

Official Languages Economic Development Initiative



Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions is responsible for implementing the *Official Languages Economic Development Initiative (EDI)* in Quebec. The EDI aims to foster the economic development of official language minority communities (OLMCs) through a range of activities including innovation, entrepreneurship, partnerships and economic diversification.

Eligibility

Examples of eligible clients

- Small and medium-sized businesses in an RCM where the anglophone population is greater than 5% and outside of metropolitan Montréal
- Non-profit organizations in an RCM where the anglophone population is greater than 500 residents

Examples of non-eligible clients

- Retail businesses, e.g. clothing stores, grocery stores and automobile maintenance and sales
- Food services, e.g. restaurants, cafés
- Transportation services
- Housing construction
- Daycare services
- Hair and beauty salons
- Nightclubs, bars, cabarets

Main analysis criteria

Projects are analyzed based on specific criteria, including:

- economic benefits for an OLMC;
- the project's contribution to the achievement of the EDI's objectives and expected outcomes;
- alignment with CED's [mandate and priorities](#);
- the incentive nature of the assistance and a demonstrated financial need for carrying out the project, given other existing funding sources;
- management capacity of the project proponent;
- viability of the business or organization;
- risk level;
- impact on the competition;
- availability of CED funding.



Activities that can be supported

Examples of activities

- Strategy development (monitoring, quotes, studies, diagnostics, action plans)
- Networking and business contacts (usually for entrepreneurship support organizations)
- Information services, consulting services and coaching
- Implementing a marketing strategy
- Developing new products and services
- Technology transfer to businesses (e.g. integrating a new technology)
- Business incubation (support for the incubator, not the one being incubated)
- Intellectual property (acquiring patents, licences)
- Certification activities (accreditation and licensing, eco-certification, traceability)
- Acquisition of equipment, computer tools and technologies
- Facility development, construction, modernization or expansion
- Pre-marketing activities (prototype development, proof of concept, demonstration, technology showcasing)
- Recruiting or using specialized resources (to promote official languages in the francophone environment of Quebec's business community)

Financial assistance

Types of assistance

- Repayable contribution
- Non-repayable contribution for non-profit projects

Rate of assistance

- Up to 90% of the authorized costs for an NPOs
- 50% of the authorized costs for an SME

For more information

Contact an advisor from the [business office](#) in your region or visit CED's website at: www.ced-dec.gc.ca.
