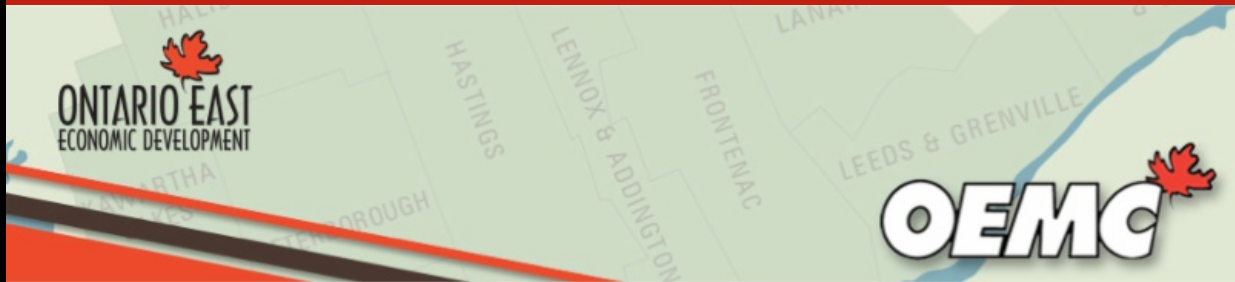


June 17, 2020 eNewsletter

## Ontario East Events

Visit the Ontario East [Events Calendar](#) and stay up-to-date on what's happening in Eastern Ontario. If you have any on-line events that you would like us to share, please forward to [info@ontarioeast.ca](mailto:info@ontarioeast.ca)



### Ontario East Municipal Conference (OEMC) is Going Virtual for 2020

The OEMC planning committee is reviewing several options regarding format and dates and will be confirming details to everyone, including our current sponsors and registrants, in the days ahead.

Stay tuned...

## Ontario East News

If you have any news that you would like us to share, please forward to [info@ontarioeast.ca](mailto:info@ontarioeast.ca)



### Ontario and Canada Helping Small Business Go Digital

*News Release, June 11, 2020 | Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade*

**\$57 Million Investment in Digital Main Street Will Help Businesses Reopen, Recover and Grow Long after COVID-19**

*Toronto* — The Ontario government, in partnership with the federal government, is helping small businesses reach more customers through the Digital Main Street platform. It is a \$57-million program which will help up to 22,900 Ontario businesses create and enhance their online presence and generate jobs for more than 1,400 students.

The new program was unveiled today by Prabmeet Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction, joined by Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

"Ontario's small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and their recovery is critical to Ontario's recovery," said Minister Sarkaria. "As thousands of small businesses across the province closed their doors and halted business during the COVID-19 outbreak, many struggled to shift sales or services online. I am very pleased, that together with Minister Joly and our federal partners, we are providing small businesses with the tools they need to recover, and flourish, as Ontario reopens."

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## **EOLC Receives First Report on Impact of COVID-19 on Regional Economy**

*News Release, Eastern Ontario, June 11, 2020*

At its board meeting held earlier today, the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council (EOLC) received the first detailed assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on the regional economy of Eastern Ontario, with a specific focus on its labour market.

The report, prepared by Limestone Analytics of Kingston, Ontario, estimates that between February and April 2020, COVID-19 reduced the region's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by about \$1.8 billion, and has reduced employment by the equivalent of 64,000 full-time jobs.

Using tailored input-output modelling techniques, Limestone Analytics has also created four projections for what the GDP and employment impact could be by the end of 2020. The cumulative impact on GDP ranges from a low of -\$6.6 billion to a high of -\$8.1 billion, depending on the scenario. The projected impact on full-time equivalent employment ranges from a loss of 56,000 jobs to a high of 73,000 jobs.

"When the lockdown restrictions hit with full force in mid-March, we knew that we needed to develop a way to track the economic impact of the pandemic across the regional economy," stated EOLC Co-Chair Ron Higgins. "Given that our analysis indicates that the impacts of COVID-19 are equivalent to a three-year loss in GDP growth, the magnitude of those numbers make it clear we have our work cut out for us."

"Monitoring the state of the regional economy is a core element of the EOLC's mandate, and in this case, we needed to move quickly," added EOLC Co-Chair Diane Therrien. "Limestone Analytics has been an agile partner as we sought to understand both current and potential impacts in what is still a very uncertain economic environment. With this assessment in hand, the EOLC can now make strategic choices about how best to support our region's recovery."

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Ontario  
Federation of  
Agriculture

## Feeding the Future: Connecting Ontario's Agri-Food Workforce

Feeding Your Future, an OFA project funded by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, needs your help to reach ag and food employers and job seekers!

This project is geared towards attracting new candidates to fill labour gaps in the agri-food industry, and streamline the process of connecting employers with potential employees during COVID-19 and beyond. The project includes a free job matching concierge service, nine virtual career fairs, a series of ten webinars, and specialized training opportunities.

OFA will work closely with AgCareers.com and CareersinFood.com, alongside many other collaborative partners throughout this project. Together, we can help support employers from field to fork to fill labour shortages and encourage job seekers across the province to consider a career in agriculture and food.

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Community Futures  
Eastern Ontario



## Community Futures Eastern Ontario Seeking Executive Director

*Deadline for Submission: June 26, 2020*

Community Futures Eastern Ontario is seeking an Executive Director to guide the next stage in the development of the organization. We are seeking a lead Executive who can build effective partnerships with internal and external stakeholders while leading a small and dynamic team to manage a growth-oriented investment fund and deliver high-impact programs. Member relations will be an essential part of this role and require effective communication and collaboration.

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