



August 2021

## Atikameksheng Businesses Newsletter

Information on funding opportunities and other useful links and info for our Atikameksheng Businesses.

Have a question? Please reach out to Jordan Cheechoo at [ecdev@WLFN.com](mailto:ecdev@WLFN.com)

### **AA Website**

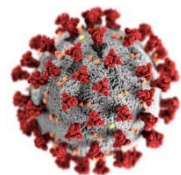
Business Development and Support page of the website has been updated with helpful links.

<https://atikamekshenganishnawbek.ca/economic-development/business-development/>

### **COVID-19**

Due to the present situation, retailers will continue to comply with the SOP's as put in place by the Gimaa and Council Order. Miigwetch for your cooperation.

Reminder: Atikameksheng will no longer be able to provide funding for the Screener wage subsidy for retailers. One funding source that can be accessed directly is through Naadmaadwiik as they are able to provide targeted wage subsidies for employers. We are available to support in connecting you with our contacts at Naadmaadiiuk.



Please continue to follow SOP's.

### **Vaccines**

If you are community member and would like a vaccine appointment, please call Darlene G at (705) 698-6818 or Marina McComber (705) 507-0134.

## **COVID-19 Screening Tools for Businesses**

Updated tools for the Businesses in the community:

- The [\*COVID-19 Screening Tool for Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes\*](#) (v.6) includes recommended screening questions for entry to a long-term care or retirement homes.
  - The recommendations align with Directive #2 requirements for actively screening residents, staff, students, and visitors to either facility.
  - The tool also includes guidance on next steps according to screening results.
  - The screening questions cover:
    - Symptoms
    - Travel,
    - Medical advice to isolate,
    - Status as a “close contact”
    - COVID-Alert notifications,
    - Testing
    - Household contacts
- [\*COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool\*](#) (v.5.2)
  - The latest version was released August 27.
  - It includes updates to the symptoms list, the isolation timeline, and to guidance for people who have tested positive in the last 90 days.
- [\*COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool\*](#)
  - The latest version was released August 27.
  - It includes updates to the symptoms list, the isolation timeline, and to guidance for people who are fully vaccinated or have tested positive in the last 90 days.
- [\*COVID-19 Customer Screening\*](#)
  - The latest version – released on August 27—includes updated symptoms.
  - It includes screening questions defined by the Ministry of Health on vaccination status, symptoms, travel, medical advice to isolate and testing.
- [\*COVID-19 Worker and Employee Screening\*](#)
  - The latest version—released on August 27—includes updated symptoms.
  - The tool includes screening questions defined by the Ministry of Health on age, vaccination, symptoms, travel, medical advice to isolate and testing.
  - Screening requirements don’t apply to first responders going into a workplace for emergency purposes.
  - They also don’t apply to certain health care settings, like long-term care homes, or other congregate living spaces that already have screening requirements in place.
- [\*COVID-19 Signage Questions for Businesses and Organizations\*](#) (v.5)
  - The tool—updated on August 27-- includes questions and instructions to use on signs that help customers self-screen for COVID-19.
  - Businesses are required to post screening signs at their entrances and in other visible places.

## **FUNDING and GRANTS**

Great resource for grants and funding: <https://ontariobusinessgrants.com/>



<https://digitalmainstreet.ca/ontariogrants/>

### **Digital Transformation Grant Program**

Focused on providing qualifying brick-and-mortar small businesses with a digital assessment, online training, and a one-time \$2,500 grant to implement their Digital Transformation Plan.

### **Digital Service Squad Grant Program**

Focused on providing one-on-one assistance to small businesses in any region of Ontario. It will include training, advisory support, and a grant to support the Digital Service Squads across Ontario.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eve-2y1sAw&t=118s>

## **Indigenous Community Benefit Fund – Stream 1**

Atikameksheng has received funding through the ICBF and are looking from interests from community businesses.

Eligible costs include:

- PPE
- Marketing New Services
- New Technology
- Professional Services
- Retrofitting stores for new COVID safe protocols
- Other reasonable costs incurred due to COVID19 Pandemic

This program is *NOT* eligible to cover any revenue lost.

Stream 2 is available and open for applications as well and can be found by following this link: <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1596809415775/1596809469296>.

## **Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business – Hydro One Business Grant**

Grant Overview: Indigenous-owned businesses headquartered in Ontario are invited to apply to one of two grant levels.

- Level 1: \$2,500 grant + CCAB membership, 20 grants will be awarded by a live draw.
- Level 2: \$7,500 grant + CCAB membership, more detailed application and completed applications will be reviewed by a jury and 8 grants will be awarded.

Funding Criteria: The business must be at least 51% owned and controlled by an Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit) person. The for-profit business must be registered in Canada. Your business is only allowed to apply to either Level 1 or Level 2, you cannot apply to both.

The application process will close on **Monday, September 13, 2021, at 4:00PM EST.**

For more information about the grant or to apply for the grant go to:

[www.ccab.com/hydro-one-business-grant/](http://www.ccab.com/hydro-one-business-grant/)

For more information on the Hydro One Business Grant, contact: **grants@ccab.com**

## **Waubetek Business Development Corporation**

<https://www.waubetek.com/>

*“Our mission is to improve the economies of the First Nation communities and Northeastern Ontario through the proactive, professional and meaningful provision of business and economic services”*

## **Aboriginal Business Financing Program**

<http://www.nadf.org/grants>

### Eligible Projects

- Business planning
- Business startup costs
- Business acquisitions
- Business expansions
- Marketing initiatives that are local, domestic, or export-oriented
- New product or process development
- Adding technology to improve operations and competitiveness
- Operating costs in association with capital costs
- Financial services, business support, business-related training, and mentoring services

## **FedNOR**

### **Business Scale-up and Productivity**

<https://fednor.gc.ca/eic/site/fednor-fednor.nsf/eng/fn04081.html>

- Technology demonstration, adoption and adaptation
- Commercialization, Market Development/Expansion
- Business Management

### **Community Economic Development**

<http://fednor.gc.ca/eic/site/fednor-fednor.nsf/eng/fn03440.html>

## **Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation**

The NOHFC is targeting projects that create jobs and provide economic benefits for Northern Ontario.

The most relevant funding programs are:

- **Grow:** up to **\$1 million** grant and loan combination for businesses to **expand existing operations**.
- **Launch:** up to **\$200,000** grant for businesses to **start-up operations**.
- **Locate:** up to **\$5 million** grant and loan combination for businesses **locating new business operations to Northern Ontario**.
- **Workforce Development:** up to **\$35,000** grant per position for **hiring interns or apprentices** (max 2 positions).
- **Innovation:** up to **\$2 million** grant to support **research & development and commercialization of new and innovative technologies**.

## **Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program: Access to Business Opportunities**

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1582037564226/1610797399865>

## **Business Plan Support**

Regional Business Center: <https://regionalbusiness.ca/>

## **Additional Information or support**

Contact: Jordan Cheechoo – Economic Development Officer

Email: [ecdev@wlfm.com](mailto:ecdev@wlfm.com)

Phone: 705-692-3651 Extension: 220