

Lanark County Business Retention & Expansion Project seeing great community response!

Enthusiasm is high for the Business Retention and Expansion (BR+E) project in Lanark County so far, and there are still ways to be involved,

Lanark County, in partnership with Valley Heartland Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC), is delivering the project, which aims to support and strengthen local business across Lanark County.

The BR+E project is an action-oriented, community-based and volunteer-driven process that includes confidential face-to-face interviews/surveys by volunteers with businesses to address any issues/opportunities for that business, as well as data collection and action planning.

The project is seeing great response across Lanark County, both in terms of volunteers coming forward to help with business surveys and with businesses wanting to participate by taking part in the business interview and survey process.

To date, almost 50 volunteer visitors have been confirmed, but the project needs continued support and commitment from the community to meet the goal of having between 60 and 70 volunteers by the end of November.

“Volunteering to assist with the business surveys is a great way to support local business, learn more about your local economy and work with others in a fun and engaging experience,” explained Teri Devine, BR+E Coordinator, Valley Heartland CFDC.

The volunteer visitors come from all walks of life, including retirees looking for a new experience, youth wanting to learn more about entrepreneurship and business owners who want to support each other, demonstrating the spirit of working together and the community’s desire to support local business.

The other key segment of the project is for businesses to participate in an interview/survey with the volunteer visitors.

“Businesses will be able to share information by completing the survey, have any issues or opportunities heard and will be contributing to the development of future projects, programs and priorities that support business across Lanark County,” said Stacie Lloyd, Economic Development Officer, Valley Heartland CFDC.

Results of the survey will help Lanark County set priorities and actions that respond to the needs of local business both now and into the future.

Business selection has started, so if you are a business in Lanark County that would like to participate by agreeing to an interview/survey, don't miss out. If you are interested in volunteering to conduct face-to-face confidential interviews/surveys with local businesses or if your business would like to participate, please contact Ms. Devine at 613-283-7002 ext. 111 or 613-207-5940 or by e-mail at bre@valleycfdc.com.

More information is available at www.valleycfdc.com/bre.

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For general information about Valley Heartland CFDC and Lanark County programs and services, please contact:

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About Valley Heartland CFDC

At Valley Heartland Community Futures Development Corporation, we've been building entrepreneurship for over 30 years, helping to strengthen and grow the local economy. We work with entrepreneurs and communities to help them nurture the most innovative, sustainable businesses and communities imaginable. As a community-based, nonprofit organization funded by FedDev Ontario, we invest in job creation, business and community innovation. *Contact us at valleycfdc.com*

About the Eastern Ontario Development Program (EODP)

The Eastern Ontario Development Program (EODP) is a \$48-million initiative that advances economic development in rural eastern Ontario. Through EODP, FedDev Ontario is collaborating with Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) in eastern Ontario to promote the growth of new and existing businesses in rural communities.