

A manufacturing firm may receive total repayment of the tax paid on gasoline or diesel fuel if the fuel is used to operate machinery or as a raw material in the manufacture of certain products. Industrial machinery used in Quebec for manufacturing or processing is also exempt from provincial sales tax.

For a number of years the government of Quebec has sought easier access to foreign markets for Quebec businesses. The industry and commerce department has economic advisers attached to its delegations and Quebec offices abroad, provides financial and technical assistance to firms wishing to participate in industrial shows, organizes trade missions and provides information on export techniques and external trade. The Industrial Development Corp. also grants financial assistance to manufacturing and commercial operators exporting goods manufactured in Quebec.

In 1977 the Quebec national assembly authorized the creation of Quebec business development corporations. The aim is to provide risk capital for small and medium-sized manufacturing firms, as well as management assistance. Shareholders are entitled to tax abatements of up to 25% of the total investments, to a maximum of \$25 per share.

A Quebec food crop programs corporation was set up to encourage and participate in the establishment, modernization, expansion, development, consolidation and grouping of food industries. It has two main methods of operation: participation as a co-partner in a business by purchasing risk capital, without at any time holding the majority of the capital stock, and selling its shares when the co-partners decide to repurchase them; and long-term loans at market interest rates (loans to shareholders). Its operations are restricted to the processing and marketing sectors.

The industry and commerce department offers companies technical assistance, mainly in the form of consultation services, negotiation of licence agreements, market studies and statistics. An industrial research centre also provides information and technical assistance services.

Ontario

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Ontario northern and eastern development corporations are Crown agencies established by the Ontario government to provide services to business to stimulate industrial growth, economic development and employment opportunities. They report to the Ontario legislature through the industry and tourism minister. Their boards of directors represent the business and financial communities and organized labour.

Loan programs administered by the development corporations include an Ontario business incentive program to encourage industrial and economic development. Incentive loans are repayable, although initial repayment may be deferred. The loans may be interest free or at a rate lower than the Ontario Development Corp.'s prevailing rate of interest.

Term loan programs available to Canadian-owned companies in the province include small business loans for companies to expand their operations in manufacturing or services closely allied to manufacturing; venture capital loans to introduce new technology; loans for approved pollution control equipment; loans for tourist resort operators to upgrade facilities and establish new accommodation; export support loans to finance production and warehousing of goods for export against specific orders; and industrial mortgages and leasebacks to help establish or expand manufacturing facilities.

The Ontario Development Corp. administers Northam Industrial Park in Cobourg and Huron Industrial Park in Centralia, renting industrial space and housing. It also manages the sale and leasing of property in Sheridan Park near Toronto to companies engaged in industrial research and development.

The ministry of industry and tourism provides information on location and expansion of tourist operations, economic studies and other pertinent material; it advises tourist and service industry operators on ways to increase and improve their operations. An industry and trade division assists manufacturing companies and supporting service industries to maximize use of facilities, apply technology, establish new production facilities and find new business opportunities in both domestic and international markets. Technology, industrial design and development, product performance, energy management and loan programs are discussed in seminars with independent business