontario Centres of Innovation)	Collaborate 2 Commercialize	Collaborate 2 Commercialize is designed to have businesses work in partnership with research institutions to advance research into strong innovation and commercialization outcomes. Academic applicant required, funding of \$20,000 - \$100,000 given to academic institution, requires co-funding by industrial partner. https://www.oc-innovation.ca/programs/collaborate-2-commercialize/ Juan Camilo Sarmiento JSarmiento@oc-innovation.ca (226) 926-0810
OCI (Ontario Centres of Innovation)	Next Generation Networks (NGN) Demonstration Program	Opportunities for Ontario-based small- and medium-sized enterprises (SME) to use the CENGN testbed to further develop proof-of-concept or demonstrations that could lead to new technologies, products, processes and/or services. Not currently accepting applications. Next Generation Networks Demonstration Program - Ontario Centre of Innovation (oc-innovation.ca) Juan Camilo Sarmiento JSarmiento@oc-innovation.ca (226) 926-0810
OCI (Ontario Centres of Innovation)	Ready 4 Market	The Market Readiness Co-Investment Fund invests directly in academic affiliated start-up companies to further their early-stage commercialization and support their growth into a scalable business. Ready 4 Market - Ontario Centre of Innovation (oc-innovation.ca) Juan Camilo Sarmiento JSarmiento@oc-innovation.ca (226) 926-0810
OCI (Ontario Centres of Innovation)	Life Sciences Innovation Fund	The Life Sciences Innovation Fund (LSIF) is an early-stage co-investment fund that supports companies in Life Sciences and Healthcare Technologies sectors related to human health. Life Sciences Innovation Fund - Ontario Centre of Innovation (oc-innovation.ca) Juan Camilo Sarmiento JSarmiento@oc-innovation.ca (226) 926-0810
OCI (Ontario Centres of Innovation)	Technology Demonstration Program The Digitalization Competence Centre (DCC)	The Digitalization Competence Centre (DCC) is Ontario's knowledge centre focused on driving the digital modernization of Ontario SMEs – includes funding of up to \$15k/50% for a Digital Modernization and Adoption Plan (DMAP) and subsequently up to 50% \$150k for implementation. Digitalization Competence Centre - Ontario Centre of Innovation (oc-innovation.ca) critchie@oc-innovation.ca Chris Ritchie

OCI (Ontario Centres of Innovation)	Critical Industrial Technologies (CIT) Initiative	OCI's Critical Industrial Technologies (CIT) aims to drive commercialization and adoption of critical technologies in key sectors such as mining, advanced manufacturing, construction, and agri-food. It focuses on integrating technologies such as 5G, AI, blockchain, robotics, cybersecurity, and quantum computing to enhance Ontario's competitiveness. The CIT initiative includes several programs to support SMEs in developing and commercializing new technologies, such as: • <u>Development and Commercialization Program: Provides funding and access to Technology Development Sites for SMEs to develop, test, and showcase their technologies (from \$50,000 to \$200,000. SMEs must match this funding at least 1:1).</u> • <u>Technology Access Program: Similar to the Development and Commercialization Program, but without direct funding.</u> • <u>Sector Adoption Program: Supports collaborative projects addressing specific industry challenges with significant funding (up to \$1M for a consortium of partners, with at least one SME, to address significant challenges, with a 2:1 match from the SME and consortium). See website.</u> • <u>Talent Development Internships: Offers internships to help SMEs bring in new talent and modernize their workforce (up to \$10K per placement (fixed 4-month term) with a max of \$20K (two placements. SME must match OCI contribution with at least \$5K cash equivalent contribution of supporting salaries).</u> • <u>https://www.oc-innovation.ca/programs/cit/ To apply, you need to initiate the application through an OCI Business Development Manager (BDM) or CIT Sector Manager. <u>You can start by submitting a client intake form on the OCI website.</u></u> Contact: Cameron Gray, Sector Manager, CGray@oc-innovation.ca
Fed Dev	Regional Innovation Ecosystem	Funding is available to: Not-for-profit organizations who contribute to fueling an entrepreneurial environment conducive to business innovation and growth. Regional economic stakeholders who promote the entrepreneurial talent of underrepresented groups, including women, Indigenous peoples and young entrepreneurs. Funding is available to: • Grow and sustain strategic clusters and consortia that support businesses to scale up and commercialize innovative products, technologies, and services. • Enhance the development and reach of business incubators, accelerators, and other organizations, which support entrepreneurs, start-ups and innovative companies with high-growth potential. • Support projects led by innovation-oriented organizations to increase and promote business productivity and global competitiveness, and investment and talent attraction. Leverage local advantages, institutions and infrastructure in rural areas. Non-repayable contributions from \$500,000 up to \$10 million per project. Regional Innovation Ecosystem (canada.ca) Next Intake period 2025
ISED	Innovative Solutions Canada	Innovative Solutions Canada funds R&D and test prototypes in real-life settings. The program has rotating challenge specific streams with funding dedicated to Canadian innovators who want to start, grow and get to market. They can also act as the first customer for companies with successful solutions to the challenges. Innovative Solutions Canada Canadian enterprises can find information and guidance to access programs and resources in support of business innovation. 1-855-534-8433. Innovation Canada contact: Joel Adams, Innovation Advisor Joel.adams@Canada.ca 1-416-729-9158 Business Benefits Finder: Canada.ca - Business Benefits Finder
Mitacs Inc.	Accelerate	Mitacs Accelerate supports collaborative R & D projects between domestic or international for-profit companies and approved non-profit organizations, interns, and faculty supervisors at Canadian postsecondary institutions. Provides matching funds (1:1 or better), and one-to-one project development support from Mitacs; projects start at 4-months and can scaled up as much as needed. Mitacs Inspiring Innovation Local contact: Katie Facecchia / (519) 560-1582 / kfacecchia@mitacs.ca or Joseph Santarelli jsantarelli@mitacs.ca 519 476 2561

Canada Trade Commissioner Services	Canadian International Innovation Program (CIIP)	The Canadian International Innovation Program (CIIP) fosters and supports collaborative industrial research and development projects with high potential for commercialization between Canada and partner countries. It also stimulates bilateral science and technology networking and matchmaking activities to further new partnerships and accelerate the commercialization of research and development. The CIIP is a “seed fund”, meaning that various other public and private sector participants are also encouraged to bring science and technology expertise and funds of their own to the bilateral relationship. Partner countries are Brazil, China, India, Israel, and South Korea. Canadian International Innovation Program (CIIP) (tradecommissioner.gc.ca) If there is a market you would like to apply to that is not eligible under CIIP, check out https://www.eurekanetwork.org/ as a possible alternative.
Canadian Trade Commissioner Services	CanExport Innovation	The CanExport Innovation program is designed to promote and enhance Canada's international innovation efforts. The program offers grants and contributions to Canadian organizations to assist them in establishing and formalizing new collaborative research and development (R&D) partnerships with foreign partners or investors. CanExport Innovation is open to small and medium-sized businesses, academic institutions, and non-government research centres. CanExport Innovation (tradecommissioner.gc.ca) CanExport Innovation provides assistance by funding up to 75% of eligible expenses, up to a maximum of \$75,000 for any approved project. Eligible expenses may include international and local travel, accommodation, meals, meeting costs, legal fees to support the formalization of partnership agreements, and other costs related to pursuing international collaboration. Note: CanExport has a suite of other programs for SME's, Associations and Communities – link => CanExport (tradecommissioner.gc.ca)
Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC)	SD Tech Fund	Grant funding to support late-stage development and pre-commercial demonstration of clean technology solution to issues of climate change, clear air, water, soil quality including producing and distributing energy, creating electricity or removing pollutants in certain industry sectors. Requires industry/academic partnership. http://www.sdtc.ca/
Canadian Space Agency	Space Technology Development Program (STDP)	STDP is responsible for (1) developing space technologies required to support future Canadian space missions; and (2) strengthening the Canadian space sector through industrial capacity building efforts. The development of space technologies required for future Canadian missions is contracted through a competitive process. For the contracting component of the program, STDP is responsible for providing financial and technical support to Canadian organizations (Industry, Academia, and Not-For-Profit) to perform R&D related to Mission Enabling and Generic Space Technologies. http://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/programs/stdp/default.asp Opportunities at the Canadian Space Agency Canadian Space Agency (asc-csa.gc.ca)
Indigenous Services Canada	Indigenous Business Navigator	The navigator can help connect with programs and services across different Government of Canada departments and agencies. Access capital, or looking for help with community economic development planning, the navigator will help find the information and support that best fits your needs. Indigenous Business Navigator (isc-sac.gc.ca)
Ag Canada OMAFA	Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership (Sustainable CAP funding)	The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) is a new \$3.5-billion, 5-year agreement (April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2028), between the federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen the competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector. The Sustainable CAP is replacing the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. To see funding opportunities, visit their website or contact. Open from April 1 – March 31, 2028 OMAFRA Kevin Montgomery Kevin.montgomery@ontario.ca 519-362-1499 Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership - agriculture.canada.ca

		WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD)	Workforce WindsorEssex	Workforce WindsorEssex is a workforce and community development board whose mission is to lead regional employment and community planning for the development of a strong and sustainable workforce. The board's main role is to function as a broker for local research, disseminator of information and facilitator of collaborative partnership development. For more information visit: https://www.workforcewindsoressessex.com/ 226-674-3220 info@workforcewindsoressessex.com or contact: Justin Falconer (226)674-3220 x854 jfalconer@workforcewindsoressessex.com
Employment and Social Development Canada	Job Bank and Labour Market Information	Employer Resources https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/content/pieces-eng.do?cid=3264 Job Portal https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/home Employer - Recruit and Hire: https://employer.jobbank.gc.ca/employer/employers
Canada Federal Gov't	Jobs for Ukraine Portal	The Government of Canada's Job Bank has developed a portal to connect Canadian employers with Ukrainian nationals wanting to work in Canada. Instructions for employers and more information about the program are available through this link: Jobs for Ukraine - Job Bank
Min. of Finance	Co-operative Education Tax Credit	Refundable tax credit for businesses that employ post-secondary students enrolled in a qualifying co-operative program. Maximum credit is \$3,000 per placement. 25-30% of eligible expenditures. https://www.ontario.ca/page/co-operative-education-tax-credit
Service Canada	Employment Insurance Work-sharing Program	Work-Sharing (WS) is an adjustment program designed to help employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary reduction in the normal level of business activity that is beyond the control of the employer. The measure provides income support to employees eligible for Employment Insurance benefits who work a temporarily reduced work week while their employer recovers. https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing.html Local Contact: Vivian Whaley viv.whaley@servicecanada.gc.ca , 519-398-0203, 1 800-367-5693
Service Canada	Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ)	The call for applications closes Dec. 11, 2025. Please mark your calendars to apply in December. The program is left in this document to remind you to apply each year. The program provides wage subsidies to employers with 50 or fewer full-time employees, to create quality summer work experiences for young people aged 15 to 30 years. Not-for-profit employers are eligible to receive funding for up to 100% of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage. Public and private sector employers are eligible to receive funding for up to 50% of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage. Application period is in January. Contact your local MP's office. https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html
Government of Canada/Magnet	Discover Ability Network (in association with 12 community and gov't partners)	Discover Ability is a free online portal and resource that connects Ontario businesses directly to people with disabilities. The online portal connects employers directly with persons with disabilities seeking employment, includes a 6-step guide acts as a great resource for employers, and provides answers to any questions employers may have when hiring—and retaining—employees with disabilities. https://discoverability.network/about/
Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD)	Employment Ontario - Employment Services Network Windsor Regional Employment Network (WREN)	Information about training programs, wage incentives and other recruitment support is provided at the Employment Ontario Network website. Employment Ontario ontario.ca Services for employers Toll-free: 1-800-387-5656 Windsor Regional Employment Network (WREN) is the Service System Manager (SSM) for Employment Ontario in Windsor-Essex, Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton.

For assistance with any of these programs, contact: sean.columbus@ontario.ca 1 (519) 259-5509

		Employment Services Network member for training under 25 employees Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway to see all the programs available to support training and hiring via Employment Ontario Partners. City of Windsor – Employment and Training Services https://www.citywindsor.ca/residents/ETSforsuccess/Pages/Employers.aspx Windsor Regional Employment Network (WREN) https://www.wrenetwork.ca/ 519 969-5644
Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD)	Ontario Job Grant OJG relaunched	The Canada-Ontario Job Grant will fund, 5/6 of a worker's eligible training costs, to a maximum of \$10,000/per employee for employers with less than 100 employees. For larger employers with 100 or more employees, funding is set at 50% up to \$10k per trainee. Applications with "New Hire" previously unemployed trainees will be automatically assessed for 100% funding up to \$15k. Employers contribute the remaining costs and employ the worker they train. The program helps businesses connect with the workers to train. For further information, please contact the Employment Ontario Contact Centre. Call toll-free: 1-800-387-5656 or through the TTY number: 1-866-533-6339 or email at EmploymentHotlineInquiries@ontario.ca . Services for Employers Employment Ontario ontario.ca Contact: Employment Services Network member for training under 25 employees Ontario Job Grant ontario.ca
EMC	EMC's WILWorks Student Placement Program	50% or 70% of the student's wage subsidy, up to \$7,000 available for students Funding will go fast. WILWorks - Post Secondary - EMC Canada They are accepting applications now and until funding runs out.
Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)	Student Work Placement Program	The Student Work Placement Program gives post-secondary students in science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) and business programs across Canada paid work experience related to their field of study. Employers can receive: - Up to \$5000 for every student hired through the program. - Up to \$7000 for every student hired in their first year or from an under-represented group including women in STEM, persons with disabilities, newcomers, Indigenous students and visible minorities. To apply go to: Find wage subsidies to hire students in STEM or business - Canada.ca and to select an appropriate employer delivery partner.
Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD)	Temporary Foreign Worker Program/Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program	For employers who have been unable to recruit Canadian citizens or permanent residents for job openings, the TFWP makes it possible to hire workers from abroad. Employers might also find a qualified foreign worker already in Canada, such as a foreign worker who is about to complete a job contract with another employer or a foreign national holding an open work permit that allows the employee to work for any employer in Canada. The link below contains information on the program plus Express Entry, the Global Talent Stream and more. OINP may be able to facilitate. https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/foreign-workers.html Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP) Ontario.ca or contact Nathalie Wuta, Nathalie.Wuta@Ontario.ca phone: - +1 (416) 473-0687 . All other inquiries may be directed to business.immigration@ontario.ca
Ministry of Labour, Immigration Training and Skills Development (MLITSD)	Grant for Tools Program	Provides apprenticeship information & financial assistance to purchase tools. \$400-1,000 (non-repayable grant). View the full list of trades For any questions about the Tools Grant, please contact Employment Ontario . Start an apprenticeship Ontario.ca https://www.ontario.ca/page/financial-supports-apprentices
Federal (CRA)	Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit	Provides eligible employers with credit up to a maximum \$2,000 per year per apprentice for red seal designated apprenticeships. For more information visit: https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/about-your-tax-return/tax-return/completing-a-tax-return/deductions-credits-expenses/line-41200-investment-tax-credit/apprenticeship-job-creation-tax-credit.html
Ministry of Labour, Immigration,	Career Ready with CTMA: Expanding Opportunities	The Canadian Tooling & Machining Association (CTMA), offers a program to help close the skilled trades gap in the Machine, Tool, Die & Mould (MTDM)/auto/advanced manufacturing sector. Apply with your candidate or CTMA will help identify candidate for manufacturers. Eligible employers will receive \$5,000 in funding for each work placement to assist with the cost of hiring students, recent graduates, and apprentices.

For assistance with any of these programs, contact: sean.columbus@ontario.ca 1 (519) 259-5509

Training and Skills Development/CTMA		https://ctma.com/about-the-program / 10-16 week placement, up to 3 placements per year per employee. (1-519) 653-7265: info@ctma.com or rcattle@ctma.com or 416-301-6224 for more information.
Ministry of Labour, Immigration Training and Skills Development/APMA	Digital Learning Program APMA	The APMA's Digital Learning Program will give workers the training they need to succeed and provide companies with a competitive edge. The program will provide affordable online upskilling and training for employers and workers looking to keep up with technology-driven changes in the auto industry, and for individuals seeking a career in the sector. The phased rollout of certifications will continue with lean manufacturing, manufacturing quality, leadership and more. Visit https://apma.ca/digital-learning/ for more information. driven@apma.ca
Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD)	Skills Development Fund SDF (training) closed SDF capital is open- continuous intake.	The Skills Development Fund offers funding to organizations and companies for innovative projects that address challenges to hiring, training, or retaining workers, including apprentices to drive Ontario's economic growth. The Skills Development Fund supports: • projects that address the labour shortage and stimulate growth in key sectors of Ontario's economy • projects that will increase Ontario's long-term economic competitive advantage by creating a sustainable and resilient workforce • projects to promote innovation and includes targeted sectors like manufacturing, auto and those impacted by tariffs. • Skills Development Fund (Training) closed • Skills Development Fund (Capital Stream – continuous intake) supports capital investment associated with training centres both seed (planning costs) and Grow Pathway for implementation. See https://www.ontario.ca/page/skills-development-fund-capital-stream for details and to apply. Employers with a presence in Ontario are eligible. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis during this time. To apply, submit your proposal via Transfer Payment Ontario. For more information go to: Skills Development Fund ontario.ca local contact is priscille.lehoux@ontario.ca (519) 817-1162
Skilled Trades Ontario	Achievement Incentive Grant	The Achievement Incentive is a grant program that: helps employers train apprentices by reducing some of the cost of training, supports apprentice progression by giving grant payments to employers when their apprentices reach major milestones. The program offers up to \$17,000 to eligible employers when apprentices meet training and certification milestones. For more information go to: Hire an apprentice Ontario.ca

Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD)	Skills Advance Ontario (SAO): Building Careers in Skilled Trades Canada-Ontario Workforce Tariff Response NEW open- continuous intake	Skills Advance Ontario (SAO) helps address skilled labour shortages by providing training and employment pathways for job seekers and incumbent workers entering the skilled trades and manufacturing sectors. Eligibility for employers or service providers. The Government of Canada and Province of Ontario have collaborated through the Canada-Ontario Workforce Tariff Response initiative to support Ontario's labour market by reinforcing sectors impacted by trade disruptions, tariffs, and other global market shifts. The program supports jobseekers and incumbent workers in pursuing meaningful career pathways by offering employment and training services that span entry-level through medium- and high-skilled roles. The program also helps employers access and retain a skilled, adaptable workforce to meet evolving labour demands, while enabling individuals to upskill, reskill, and advance within high-potential sectors. Program Highlights. Funding agreements may be up to one year, with the option to extend, to support the following activities: Sector-focused recruitment (e.g., interviews, assessments, screening) • Pre-employment services (e.g., career readiness, interview preparation) • Essential and technical training (e.g., job shadowing, mentorship, classroom or theoretical training) • Job placements • Retention and advancement supports (e.g., follow-up plans, career planning) Eligible sectors: Steel, softwood lumber, manufacturing, and automotive, as well as other high-potential sectors with workforce development needs, such as healthcare, skilled trades and construction, clean technology and clean energy, and natural resources. Jobseekers and worker participants – must be 18 years old, Ont. resident, legally entitled to work, a job seeker, etc. More information about the program: Go to https://www.ontario.ca/page/skills-advance-ontario for more information. Questions can be sent to skillsadvanceontario@ontario.ca 1-800-387-5656 also contact Aaron.Verdoch@ontario.ca (416) 953-7953
Gov't of Canada Employment and Social Development Canada	Work Sharing – Worker Retention Grant *New*	Work Sharing – Worker Retention Grant (can combine with the SAO Workforce Tariff Response program above. The Work-Sharing – Worker Retention Grant helps employers retain employees during periods of temporary business disruption by supporting skills training while employees are on reduced hours. • Supports employers participating in the federal EI Work-Sharing program • Helps businesses avoid layoffs by allowing employees to remain employed while upgrading skills • Provides funding for training costs so workers can build new or enhanced skills during downtime • Focuses on maintaining a skilled, job-ready workforce during economic, trade, or market disruptions • Benefits both employers (talent retention) and workers (continued employment and skills development) • Commonly used in sectors impacted by trade disruptions or economic uncertainty For more information go to: Worker Retention Grant for Work-Sharing Employers - Canada.ca

		BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SERVICES
BDC (Business Development Canada)	Business Development Bank of Canada	Expert advice to run a better, more profitable business. Focus on business planning and coaching, human resources, sales and marketing, international growth, operating efficiency, certification, and technology consulting. Industry may also call on them for lending services and products. www.bdc.ca Local contact: Asif Rehmani (780)-884-7161 / Asif.Rehmani@bdc.ca
MEDJCT	Business Advisory Services Branch	Provides consulting services to SME Companies (10-500 employees) with a tradable good or service on business planning, retention, expansion, investment, innovation, financial assistance, export, etc. www.ontario.ca/economy Local Contact: Sean Columbus sean.columbus@ontario.ca 519-259-5509
MEDJCT	Regional Innovation Centres WETech Alliance	WETech Alliance works with companies and entrepreneurs developing innovative products, services, or technologies, that can scale. Services offered include coaching, access to entrepreneur and start-up programming, opportunities to network in the ecosystem, connections to strategic partners, exclusive discounts on key platforms and services that accelerate growth, access to Subject Matter Experts across many industries, and more. WETech Alliance Create • Innovate • Accelerate • WE can help. (wetech-alliance.com) Regional Innovation Centres throughout Ontario: Regional Innovation Centre locations Ontario.ca Local contacts: Adam Castle acastle@wetech-alliance.com 519-997-2863 & Susana Martins smartins@wetech-alliance.com 519-995-6769
WETech Alliance & Community Futures Essex County	Rural Growth & Commercialization Loan NEW	The Rural Growth & Commercialization Loan is a new program from WETech Alliance, delivered with Community Futures Essex County, designed to help innovation-driven rural businesses scale proven products or solutions. It combines flexible loan financing with hands-on commercialization support, including go-to-market planning, product validation, and export readiness. Its goal is to help rural firms grow, create jobs, and stay anchored in their communities while accessing the right tools to commercialize and expand. For more information contact Adam Castle at 226-246-0287 or Email: acastle@wetech-alliance.com
MEDJCT	Small Business & Entrepreneurship Centre	The Small Business & Entrepreneurship Centre provides support to start-ups and existing small businesses across all sectors including independent main street business owners and entrepreneurs. The Centre supports entrepreneurs to make the right decisions at business start-up and help to develop the skills and access to networks needed to grow and succeed. Services include: Complimentary Small Business Information, Advice and Consultation, Business Plan Support, Access to Professionals, Research Assistance, Business Development Workshops and Seminars, and Mentoring and Networking Opportunities. https://www.ontario.ca/page/small-business-enterprise-centre-locations Local contact: Sabrina DeMarco (519) 253-6900 sdemarco@webusinesscentre.com www.webusinesscentre.com
MEDJCT	Succession Ontario NEW	Preparing to sell or transition your business? Ontario's first-ever succession planning hub provides practical tools, resources, and expert guidance to help you navigate a smooth transition. Support services delivered by the Windsor Essex Business Centre. Local contact: Sabrina DeMarco (519) 253-6900 sdemarco@webusinesscentre.com Homepage - Succession Ontario

Invest Ontario	Investment Services	Provides investors looking to establish or expand their business in Ontario with high quality, timely and tailored insight and intelligence on business and market opportunities, incentives, talent, immigration and more. They can be engaged at any stage of an investment project. Investment Services Invest Ontario Local Contact: Sean Columbus sean.columbus@ontario.ca 519-259-5509
Global Affairs Canada	Canadian Trade Commissioner Service	The Canadian Trade Commissioner Service (TCS) offers Export & International Trade support services free of charge to client companies and organizations. ***If you are part of the Canadian business community, and contribute to Canada's economic growth, have a demonstrated capacity for internationalization and have good potential to add value to the Canadian economy, you can benefit from (TCS) services. https://www.tradecommissioner.gc.ca/index.aspx?lang=eng
ISED	Innovation Advisors	Innovation Advisors are former entrepreneurs who understand what it takes to grow a business. They can leverage their extensive network of contacts to help you find and take advantage of all of the government programs and services at your disposal — from financing to technical advice to foreign market expertise. Innovation Advisors - Accelerated Growth Service Local contact: Joel Adams, Innovation Advisor Joel.Adams@Canada.ca 1-416-729-9158
ISED	AI Compute Access Fund	AI Compute Access Fund will: 1. Cover two-thirds of your costs (up to \$3.35 million) for Canadian, cloud-based AI compute services 2. Cover half of your costs (up to \$2.5 million) for non-Canadian, cloud-based AI compute services. AI Compute Access Fund
CBO (Canada Business Ontario) MEDJCT/Fed Dev	Small Business Services	As a part of the Canada Business Network (CBN), the CBO promotes entrepreneurship and innovation to small and medium enterprises. This serves as a one-stop source for information on government services for businesses - from start-up, financing, growth to regulatory compliance. https://sbs-spe.feddevontario.canada.ca/en
ISED	Accelerated Growth Service	A federal initiative that helps growth-oriented Canadian businesses to expand by helping them access key government services they need to grow, such as financing, exporting, innovation and business advice. AGS provides: • A dedicated advisor to get the right partners at the table. • A plan of potential government programs and services to help support growth. • Connections to the right government programs and services that support growth Home - Accelerated Growth Service
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)	Ontario Food Exports (OFEX)	OFEX provides clients with end-to-end export marketing services and assistance ranging from initial assessment through to export sales success by: • helping with determining export capability • bringing sales opportunities to export-ready companies • providing counselling, education, market research and buyer introductions. OFEX helps clients develop sales strategies that address the unique export challenges faced by Ontario's food and beverage sector. https://www.ontario.ca/page/export-ontario-food-products Local contact: OMAFA Contact: Kevin.montgomery@ontario.ca (519)-362-1499

For assistance with any of these programs, contact: sean.columbus@ontario.ca 1 (519) 259-5509

Community Futures Program	Community Futures Program	Community-based, not-for-profit organizations encouraging entrepreneurship and economic opportunities. Provides business services and access to capital in rural areas. You can also access loan programs from this source. https://www.cfontario.ca/index.php/public-information Community Futures Essex County https://cfessexcounty.ca/ Diane Malenfant / (519) 776.4611 x16# / diane@cfessexcounty.ca
Canada/Ontario	BizPal	Helps companies generate a personalized list of business permits and licences needed for local, provincial, and federal governments. https://www.bizpal.ca/ https://www.citywindsor.ca/business/Pages/BizPal.aspx
Crown Corporation	Canadian Commercial Corporation	Acts as Canada's international contracting and procurement agency. Assists Canadian businesses to gain access to international government to government contracts (e.g. defence). www.ccc.ca T: 613-996-0034 Toll Free - 1-800-748-8191
CANARIE	Digital Accelerator for Innovation and Research	DAIR leverages Canada's investment in the CANARIE national backbone research and education network to accelerate product development and market competitiveness of small and medium-sized Canadian companies (<500 employees). DAIR provides Canadian tech entrepreneurs access to free cloud-based (virtual) compute and storage resources to develop, test or demonstrate pre-revenue, pre-production products. https://www.canarie.ca/cloud/
MEDJCT/EDC/OCC 250 partners	Magnet	Magnet matches Canadian businesses to opportunities — grants and subsidies, exports and trade programs and unique recruiting opportunities. https://magnet.today/
WTC- Board of Trade -Toronto Sponsors	Business Growth Programs-	Trade Accelerator Program (TAP) Market Activation Program (MAP), Growth Development Program Receive immersive training, mentoring and support— https://bot.com/Programs-Networks wtc@bot.com
MEDJCT/CME	Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters' Ontario Made program	Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters' Ontario Made program, which helps retailers and consumers identify local products through various initiatives including: The creation of a new Ontario Made logo that manufacturers can use to help consumers identify made-in-Ontario products; The launch of the new www.SupportOntarioMade.ca website that connects consumers and supply chain partners to manufacturers through one directory; and Promotion of Ontario Made through a digital newsletter to raise awareness of Ontario goods and products online and through social media.
National Research Council IRAP	Dynamize Canada *Now Open*	The Dynamize Canada funding program is part of the Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) under the National Research Council Canada. Subsidized support: To assist SMEs in conducting strategic planning, adopting lean and continuous improvement methodologies, and leveraging innovation for growth. The Dynamize service works closely with businesses, guiding them step-by-step through improvement and growth opportunities. See: www.dynamizecanada.ca for more information. To determine eligibility complete the online form at Dynamize Canada Eligibility Submission Form – Fill out form Contact info@dynamizecanada.ca Limited spaces available - register early for best chance of support.

For assistance with any of these programs, contact: sean.columbus@ontario.ca 1 (519) 259-5509

M u n i c i p a l o r R e g i o n a l P r o g r a m C o n t a c t s			
	Name	Organization	email
Regional	City of Windsor – Employment and Training Services	City of Windsor Employment & Training Services 519-977-6444 ext. 5527	ets@citywindsor.ca
Regional	Diane Quinn	City of Windsor Employment & Social Services (519) 255.5200 ext. 5403	dquinn@citywindsor.ca
Regional	Wendy Stark	Invest WindsorEssex. 519-255-9200 x 2225	WStark@InvestWindsorEssex.com
Regional	Sabrina DeMarco	Small Business & Entrepreneurship Centre/IWE 519-253-6900 x2232	sdemarco@webusinesscentre.com
Regional	Matthew Johnson	ED Economic Development City of Windsor 519-255-6100 x6495	majohnson@citywindsor.ca
Regional	Diane Malenfant	Community Futures Essex County (519) 776.4611 ext. 16#	diane@cfessexcounty.ca
Regional	Adam Castle	WETech Alliance 226 246-0287	acastle@wetech-alliance.com
Regional	Dawn Hadre	Town of LaSalle Economic Development (519) 969-7770 ext. 1253	dhadre@lasalle.ca
Regional	Nicole Anderson	Municipality of Lakeshore 519 728 2700	nanderson@lakeshore.ca
Regional	Chad Jeffrey	Town of Tecumseh - Planning Services & Local Economic Development 519 735-2184	cjeffery@tecumseh.ca
Regional	Tom Schnekenburger	University of Windsor, Innovation, Partnerships and Innovation, (519) 253-3000 ext:3961	tschnek@uwindsor.ca
Regional	Sonja Popovski	St. Clair College, Research and Innovation, 519-564-4407	spopovski@stclaircollege.ca
Regional	Justin Falconer	Workforce WindsorEssex (226) 674.3220 ext.3008	jfalconer@workforcewindsor.essex.ca
Provincial	Priscille Lehoux	Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development +1 (519) 817-1162	Priscille.Lehoux@ontario.ca
Provincial	Sean Columbus	Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (519) 259-5509	Sean.columbus@ontario.ca
Federal	Liana Daltoe	Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (519) 562.8492	Liana.daltoe@canada.ca
Federal	Nick Dimitrov	National Research Council (226) 759-33407	nikola.dimitrov@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca
Federal	Rob Whent	National Research Council (519) 551-1626	robert.whent@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca
Federal	Taylor Bentley	Global Affairs Canada 416-573-2591	Taylor.Bentley@international.gc.ca
Federal	Matthew Thompson	Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario 519-317-3353	matthew.thompson@feddevontario.gc.ca
Federal	Vivian Whaley	Service Canada (519) 398-0203/519-890-1183	viv.whaley@servicecanada.gc.ca
Federal	Joel Adams	ISED 1-416-729-9158	Joel.Adams@Canada.ca
Federal/Provincial	Katie Facecchia / Joseph Santarelli	Mitacs Inc. (519) 560-1582/519 476 2561	kfacecchia@mitacs.ca / jsantarelli@mitacs.ca

This report has been compiled collaboratively to assist businesses in Windsor and Essex County. The above individuals and organizations represent an excellent source of information on the initiatives identified within this document and can be considered as a reliable local contact to offer additional guidance. This compilation of programs, funding sources and other initiatives is provided for the sole purpose of information and education and is subject to change without notice. Every effort has been made to ensure the content is comprehensive and accurate; however, the authors of the report are not responsible for errors or damages of any kind resulting from omission, access to, or use of the information contained in this document.

For assistance with any of these programs, contact: sean.columbus@ontario.ca 1 (519) 259-5509