



***Pierre Lemieux,
Député / Member of Parliament
Glengarry-Prescott-Russell***

For immediate release

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“Our Government is committed to providing the tools necessary to help local businesses like E.C. Best Friends compete and prosper both locally and within the larger global marketplace. This funding reinforces the federal government’s commitment to locally owned and operated businesses.”

Pierre Lemieux, MP

OTTAWA — Today, MP Pierre Lemieux announced \$52,000 in funding through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) for E. C. Best Friends Inc.- the makers of Aunt Lizzie’s cookies. “Federal support for companies like E.C. Best Friends are always a sound investment,” stated Mr. Lemieux. “Businesses that are given the opportunity to stay competitive are more likely to remain in the community and possibly expand. It also helps to sustain long-term economic development efforts.”

The FedDev Ontario investment is aimed at helping food businesses in communities across Southern Ontario become more competitive and better able to serve consumers. During the announcement Mr. Lemieux affirmed, “Our government is committed to providing the tools necessary to help local businesses like E.C. Best Friends compete and prosper both locally and within the larger global marketplace. This funding reinforces the federal government’s commitment to locally owned and operated businesses.”

E.C. Best Friends has been in business for twelve years and employees 16 full and part-time personnel as well outside consultants. It sells Aunt Lizzie’s cookies both here in Canada as well as to foreign customers in the United States and Japan. Some of their customers include well-known major retailers such as Costco, Metro, and Loblaws as well as small privately owned businesses.

This funding announcement comes as a direct result of the Conservatives government’s Economic Action Plan and is part of the federal governments’ commitment to provide opportunities for small- and medium-sized businesses in Southern Ontario to innovate and create new jobs. FedDev Ontario was established to deliver federal economic development programs to support the priorities of workers, businesses and communities in Southern Ontario. Budget 2009 allocated \$1 billion over five years for the new Agency. “It builds upon the assets and strengths of communities to create an environment where businesses can thrive and maximize Southern Ontario’s potential to succeed in the knowledge-based economy,” explained Mr. Lemieux.



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The funding will assist E.C. Best Friends in performing a major overhaul of its factors of production. “This program is an excellent example of the federal government working closely with communities to foster economic growth at the neighbourhood level,” said Mr. Lemieux.

For more information on the program please visit: <http://www.southernontario.gc.ca/>.