

Supplementary Budget – Briefing Note

2019 Budget

One page brief per request

Briefing Note required for:

- items >\$50,000
- changes in FTE
- Corporate Strategic Initiatives

Dept	Division	Business Unit	Item	Base Supp	Amount	FTE Impact
CD	Economic Development Services	11050	Year 3 – Ginger Growing Trials in cooperation with the University of Guelph, Ridgetown College, 50% funding through the Agriculture Adaptation Fund by the Provincial Government	S	\$20,000	0.00

Background:

2016 Supplementary Budget Approval - \$20,000
 2017 Supplementary Budget Approval - \$20,000
 2018 – Remainder of 2016 and 2017 funding encumbered to offset 2018 expenses

Chatham-Kent is home to some of the richest agricultural land in Canada and is located in one of the warmest regions in the country. These factors provide a large potential for diversifying the crops grown in the region. Millions of Canadians live within a few hours drive of Chatham-Kent. Given this large customer base, the market potential for new and innovative food crops is significant.

New crops which can be grown in Chatham-Kent are continually being identified. New field crops provide market opportunities for local producers, diversification of the farm economy, additional revenue sources at different times of the year, new crops in the rotation, and on a larger scale, reduction of the environmental footprint of crops which are traditionally imported.

Often there are no sources of funds (grower associations, marketing boards, etc.) which can be used as “seed money” to develop larger projects. To date, funds provided by the Municipality for new crop development (ginger) have been more than doubled through programs administered by the Agricultural Adaptation Council. Other supports include the use of research land and infrastructure at the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus and associated research farms.

This ginger growing initiative is now in its 4th year of trial. The trials from 2016 and 2018 provided the University with promising results. In 2017, the seed that was provided for the project from China was unfortunately compromised upon arrival, and the crop was abandoned mid-way through the year. A third year of trial is now necessary to gain definite and affirmative results that ginger is a crop that can be grown in Chatham-Kent.

Comment: