

Desjardins Ontario Credit Union 2026 selected projects



Eastern Ontario

Expansion of the Rockland Help Centre facility

Organization: Rockland Help Centre

This project aims to increase the capacity of the centre's food bank and thrift store to meet the growing needs of individuals and families experiencing financial hardship in the Clarence-Rockland area. This expansion will enable the organization to provide improved access to essential goods, helping reduce food insecurity, support vulnerable households and strengthen the community's social safety net.



Strengthening local services through advanced diagnostic imaging

Organization: Glengarry Memorial Hospital Foundation

This financial contribution supports the foundation's fundraising campaign to acquire a new CT scanner for Alexandria's hospital. The new equipment will allow residents of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, as well as surrounding rural communities, to access advanced diagnostic imaging services locally, reducing the need to travel to larger urban centres.



JIFA Connect: Educational Success Hub and Leadership Development for Francophone Youth in Prescott-Russell

Organization: *Promotion du Leadership pour le Développement Communautaire (PLDC)*

This project aims to support the success, integration and leadership development of Francophone youth in Casselman, particularly those from immigrant backgrounds. Through a learning hub, participants will have access to workshops on employability, career planning, communication skills and preparation for the Canadian workforce.



Casselman Waterfront Recreation and Dock Improvement Project

Organization: South Nation Conservation

This project aims to improve public access to the South Nation River through the development of waterfront recreational infrastructures at two sites in Casselman. A larger-capacity dock will be constructed at the High Falls Conservation Area, while the existing dock will be relocated to the Knights of Columbus Park. Together, these improvements will support boating, fishing, tourism and outdoor recreation while connecting two complementary waterfront spaces. Shoreline stabilization, erosion control and native tree and shrub planting are also planned to help protect the natural environment.



Ottawa

3-3-3 Program in Ottawa

Organization: Ski at School

This project proposes a cross-country skiing model for schools based on resource sharing among multiple institutions. Rather than each school purchasing and managing its own equipment, a mobile team coordinates the rotation of equipment and activities on a weekly basis. By reducing individual costs, storage requirements and logistical challenges, more students will have the opportunity to discover cross-country skiing through an accessible and adaptable program.



A Backpack for Success

Organization: Coopérative Ami Jeunesse Inc.

This project will provide school backpacks and supplies to children from low-income families. By ensuring students have the materials they need for learning, the initiative helps reduce inequalities, promote inclusion and support educational success.



Community Growing Collective

Organization: Thunder Gardens

This project supports the creation of a community farm focused on learning, food security and social inclusion. Through programs designed for youth, families and the community, participants will develop gardening skills, grow food for food banks and increase food self-sufficiency.



Art & Ecology Field Lab Pilot

Organization: Sectoral Climate Arts Leadership for the Emergency

This project aims to establish a field lab in the Ottawa Valley and rural western Ottawa. It will bring together artists, scientists, students and community members through activities focused on biodiversity, regenerative agriculture, climate literacy and ecological monitoring. The initiative will encourage knowledge sharing, civic participation and community collaboration.



Sudbury and Northern Ontario

South End Community Garden at Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School

Organization: South End Community Action Network, City of Greater Sudbury

This project will establish a community garden on the grounds of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School in Sudbury. Students will participate in the design, cultivation and maintenance of raised garden beds as part of environmental and agricultural learning activities. The harvested food will be donated to local food security organizations and the Legion. The initiative also includes additional garden beds, a pollinator habitat and a food forest.



The Desjardins Calm Corner: A Multi-Sensory Experience

Organization: Our Children, Our Future / Family Resources

This contribution will support the creation of a multi-sensory room in one of the organization's Greater Sudbury community centres, providing children, youth and families with a safe, calming and inclusive environment. Equipped with sensory lighting, tactile materials, soothing sounds, comfortable furnishings and quiet retreat zones, the space will support children living with autism, ADHD, sensory sensitivities, anxiety and other developmental or emotional regulation challenges.



Watershed Discovery: Advancing Environmental Learning & Community Engagement

Organization: Junction Creek Stewardship Committee

This project aims to expand access to environmental education activities for youth and families in Greater Sudbury. Through the acquisition of educational equipment and tools, as well as mobile infrastructure, the initiative will offer free bilingual learning experiences related to biodiversity, freshwater ecosystems and watersheds.



Community Outreach and Support Initiative

Organization: The Go-Give Project

This contribution will support proactive, accessible mobile outreach and community support services for individuals facing homelessness, substance use challenges, poverty, mental health concerns or other systemic barriers. The organization provides support for essential needs, referrals to appropriate resources and treatment services, crisis intervention and connections to community supports during evenings and weekends.



Azilda Water Bottle Filling Station at the Park

Organization: Azilda Community Action Network

This contribution will support the installation of an accessible outdoor water bottle filling station near McDonald Park in Azilda, providing residents and visitors with access to drinking water. Currently, no public water source is available in the area during the summer months.



Seniors on the Road and Sharing Stories

Organization: Le Centre franco-ontarien de folklore

This project will enable seniors in the Sudbury area to attend performances during the 10th edition of the *Les vieux m'ont conté* Festival by providing transportation, a meal and admission tickets. By improving access to cultural activities, the initiative aims to encourage social interaction, reduce isolation and support seniors' well-being.



I Love Reading

Organization: Temiskaming Community Foundation

This project will provide monthly subscriptions to French-language educational magazines for 950 students from kindergarten to grade 6. The initiative promotes reading development, strengthens literacy skills and increases access to French educational content for youth across the region.



Performance Hall Enhancement Project

Organization: *Le Club amical du Nouveau-Sudbury*

This project will provide a community theatre hall with essential specialized equipment to optimize its technical and functional capabilities. These upgrades will enhance the hosting of performances, conferences, workshops and luncheon talks. The project will support the delivery of cultural, educational and community activities in a space that is better suited to users' needs.



Toronto and Southwestern Ontario

The Inclusive Swim and Community Access Project

Organization: Autism Services Incorporated of Windsor and Essex County

This project will offer adapted swimming sessions and community support opportunities for youth ages 6 to 17 living with autism spectrum disorder. Guided by trained staff, participants will develop essential skills that promote independence and social inclusion. Transportation assistance will also be provided to reduce barriers to participation.



Digital Skills for Women's Employment Readiness

Organization: Women's Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor Inc. (WEST)

This project aims to enhance the employability and economic independence of newcomer women and women re-entering the workforce through digital skills training. Participants will receive practical instruction on Microsoft Office tools, virtual collaboration platforms, online safety and the responsible use of artificial intelligence. The program also includes support for obtaining recognized certifications, job search assistance and financial literacy workshops offered by Desjardins.



Francophone Women of Niagara: Integration, Leadership and Empowerment

Organization: SOFIFRAN

This project aims to promote social integration, leadership development and well-being among Francophone immigrant women in the Niagara region, particularly those experiencing financial hardship, isolation or single parenthood. Through leadership workshops, networking opportunities, intercultural events, practical training sessions and wellness initiatives, participants will strengthen their confidence, build new skills and create meaningful connections within their community.



Youth Forward: Skills, Leadership and Belonging

Organization: BGC North Simcoe (formerly Boys and Girls Clubs of North Simcoe)

This project will provide youth in Midland, Penetanguishene, Tiny and Tay with meaningful opportunities to develop leadership skills, self-confidence and future-ready competencies. Through mentoring, financial literacy, life skills, employability, wellness, science and innovation activities, participants will strengthen their communication, teamwork, problem-solving and community engagement skills.

