

Chief Administrative
Officer/Clerk



RA9 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE
PEMBROKE, ON, CANADA
K8A 6W5
613-735-7288
FAX: 613-735-2081
www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca

July 19, 2016

Premier Kathleen Wynne
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Re: Rural Economic Development Program (RED) – Suspension

Dear Premier Wynne:

At a session of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Renfrew on June 29, 2016 the following resolution was passed,

“Resolution No. DP-CC-16-06-43

WHEREAS in the 2016 Ontario Budget, the Government of Ontario has suspended current intake of applications to the Rural Economic Development Program and has indicated that it plans to integrate the program into the Jobs and Prosperity Fund;

AND WHEREAS the Jobs and Prosperity Fund is narrowly focused and is restricted to private sector organizations and industry partners, which prevents access to funding for rural municipalities and others who formerly benefitted from the Rural Economic Development Program;

AND WHEREAS the emphasis on large projects that meet either of minimum \$5 million or \$10 million in eligible project costs thresholds, will significantly restrict benefits from this fund;

AND WHEREAS in contrast, the Rural Economic Development Program supported a number of capacity building projects including but not limited to “Business Retention and Expansion” and “Downtown Revitalization” projects and Economic Development Strategic Planning projects for small rural municipalities who were looking to improve their local economy;

AND WHEREAS the Jobs and Prosperity Fund is not specifically designated for rural areas, that funds from this program will likely favour more urban areas of the Province;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the County of Renfrew is requesting the Government of Ontario to reconsider the suspension and the integration of the Rural Economic Development Program into the Jobs and Prosperity Fund with the view to ensuring that the Rural Economic Development Program stays as an integral funding program of the Province that will support capacity building and foster economic growth in rural municipalities in Ontario;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, MPP John Yakabuski, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, Ontario East Economic Development Commission, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all municipal and regional councils in Ontario."

Your favourable response to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



W. James Hutton

Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

jhutton@countyofrenfrew.on.ca

- c. MPP John Yakabuski, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
Honourable Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Ontario East Economic Development Commission
Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Municipal and Regional Councils of Ontario