

For More Information:



**Ministry of Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

416-585-7041

**Ministry of Agriculture, Food
and Rural Affairs**

1-888-588-4111

**Ministry of Economic
Development and Trade**

1-866-668-4249

Ministry of Tourism and Culture

416-325-5306

**Ministry of Northern
Development Mines and Forestry**

1-807-475-1773



Introduction

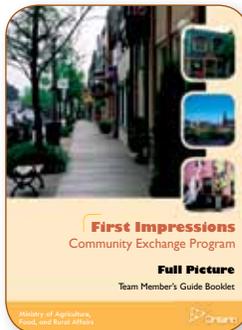
Communities across Ontario are the drivers of our province's economic growth and competitiveness. In this role, they need to be ready to take advantage of today's changing global economy. To be at the forefront of this transformation, new strategies and tools will be needed to retain and attract the people and investments that will be the basis of our future prosperity.

Interministry Community Development Initiative (ICDI)

This InfoSheet is part of the Interministry Community Development Initiative — a coordinated effort by many ministries to provide information and assistance to municipalities on community economic development. Listed below are a number of community self-assessment resources. These self-assessment resources ask the types of questions that help communities identify their strengths and challenges, both tangible and intangible.

Self Assessment Tools for Investment Readiness

Local circumstances will determine which of the following tools are most relevant to your community.



First Impressions Community Exchange

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

A structured process to assess the first impression a community conveys to outsiders, including tourists, potential investors and new residents. Volunteer “visiting teams” from two exchange communities make unannounced incognito visits, record their observations, and give constructive feedback to their partner exchange community.

www.reddi.gov.on.ca/firstimpressions.htm

(Additional tools on the reverse)

Ontario.ca/Mah



Communities in Transition

Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Trade

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Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Trade

Communities in Transition is a program that is responsive to the needs of communities and regions and allows them to apply at any time during the year for help developing a strategy for their economic growth. Staff in the Communities in Transition Office are available to work one-on-one with community representatives to review specific challenges and opportunities and advise on project proposals.

www.ontariocanada.com/ontcan/1medt/en/progserv_cit_en.jsp



The Investment Readiness Test

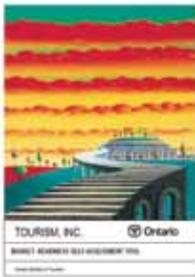
A self-assessment tool for municipalities

Northern Communities Investment Readiness

Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry

A self-assessment tool to help municipalities identify impediments to new investment, determine the effectiveness of existing planning and economic development processes and identify ways to add value to those processes.

www.mndmf.gov.on.ca/northern_development/documents/go_north/investment_readiness_test_e.pdf



Tourism Market-Readiness Self-Assessment Tool

Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture

A self-assessment tool to assist businesses, organizations and communities either preparing to enter the tourism market for the first time or refocusing to attract new tourism markets.

www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/publications/Tourism_inc_MarketReadiness_workbook.pdf

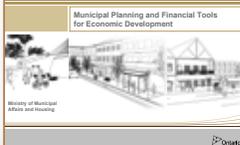


Business Retention and Expansion Readiness Checklist

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Business Retention and Expansion (BR+E) is a comprehensive economic development program that builds locally based strategies to support businesses, retain and create new jobs and grow opportunities in Ontario's rural communities. BR+E is a cooperative effort between business, local government, agencies, and other organizations in the community with the purpose of identifying opportunities and actions to assist local businesses in expansion, the retention and creation of jobs, the diversification of the local economic base and the improvement of the local business climate.

www.reddi.gov.on.ca/bre.htm



Municipal Planning and Financial Tools for Economic Development

Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

A handbook describing the planning and financial tools available to support municipal goals for economic development. Included are snapshots and case studies on how other jurisdictions are using these tools to capitalize on their assets. A checklist is provided that determines a municipality's investment readiness from a sustainable economy and land-use planning perspective.

www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page9392.aspx