

PRESS RELEASE

(Monday, September 30, 2013)

Canadian and Caribbean officials discuss Local Economic Development

Belize City, Belize: The Caribbean Local Economic Development Project (CARILED) will welcome nine (9) municipalities within Belize at a one day local governance symposium today. The theme of the symposium "The Role of Elected Officials in Local Economic Development" will focus on the key role that mayors and town / city council members play in facilitating and promoting local economic development (LED).

The discussions will center on collaborative initiatives that support socially and environmentally sustainable growth of micro, small and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs) in Caribbean and Canadian communities. Presentations will include keynote speaker, Councillor Michael Thompson of the City of Toronto, as well as Mayor Darrell Bradley of Belize City, Belize; Mayor Brenda Ramsay of Mandeville, Manchester Parish in Jamaica, and Councillor Harold Usher of the City of London, Ontario.

The symposium will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Belize City, Belize, and will facilitate discussions among elected officials from Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize City, City of Belmopan, San Ignacio / Santa Elena, San Pedro, Benque Viejo del Carmen, Dangriga, and Punta Gorda municipalities, along with Chairpersons from the Belize River Valley. Also present will be representatives of CARILED's funding agency, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Canada; the Ministry of Labour, Local Government, Rural Development, National Emergency Management and Immigration; and other key Caribbean leaders in MSME development and Local Governance. CARILED will focus its work in Belize City, Belmopan, San Ignacio / Santa Elena, and the Belize River Valley during its first phase.

About CARILED

CARILED is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Canada, formerly the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). It is a six year program launched in May 2012, with headquarters in Trinidad and Tobago, and sub-offices in Saint Lucia (OECS) and Ottawa, Canada. The program is being implemented by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), in partnership with the Caribbean Association of Local Government Authorities (CALGA), the Caribbean Forum of Local Government Ministers (CFLGM) and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF). The program, focused on local economic development, currently works in seven Caribbean countries to develop models of LED that can be shared throughout the region. It aims to partner with 50 local government authorities to support the growth and development of 500 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). For more information on CARILED, please contact cariled@fcm.ca. FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES ONLY, please contact kizzannlesam@fcm.ca