

ONTARIO

OPEN FOR BUSINESS
EN FRANÇAIS

YOUR FUTURE STARTS HERE!

The best places to do business are those that are forward-thinking. They invest in educated workforces, champion quality of life for all and welcome the best talent and ideas from all over the world. These values are what matter to the companies of tomorrow—and they are Ontario's strengths.

GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO
OPEN FOR BUSINESS

 investontario.ca


Assemblée
de la francophonie de l'Ontario

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The Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario (AFO) is the uniting organization and the political voice of Ontario's Francophonie. Its mandate is to consult with the francophone community across the province and serve as its spokesperson, most notably to promote and defend the rights of 795,760 Franco-Ontarians.

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Canada Ontario 

Version française disponible  monassemblee.ca

FRENCH, A LANGUAGE FOR BUSINESS

"Ontario's Francophonie is at the heart of our economic landscape, where businesses, innovative thinking and exceptional talents grow and thrive. Deeply enriched by a growing diversity, our French-speaking and bilingual communities form an integral part of Ontario's vision for a prosperous future. Ever more vibrant and inclusive, these communities reflect the Francophonie's rich diversity and strength across Canada and around the world."

THE HONOURABLE CAROLINE MULRONEY
Minister of Francophone Affairs
Government of Ontario

ONTARIO: WHERE PEOPLE GO TO BUILD, INVEST AND SUCCEED... IN FRENCH!

**I INVITE YOU TO SEIZE ONE OF THE MANY GREAT OPPORTUNITIES
CREATED BY ONTARIO'S UNIQUE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE.**

Ontario offers a highly stable and favorable business environment, with a unique geography that facilitates and promotes trade. Its thriving Franco-Ontarian population numbering over 1.5 million French-speaking citizens constitutes a tremendous linguistic and economic asset. Ontario is home to half of the francophone businesses thriving outside Québec—over 30,000—and a bilingual Francophone workforce that contributes 12% of Ontario's GDP, over \$80 billion!

Also, thanks to its Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) observer status, Ontario actively seeks out new opportunities, a reflection of its commitment to doing business with French-speaking countries around the world. Rich in talent and ambition, its French-speaking population is growing increasingly diverse, actively contributing to a dynamic business climate.

Join the largest and most accessible Canadian market in North America, where conducting business in French is hugely rewarding.

WELCOME!



FABIEN HÉBERT, President
Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario

ONTARIO

RICHLY DIVERSE AND MULTICULTURAL

1,550,000

French-speaking people

+ 200 Ethnic origins

The province of choice for some

450,000

newcomers entering Canada
each year

A WEALTH OF OPPORTUNITIES

OWING TO A **THRIVING FRANCOPHONE POPULATION**

ONTARIO

THE ECONOMIC ENGINE OF THE COUNTRY
AND HOME TO **39% OF THE CANADIAN
POPULATION**

Several key advantages make Ontario a land of opportunity, the first being that it is **the most populated province** and home to the largest number of Francophones in Canada living outside Québec.

Each year, French-speaking immigrants from Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe settle in Ontario. Its linguistic landscape is highly diverse thanks to the high proportion of Ontarians born outside of Canada. According to the 2016 Census, 29.5% of Ontarians are foreign-born.

45%

**PERCENTAGE OF IMMIGRANTS
COMING TO CANADA EACH YEAR
WHO CHOOSE TO LIVE IN ONTARIO**

Linguistic and multicultural diversity is at the heart of our identity as a people; it is part of our heritage and vital to our economic success both as individuals and as a province. Widely recognized as a tolerant and inclusive society, Ontario ranks **among the best places on the planet to invest, work and live.**

ONTARIO'S
FRANCOPHONIE A VITAL
**COMPETITIVE EDGE
IN BUSINESS**

Ontario's Francophonie is a key component of its economic strength and vitality with tremendous growth potential.

Ontario is home to more than 30,000 francophone businesses, WHICH REPRESENTS ABOUT HALF OF ALL FRANCOPHONE BUSINESSES THRIVING TODAY OUTSIDE QUÉBEC.

Furthermore, the francophone and bilingual workforce contributes 12% of Ontario's GDP, which represents more than \$80 billion.

<https://fedefranco.ca/saisir-lavantage-francophone-pour-un-ontario-ouvert-aux-affaires/>

NUMBERS TO KNOW

400
Number of years the French have had an established presence in Ontario

18%
Percentage of Francophones of immigrant origin in the province according to the 2016 Census

+ 15,000,000
Population of Ontario (2022)

For employers and entrepreneurs looking to gain a competitive edge in the global economy, language is undeniably a crucial advantage. Ontario invests massively in education and training, with emphasis on the development of global skills required for success in a globalized economy. In English as in French, our high-performing education system nurtures talent, from the early years on to university and beyond. Ontario's francophone population has a 91% graduation rate. And nationally, our province ranks among the best with an 84% overall graduation rate.

Investment in population health is just as significant. Ontarians have access to a wide range of health care and social services designed to ensure the best possible quality of life

ADVANTAGE ONTARIO

ONE OF THE WORLD'S BEST QUALIFIED, **MOST EDUCATED FRANCOPHONE AND BILINGUAL WORKFORCE**

IN TERMS OF COMPETITIVENESS AND PRODUCTIVITY, THE ONTARIO ECONOMY WINS ON BOTH FRONTS.

ONTARIO

PRIME ECONOMIC DESTINATION

WIDE RANGE OF
COMPETITIVE
ADVANTAGES

FULL ACCESS

TO THE CANADIAN, NORTH AMERICAN
AND GLOBAL MARKETS

For individuals and businesses alike, bilingualism represents a major competitive advantage, serving as a springboard to new commercial opportunities in other countries and markets.

ABUNDANT FORWARD - THINKING TALENT

With a powerful workforce of well-educated francophone and bilingual talents, **Ontario is well positioned to engage in international commerce with French-speaking countries.** These markets offer tremendous untapped economic potential.

Thanks to an extensive network of seven bilingual universities, two French-language colleges and other teaching institutions, our workforce includes a high proportion of bilingual graduates. The majority are employed in the service industry, most notably in government, education, health as well as in the professional, scientific and technical service sectors.

Ontario universities produce 40,000 science, technology, engineering and math graduates every year. More than enough talent to help businesses create new opportunities, innovative concepts and revolutionary technologies that move the world forward.

COMPETITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Strong growth keeps our economy churning. And the political landscape remains as stable and sustainable as ever, making Ontario the ideal place to invest and grow. The government makes it easier to grow your business here in many ways:

- ◆ A DIVERSIFIED, CUTTING-EDGE ECONOMY;
- ◆ SUSTAINED SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL STABILITY;
- ◆ LOWER CORPORATE TAXES;
- ◆ LESS RED TAPE;
- ◆ INCENTIVE PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE GROWTH AND INVESTMENT.

KEY SECTORS

investontario.ca

Agriculture / Agri-food ◆

Aerospace and space ◆

Finance, insurance and real estate ◆

Forestry ◆

Manufacturing ◆

Automotive ◆

Mining ◆
(*extraction & production*)

Tourism ◆

Research & development ◆
e.g. biotechnology, information and communication technology, pharmacology, medical devices

Arts and culture ◆

"Caisse Desjardins Ontario is one of the largest financial institutions in Ontario. We form an integral part of the leading cooperative financial group in Canada and North America, Desjardins Group. Our network offers a wide range of financial products and services to meet the needs of our individual and corporate members and clients throughout the province. Thanks to our cooperative nature and through our many programs, we contribute to the economic and social development of communities."

FRANCINE CÔTÉ, Chair, Board of Directors
Caisse Desjardins Ontario Credit Union
desjardins.com



ADVANTAGEOUS CENTRAL LOCATION

Ontario owes its economic success in part to its strategic location in the heart of the country and its proximity to American markets.

It is the country's economic engine and Toronto stands as Canada's financial capital. To the east lies the nation's capital, Ottawa, the seat of federal power.

With a population of more than 15 million and a border stretching nearly halfway across the U.S., Ontario offers unparalleled access to a large domestic market, and an additional 142 million consumers living within a day's drive.

A TOP 3 DESTINATION FOR FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

Ontario is a leading North American destination for foreign direct investment, outranking even California and New York.

Source:  investontario.ca



ONTARIO'S FRANCOPHONIE: AN ECONOMIC DRIVING FORCE

BUSINESS INCUBATORS,
JOB CREATION AND
GROWTH INDUSTRIES

ECONOMIC SUCCESS

Ontario industries are vast and varied, ranging from cultivating crops, to mining minerals, to manufacturing automobiles, to designing software and leading-edge technology. Fuelled by bilingual talent and filled with opportunity, these industries feed on sheer human imagination and creativity.

“French is unquestionably a vector for development opening the door to new markets, but also to opportunities for creating strategic partnerships. In Ontario, with the support of our government, we are forging ahead in several strategic areas, including conquering new markets by establishing trade corridors, supporting francophone businesses and blazing the way for the next generation of francophone entrepreneurs.”

DOMINIC MAILLOUX, President

Fédération des gens d'affaires francophones de l'Ontario (FGA)

 fedefranco.ca

Established in 1894, St-Albert Cheese proudly stands as one of Canada's first cooperatives and a symbol of success in the ever-growing tourism and agri-food sectors.

“St-Albert Cheese Coop is stronger than ever and ready to welcome a new generation of farm operators in its ranks, young people who also believe that the coop model is perfectly engineered to succeed far into the future.”

ÉRIC LAFONTAINE, CPA, CMA, MBA

Executive Director  fromagestalbert.com





MINING

Ontario is among the top 10 producers in the world for nickel and platinum group metals. It is also a significant producer of gold, copper, zinc, cobalt and silver as well as a major exporter of knowledge and know-how.



AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD

Ontario has more than half of the highest quality farmland in Canada. Its 51,950 farms make up almost one-quarter of all farm revenue in Canada. And with more than 52,000 farm operators, the agri-food industry continues to prosper.



FORESTRY

A strong and dynamic sector, forestry contributes to a good standard of living by supporting almost 200,000 direct and indirect jobs across 260 Ontario communities.



ONTARIO WELCOMES THE WORLD'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE ENTREPRENEURS AND INVESTORS!

MANUFACTURING

Ontario is part of the North American manufacturing heartland. Key manufacturing industries include information and communications technologies, automotive, biotech, pharmaceuticals and medical devices.



TOURISM

With its striking natural beauty and celebrated multicultural landscape, Ontario ranks as a prime tourism destination, the most visited province in Canada. Tourism represents more than 3% of the GDP.



SPIRIT OF INNOVATION

“By being innovative and highly adaptable in meeting the needs of the mining industry, we keep growing. We are now working with leading North American companies and Spain on the development of innovative products. Our best bet for success in coming years lies in market diversification and the hiring of the best and brightest talents here and abroad.”

DANIEL BRUNET, Founding President
Entrepreneur of the Year 2018
DJB Mining Products & Services Ltd. and
DJB Mining Equipment,
Company of the Year 2017
djbcustoms.com



SERVICES INDUSTRY

This industry employs close to 80% of the provincial workforce in key sectors including business and finance, professional, scientific and technical services as well as advocacy and community action, arts and culture.



SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AND COOPERATIVES

The coop movement and social entrepreneurship create jobs and attract investment, while contributing to social progress. Ontario now boasts 10,000 social enterprises which employ on average 38 workers and generate \$1,2 million in annual revenues. It is also home to 1,500 coops. Fuelled by the talent of 1.4 million members, these coops contribute \$5.97 billion annually to the province's GDP.



THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

“My career path as a tech entrepreneur and representative of an international institution is a testament to the strength and richness of Ontario’s francophone diversity. Being a woman and an immigrant has never been an obstacle, but rather an opportunity to push boundaries and thrive in an environment conducive to global business development.”

Recipient of the 2018 JoAnna Townsend Award of Excellence awarded by the Organization of Women in International Trade, **KARIMA-CATHERINE (KC) GOUNDIAM** founder and Executive Director, Red Dot Digital Inc. & B2BeeMatch.com, is blazing a new pathway in a world hungry for thought leadership.

reddotdigital.net | B2BeeMatch.com

ARTISTIC FORCE

“Passionate promoter of writing and music, I have discovered in Ontario a thriving francophone arts and culture sector, tremendous growth potential for emerging talents as well as for artistic investors and entrepreneurs in search of opportunities here.”

YAO, multi-talented artist and entrepreneur of Togolese origin
Award-winning Poet • Educator • Thespian • Author-Composer-Singer

yaomusique.com

HELPFUL LINKS

monassemblee.ca/en

fedefranco.ca/en

seo-ont.ca

ontario.ca/page/getting-settled-ontario

cco.coop

afmo.on.ca/en

fondationfranco-ontarienne.ca

allianceculturelle.org

coalition.ca

ucfo.ca

RESOURCES

angelinvestorsontario.ca

ontario.ca/page/ontario-investment-and-trade-centre

espaceentrepreneur.ca

investontario.ca



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WELCOME!

“The French language is an asset. In an economic context, Francophone and bilingual communities open the door to regional, national and international ecosystems, most notably through the International Organization of La Francophonie. In Ontario, French is a catalyst for economic development, fostering strong communities here and attracting Francophone and bilingual community wealth from around the world.

The Société Économique de l'Ontario works to extend Ontario's influence through our expertise in economic development, employability and immigration. By promoting collaborative approaches and focusing on the regionalization of talent, we act as an opportunity-creating force.”

DENIS LAFRAMBOISE, President
Société Économique de l'Ontario

 seo-ont.ca

Canada 

Ontario 