



Agenda
Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee

January 22, 2025

4 p.m.

Electronic Meeting

Quorum: 6

Page No.

A. Call to Order

B. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that York Region is located on the traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples including the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat and Métis peoples and the treaty territories of the Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Williams Treaties First Nations.

Today this area is home to many diverse Indigenous Peoples, and we recognize their history, spirituality, culture and stewardship of this land.

We also acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our closest First Nation community.

C. Disclosures of Interest

D. Presentations

D.1 Update on Ontario Centre for Innovation Programs and Funding Opportunities 1

Robert McMillan, Sector Manager, Agri-Food, Ontario Centre for Innovation

D.2 York Region Food Charter Update on Final Version 31

Morgan Sage, Food Policy Coordinator, York Region Food Network

D.3 2024-2027 Agriculture and Agri-food Sector Strategy Updates

Meena Hassanali, Program Manager, Rural and Agri-Food Initiatives

Nadia Mohammed, Rural and Agri-Food Specialist

Eman Ali, Communications Advisory, Economic Strategy

E. Deputations

(Subject to Committee granting deputant status.)

F. Communications

G. Other Business

G.1 New Appointment to the York Region Agriculture & Agri-Food Advisory Committee

Paul Lubberts, York Region Food Network's Urban Agriculture Coordinator

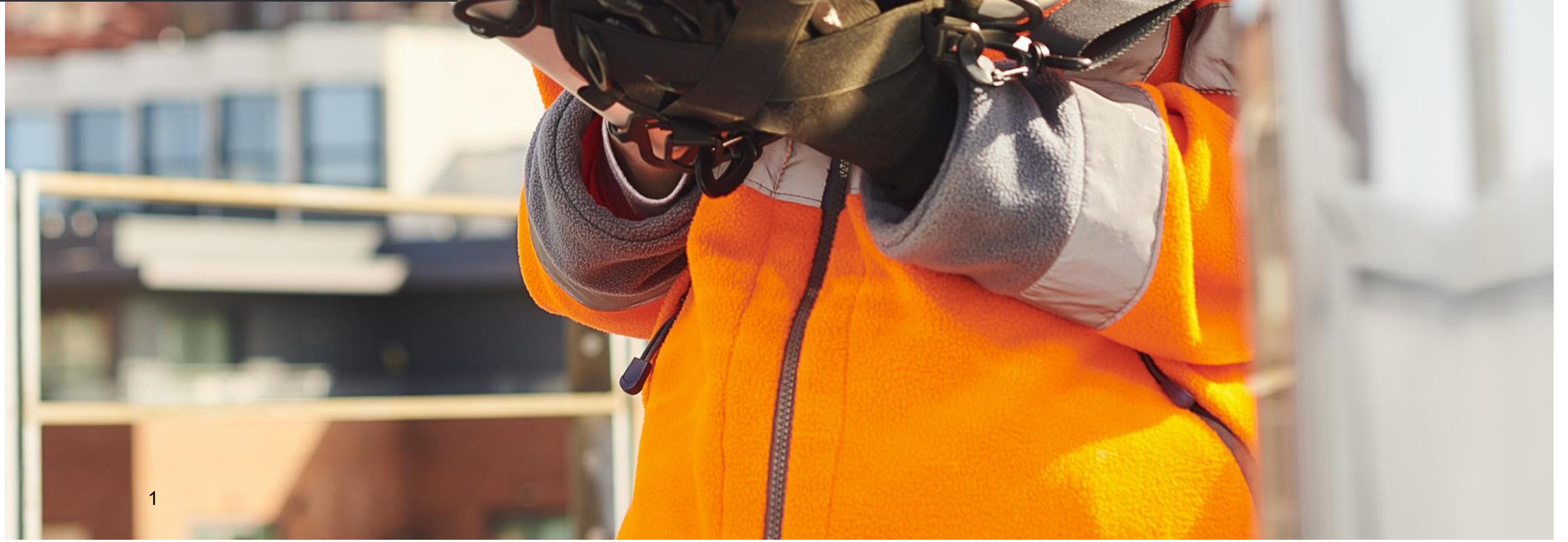
G.2 Member Roundtable Updates

H. Adjournment



**CRITICAL
INDUSTRIAL
TECHNOLOGIES**

Building the future of industry in Ontario





About us



A not-for profit organization established by the Government of Ontario in 1987



HQ in Toronto with Business Development Managers throughout Ontario



Deliver innovation programs for the Province with SME focus

CIT Overview

4 Sectors



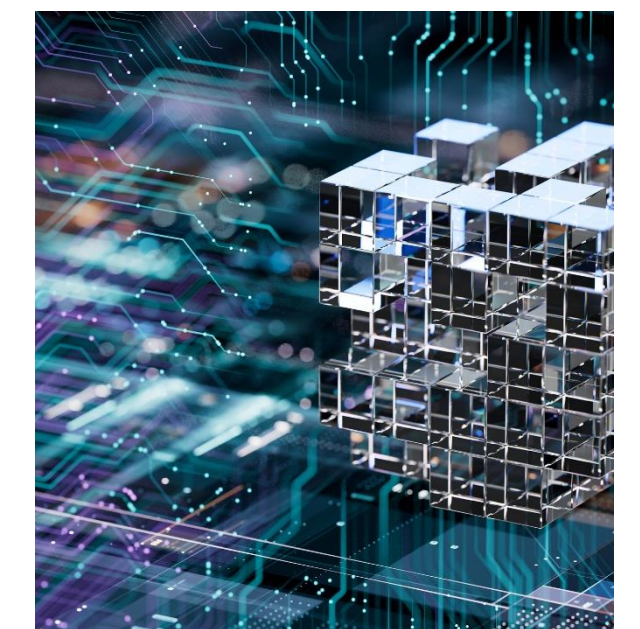
6 Critical Technologies



5G/Advanced Networks



AI/ML



Blockchain



Cybersecurity



Quantum



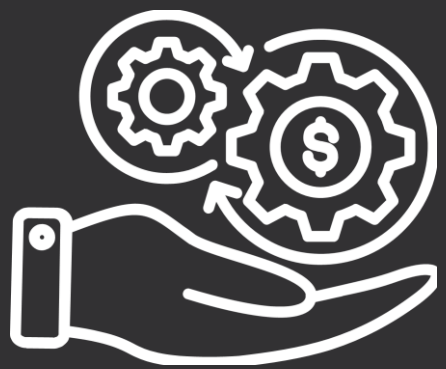
Robotics

CIT Opportunities

Open to Collaborate with Ecosystem Partners

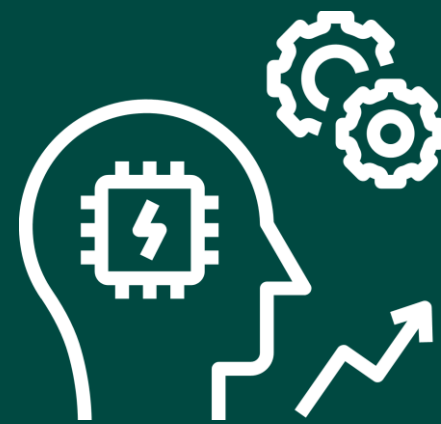
Small and Medium Enterprises	CIT funded projects, partnering on projects, talent opportunities
Large Enterprises	Partnering, adoption of critical technologies
Industry Organizations	Partnering, value add for existing client offerings
Other Organizations	Partnering, up/reskilling, adoption of critical technologies, value-add for clients
Academia	Partnering, source of interns, upskilling training
Industry / Technology Experts	COR Reviewer Panel to evaluate incoming CIT project applications

CIT Programs



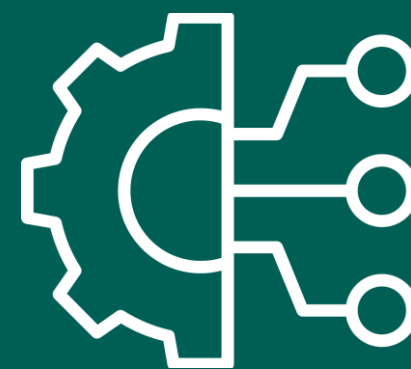
Talent Development Internships:

Subsidized intern support



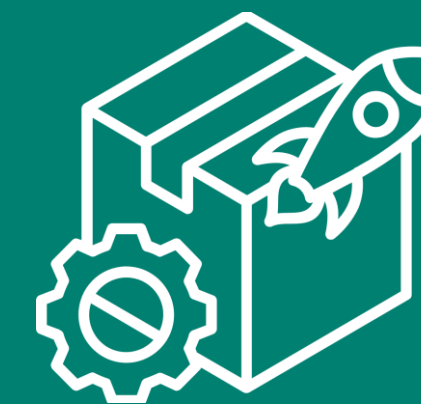
Future Ready:

Expert support to upskill/reskill existing staff for strategic business growth



Technology Access:

Validate existing solutions, potentially in new environments



Development and Commercialization:

De-risk and offset costs of new product development



Sector Adoption:

Innovate with a company consortium to create solutions for widespread industry challenges

Minimum Eligibility for CIT Programs



Small/Medium Enterprises
(less than 500 employees)



For-profit organization



Registered operations in Ontario



Adoption of Critical Technologies
part of roadmap

**Serving end users
in 4 core sectors**

Advanced
Manufacturing

Agri-Food

Construction

Mining

Talent Development Internships – (TDI)

- Support to bring on additional talent
- Recent graduates from a post-secondary institution (within the last 3 years)
- Must be involved with one of critical technologies
- 4-month internship (up to 2 units x 4 months each) per company
- OCI will fund up to \$10,000 per 4-month internship
- SME to match funding 1:1
- Rolling Intake – open now



Hire new talent with up to \$20k in 1:1 matched funding



Future Ready - (FR)

- Support to bring in a skilled expert for employee training
- Curriculum to include at least one of the named critical technologies

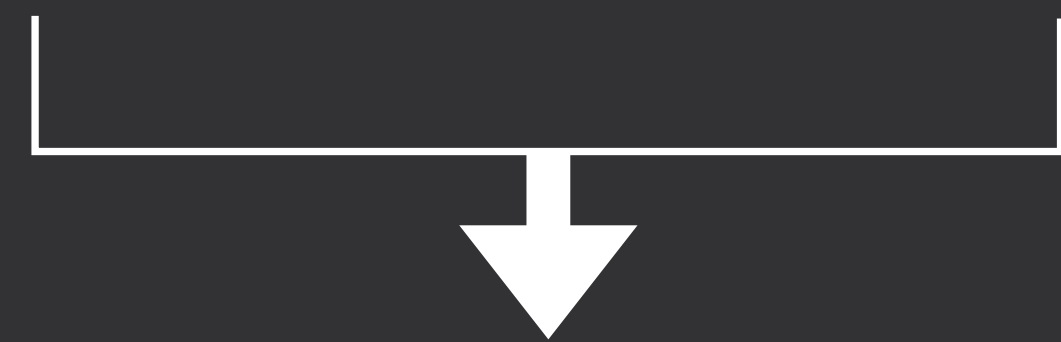
Hire an expert for staff training with up to \$10k in 1:1 matched funding

Technology Access Program (TAP)

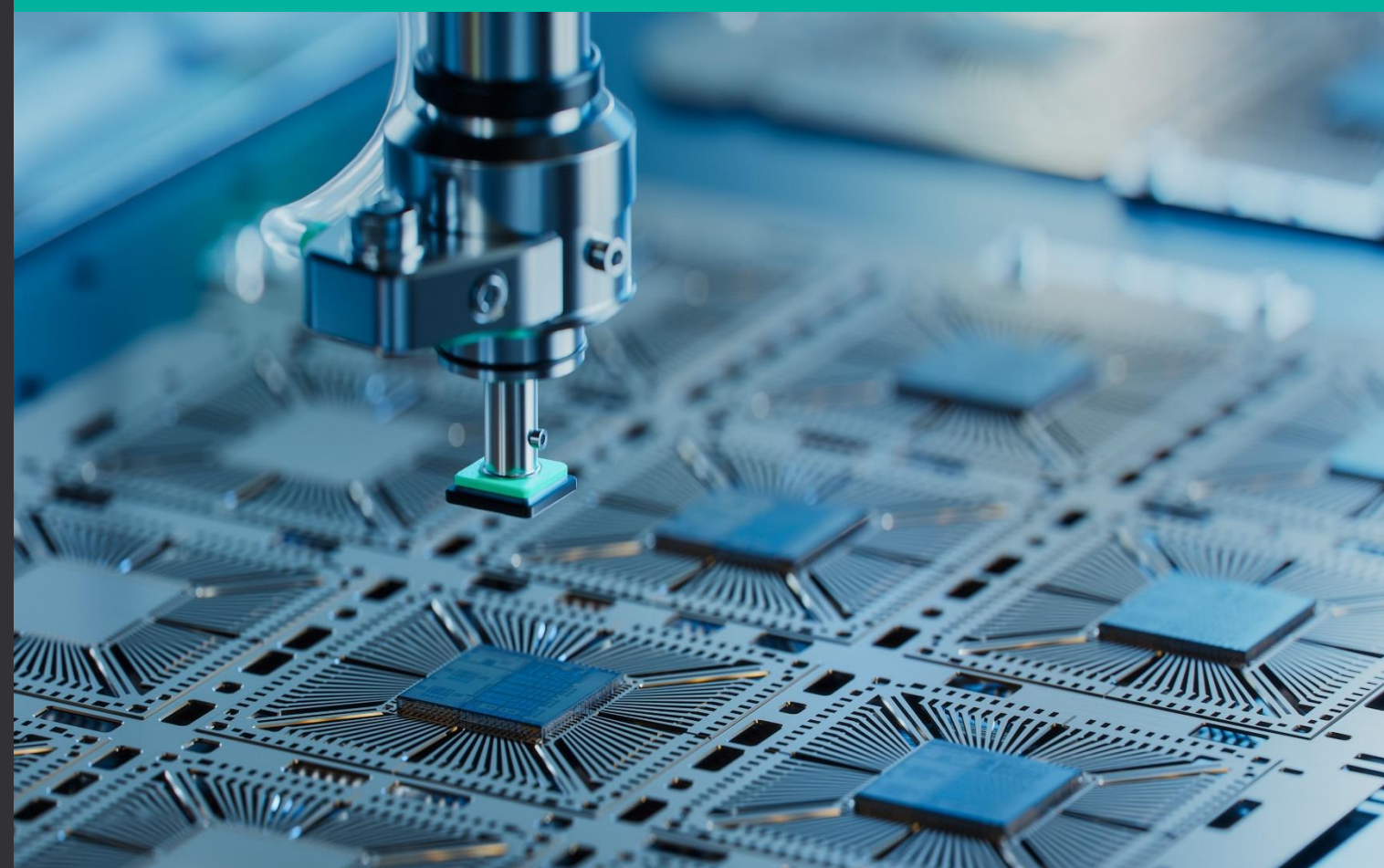
Innovative SME Solutions

+

Technology Development Sites



Sector Validated Solutions



No cost access to a Technology Development Site(s)

Sites provide sector-related facilities

SME has up to 6 months access

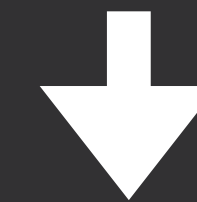
No partner required

Rolling Intake – now open



Development and Commercialization- (DC)

Innovative SME Solutions + Technology Development Sites + Funding Support



Commercialized Solution

No cost access to a Technology Development Site(s)

SME has up to 6 months access

Partner preferred but not required

\$50k - \$200k funding to SME with 1:1 match

Rolling Intake – now open

Technology Development Sites – (TDS)

Technology Development Sites (TDS) offer strategic testing services in operational environments that mimic the 4 CIT industrial sectors and use of the 6 critical technologies.

SMEs can access a TDS in 2 ways:

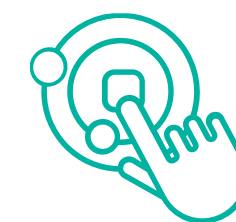


Technology Access Program



Development and Commercialization Program

Through these CIT partnerships, SMEs products hit the market faster and with greater momentum



Gain access to facilities otherwise unavailable to them



Develop solutions faster and for less out-of-pocket cost



Validate new applications of their product in operational environments



Technology Development Sites list is growing

The centre for Meat Innovation and Technology (CMIT) is driven to advance and strengthen the Canadian meat processing industry. We are the leading Canadian meat hub powering industry collaboration and innovation.

CMIT is dedicated to showcasing the world's leading technology for our industry and helping Canadian processors adopt these innovations to become more competitive.

What We Offer:

- Space for SMEs to test, validate & prototype technologies.
- Orientation to Meat and Poultry Processing Sector
- Guided interviews/engagement with targeted meat and poultry processors
- Live meat processing environment to demonstrate new technologies
- Expert feedback on technology feasibility/viability for the sector

Best Suited For:

- Technology companies that want to explore applications in meat processing
- Companies looking to explore new uses for their technology
- Organizations looking for opportunity to conduct demonstration and training of their products to a wide range of meat processing businesses.

Contact a CIT Sector Manager or OCI Business Development Manager for next steps.
Access the OCI Business Development Directory [here](#).

Vineland Research and Innovation Centre is a uniquely Canadian results-oriented organization dedicated to horticulture science and innovation. We deliver innovative products, solutions and services through an integrated and collaborative cross-country network to advance Canada’s research and commercialization agenda.

As a TDS, Vineland can support you by offering:

- Prototyping, testing & validating your technology
- Consulting on sector expertise in the horticultural sector
- Engaging with the sector
- Expert feedback on technology feasibility/viability for the sector

Opportunity to work in our Infrastructure including:

- Growing Facilities including controlled environment (i.e. greenhouses, convirons, growth rooms); precommercial Venlo greenhouse, retractable roof greenhouse, Fields, Orchard Operations
- Office and Collaboration Space
- The Hanger, Prototype and manufacturing facility
- Analytical lab services (genomics, biochemistry, pathology, soil health/substrates)

Why work with us?

We help SMEs explore applications in the horticultural sector, access Market Intelligence Services, engage in product development and validation services, and demonstrate or showcase their technologies.

SMEs can also leverage our expertise in our specialized fields:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| • Biochemistry | • Food Science |
| • Bioinformatics | • Genomics |
| • Breeding | • Market Intelligence |
| • Consumer Science | • Pathology |
| • Engineering (Data Science, Robotics, Vision, Systems Integration) | • Plant Production |
| • Entomology | • Plant Science |
| • Environmental Sustainability | • Soil Science |
| | • Software Engineering |



Contact a CIT Sector Manager or OCI Business Development Manager for next steps. Access the OCI Business Development Directory [here](#).

uOttawa-IBM Cyber Range



Cybersecurity
Technology
Development Site

Creating competitive advantage by de-risking your business and protecting your customers



The uOttawa-IBM Cyber Range is a unique training, learning, and research facility where individuals and organizations can practice comprehensive cybersecurity crisis management in a realistic, immersive environment.



11 services available:



What information security exposure do I have?

1. Information Security Health Check
2. Secure Application Development Assessment
3. Cloud Security Assessment



Am I safe?

4. Pen Testing - Entry Application Test
5. Pen Testing - External Network Penetration Test
6. Pen Testing - Wifi Penetration Test
7. Social Engineering - Standard human phishing
8. Attacker Reconnaissance/OSINT
9. Dark Web Analysis



How do I respond?

10. Incident Response Plan
11. Tabletop Exercise



What happens during an attack?

- I. IBM X-Force Business Response exercise to test and guide your people, process, and technology.
- II. uOttawa Technical penetration testing immersive simulation fine-tuned for SMEs.

Contact a CIT Sector Manager or OCI Business Development Manager for next steps.

Access the OCI Business Development Directory [here](#).

University of Waterloo RoboHub powered by Rogers 5G

The University of Waterloo is working with Rogers to advance 5G technology research and develop 5G applications with potential commercialization opportunities. As Central Canada’s first 5G smart campus, innovators can build applications and explore how 5G can leverage next-generation networking for real-world impact with applications that include robotics and automation.

5G-Enabled SMEs

SMEs will benefit from access to Rogers' comprehensive 5G network infrastructure at the University of Waterloo, covering all major 5G spectrum bands. This program aims to drive the adoption, integration, and commercialization of critical technologies by SMEs in areas such as agrifood, advanced manufacturing, public safety, smart city infrastructure, mining, construction, and mobility.

RoboHub

SMEs will also benefit from access to the University of Waterloo’s state-of-the-art RoboHub robotics facility. This 5G environment combined with its world-renowned team of researchers, dedicated domain experts, and fleet of robots facilitates research and testing across four core research themes: control, planning, perception, and interaction. The Waterloo RoboHub also offers a comprehensive Professional Partnership Program designed to promote research, innovation, and industry collaboration in robotics. It provides access to expertise, infrastructure and additional services on an a la carte basis.



Technical specifications and capabilities

The Rogers 5G network on the UW campus offers

- Indoor small cells that broadcast on the 3.5GHz spectrum.
- Outdoor macro cells providing 2.5 GHz, 600 MHz, and 3.5 GHz.
- Non-commercial 28 GHz small cells, providing SMEs with early access to mmWave.

- SMEs will be provided with technical support and SIM Cards and/or devices to access to the Rogers 5G network at the University of Waterloo testbed.

The RoboHub facility includes

- High-precision indoor positioning system, theatrical lighting, electrically switchable privacy glass, 2x3 meter in-floor magnetic levitation system
- Dedicated control center, network infrastructure, and shared software licenses to facilitate visualization and telemetry for on-site and remote observation. Off-board computational resources and network infrastructure for algorithm execution. Fleet of fixed-base, walking, rolling, and flying robots, including full-size humanoids, unmanned aerial and ground vehicles (UAVs and UGVs), human-scale single- or dual- armed mobile manipulator, magnetically levitated carriers, and many collaborative robot arms (for a list see <https://uwaterloo.ca/robohub/about/fleet>).

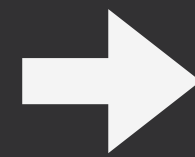
Contact a CIT Sector Manager or OCI Business Development Manager for next steps. Access the OCI Business Development Directory [here](#).



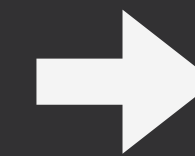
Application Process – Rolling Intake Programs

Future Ready - (FR)
Talent Development Internships – (TDI)

Discussion with Business Development Manager



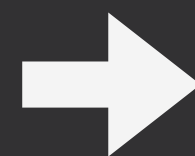
Completion of Online Application



Review Process

Technology Access Program (TAP)
Development and commercialization (DC)

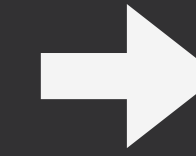
Discussion with Business Development Manager



Discussion with Technology Development Site Representative (for TAP and DC programs only)



Completion of Online Application



Review Process

Sector Adoption-(SA)

- Applications by consortium:
 - Core: 1 SME lead applicant and 1 Primary Partner
 - Additional partner(s) as needed
- Projects up to 1 year in length
- New venture – not previously established
- Funding for innovation/ commercialization/ adoption (not regular operations)



Up to \$1M in funding to SME with 2:1 matching required

Active Sector Adoption Challenge

In the era of Industry 4.0, robotics technology stands as a cornerstone of industrial transformation. Ontario's key sectors – Advanced Manufacturing, Agri-Food, Construction, and Mining present unique opportunities for pioneering robotics applications. This challenge calls upon Ontario-based SMEs to spearhead consortia-driven projects that leverage advanced robotics to revolutionize sector-specific processes, enhance operational excellence, and catalyze widespread adoption across these critical industries. We seek projects that implement advanced robotics applications, with a clear focus on scalability real-world deployment, and sector-wide impact that disrupts the status quo.

Sector Adoption Consortium Key Roles

Lead Applicant	Primary Partner	Secondary Partner(s)
<p>SME (Ontario-based)</p> <p>Lead Applicant on project</p> <p>Technological solution</p> <p>Market Fit</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: teal;">Required for Sector Adoption</p>	<p>Demonstrated Market Pull</p> <p>Does not have to be Ontario-based or an SME</p> <p>Fund-matching capacity</p> <p>Strategic Resourcing for the Project (e.g. equipment, advisory, marketing)</p>	<p>Fill strategic gaps not fulfilled by SME and Primary Partner</p> <p>Optional</p> <p>e.g. community-expertise, provide resourcing needs not provided by SME or Primary Partner</p>

*Project activities to take place in Ontario.

**Partners with financial contributions to project sign Letter of Support & Funding Agreement

Sector Adoption - Primary Partner

- Directly participates in challenge and shows market 'pull'
- Operations of significance in sector
- Arms-length relationship with SME
- SMEs, National Enterprises, MNEs, municipalities, NFPs representing industry, Indigenous communities, Academia (as client only)
- Does not need to be Ontario-based but project must be in Ontario
- Must sign OCI Letter of Support and Funding Agreement





Sector Adoption Eligibility - Other Partners

- Organizations directly contributing and/or participating in the project
- Does not require an arms-length relationship with SME
- SMEs, National Enterprises, Multi-National Enterprises, municipalities, Not-For-Profits representing industry, Indigenous communities, Academia (as client only), Crown Corporations
- Does not need to be Ontario-based
- If supplying matching leverage must sign OCI's Letter of Support and Funding Agreement

Sector Adoption - Eligible Expenses

- Costs and activities directly related to achieving the objectives for which the funding was granted
- Actual costs directly attributable to and necessary for the completion of the project – not wholly or partially for another purpose
- Must be documented through invoices, receipts or records
- Costs outside Ontario ineligible unless approved by OCI
- Capital costs – depreciated value for term of project use

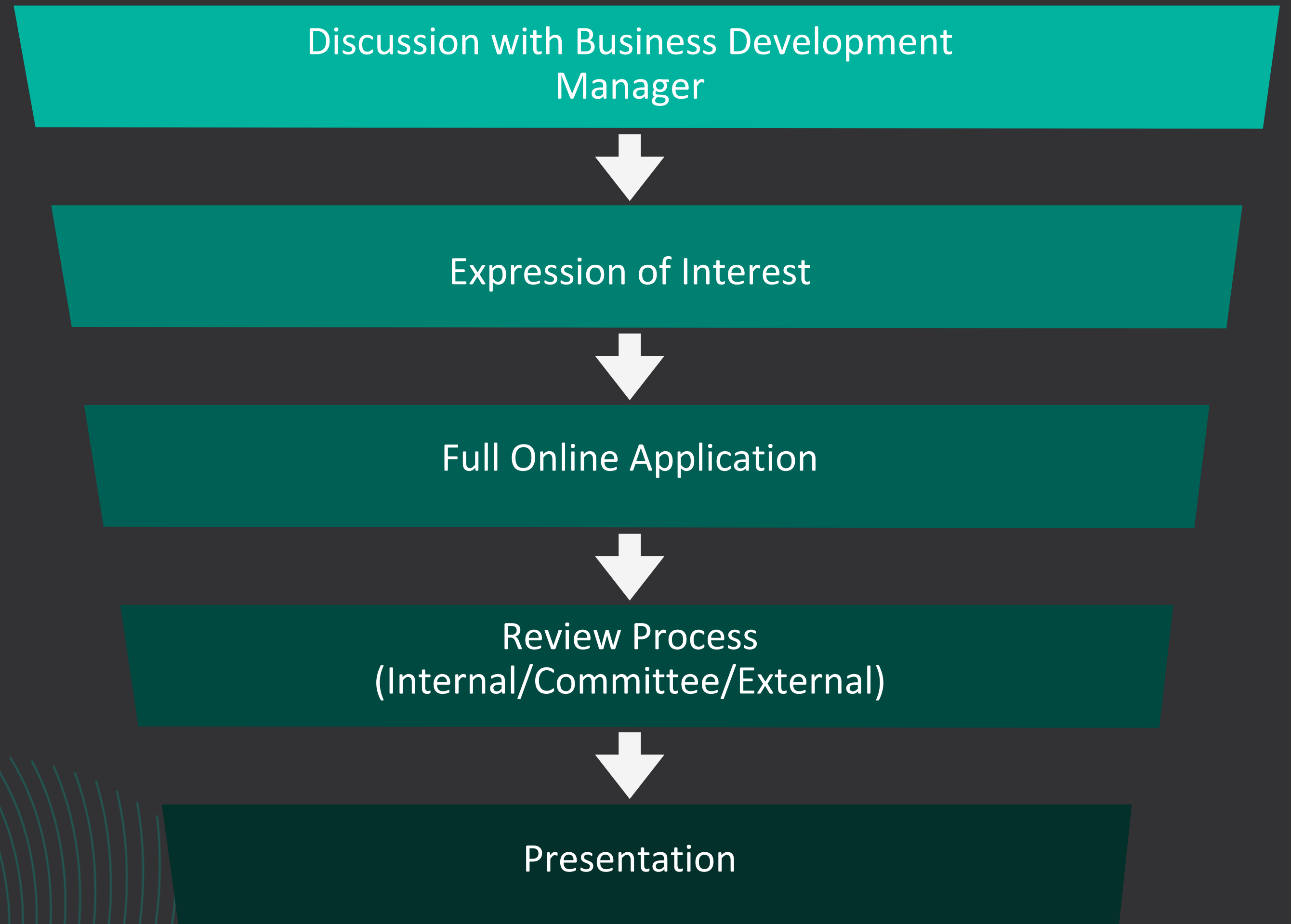


Sector Adoption – Budget Example

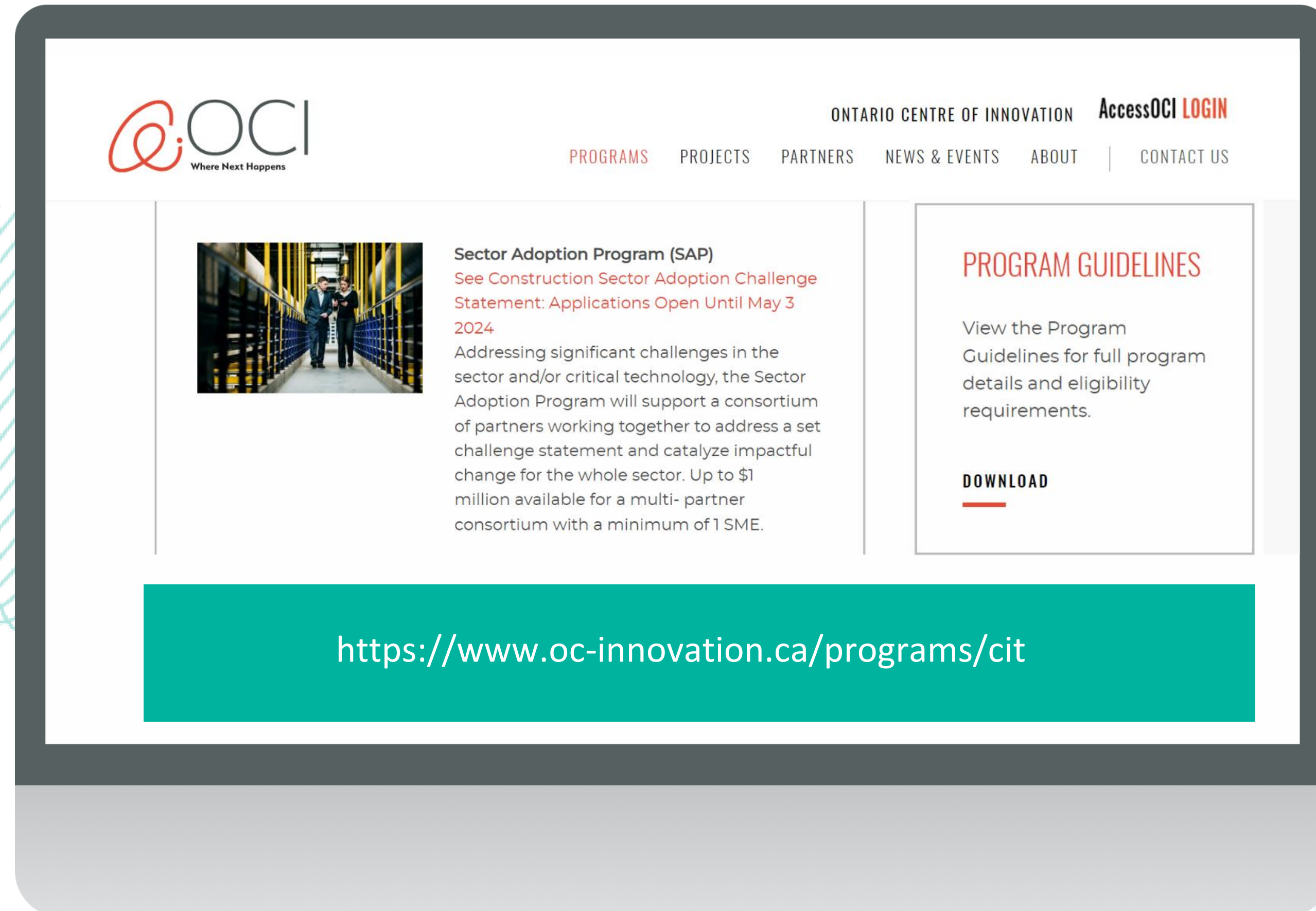
SME	Primary Partner (OEM)	OCI
Purchase of System Hardware	Equipment and Facility use	Purchase of System Hardware
Data Services for AI model training	Salaries	Salaries
Purchase of system hardware and tools		
Salaries		
\$500,000	\$300,000	\$400,000
2		1
Total = \$1,200,000		

Application Process – Sector Adoption

Business Development Managers provide hands-on support to the overall application process.



Challenge Location

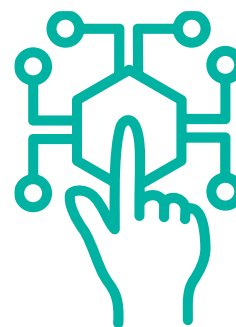


Successful Applications

Tell the Story



Company – years in business, number of employees, revenue, key sectors served, clients



Technology – critical technology employed, stage ie. TRL, what does it do, how does it address an issue, use cases, competitive advantages



Project – what do you hope to achieve, what needs to be done, why do you need this support, how does it address a challenge statement



Partners – similar description as company, why are they important to project, what is their significance in the sector



Budget – review eligible expenses, provide justification of expenses, be reasonable



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Questions?



Ontario 

Updates and Information

**Follow OCI on LinkedIn
and X for news:**

 @OCInnovation

 @ontario-centre-of-innovation

On our Website:

Find detailed program
information

View active and archived Challenge
Statements

Register for upcoming CIT Webinars and
view event recordings

Visit the CIT Website:

[https://www.oc-
innovation.ca/programs/cit/](https://www.oc-innovation.ca/programs/cit/)

Contact Information

Large Companies (>500 staff), Academia, Associations, and Groups

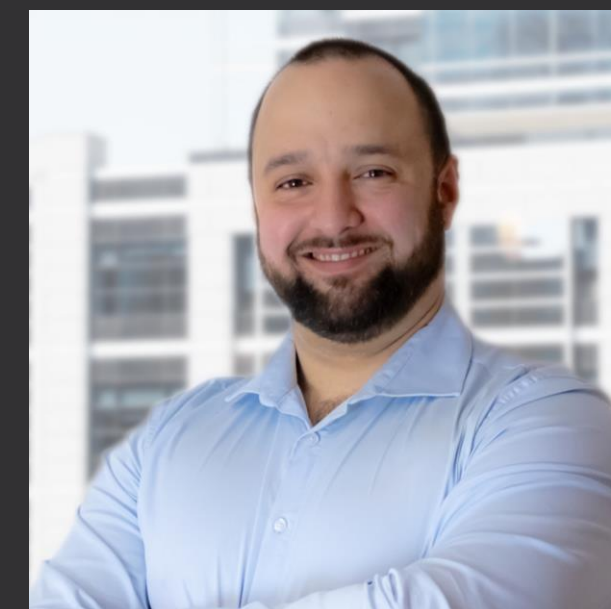
Contact Laura for ecosystem engagement (custom events, promotion, partnerships)



Outreach & Engagement Manager
Laura Clark
lclark@oc-innovation.ca



Construction
James Borst
jborst@oc-innovation.ca

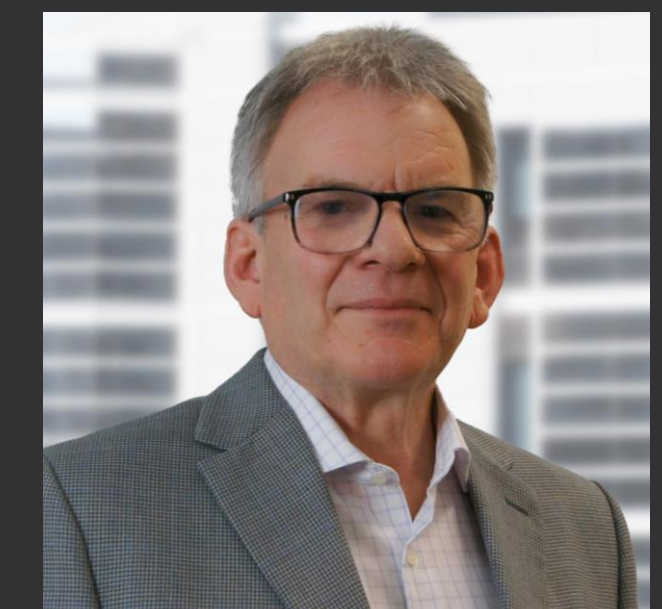


Advanced Manufacturing
Cameron Gray
cgray@oc-innovation.ca

SMEs (<500 staff)
Contact a Sector Manager with project inquiries



Mining
Sierra Mercer
smerc@oc-innovation.ca



Agri-Food
Robert McMillan
rmcmillan@oc-innovation.ca



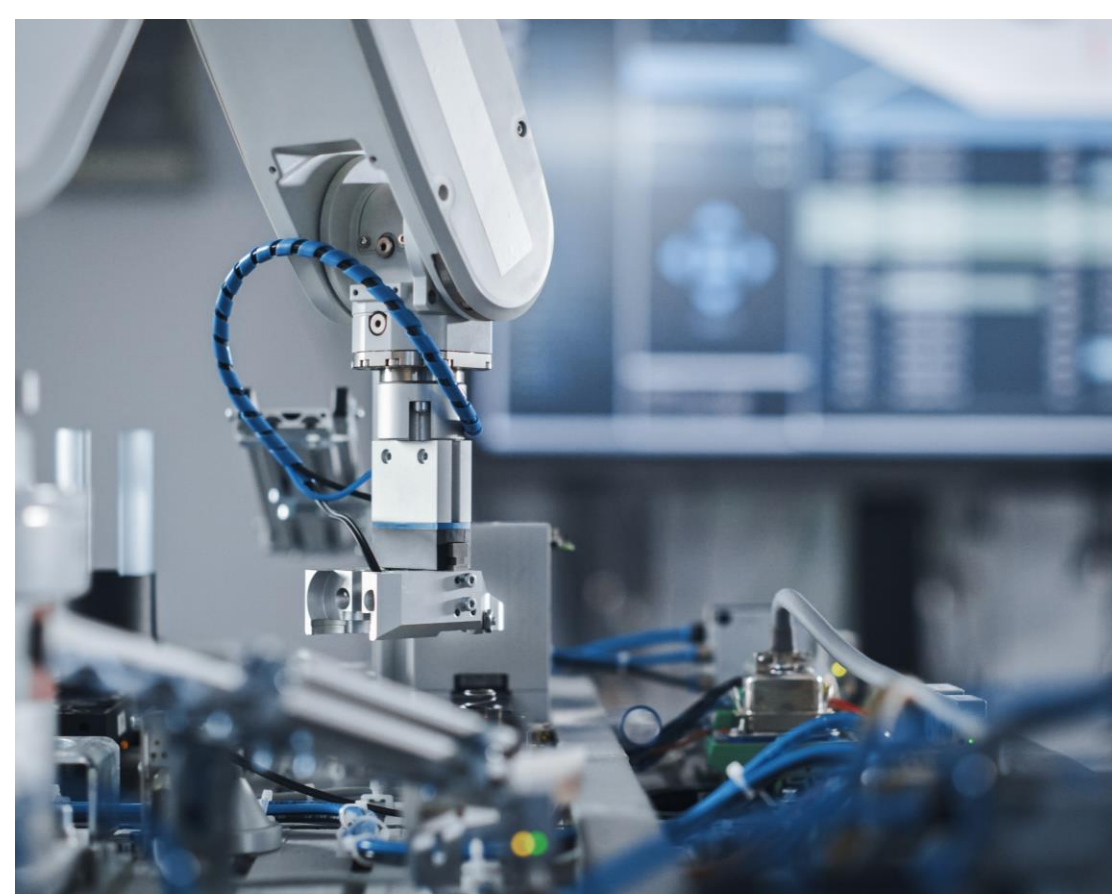
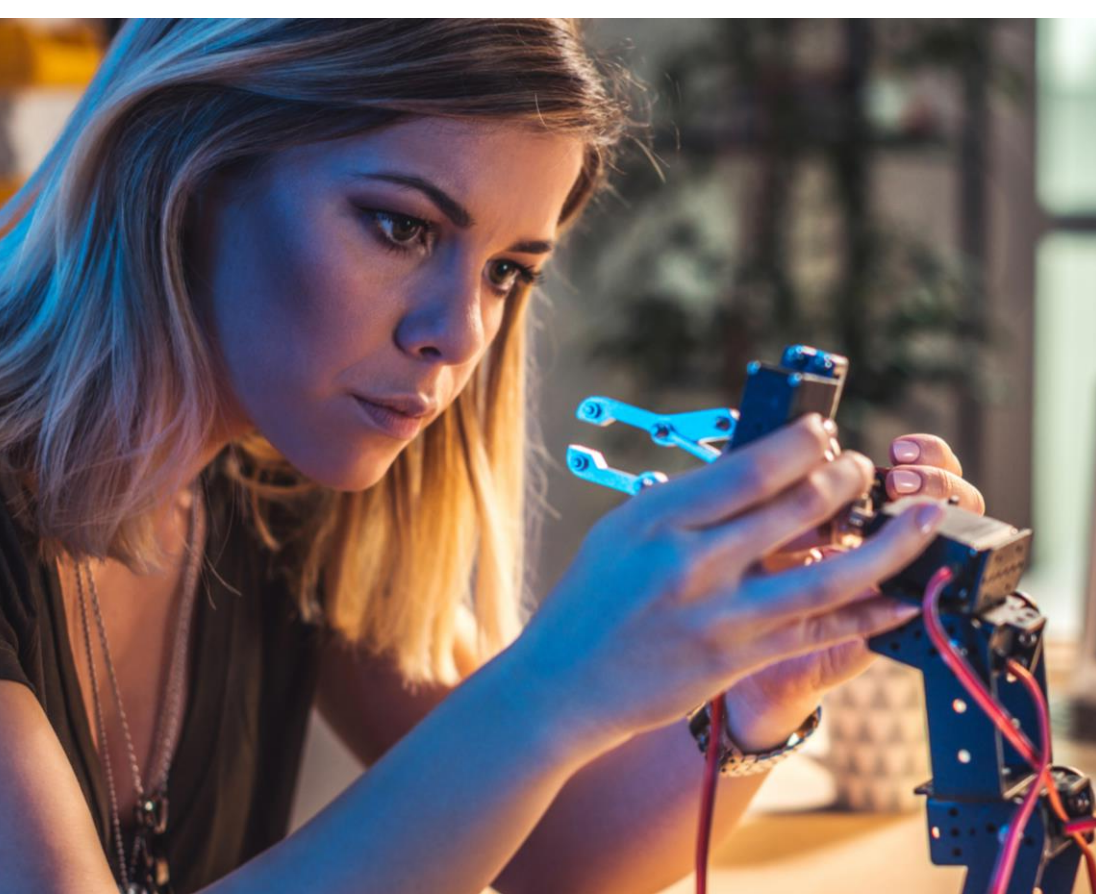
Thank You



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Ontario 



York Region Food Charter

Agriculture & Agri-Food Advisory Committee

What is the Food Charter?

2013 Charter

- Guidance for the development of coordinated food-related policies and programs
- Opportunity to form connections and networks to support the food system.
- The process to develop the Charter included public consultations and an online survey.



YORK REGION FOOD CHARTER

A GUIDING DOCUMENT FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF COORDINATED
FOOD-RELATED POLICIES AND
PROGRAMS IN YORK REGION

We believe a collaborative and integrated approach is essential to create a healthy and just food system for all.

We value...

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- Access to a variety of healthy and affordable food in all neighbourhoods and facilities.
- Food policies and practices to improve and inspire health.
- The importance of food for physical, mental, emotional and cultural wellbeing.
- Community ownership of healthy, locally-grown and processed food.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

- Economic development plans that ensure robust and financially sustainable agriculture.
- Innovative food and related industries that unite producer, processor, distributor, health, tourism, education and hospitality sectors.
- Locally-grown traditional and world foods.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Rural and urban agriculture practices that protect biodiversity and improve the health of our land, soil, water, and air.
- Integrating agriculture and food into energy and climate change policies and strategies.
- Protection of agricultural lands and a streamlined regulatory framework.
- Reducing food and packaging waste among consumers, retailers, processors and producers.

EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

- The basic right of all residents to safe, nutritious, culturally appropriate, accessible food.
- Dignified access to food for all.
- Fair compensation and a safe and respectful work environment in the agriculture and food sectors.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

- Food literacy and skills for all residents, with a focus on food growing, healthy cooking, and composting.
- Education that supports opportunities in the agriculture and food sector.
- Understanding the connections between food, farming, health and the environment.



The York Region Food Charter aligns with a food movement across Canada, promoting a system from farm to plate that provides access to local, affordable and nutritious food. The York Region Food Charter is a vision of thriving urban and rural communities where residents, businesses, and governments are creating a resilient food system.

March 2013

Find us online at www.yorkregionfoodcharter.com

The Update Process

- **January 2023** - York Region Food Council voted to update the Charter
- **Spring & Summer 2023** - Formed Food Charter Working Group and drafted work plan
- **Summer & Fall 2023** - Consulted with the Food Council & Working Group to create a new Draft Food Charter
- **Fall 2023 - Winter 2024** - Consultations



The Update Process: Consultations

CONSULTATION	TIMELINE	PARTICIPANTS
Food for Change Event	November 30th, 2023	30
Targeted Focus Groups	March-April, 2024	26
Survey	February-March, 2024	167
Sector Focus Groups	Nov 2023-Feb 2024	68
Georgina Island Partners	July-August 2024	4

Engagement of 293 individuals


The Update Process

- **Spring 2024** - Analyzed feedback & incorporated into the Food Charter and Action Document
- **Summer 2024** - Final consultations
- **Fall 2024**- Graphic Design & Food Council finalization
- **December 2024** - Food Council approved the Food Charter & accompanying documents



Food Charter Documents

1. Food Charter




**YORK REGION
FOOD
CHARTER**

The York Region Food Charter outlines collective values and priorities and is a guiding document for food-related policies and action.

The Food Charter is a vision of thriving urban and rural communities as well as First Nations and Indigenous Communities where residents, organizations, businesses, and governments work together to create a resilient food system that fosters healthy communities.

The Food Charter is centered on food sovereignty¹ and community-determined food and agriculture systems. This document is intended to build connection and responsibility to the land, and healthier food systems.



We seek to meaningfully engage diverse voices that represent York Region's communities and address issues in appropriate and relevant ways. By addressing food related issues, we strive to have a local impact while working towards systemic change in food, community and social justice. This includes reconciliation and supporting the resurgence of knowledge and traditional ways of knowing and doing.

The York Region food system is built on a history of oppression that continues to this day. The impact of this oppression is vast and includes a disconnection from the land and the loss of natural ways of living on the land, such as freely foraging and harvesting food. The ongoing process of colonialism has attempted to undermine the traditional and cultural food traditions of Indigenous, Black and racialized communities. We recognize that these communities continue to be impacted disproportionately by food insecurity, which can only be addressed by self-governance and support, if requested.

OUR VALUES



01. Equity, Social Justice & Food Security¹

We value the right to food and community-determined food and agriculture systems². We believe everyone should have enough income to effectively prevent food insecurity³.

We Support

- Evidence-based income and social policies which have been proven to reduce food insecurity.
- Community engagement, advocacy and action around income-related issues.
- Collaboration with governments and community partners in First Nations, Indigenous, racialized and other marginalized communities to determine priorities for action to address food insecurity and poverty⁴.

02. Health & Well-being

We value the role of food in promoting health, including physical, mental, emotional, cultural, social and spiritual well-being.



We Support

- Equitable and dignified access to safe, nutritious, culturally relevant, and affordable food.
- Food programs, policies and practices to improve, support and promote holistic⁵ well-being.
- The role of food and nutrition in preventing and managing diseases.
- Reducing health inequities⁶ so that everyone has the same opportunities for health regardless of social, economic and spatial⁷ and environmental factors.
- Body liberation⁸ and the importance of creating positive, holistic relationships with food, culture and the land.

Food Charter Documents

1. **Food Charter**
2. **Infographic** (Online & Printable)



03. Local Agri-Food Sector⁴

We value the role of the agri-food sector in cultivating a strong economy and equitable local food system while ensuring environmental sustainability.

04. Environmental Stewardship

We value a sustainable food system that protects and enhances the natural environment while working alongside First Nations and Indigenous Communities.



05. Knowledge & Sharing

We value sharing knowledge and supporting food literacy⁵ so that all community members can confidently choose to grow, cook, compost, or participate in food-related careers, contributing to a more sustainable future for the next seven generations.

Food Charter Documents

1. Food Charter
2. Infographic
3. Action Document

YORK REGION FOOD CHARTER ACTION DOCUMENT



	York Region Food Council	Working Groups	Municipal Gov	Regional Gov	Organizations	Businesses	Public Institutions
Equity, Social Justice & Food Security							
Advocate at all levels of government for evidence-based policies which have been proven to reduce food insecurity. This could include advocating for the implementation of a livable minimum wage, increasing social assistance rates and enhancing the Canada Disability Benefit.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Support partners with the creation of advocacy tools and training geared towards municipal, provincial and federal governments. Use these tools to support the development of robust policies that ensure adequate incomes so that all York Region residents have equitable access to food.	✓	✓	✓				
Collaboration with governments and community partners in First Nations, Indigenous, racialized and other marginalized communities to determine priorities for action to address food insecurity and poverty.	✓				✓		
Increase awareness of poverty, food insecurity, and income related issues for politicians, policymakers and the public through channels such as social media, events, and press releases.	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Empower people with lived experience of food insecurity and poverty to create systems change through peer advocacy while offering the appropriate support and infrastructure (e.g., peer networks, compensation).	✓	✓			✓		
Collaborate with the York Region Food Council in the creation of advocacy tools and training geared towards municipal, provincial and federal governments.					✓		

What's Next?

- Cornerstone Document
 - Food System Report Card
 - Advocacy & Initiatives
- Endorsements



Questions

Contact

Morgan Sage

Food Policy Coordinator

York Region Food Network

morgans@yrfn.ca

905-841-3101 x 204