

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Rural Ontario Institute selects eight community partners**

**Woodstock, Ontario, January 28, 2016.** Eight rural communities across Ontario have been selected as partners in the Rural Ontario Institute's Measuring Rural Community Vitality Initiative – Baldwin, Centre Wellington, County of Dufferin, Huron County, Northern Bruce Peninsula, Northumberland County, Oxford County and West Carleton.

Each community was selected through an application process and will launch a community vitality project in collaboration with the Rural Ontario Institute in 2016.

“We are thrilled to have had 30 communities express interest in partnering to measure community outcomes that are difficult to capture,” says Norman Ragetlie, Director of Policy and Stakeholder Engagement, Rural Ontario Institute. “We are looking forward to documenting the learnings from each of the selected projects and sharing results with other communities.”

The selected communities will benefit from access to ongoing collaboration and knowledge transfer opportunities and will receive up to \$15,000 towards consulting services to assist with their project.

To support the collaboration with the Township of Baldwin the Rural Ontario Institute has also announced a strategic partnership with the Northern Policy Institute.

The Rural Ontario Institute is a non-profit organization committed to developing leaders, initiating dialogue, supporting collaboration and promoting action on issues and opportunities facing rural Ontario.

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