

Seeking input on local economic development plan

Valley Heartland Community Futures Development Corporation, Lanark County and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs are leading an economic development strategic planning process for the county and are seeking input from stakeholders.

This county-wide partnership initiative is driven by all municipalities in Lanark County and economic development stakeholders throughout the wider region. Since the process began in May, the leadership team has met twice and numerous meetings with smaller working groups have taken place. Currently the process has engaged 41 representatives from every municipality in the county.

“We have met our initial milestones toward our goal of developing a roadmap for future economic development programs and services for the county, which can also be used by the individual municipalities,” explains Stacie Lloyd, Regional Economic Development Officer for Valley Heartland.

Lanark County Bill Dobson says he is enthusiastic about the process. “It is great to have the collaboration of every one of the municipalities in Lanark County, along with economic development stakeholder advisory groups in the wider region of Smiths Falls and north Leeds. By working together we will ensure a strong future for our businesses and residents.”

Stakeholder groups include economic development committees, Chambers of Commerce, BIAs, educational and healthcare organizations, and business community representatives.

“Now we are seeking high-level information from the stakeholders,” Ms. Lloyd said. “We are asking them to complete a questionnaire to provide input on the things that make Lanark County a great place to live, work and play, and on actions that could be taken to improve Lanark County.”

The questionnaire can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5PKFV2H> until Aug. 14.

Initial meetings set the foundation for the process and how each community will contribute to the collaborative plan. Participants have been delving into the demographics and economy of the county to consider local industry sectors, workforce, strengths and future opportunities in economic develop.

Ms. Lloyd explains two working groups were formed to continue the analysis and engage Economic Development Stakeholder Advisory Groups to provide insight into the collaboration. “We want to ensure key priorities from existing municipal and regional plans are incorporated into the process.”

Updates on the strategic planning process can be found at <http://valleycfdc.com/strategic-planning/>. For more information, contact Ms. Lloyd at 613-283-7002 ext. 106 or e-mail EcDev@valleycfdc.com.

– 30 –

For more information, contact:

Stacie Lloyd, Regional Economic Development Officer
Valley Heartland Community Futures Development Corporation
613-283-7002 ext. 106