

Backgrounder

For Immediate Release

Updated: October 2023

RTO 9 announced support for 79 tourism businesses and organizations in South Eastern Ontario to recover from the pandemic and prepare for future growth. RTO 9 received \$4.475 million, from FedDev Ontario to deliver this support, as part of a Government of Canada contribution of over \$78 million, through the Tourism Relief Fund.

Recipients supported include:

Recipient Name	Project	Funding Contribution
1000 Islands & Seaway Cruises	This project will refurbish the cruise vessel for an enhanced visitor experience, and replace 20-year-old signage.	\$20,000.00
1000 Islands Regatta/Brockville Hydroplane Racing Inc.	This project will support the annual 1000 Islands Regatta with racing in the day and musical entertainment at night by funding rentals of staging, tents and portapotties.	\$30,000.00
33 Vines	This project will transform a barn into a spa, 5-bedroom accommodation and create music stages at the winery.	\$77,000.00
Ahoy Rentals	This project will increase capacity of existing rentals by 25% with more kayaks and safety equipment, as well as enlarging the kayak dock launching infrastructure.	\$10,000.00
Akwesasne Powwow	The project will support the major Powwow festival occurring in September of each year which promotes and shares the Mohawk and other First Nations culture through song, dance and artistry with the main focus being the dance competition.	\$100,000.00
Arbru Solar Brewery	This project will construct an all-season visitor centre and patio seating area and provide gender neutral and accessible bathrooms.	\$70,000.00
Archie's Family Golf Centre	The project will construct two covered seating areas for food services, and make miniature golf walkways accessible as well as work on winter activities and supports.	\$40,000.00
Archie's Place	The project will restore and retrofit an old schoolhouse to be used for events and activities.	\$100,000.00
Base 31	This project will create a new space on a former 700-acre WWII air base known as Base 31 to provide a venue for concerts, culinary festivals, exhibits and more.	\$60,000.00
Bear Standing Tall & Associates	The project will create a Tipi Village, and an improved septic for the village, so both indigenous and non-indigenous visitors can visit to learn and experience indigenous cultures in a way that is land-based, experiential, authentic and immersive.	\$100,000.00

Black Bear Ridge	This project will create a more engaging recreation product during and outside of golf season with hiking, cycling, Bocce Golf, Disc Golf, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and skating.	\$65,000.00
Brockville Arts Centre/City of Brockville	This project will create an accessible box office window in the vestibule of the lobby.	\$7,541.00
Broken Stone Winery	The project will add a three-season pergola and outdoor tasting bar/kitchen with two accessible, non-gender three-season bathrooms.	\$75,000.00
Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority	The project will provide wayfinding signage throughout the CRCA trail systems for hiking.	\$50,000.00
City of Quinte West	This project enables pop-up patios throughout the downtown as well as street lighting, banners, promo videos, fire pits and live entertainment.	\$100,000.00
Cornwall Downtown BIA	This project will use dynamic and functional lighting elements to attract attention and bring important cultural experiences and value to visitors of the downtown area by establishing unique destination spaces.	\$88,956.00
Cornwall Tourism/City of Cornwall	This project is will retrofit a container to create a more visible and mobile visitor centre and allows for use in all seasons.	\$60,000.00
Daft Brewing	The project allows for the creation of a permanent outdoor patio for hosting of events and collaborations with artists and musicians.	\$70,000.00
Department of Illumination	This project supports the expansion to a 2 day event for the annual Firelight Lantern Festival in November.	\$35,000.00
Downtown Kingston!	The project involves the provision of tables and chairs, as well as costs for four days of blues festival stages in the downtown.	\$45,000.00
Festival Players of Prince Edward County	This project will increase venue capacity from 70 to 200 seats as well as provide new software for ticketing and outdoor upgrades.	\$50,000.00
Furnace Falls Farm	This project will enhance the venue by adding a post & beam stage with a permanent steel awning for outdoor music concerts and creation of a party pit and a 33'x40' drive shed will be converted to a space for hosting open-air meals.	\$25,000.00
Gananoque Catering and Curling Club	This project will replace the roof and make improvements to windows to reduce energy footprint and extend the life of the building that is host to provincial events and tournaments.	\$31,950.00
Greater Napanee Pride Inc.	The project will support the Greater Napanee Pride March and pride events.	\$15,000.00
Green Gables Vines Winery	This project will expand operations all year round to cater to snowmobilers and ATV's and a create and maintain a small cross-country ski trail through the vineyard and wooded 60 acres. Snow clearing equipment is required as well as signs and commercial solar lights at the edge of the trail to properly direct customers to the vineyard for food and drink.	\$40,000.00

Harlem Stonegate B&B	The project adds lighting to an courtyard venue space, a fire-pit and stargazing area, a sugar bush hiking and camping area with rest/observation platforms with a metal gazebo and bathroom facility, a glamping tent for an outdoor experience, an EV station and a yoga and meditation structure at the edge of the Hayfield.	\$14,800.00
Hayloft Dance Hall	The project allows for venue upgrades, after two years of closure, for this popular venue in a 100-year-old barn.	\$40,000.00
Hotel Kenney Rideau	This project involves infrastructure changes to create a three-season destination offering dockage, overnight mooring, ice cream shops and outside lounging areas on the Rideau Canal.	\$100,000.00
Improbable Escapes	This project allows for the creation of more tech-focused games which allow for fewer touch points in games while creating more magic moments, such as secret doors popping open.	\$60,000.00
Jackson's Falls Country Inn	This project is to build a multi-faceted exterior space on a large decked area (26'x78') with three defined and sheltered pergola spaces.	\$29,900.00
Kemptville Snowmobile Klub	This project improves winter trails with the purchase of equipment that creates hard-packed trails that riders wish to return to.	\$90,000.00
Kenyon Agricultural Society	This project is to host the Glengarry Highland games which is the largest outside of Scotland and one of Eastern Ontario's largest events and catalyst for 20,000 visitors.	\$50,000.00
King's Lock Craft Distillery	The project will add concerts from August to October over the shoulder season, and will fund equipment and stages.	\$90,000.00
Kingston Historical Society/Murney Tower Museum	The project will create a permanent exhibition in Murney Tower depicting the British Militia barracks.	\$10,000.00
Kinship House of Fine Spirits	This project increases the infrastructure and adds shelter units outside to allow more visitors to the farm, as well as expand the offering of available activities from current tastings, to events such as cocktail classes. Funding will help provide marketing materials for the new offerings.	\$20,000.00
Lennox & Addington County	This project will enhance the Dark Sky viewing area with solar power installation and a high-quality telescope and presentation equipment for stargazing events throughout the year as well as improving the washroom.	\$100,000.00
Lilac & Vine	This project will enhance and expand ready-to-book tourism experiences with innovative and highly instagrammable day tours.	\$28,000.00
Lost Villages Historical Society	The project is to add bilingual signage to provide a high-quality visitor experience and allow for self guided tours.	\$13,000.00

Lyndhurst, Seeley's Bay & District Chamber of Commerce	The project will provide for the purchase of a mobile visitor welcome centre to provide a welcoming entrance to the region with a printed members directory so visitors know what the area has to offer.	\$60,000.00
Modern Fuel Artist Run Centre	The project will improve the artist space with new floor treatment and lighting.	\$15,000.00
Mohawk Island Vacations	The project is to build two new cottages for rental and refurbish existing cottages for short term rentals within Akwesasne, as well as provide a suitable environment and quality venue for events.	\$100,000.00
Municipality of North Grenville	The project is to improve the dock and kayak launch in downtown Kemptville.	\$90,000.00
Napanee Excursions	This project improves the Normal Paul 45 foot pontoon boat through replacement of dock cleats, installation of a security system, mic system, ambient lighting, and a marine grade stereo and speakers for the boat. It allows for upgrades to the website for electronic bookings and brochures and signage on major 400 highways.	\$19,000.00
Napanee Golf & Country Club	The project will improve the clubhouse and parking lot and add a pergola protective awning to the outdoor facilities to enable more outdoor events.	\$32,206.00
Native Expresssions/Lil Crow Cabin	The project is to offer unique overnight accommodations in an indigenous setting.	\$100,000.00
Neptune & Salacia Diving	This project will expand operations by offering snorkelling tours for non-divers to discover shipwrecks, become a 5-Star PADI Dive Centre offering dive training year-round and bring in winter divers, provide equipment for rental for tourists who don't bring their equipment to Canada, provide an air filling station for cylinders so divers can stay longer, and continue Dive charters for higher volumes of divers.	\$100,000.00
North Grenville Chamber of Commerce	This project is to commission, design and install functional art benches throughout the downtown.	\$89,000.00
Perth "Major" Outfitters Inc.	This project allows for the purchase of additional kayaks for long term rental, and safety equipment as well as add to docking and launch an on-line booking system.	\$39,600.00
Portland on Rideau Historical Society	The Project is to renovate an old church into a space of historical learning, community and artistic appreciation. The former church is on a large lake between Ottawa and Kingston with a strategic location on the Canal system.	\$75,000.00
Quell	This project expands food tourism in the region with an in-person event pairing chefs with artists in six creative partnerships to create an immersive succulent environment.	\$12,000.00

Quinte Conservation Authority	This project revitalizes the unusable washroom building to provide 4 gender neutral washrooms with individual access points including features such as accessibility improvements, baby changing station, anti-slip epoxy, and new ventilation and lighting systems.	\$70,000.00
Raisin Region Conservation Authority	The project will repair the parking lot which has had to be closed due to disrepair, and fix the picnic area at Cooper Marsh Conservation Area.	\$90,000.00
Rosehall Run Vineyards	The project is to expand and improve the outdoor tasting environment and extend the season with a covered patio outfitted with a fire pit and propane heaters.	\$40,000.00
Skeleton Park Arts Festival	The project supports the Arts Festival in providing new and exciting music offerings and create new opportunities in support of local artists.	\$25,000.00
Slake Brewing	This project is to make facility improvements and add equipment to allow for hosting of events at the venue.	\$70,000.00
Spike Capital Corp.	The project creates barrier-free paths of travel at Picton's Ross/McMullen House by repairing existing mobility structures and integrating new supports, including repair of the elevator, to create a public space retrofitted with full physical accessibility.	\$35,000.00
Stanners Vineyard	This project provides more accessible outdoor space for visitor and allows for building of a wider pathway to the patio.	\$2,200.00
Station Road Arts Collective	The project is for the launch of a self-contained playhouse on wheels "Theatre En Roulant" with portable stages and outfitted with solar which is drawn by Belgian Horses and transported throughout the county.	\$90,000.00
Sugarbush Vineyards Ltd.	This project is for the creation of a 30'x40' wheelchair accessible building expansion to create an event space. The building offers a covered and enclosed area that can be heated to extend the visitation season.	\$70,000.00
Summerheights Golf Links	This project enhances health and safety with physical improvements to the facilities, a resurfaced 2400' outdoor covered patio, table and chair upgrades, and upgrades to the cladding of the farmhouse.	\$78,000.00
The Friends of Frontenac Park	This project is to construct an outdoor classroom structure for use by visiting school groups and for delivering educational programmes for the public at Frontenac Provincial Park.	\$80,000.00
The Glengarry Pioneer Museum	The project involves improving and building accessibility ramps for the beautifully restored Roxborough Hall, the SS#1 Kenyon School House and the Trapper's Cabin.	\$7,000.00
The Regent Theatre	This project doubles accessible seating capacity and begins the restoration of the heritage aspects of the theatre that ultimately creates a space that provides	\$100,000.00

	and experience, inspires photos, repeat visits and sales.	
Thousand Islands Playhouse	This project will build a flexible waterfront event space for open-air cultural activities, festivals, concerts and community events.	\$100,000.00
Three Dog Winery	The project is to provide solar powered outdoor lighting and a sound system to increase tourism by offering evening events.	\$18,250.00
Tortoise Ortis Wine	This project involves the construction of a three-season outdoor concrete patio and construction of an accessible, gender neutral bathroom.	\$43,950.00
Township of North Stormont	The project will update key outdoor attractions and facilities and add signage promoting tourism events and activities. Refurbishing of the Chrysler dock and installation of an accessible boat launch are key components of the project.	\$87,826.00
Township of South Frontenac	The project improves way finding signage and installation including adding a solar lighting system.	\$85,000.00
Traynor Family Vineyard	This project expands the outdoor space to create a 3200' patio with windbreak as well as improve the vineyards digital presence.	\$70,000.00
United Counties of Leeds & Grenville	This project will develop trail experiences and create the tourism brand for the region.	\$90,000.00
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	The project will create ten experience-driven videos focusing on heritage, sports, hospitality, and culinary tourism, showcasing summer, fall and winter activities and showcasing tourism assets. In addition new way-finding signage along the Waterfront Recreational path will be added and an EV charging station at the Historic Jail.	\$99,750.00
Upper Canada Playhouse	This project will install an assisted hearing system in the theatre, as well as contribute to the set and wardrobe building for the 2022 season.	\$50,000.00
Village of Merrickville-Wolford	This project in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce will see Victorian lamp posts installed throughout the downtown and other strategic locations. The lamps will be solar powered.	\$100,000.00
Wellington Willows Tourism & Hospitality Services	This project will winterize the circa 1940's service station on the Loyalist Parkway extending the duration of the tourism season and ensuring full accessibility and adding outdoor seating to the unique venue space.	\$51,791.00
Westport Brewing Company	This project allows the brewery to update signage and expand its seating and tasting area. It will provide for an expanded outdoor deck with more seating and an area for live musicians as well as an outdoor tasting area.	\$12,250.00
Wild Card Brewing Company	This project will enhance and beautify the event space with additional seating.	\$7,350.00

Wood Brothers Brewing	This project enhances and beautifies the patio and exterior features, increases the outdoor capacity and adds landscaping for shade.	\$9,500.00
World Rowing Tour 2022	This project raises the international profile of the Bay of Quinte with the one-week flagship event of the World Rowing Federation. The event promotes the region all around the world as a top destination for sports tourism.	\$25,000.00
Wynn Farms	This project will create a 50 acre sunflower farm with a cutting garden, picnic area with scooped ice cream on an existing summer/fall season agri-tourism business with apple orchards, corn mazes and pumpkin patches. The new sunflower fields will include trails and props like a clawfoot tub allowing for photo ops.	\$100,000.00
Total Funding		\$4,450,820.00