

Ministry of Indigenous
Relations and
Reconciliation

Ministère des Relations
avec les Autochtones et
de la Réconciliation

Office of the Deputy Minister

Bureau du sous-ministre

160 Bloor Street East
Suite 400
Toronto ON M7A 2E6
Tel: 416-314-1161
Fax: 416-314-1165

160, rue Bloor Est
Bureau 400
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2E6
Téléphone: 416-314-1161
Télécopieur: 416-314-1165



Website:
www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-indigenous-relations-and-reconciliation

March 17, 2017

The Honourable J. David Wake
Financial Accountability Officer of Ontario
2 Bloor St West, Suite 900
Toronto ON M4W 3E2

Dear Mr. David Wake:

On behalf of the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR), I am pleased to provide you with the requested information to support your analysis on the Cost-Effectiveness of Ontario's Business Support Programs.

The programs funded by MIRR are focused primarily on closing social and economic gaps, and further reconciliation efforts. These programs were designed to enable Indigenous communities and businesses to enter and maintain a presence in the Ontario market place. They are not supports to businesses in the traditional sense, as their purpose is to address the historical disadvantages Indigenous communities and businesses have faced.

Key barriers to economic development in indigenous communities include the lack of access to skills training and financing, as well as the lack of economic planning capacity at the community level. The Aboriginal Economic Development Fund begins to address these barriers by supporting Indigenous communities in the development of long-term economic strategies. It also provides grants for province-wide and regional skills training projects, as well as funding for Aboriginal Financial Institutions to improve access to financing.

The Métis Economic Development Fund addresses barriers currently faced by Métis individuals, communities and businesses in securing financing for economic and business development. The fund was the result of negotiations on resource revenue sharing with the Métis Nation of Ontario that identified ways to address these barriers. Funding is provided to the Métis Voyageur Development Fund, an independent Métis-controlled economic development corporation that supports Métis-owned businesses.

The Policy Development Engagement Fund provides funding to support policy-making on a government-to-government basis. Unlike the programs identified above, this fund does not support businesses or entrepreneurs. Rather, it funds Indigenous communities and organizations to build their capacity and support their participation in the development of government policies that directly affect their communities.

I trust that this information provides you with some important additional context when assessing Ontario's Business Support Programs.

If you have any questions or require additional information on our submission, please contact Esther Laquer, Director, Corporate Management Branch, at 416-212-1277.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Richardson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Deborah Richardson
Deputy Minister

c: Paula Reid
Chief Administrative Officer
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Enclosures

Attachment 1: Cover Spreadsheet: Inventory of Responsive Records for Information Request

Attachment 2: MIRR Business Support Programs spreadsheet