

Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines

Municipal and Community Survey

Information

Municipality or Community: Town of Blind River

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Questions

Instructions: Please provide your response in the area below each question. Please limit your response to 500 characters.

1. What are some of the major economic challenges unique to Northern Ontario that your municipality or community is facing due to COVID-19?

Tourism decreased

Talent Acquisition

Lackluster internet service preventing timely response while working at home

internet hindering local merchants trying to launch online platform to remain open

Slow response to funding requests (some are 8 months or more with no replies)

Funding decisions delayed prevent community from hiring local and regional talent to complete

Projects with merit in Northern Ontario may not fit criteria of the South.

Our time spent "shut down" could be used to rejuvenate

2. Are there any current initiatives being undertaken to respond to the current economic challenges of COVID-19 in your municipality or community?

Application to ICIP to renovate community centre to fully accessible space
Application to FedNor to make marine park fully accessible
Application to Federal Gov Accessibility grant to make beach area accessible
Partnership with Chamber to beautify downtown--business support all merchants
Weekly newsletter promoting local businesses (promote we have it all here, why leave)
Application to OMAFRA-RED to rejuvenate tourist trails
Successful application to Trails Canada with MFN, awaiting NOHFC reply

3. As Ontario moves towards economic recovery, are there any specific projects, initiatives or innovative ideas in your municipality or community as they relate to Northern Ontario that you believe the government could support?

Approve ICIP Community Centre Grant (Submitted November 2019)
Approve Phase 2 FedNor economic strategy boost for Blind River via Marine Park (in progress)
Approve Accessibility Grant application for Sellers Beach (in progress)
Approve NOHFC Phase II Funding to develop tourist product (submitted March 16)
Revisit denied Connecting Link Grant as our goal was to redo all sidewalks following Highway 17 through Blind River--our first impression to sell our community. (application can be forwarded)

4. What supports would organizations or the local business community in your municipality or community need as the economy begins to reopen?

Grant funding approved to allow municipality to improve its product offering. Our merchants require an accessible, welcoming, eye-catching, market-driven community that lures tourists to spend, as well as encourages population growth.

Our community of 3000 people has earmarked close to \$300,000.00 in municipal contribution in order to be shovel ready when given positive response to updates that will allow our community to thrive amongst competition. We have done our part to budget.

5. What types of action would businesses/organizations in your municipality or community like to see from different levels of government to help get the economy moving again?

Beautification

Local and Regional people utilizing and spending

Updates to dated capital infrastructure (our residents use their services--we're trying to update these to retain our user base)

Increased accessibility focus

Support Northern Ontario's funding applications, our small communities feel ignored

6. Are there any initiatives that can be introduced that have no fiscal impact (e.g. regulatory)?

7. Please provide any feedback you believe could assist the province in its economic response and recovery related to COVID-19 in Northern Ontario.

8. Please provide any additional comments, suggestions, and/or concerns.

Thank you for completing this survey. Please save and email this document to NorthernStakeholderSurvey@ontario.ca

