



# FINANCING for BUSINESS START UPS & EXPANSION

The Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario is pleased to offer ABSEP financing for First Nations entrepreneurs:

## **Aboriginal Business Start Up and Expansion Program (ABSEP)**

Funding, which extends until March 31, 2018, is provided through the Indigenous Economic Development Fund by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

The goal of ABSEP is to enhance community level economic development by supporting the success of high potential business start ups and expansions. Aiming to address barriers to financing, ABSEP provides business financing and grants to qualified aboriginal individuals and businesses. Financing, including term loans and working capital, is tailored to meet business needs and applications will be considered for full project financing, partial financing or leveraging to complement other financing or funding. Areas of financing include:

**Seed Capital:** Financing provided to study, assess and develop an initial concept for a new product, service or process with high market potential preceding the start-up phase.\*

**Start-up and Early Stage Loans:** Financing provided to support high-potential start-up businesses (i.e., businesses with potential to contribute to tangible benefits for Aboriginal people, including employment and/or training opportunities) and the development of a new product, service or process with high market potential for businesses considered to be 'start up' or 'early stage' enterprises.\*

**Expansion Capital:** Financing provided for the growth and expansion of a promising project or enterprise with a high potential for benefits to Aboriginal people, specifically employment, training and/or business opportunities. Capital may be used for increasing production capacity, market or product development, or for additional working capital.\*

\*source-AEDF Business and Community Fund Application Guide

**Business Acquisition:** Financing provided for the acquisition of a promising business.

ABSEP is available to support qualified First Nations farm and agribusinesses across Ontario. As well, ABSEP is available to support qualified First Nations businesses in all sectors in Central Ontario including the eastern GTA, South Central, Eastern and Southeastern Ontario.

Qualified businesses are eligible for funding of up to \$200,000 and grants of up to \$20,000. To qualify, applicants must demonstrate economic viability, as well as, the need for ABSEP funding.

For more information including complete eligibility requirements or an application,  
contact 1-800-363-0329 or [info@indianag.on.ca](mailto:info@indianag.on.ca)

For Metis, Inuit and Non Status inquiries, information is available at [www.aboriginalbusinessfinancing.ca](http://www.aboriginalbusinessfinancing.ca)



*The views expressed in this publication are the views of IAPO and do not necessarily reflect those of the Province of Ontario.*

# IAPO

## Business, Farm & Agribusiness Financing