



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

The Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) is leading a 30-month applied research and analysis initiative focused on deepening understanding of effective practices for quantifying rural civic engagement, social capital and community well-being. It will also demonstrate methods for municipal evaluation of community impacts and social return on investment. Funded by the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing the initiative includes seven research and knowledge transfer projects.

ROI intends to collaborate with up to four rural communities to conduct applied research of current programs/projects. Communities interested in evaluating outcomes using methodologies such as *Social Return on Investment (SROI)* and *Community Impact* or communities engaged in quality of life assessments (i.e. Well-being or Vital Signs) are candidates for this initiative. Lessons learned will be shared broadly with other rural communities across Ontario. Municipalities or community-based organizations are requested to submit an Expression of Interest no later than **October 29, 2015**.

Possible Theme Areas:

• Municipal Leadership	• Economic Development
• Community Engagement	• Community Well-being
• Rural Transportation	• Water Quality and the Environment
• Youth Retention	• Poverty and Income Disparity
• Services for an Aging Population	• Food Security

Essential Criteria:

1. Rural (with communities < 100,000 pop.)	3. To be completed by 12/18/2016
2. Municipality is a partner	4. Evaluation reports will be made public

Selected communities will realize benefits for their community program/project including:

- Ongoing collaboration with the ROI team throughout the initiative
- Access to valuable expertise, tools and knowledge transfer opportunities
- Up to \$15,000 financial support for consulting services

Interested communities are requested to submit a one-page EOI describing your community program/project and confirming that it meets all four (4) essential criteria listed above. The EOI must be signed by an official of the lead community organization or the partner municipality. **The EOI is only the first step** of the community selection process. Step two is a formal application and step three is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ROI and the municipal partner(s).

Please submit to: Rural Ontario Institute by email addressed to mcassidy@ruralontarioinstitute.ca