



The Corporation of the
Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan

BY EMAIL

September 8, 2017

Sustainable Peterborough
c/o Anca Pascalau
270 George Street North, First Floor
Peterborough ON
K9J 3H1

**Re: Rural Economic Development Fund Application (Fall 2017 Intake)
Otonabee-South Monaghan Township**

Dear Anca:

Otonabee-South Monaghan is applying for funding under the Rural Economic Development (RED) Program to conduct a study that would focus on the latest policies and trends in Rural Ontario, with a particular focus on agricultural municipalities like OSM. The purpose of the study is to:

- Conduct case studies for the purpose of identify opportunities to support agriculture and/or agriculturally-related activities as the primary economic driver in OSM through the introduction and/or expansion of on-farm diversified. The Case Studies will also identify current obstacles to the introduction and/or expansion of these uses at the local level.
- Develop and implement policies in support of the agri-food system through, primarily but not necessarily limited to, on-farm diversified uses such as agri-tourism in OSM.
- Streamline municipal clearances and approvals to permit a wide range of uses on agricultural and rural lands that enhance the local economy through agriculture, agriculturally related uses and on-farm diversified uses.
- Identify any other ways and means OSM Township can support rural economic development through its agricultural community as a result of the case studies and policy research.

The objective of the RED Study is to proactively implement recent changes in Agricultural policies that support emerging trends in agri-tourism and other on-farm diversified uses. This initiative would be similar to the OSM policies which permit home occupations and home industries without the need for site specific land use planning approvals, provided that certain criteria are met.

From the Office of the CAO

Email: ejrath@osmtownship.ca Telephone: 705.295.6852 Facsimile 705.295.6405

P.O. Box 70 20 Third St Keene, ON K0L 2G0

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The Township has approached five local farm operations to serve as Case Studies. With their permission, these farms would become several pilot projects for policy changes and/or approvals to test the initial recommendations. In tandem with the case studies, there would be a broader policy review and consultation with the agricultural community here in the Peterborough region.

OSM is seeking the participation of Sustainable Peterborough in the sectoral consultation by a representative of your Future of Food & Farming Working Group Committee. In addition, OSM plans to access the various agricultural studies, policy documents and/or related data or information posted on Sustainable Peterborough's website which may assist in our review. It is anticipated that there would be attendance at a meeting during the winter of 2018 as part of the information gathering phase as well as time needed to review and comment on any draft documents.

Feedback from our partners will be essential. The goal is to ensure that the proposed changes would, in fact, facilitate the introduction and/or expansion of agriculturally-related and/or on-farm diversified uses as part of farm operations in OSM. Our hope is that any lessons learned from this study can be applied to other agricultural communities.

Our RED application would be strengthened by a letter of support. This letter does not need to be long but should indicate how your organization might benefit by participating in the study as well as the importance of rural economy and agri-food system to our region here in Peterborough. This letter should be addressed to the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan at the address below with a subject line of:

"Letter of Support- Rural Economic Development Application by OSM Township"

Our application is due before the end of September, so a response by email no later than Sept 18th would be much appreciated at ejrath@osmtownship.ca. If you need more information on the Study, please feel contact Junior Planner Jamie Duguay or I here at the Township Offices.

Yours truly,

Eleanor J. Rath, CMO
Chief Administrative Officer/Director of Planning & Economic Development

Cc Junior Planner Jamie Duguay
Heather Sadler, Eco-Vue

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