
Call for Papers on: Economic Development Best Practices

Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC) and Economic Development Association of British Columbia (EDABC) Joint Conference on Canada's Connection to the World

CALL FOR PAPERS ON: Rural Communities and Economic Development Best Practices

The Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC) and the Economic Development Association of British Columbia (EDABC) are hereby calling for papers and presentations at the joint conference on Canada's Connection to the World. Papers are particularly solicited from rural communities, but anyone with relevant experience and credentials in the topic area is invited to submit their work.

Rural communities in Canada are facing their most significant economic crisis in more than 25 years. The number of people losing their jobs continues to rise and rural communities are being hit hardest as many are reliant on one industry. It is imperative that we focus our attention on addressing the current crisis and identify ways to strengthen the rural community's economy long term.

The current economy calls for a new approach to economic development and we would like to seek input about what economic development and job creation efforts are working well and could be replicated around the country; what programs are not working; and how can rural communities be improved for sustainable economic development.

The research needs to expand beyond just what the Federal Government is doing but also what Provincial, Regional and Municipal programs are having the most impact. Economic Development must begin at the local level in order to achieve the most impact and community buy-in. But do local communities have the capacity and are they committed and ready to capitalize on the opportunities presented by senior levels of government?

EDAC and EDABC are requesting a Canada wide call for papers on this issue and presentation of the best five examples will be offered at a workshop on September 22, 2009. The information provided during the workshop will provide a valuable tool to our members and conference attendees and will help strengthen the value of economic development efforts. The results of the work will be shared across the country by the Economic Developers Association of Canada. The outcome will lead to a much broader project that will be part of a subsequent application for funding. The information gathered will also be useful to the Federal and Provincial Governments as they strive to implement effective programs to help stimulate the economy of rural and northern communities.

Submitting a Proposal:

All submissions must address the issue of rural economic development and can focus on research, best practices, program implementation or policy issues. Submissions should be concise (approximately 1000 words) and must include:

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- Successful examples of effective economic development programs being implemented. The information will include:
 - Brief details on implementation (who was/is involved, when did it begin, successes to date, measurements, etc.)
 - Cost
 - Levels of financial support (federal, provincial, municipal, private)
 - Community buy-in
 - Examples of results
 - Lessons learned
 - A presentation summary including major points and participant outcomes

A brief biographical outline

General Policies

Submissions to this Call of Papers must be original. They must not already have been published or accepted in a journal or conference proceeding, nor presented at another conference. Further, they must not be currently under consideration for publication or presentation elsewhere.

At least one author of every accepted submission must register for the conference.

Best Practices

Best practices may be defined as an efficient way, method or technique or program used to accomplish tasks and/or resolve problems, approved and recognized by economic development organizations. The implementation of such practices comes from the need to overcome new problems or the necessity to improve the way organizations operate. The notion of Best Practices often implies a long and complex process beginning with the identification of the problem and resulting in its solution.

Contributing to Best Practices infers providing a precise description of this process and accepting to exchange and share experiences with other organizations. This allows us to broaden the use of the proposed practices, which will eventually become approved and documented procedures and methods.

In order to guarantee a high quality of Best Practices papers, it is important that their content be consistent. For this, we recommend that authors organize and structure their papers in the following manner:

1. The problem and its context (20%): presentation of the organization and its internal and external environments; the problem, its origin, and its impact on the organization's activity; the primary reasons for investigating solutions.

2. The process used to solve the problem (40%): the intended goals of the project; the collection and processing of data, statistics, facts; the major steps of the process; the strategy and method employed; performance evaluation criteria.
3. Results and perspectives (40%): fulfillment of economic, environmental, or societal goals; the key success factors; the obstacles and challenges encountered; conclusive information for the organization; perspectives for the future.
4. To format their papers for submission, authors should download the guidelines/template from the conference website.

Important Dates:

Submission start date:	July 30, 2009
Submission deadline for papers	August 28, 2009
Reviewer end date	September 4, 2009
Conference Registration Date:	September 4, 2009
Conference dates	September 19 – 22, 2009
Conference workshop date	September 22, 2009

Review of Submissions:

A double-blind peer-review process is applied to ensure that evaluations are as error free as possible and of the highest possible quality. Before the peer-reviewing, papers will be checked for conformity with submission guidelines and for overall appropriateness for the conference. Papers that pass the initial screening process will then be double-blind reviewed. The authors' identities are not known to the reviewers. The papers will be evaluated according to the following criteria: relevance to conference and call for papers topic; clear definition of the core issue; mastery of the concepts used; usefulness to best practices; quality and readability of text; conformity with submission guidelines.

Paper acceptance:

There will be five papers accepted for presentation at the conference; however, additional papers will be accepted for publication in a proceedings book. In order to give the proceedings a consistent, high-quality appearance, we ask that authors following some basic guidelines. You should use the EDAC/EDABC 2009 Best Practices template and format your paper exactly like this document. The easiest way to use this template is to download it from the conference webpage and replace the content with your own material. The template file contains specially formatted styles (e.g., Normal, Heading, Bullet, Table, Text, References, Title, Author and Affiliation) that are designed to reduce the work in formatting your final submission. Please bear in mind that submitted papers will be uploaded without author information as the reviewers will be directly downloading these submissions for evaluation in the double-blind review process. Accepted papers will be published in the proceedings book WITH author information.



Submission

Please submit your papers via email. Papers must be submitted in MS Word format. The deadline for submission is Friday, August 28, 2009. Submissions must be submitted electronically to wheeldon@edabc.com with the Subject line - Rural Development Best Practices

Publication

We are looking forward to a rigorous and focused exchange of ideas and best practices. After the selection process is completed, we will publish selected papers and presentations in a electronic proceedings books. The most qualified papers will be published in a special issue and will be made available to all members of EDAC and EDABC.