
Information

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA INVESTS OVER \$7.3 MILLION IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO

SMALL BUSINESS INITIATIVES

\$4,076,700

FedNor is committed to supporting community-based economic development efforts that create employment and stimulate growth in Northern Ontario, through partnerships with not-for-profit Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs).

FedNor funding will support:

Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (pan-Northern organization based in Thunder Bay)

- A FedNor investment of \$960,000 will help this aboriginal CFDC deliver business services and access to capital for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs), as well as community economic development efforts over the next three years.
- An additional \$226,000 will be used to provide SMEs with repayable loans, loan guarantees and equity investments.
- A contribution of \$150,000 over three years will support small, regional economic development projects.
- The remaining \$149,700 will be used for a feasibility study to evaluate routing and ownership options for an energy transmission corridor across Nishnawbe Aski Nation.

Atikokan Economic Development Corporation (based in Atikokan)

- A FedNor contribution of \$500,000 will be used by this CFDC as investment capital to provide SMEs with repayable loans, loan guarantees, and equity investments.
- The remaining \$300,000 will be used to support the organization's operations over one year, including business services and community economic development initiatives.

Lake of the Woods Business Incentive Corporation (based in Kenora)

- \$400,000 in FedNor support will be used as investment capital to provide small SMEs with repayable loans, loan guarantees, and equity investments.
- An additional \$297,500 will support the organization's operations over one year, including business services, as well as community economic development efforts.

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Greenstone Economic Development Corporation (based in Geraldton)

- A FedNor contribution of \$322,500 will support the CFDC's operations over one year, including business services and community economic development initiatives.
- An additional \$90,000 will be invested in the Greenstone Mineral Development Initiative to develop a web-based, interactive mineral mapping tool.
- The remaining \$50,000 will support small, regional economic development projects.

Superior North Community Futures Development Corporation (based in Terrace Bay)

- FedNor's investment of \$333,500 will be used to support the organization's operations over one year, including business services, as well as community economic development efforts.

Chukuni Communities Development Corporation (based in Red Lake)

- A FedNor contribution of \$297,500 will be used to support the CFDC's operations over one year, including business services, as well as community economic development efforts.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES**\$1,142,400****Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre** (based in Thunder Bay)

The Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre will use \$500,000 in FedNor funding to improve broadband service for 66 communities, including 31 First Nations in the Thunder Bay region. These upgrades will pave the way for expanded use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) applications.

Keewaytinook Okimakanak/Northern Chiefs Council (based in Sioux Lookout)

Keewaytinook Okimakanak/Northern Chiefs Council, commonly referred to as KNet, will benefit from a FedNor contribution of \$500,000 to help expand the KNet broadband network. The investment will support ICT applications and cellular phone service in rural and remote First Nations in Northern Ontario.

Pwi-Di-Goo-Zing Ne-Yaa-Zhing Non-Profit Advisory Services (based in Fort Frances)

FedNor support of \$142,400 will help Pwi-Di-Goo-Zing Ne-Yaa-Zhing (PWI) to establish a First Nations Information Technology (IT) service delivery centre. Through the centre, PWI will provide IT services to Rainy River District First Nations, as well as related training and jobs for First Nations youth.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES**\$1,417,700****City of Kenora**

The City of Kenora will use \$500,000 in FedNor support to implement the first phase of an infrastructure project designed to revitalize the city's harbourfront and downtown core. FedNor funding will assist with engineering and design costs. As part of a separate initiative, an \$85,000 FedNor contribution will help develop and implement a brand that the community can use in its marketing and investment attraction efforts.

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The Township of Atikokan

FedNor is investing \$370,000 in the Township of Atikokan to assist with aerial surveys to update regional geological maps, identify mineral deposits and address gaps in information. The information will be shared with mineral exploration stakeholders with the goal of stimulating investment, job creation and mining activity in the Atikokan region.

Wasaya Community Economic Development Corporation (based in Thunder Bay)

A FedNor contribution of \$300,000 will assist Wasaya Community Economic Development Corporation to implement a two-year retail and business management training program, specifically for retail managers of community-owned stores and economic development officers in 10 remote First Nation communities.

Northwestern Ontario Development Network (based in Thunder Bay)

FedNor support of \$88,000 will be used to analyze the agricultural sector in Northern Ontario, and to identify trends and economic opportunities. The information will help agricultural producers to sustain and expand agriculture in Northern Ontario.

Township of Nipigon

The Township of Nipigon will benefit from \$40,000 in FedNor support to develop an economic diversification plan for the communities of Nipigon and Red Rock Indian Band at Lake Helen Reserve. A consulting firm will undertake a strategic community and economic development planning process to identify and implement new economic opportunities.

Association des Francophones du Nord Ouest de l'Ontario (based in Thunder Bay)

The Association des Francophones du Nord Ouest de l'Ontario will benefit from a FedNor investment of \$34,700 to help develop a five-year strategic plan. The plan will help identify sources of funding available to help Francophones start up or expand their businesses.

INNOVATION INITIATIVES**\$487,840****Genesis Genomics Inc.** (based in Thunder Bay)

With \$487,840 in FedNor assistance, Genesis Genomics Inc will conduct research to identify a biomarker for breast cancer. A biomarker is a series of telltale genes that always appear to be active in people with breast cancer. Once a biomarker has been verified, it can lead to faster and more efficient screening of patients and, ultimately, earlier treatment and better prognosis. Fifteen high-knowledge jobs will be maintained as a result of the project.

YOUTH INITIATIVES**\$219,950**

Eight new Youth Interns will gain valuable job experience through FedNor's Youth Internship Program (YIP), helping them make the transition from the campus to the workplace. Their responsibilities will range from assisting with marketing strategies and event coordination to research. Host organizations receiving FedNor YIP funding of up to \$27,500, are:

- Lakehead University - 2
- City of Kenora
- St. Joseph's Care Group (based in Thunder Bay)
- Corporation of the City of Thunder Bay
- Sioux Lookout Anti-Racism Committee
- Habitat for Humanity Thunder Bay
- Thunder Bay Multicultural Association