**BRIEFING NOTE**

**Canadian Plan for Economic Development (CPED)**

of Official Language Minority Communities (OLMCs)

**Background**

RDÉE Canada, Canada’s national Francophone economic development and employability network, and CEDEC, Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation, have worked together on a number of initiatives to promote the economic development of OLMCs, including a study conducted by the Conference Board of Canada on the economic and trade benefits of linguistic duality. Discussion quickly turned to the need to take stock of the economic situation of OLMCs and to identify the priorities for action to guide efforts and generate synergy among stakeholders. Based on that finding, the CEDEC and RDÉE Canada have begun to develop the Canadian Plan for Economic Development (CPED) of OLMCs.

**Objectives**

The following are the objectives of the Canadian Plan for Economic Development (CPED) of OLMCs:

* Launch a consultation process among the economic development stakeholders from all areas, including the private sector, the communities and community organizations, economic development organizations, and the various levels of government;
* Define the OLMCs’ economic development priorities for the next five years, in consideration of regional and linguistic priorities;
* Link the results to federal and provincial support programs as key players in the economic development of OLMCs;
* Build consistency in economic development activities in the OLMCs;
* Generate tangible impacts on entrepreneurship and employability in the OLMCs.

**Considerations**

* A nationwide consultation will be launched in February aimed at involving the economic development stakeholders from all areas, including the private sector, the communities and community organizations, economic development organizations, and the various levels of government, in developing the very first CPED for OLMCs.
* The Integrated economic action plan for the Canadian Francophonie (Plan d’action intégré de développement économique de la francophonie canadienne - PAIDE) emerging from the economic forum held in Gatineau in October 2012 identified six development levers. Two of these levers are addressed by the CPED, while the others are primarily public policy oriented.
* The CPED will move away from public policy to identify areas of action and potential economic development projects for OLMCs.
* The CPED will build on Canada’s Economic Action Plan, especially the “Jobs, Growth and Prosperity” priority, by supporting employment development and economic sustainability for OLMCs.
* By establishing clear priorities, the CPED will facilitate the coordination of efforts across the various government departments and the identification of priority projects within the framework of the *Roadmap for Canada's Official Languages 2013-2018.*
* The projects from the key economic development stakeholders will be better coordinated and more effectively meet funding requirements.
* The CPED will create new momentum leading to specific actions for OLMCs, building on existing work as a springboard for economic development.
* RDÉE Canada and CEDEC have retained the services of PGF Consultants to support them in the overall development of the CPED for OLMCs.

**Milestones, timeframes and tools**

* Late January – early February 2014  Research compilation
* February 2014 National consultations
* Early March 2014 Diagnostic analysis and first draft
* Mid-March 2014 Validation of the draft
* Late March 2014 First CEPD for OLMCs

A number of tools and processes will be developed to support the national consultations. The www.inbusinesstogether.ca website (online on February 6) will contain the online survey and provide all of the relevant information and dissemination tools, including website banners and electronic signatures.

A consultation toolkit will be developed to support the organizations whose members will be involved in the consultation process. This kit will contain the appropriate resources, including a participation guide, pre-formatted letters and promotional material.

Lastly, PGF Consultants will hold focus groups and individual interviews with organizations and individuals that play a key role in the OLMCs’ economic development.

**Contacts**

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