
Just Food will benefit from investments to help bring people back to public spaces safely
Government of Canada fueling community revitalization and creating the conditions for local economies to thrive as they rebound from the effects of COVID-19.

News Release

For Immediate Release

August 10, 2021

Today Marie-France Lalonde, Member of Parliament for Orléans and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages (FedDev Ontario and Official Languages), announced an investment of \$291,533 through the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF) for Just Food. The announcement was made on behalf of the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev).

This support will allow Just Food to go forward with the construction, improvement, and expansion of their outdoor hub pavilion, barn balcony, and new greenhouse space to be completed by November 30, 2022. These improvements will create multi-use space, allowing the community to safely gather, as well as providing educational activities.

These spaces will also become host to a weekly farmers' market, chef tastings, and educational programs. Activities include concrete, framing, roofing, and engineering for the outdoor pavilion, concrete, framing, engineering, railing, and doors for the barn balcony and a geothermal greenhouse kit and associated engineering, equipment, and materials for installation.

The project will create two new community spaces, expand one community space, and upon completion create 5 permanent jobs. Without funding, this project would not proceed in its entirety due to lost rental income revenue and increased costs as a result of COVID-19.

The applicant is providing \$30,179 towards the projects, the City of Ottawa is providing \$7,000, and the Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard is providing \$60,000. The federal investment, \$291,533, corresponds to 75% of the total project cost.

QUOTES

"This initiative demonstrates the Government of Canada's commitment to support economic development in communities of every size, in every region. We have helped put small-and medium-sized businesses on the road to recovery. Now it's time to invest in the shared public spaces that will safely bring people together and help communities grow and thrive well into the future."

—*The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario*

"Investing in not-for-profit organizations is not only vital to a healthy community, it also enhances our local economy. Just Food offers one of Orléans richest greenery and grounds. That's why I feel so privileged to count them in our community and to see them thrive and expand."

—*Marie-France Lalonde, Member of Parliament for Orléans*

"I am pleased that the Government of Canada is supporting Just Food with this significant investment for their programming and work, which will go toward ensuring their programs, including the Just Food Community Farm, are accessible and sustainable into the future. I look forward to seeing the enhancement of this community hub, which will no doubt be enjoyed by Ottawa residents for many years to come."

—*Laura Dudas, City Councillor for Innes Ward*

“We are incredibly grateful for this essential investment that strengthens community food security as a foundation for economic development. Building back must be about building long-term resilience. This infrastructure allows for community gathering around food and farming for decades to come.”

—*Moe Garahan, Executive Director, Just Food*

Quick Facts

- Launched in June 2021, the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF) provides \$500 million over two years to invest in shared and inclusive public spaces, helping to create the conditions and accessibility to stimulate local economies and bring Canadians back together once it is safe to do so.
- The fund helps communities:
 - adapt public spaces so that they can be used safely, and
 - build or improve community assets to encourage Canadians to re-engage in and explore their regions.
- Canada’s regional development agencies are continuing to deliver targeted support for economic recovery in the region.
- The funding announced today is conditional on the signing of a contribution agreement between the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev) and Just Food Community Farm.

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