

Lanark County Business Retention & Expansion Project seeks eager businesses to participate

Response to a call for volunteer visitors to conduct face-to-face surveys with a variety of business across Lanark County has been overwhelming!

Lanark County, in partnership with Valley Heartland Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC), is delivering the Business Retention & Expansion Project, which aims to support and strengthen local business across Lanark County. It is an action-oriented, community-based and volunteer-driven process that includes confidential face-to-face interviews/surveys by volunteers with businesses to address any issues/opportunities for that business, as well as data collection and action planning.

“More than 80 trained volunteer visitors have stepped up to the plate to do the surveys, and this response really shows how much the community cares about local business,” says Stacie Lloyd, Economic Development Officer, Valley Heartland CFDC.

The volunteer visitors come from all walks of life. From retirees looking for a new experience, business service providers, local Chamber and BIA members, to business owners who want to support each other, the spirit of working together to support local business is incredibly strong.

Benefits to your business agreeing to a visit include helping Lanark County and local municipalities better understand your business needs and priorities; connecting your business to resources and support programs available; identifying and addressing immediate business concerns and issues that may need attention; and collecting key business and market data through the survey to support economic development planning that directly supports the business community.

“Businesses will be able to share information by completing the survey, have any issues or opportunities heard and will be contributing to the development of future projects, programs and priorities that support business across Lanark County,” Ms. Lloyd explains.

“Results of the survey will help Lanark County set priorities and actions that respond to the needs of local business both now and into the future,” added Lanark County CAO Kurt Greaves.

Business selection has started, so if you are a business in Lanark County that would like to participate by agreeing to an interview/survey, don't miss out.

Please contact Teri Devine, BR+E Coordinator, at 613-283-7002 ext. 111 or 613-207-5940 or by e-mail at bre@valleycfdc.com.

More information is available at www.valleycfdc.com/bre.

– 30 –

Photos of Volunteer Training Session held on Nov. 26 for the volunteer visitors can be found at

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6ficynxuc5mrrx9/AACRLE4kZKpRk_EPXLOmOSJga?dl=0

For general information about Valley Heartland CFDC and Lanark County programs and services, please contact:

Tina Stevens
Valley Heartland CFDC—General Manager
613-283-7002
Tina.Stevens@valleycfdc.com

Kurt Greaves
Lanark County CAO
1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101

About Valley Heartland CFDC

At Valley Heartland Community Futures Development Corporation, we've been building entrepreneurship for over 30 years, helping to strengthen and grow the local economy. We work with entrepreneurs and communities to help them nurture the most innovative, sustainable businesses and communities imaginable. As a community-based, nonprofit organization funded by FedDev Ontario, we invest in job creation, business and community innovation. *Contact us at valleycfdc.com*

About the Eastern Ontario Development Program (EODP)

The Eastern Ontario Development Program (EODP) is a \$48-million initiative that advances economic development in rural eastern Ontario. Through EODP, FedDev Ontario is collaborating with Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) in eastern Ontario to promote the growth of new and existing businesses in rural communities.