

# Information and Activity Report

*CBRM Regional Enterprise Network*

Q1 – FY 2025/26  
(April - June 2025)

**Subject:** .....CBRM REN Information and Activity Report  
**To:** .....Cape Breton Regional Municipality  
**Date Prepared:** ..... August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
**Prepared by:** ..... Tyler Cole, Economic Development Officer, CBRM  
..... Lan Zheng, Economic Development Officer, CBRM

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## Background:

The Cape Breton Partnership (CBP) provides economic development support to the Cape Breton Regional Municipality under the Regional Enterprise Network (REN) model in partnership with the Province of Nova Scotia.

The Cape Breton Regional Municipality Regional Enterprise Network (CBRM REN) serves all of the communities of the CBRM from the CBP offices in Sydney.

The CBRM REN is part of a larger network of Regional Enterprise Networks across Nova Scotia.

The CBP maximizes the value of the CBRM REN's funding partners, leverages that investment to have a greater impact, and collaborates with other partners, funders, and projects that it is responsible for (like the Cape Breton Local Immigration Partnership) to deliver operational synergies across Unama'ki – Cape Breton and to benefit the CBRM.



## 2024/25 CBRM REN Board of Directors

- **Chair:** Ron Blinkhorn - Casino Nova Scotia
- Tracey Boutillier - Vibe Creative Group
- Shaowei Xu - SW East Trading & Consulting
- Howie Doiron - Lindsay Construction
- Darrell Gallant - Marine Atlantic
- Nicole Morrison - Mabel Systems
- Mary Jane Morrison - Cape Breton University

### *Other Invited CBRM REN Board Meeting Attendees:*

- LOC Co-Chair Steve Gillespie
- LOC Co-Chair Jennifer Campbell

## 2024/25 CBRM REN Liaison Oversight Committee:

- **Co-Chair:** Steve Gillespie – CBRM Councillor
- Dave MacKeigan – CBRM Councillor
- **Co-Chair:** Jennifer Campbell – CBRM Chief Financial Officer
- Tyson Simms – CBRM Director of Planning and Development
- Evan Williams - Nova Scotia Department of Growth and Development
- Donald Ferguson - Nova Scotia Department of Labour, Skills & Immigration

### *Other Invited CBRM REN LOC Meeting Attendees:*

- CBRM REN Board Chair, Ron Blinkhorn
- CBRM CAO Demetri Kachafanas

## Additional information about the CBRM REN

Full information on the CBRM REN, including the CBRM Forward Strategic Plan, annual business plan, quarterly reports and more is located on the [CBRM REN webpage](#).

## Reporting Period

Your CBRM REN team and the CBP are pleased to share highlights, milestones achieved, and metrics from **April 1 – June 30, 2025**.

## Highlights and Events

- **Presentation to CBRM Council on US-Canada Tariff Situation: April 1** – The CBRM REN, using information from local industry organizations and experts, made a presentation to CBRM Council outlining the then-latest on the evolving tariff spat between the US and Canada, impacts and opportunities for local businesses, and the response from the Government of Nova Scotia.
- **Sydney Job Fair: April 8** – Hosted at the Port of Sydney, this job fair featured 28 employers and 176 job seekers.
- **Advantage 2025: April 10** - Hosted by the Cape Breton Regional Chamber of Commerce, this annual event celebrates the strength, creativity, and resilience of women in business. It offers a day of empowerment, networking, and inspiration, while highlighting the remarkable contributions of women who are driving change in their industries and communities.
- **Smart Energy Halifax: April 14-15** – This conference, attended by members of the CBRM REN team and the Green Energy Engagement Coordinator, highlighted opportunities in the emerging green energy and clean technology sectors for the CBRM.
- **Nova Scotia Association of Realtors Meet & Greet: April 25** – This event hosted in downtown Sydney offered an opportunity for the CBRM REN team to connect with Realtors, property developers, and folks involved in the local real estate sector.
- **Around the World in One Kitchen: April 26 & June 16** – These cultural cooking workshop events were hosted by the Cape Breton Welcome Network and the Cape Breton Connector Program at the Whale House Café in Sydney.
- **Nova Scotia Partners for Progress Conference: April 29-30** – The annual conference for Nova Scotia RENs was hosted in 2025 at Fox Harb’r Resort in Cumberland County. Sessions featured collaborative opportunities for EDOs from across the province to connect, discussions on the US tariff impact on Nova Scotia businesses, housing development opportunities, and highlighting emerging sectors in the province. The event was attended by both CBRM REN EDOs, the Green Energy Engagement Coordinator, the Creative Economy Development Officer, the President & CEO, and other Cape Breton Partnership staff. The CBRM REN is due to host the next edition of the conference here in the CBRM in Spring 2026.
- **Better Building for Unama’ki: The Promise of Social Enterprise: May 1** - The CBRM REN team joined a one-day workshop at New Dawn to exploring how social enterprise can help build vibrant, healthy communities in Unama’ki, Cape Breton Island.
- **Housing Matters Richmond County: May 14** – Members of the CBRM REN team, on behalf of the CBRM Housing Coordinator, attended this event in Louisdale which aimed to discuss housing challenges and solutions in Richmond County. There was great interest in the soon-to-be-announced Fast Tracked Housing Designs from the CBRM, with Richmond County and community organizations interested in making use of them.
- **Safety First Symposium: May 14** – This annual event, hosted at the Membertou Trade & Convention Centre, featured 223 attendees and vendors from the construction safety industry.
- **Mukk Nqa’ltultuk Community Connections Conference: May 22-23** – Hosted by Kwilmu’kw Maw-klusuaqn (KMK), the Mi’kmaq rights and benefits organization, this conference was the first of its kind in bringing EDOs from the Nova Scotia RENs together with Mi’kmaw economic development and employment organizations to

make connections and find opportunities to better work towards economic reconciliation. The Cape Breton Partnership was the only non-Indigenous economic development organization invited to participate in the event.

- **Sydney Ports Day: May 28** – This annual gathering at the Port of Sydney brought together key organizations from around Sydney Harbour to learn about opportunities for harbour development and regional marine-focused sectors. The event was attended by members of the CBRM REN team, the Green Energy Engagement Coordinator, and other Cape Breton Partnership staff. This year's Ports Day theme was a focus on offshore wind development and opportunities in the marine industry, and was attended by members of the CBRM REN team.
- **Downtowns Atlantic Canada Conference: May 28-30** – Hosted by Downtown Dartmouth, this conference brought together thought leaders and Business Improvement District staff from across Canada to highlight downtown development opportunities. Members of the CBRM REN team attended alongside representatives from the Sydney Downtown Development Association.
- **CBRM Fast-Track Housing Designs Launch Event: June 16** – The CBRM REN team supported a launch event for the CBRM's new Fast-Track Housing Designs, which seek to make building more homes in the CBRM easier. We helped promote the event on social media and invited a few interested developers along to the event.
- **Cape Breton Regional Chamber of Commerce "Business Over Breakfast" event with Mayor Cecil Clarke: June 25** – The CBRM REN team attended a Chamber of Commerce event with the Mayor as a guest speaker, discussing future initiatives to make the CBRM more business-friendly.
- **Fisheries & Aquaculture Loan Board Presentation: June 26** – The CBRM REN made a presentation to the Fisheries & Aquaculture Loan Board as part of their annual meeting in the CBRM, highlighting the supports that the CBRM REN can offer to businesses in the marine sector.

## Select Project Updates

### Economic Development Project Updates:

- **Women+ Microloan Program** - The CBRM REN staff supported two women entrepreneurs applied for this program and assisted one women entrepreneur in successfully securing funding from the Sydney Credit Union in Q1. This initiative offers vital financial support, empowering these women to expand their businesses and bolster the regional economy.
- **Northside Business Park Land Sales** - In Q1, the CBRM REN staff received two applications for available lots and supported one business in successfully completing the purchase of a lot. This contributes to strategic business development and investment growth in the region.
  - The CBRM REN team has been working with the CBRM's Planning Department to update the criteria for processing lot sales, to ensure the remaining lots are being purchased by individuals who seek to utilize them to generate maximum economic and employment impact for the park.
- **Sydney Harbour Economic Development Initiative** – Building upon a direction from CBRM Council, a preliminary framework has been established with leadership and collaboration from CBRM Staff, the Port of Sydney, CBU, NSCC, the Membertou and Eskasoni corporate divisions, and the Cape Breton Regional Chamber of Commerce. The goal is to better collaborate and promote the harbour's opportunities to a wider audience. Consultations with all parties are underway to finalize a scope and terms of reference.
- **Design Cube Project – Nova Scotia Community Economic Development Fund** – A funding agreement has been secured with the Nova Scotia Department of Growth and Development to deploy 5 “Design Cubes” - a portable design platform which includes a 3D printer, laser cutter, and other similar equipment, with virtual support from experts to guide users through prototyping and producing widgets. These cubes will be deployed to the public in community-accessible spaces across Cape Breton later in 2025, with 1 cube located at a location to-be-determined in the CBRM.
- **The Unama'ki – Cape Breton Business Insights Program (BIP)** was launched in April, and aims to gather insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by businesses across Cape Breton. The program involves conducting in-depth interviews with businesses and will culminate in an annual report of the interview findings. Each Economic Development Officer is committed to conducting at least one monthly interview with businesses, seeking to meet with a wide variety of businesses in the community. Currently, 9 BIP interviews have been completed in CBRM.
- **Second Community Solar Garden in Sydney** – The Government of Nova Scotia's Community Solar Program has approved a proposed 1.7 MW community solar project, which will power around 200 homes in the community. The announcement was made on May 5. The CBRM REN staff have been assisting the project developers to secure the development permit from the CBRM, and assisting this out-of-town developer make meaningful connections in the community. [Read more here.](#)
- **Succession Planning** – CBRM REN staff have been supporting private business owners who are planning to retire by providing succession planning assistance and helping to connect them with potential buyers.
- **Sydney Public Market: May 24** - CBRM REN staff supported the Multicultural Association of Cape Breton (MACB) in opening the new Sydney Public Market (SPM) in Downtown Sydney. CBRM REN staff have been connecting the MACB team to the CBRM's Planning Department and Building Inspectors to assist with their occupancy

permit, and sharing potential vendors with the market. SPM is a space to support both newcomers and locals by fostering connections and celebrating culture, creativity, and entrepreneurship.<sup>1</sup>

## Green Energy Sector:

- **2025 What We Heard Report** - Release of the What We Heard Report for the second series of Offshore Wind Community Information Sessions with Net Zero Atlantic. The report highlights the key themes that were identified in feedback obtained from communities, the top five being fisheries co-existence, marine species and habitat impacts, siting, technology, and supply chain.
  - The WWH Report is available [here](#).
- **Electricity Sector Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Team** - Ongoing participation in the Electricity Sector Climate Adaptation Strategy Implementation Team, including working on public engagement pieces related to adaptation activities connected to the electricity sector (general storm preparedness, hurricane preparedness, winter storm preparedness, spring flooding, and heatwaves) which can be circulated once released publicly.
- **Mukk Naq'ltultuk: Community Connections Conference: May 22-23** - Attended and exhibited at Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn's (KMK) Community Connections Symposium in Truro. The event brought together First Nations' Economic Development Officers, Indigenous Employment Offices and Industry partners to connect, share ideas, and explore the opportunities in procurement, energy, mining, and tourism.
- **Marine Renewables Canada Supply Chain Session: May 28** - Co-hosted an event with Marine Renewables Canada and the Port of Sydney to bring information about the Atlantic Canada Wind Energy Supply Chain Assessment Report to CBRM. The event was hosted in conjunction with Sydney Ports Day, and provided participants with an opportunity to discuss the recommendations related to supply chain, workforce, policy, leadership and communication, and innovation in both onshore and offshore wind sectors.
- **Community of Practice with Department of Energy** - Connected to their project funding, the Green Energy Engagement Coordinator is part of a Community of Practice hosted by the Nova Scotia Department of Energy, for organizations who are undertaking engagement activities in the energy sector. The group is composed of Department representatives, the Cape Breton Partnership, Net Zero Atlantic, COVE, the Atlantica Centre for Energy, the Discovery Centre, and Skills Canada.
- **Indigenous Engagement Internship** - Recruitment and hiring process was undertaken for a 15-week internship to undertake Indigenous Engagement activities related to the energy transition. This culminated in hiring Kelly Paul, as our Indigenous Engagement Intern, who will work with the Green Energy Engagement on relationship development and a needs assessment for engagement activities with Mi'kmaw Communities in Unama'ki – Cape Breton.
- **OffshoreWind4Kids with COVE** - Planning and collaboration on co-hosting two sessions with COVE in Cape Breton. These will be held in July and provide families with an opportunity to build and launch model turbines to

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<sup>1</sup> Note that CBRM REN staff are also contributing their own personal volunteer efforts to the Whale House project. The Cape Breton Partnership / CBRM REN is pleased to support its employees in their volunteer efforts, and CBRM REN staff work diligently to ensure clarity between their volunteer and paid position roles to both internal and external partners whenever necessary.

learn about renewable energy during beach demos. Events are July 19 at Point Michaud Provincial Park (Richmond) and July 20 at Dominion Beach (CBRM).

- **Canada – Scotland Collaboration: Coastal Futures Luncheon** - Discussion with Aros Na Mara, professors/researchers from Scotland and Dalhousie, the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Association, and community members in Victoria County to identify opportunities for research initiatives in the Bras d'Or Lake. This included research but also the idea of research tourism and other economic opportunities for coastal protection, coastal tourism, and blue carbon sequestration.

#### **DOTCAN-WYTEC**

- Official agreement signed by the Cape Breton Partnership to be the partner hub for the Women and Youth Technical Capacity for the Blue Economy (WYTEC) program.
- WYTEC focuses on trans-Atlantic innovative training co-designed, co-developed, and co-delivered by partner hubs. It's supported through GoC/DFO and endorsed by the UN Decade Action.
- The goal of the program is to identify and assemble a network of local stakeholders in Nova Scotia and West African partnering countries. The work would identify key topics in ocean technology and maritime safety/security that are of common interest in all participating countries and will prepare women and youth for sustainable livelihoods in the ocean economy space. Curricula is co-developed by subject matter experts and co-delivered at knowledge exchange hubs in Halifax, Unama'ki – Cape Breton (Sydney), Nigeria, and Sierra Leone.
- We are creating a database of Blue Economy organizations and businesses in Unama'ki – Cape Breton and will be sending out a survey online that focuses on workforce gaps.

#### **Creative Economy Projects and Sector Initiatives:**

- **Louisbourg Playhouse** – The CEDO is working alongside CBRM District 8 Councillor Steven MacNeil and Mayor Cecil Clarke's team, Cape Breton University's Todd Hiscock, and the Savoy Theatre in Glace Bay. The Cape Breton Partnership is providing consultation, support, and assistance to the beloved and artistically unique Louisbourg Playhouse. New board members are being brought on, with valuable experience in theatre programming, accounting, and marketing. The Savoy Theatre will be supporting the Playhouse by using their existing e-ticketing system for shows at the Louisbourg Playhouse. Councillor MacNeil has credited the work of the CEDO on this file thus far: "I'm having fantastic experiences with the Cape Breton Partnership. Bill has been most helpful regarding the Louisbourg Playhouse!"
- **"Doors Open" Museum & Cultural Centre Project** - Initiated by Will Roy at CBRM, this project aims to connect and promote local museums and cultural centres. The Cape Breton Partnership CEDO is working in conjunction with Heritage Cape Breton and member base of museum/heritage buildings, Destination Cape Breton, and the Beaton Institute.
- **The Death Coast TV Series Launch Party: April 15** - Working in conjunction with CBRM Mayor Cecil Clarke's team, Destination Cape Breton, and show producers Forte Entertainment, the Cape Breton Partnership co-hosted a sold-out premiere event at Centre 200 celebrating the exciting new TV series *The Death Coast*, filmed in Louisbourg/Sydney, and broadcast on History Channel USA and Crave TV Canada.
  - The event also celebrated the contributions to the community from series star Captain Jeff MacKinnon, with CBRM declaring "Jeff MacKinnon Day" in front of a cheering crowd. After the first episode was



screened for attendees, Louisbourg-based entrepreneurs and owners of the North Star, Colin and Justin, commented that their hotel was already receiving bookings from viewers of the show who wanted to come and experience Louisbourg. During the 2024-2025 filming season, the cast/crew of *The Death Coast* stayed at the Simon Hotel in Sydney, and every effort was made to utilize local resources in the production of the show. The Cape Breton Partnership provided an office suite for the series producers to download their daily shoots and also provided connections to local resources for the production.

- **Starmaker Academy TV Series Premiere: June 15-** The Cape Breton Partnership CEDO worked alongside the CBRM Mayor's Office and the Sydney Holiday Inn hosting an exciting, sold-out premiere event featuring the local cast/crew of the new Bell Fibe comedy series including local comedic legend Bette MacDonald, writer Ed MacDonald, and Executive Producers Top Sail Entertainment. Attendees at the event also included municipal councillors Steven MacNeil, Dave MacKeigan, and Deputy Mayor Eldon MacDonald.
- **Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council Community Outreach Session: DATE** - The Cape Breton Partnership CEDO provided support and island-wide connections to the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council (CNSLC) and the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage for a successful and well-attended "Community Outreach Session" to the arts/culture/creative sector across Cape Breton. The CEDO worked with the province on the itinerary, and helped the province to invite attendees from Membertou, Eskasoni, Potlotek, Wagmatcook, We'koqma'q, Richmond County, Port Hawkesbury, Inverness County, Victoria County, and CBRM. The event was hosted at the Eltuek Arts Centre in Sydney. Invitees expressed their enthusiasm for meeting with both the province and with creative sector individuals from different parts of the island.

### People and Labour Force Attraction:

#### Cape Breton Local Immigration Partnership (CBLIP) Updates:

- The CBLIP Council held its quarterly meeting in Inverness on June 12, with a guest speaker from IRCC Outreach on Francophone immigration. Some key highlights from the CBLIP in Q1:
- One new working group formed in Q1 with a focus on Building Partnerships.
- The Immigrant Advisory Table (IAT) is made up of people born outside Canada with lived experience in the process of immigration. This group ensures that a newcomer perspective is always central to the work of the CBLIP. A new IAT Alumni group for outgoing members formed in Q1, and recruitment of new IAT members in rural Cape Breton is underway. The IAT currently has 12 members.
- Planning for the 2025 Immigrant Survey is underway. The survey will open in Fall 2025 and will gather insights from people born outside of Canada who now live on the Island. Learn more about the survey on our website: [welcometocapebreton.ca/immigrant-survey](https://welcometocapebreton.ca/immigrant-survey)

#### Connector Program Updates:

- The 2025-2026 fiscal year has seen some adjustments to the mandate of the Connector Program. While still aimed at newcomers, the program is also targeting skilled trades and high school students. The goal is to connect youth to opportunities in an area of labour shortages.
- In Q1, the Connector Program facilitated 25 matches, with an additional 30 in progress.

#### Community Engagement:



- The program was active in the community through events, workshops, and outreach. These efforts contributed to building a more welcoming and connected community for newcomers, students, and professionals in the region.
- Major presence at job fairs, roundtables, and community events, including:
  - Sydney Job Fair: April 8
  - NSCC Resource Fair: April 26
  - ISANS Skilled Trades Presentation: June 24
- Hosted community-focused events in the CBRM:
  - Around the World in One Kitchen: April 26 and June 13
  - Tennis and Togetherness: June 28
- Active collaboration with Cape Breton Language Centre, NPower, ISANS, and local trades groups and councils.
- High attendance at unique networking events such as “Try Tennis” and “Coffee & Connect” in Sydney.

#### **Immigration Services Updates:**

- The Cape Breton Partnership continues to support employers and newcomers through both *Immigration Advisory* and *Immigration Representation* services.
- The Partnership officially launched "Immigration Access +" during Q1. This program will offer our comprehensive representation services to Investors for a fee.
- Dani Mombourquette, our Immigration Engagement Coordinator, has successfully become a licensed RCIC. This adds a much-needed capacity to our small immigration team. Currently on provincial funding, we have received clearance for Dani to offer representation services on federal programming. Our services were signed to three new employers during Q1.

#### *Immigration Metrics, at end of Q1:*

- Completed 23 applications, with a total of 11 accompanying dependants. 9 applications are currently in progress.
- A total of 17 immigration advisory files were supported, with 43 quick supports in the CBRM.

#### *Community Engagement:*

- The team was also active in community and employer engagement, delivering sessions to raise awareness about provincial pathways to permanent residency:
- Targeted priority immigration in the construction sector at the Safety First Symposium on May 14
- Hosted a “Recent Trends in Immigration” session on June 18, in response to changing immigration policies and fear among employers and newcomers

- Hosted an AIP education session at CBU on June 18
- Presented to skilled trades in the CBRM on June 24

### **Cape Breton Welcome Network Updates:**

- The Buddy Program was initially launched internally and is now in the process of being launched more broadly to grow the program. While there are volunteers that have expressed interest that live outside of the CBRM, all newcomers that have expressed interest thus far reside within the CBRM.

### *Community Engagement*

- The Welcome Network continued to collaborate with the Connector Program to host Coffee & Connect sessions, prioritizing local venues and businesses to enhance community ties. These initiatives reinforced the importance of informal, welcoming spaces for newcomers to engage with their communities.
- The Welcome Network Coordinator continues to meet virtually bi-monthly with other Welcome Networks and similar programs across the Island.

### **Labour Market Supports**

- The Cape Breton Partnership began distributing a summary of news and policy updates. This grew from sharing highlights with a few colleagues to all staff and numerous partners. This resulted in the creation of "On Our Radar," a brief publication sharing updates and trends in immigration and labour. This is only distributed through email at this time.

### *Cape Breton Job Board*

- In Q1, 22 new organization accounts were created, bringing the total to 498. 112 job-seekers created accounts, and 37 applications were submitted directly through the Cape Breton Job Board.
- There were 105 new job posts in the CBRM.
- Currently, 292 organizations in CBRM are registered and active on the Cape Breton Job Board.

### *Job Fairs & People Attraction Missions*

- A total of 6 job fairs in the CBRM were attended by our team.
  - We set up booths at a variety of events to target various audiences and ensure our services are promoted to those who need them.

## **Upcoming Events in Q2 of 2025-26:**

- Unlock the Power of AI for Entrepreneurs and Small Business Owners: **July 14**
- OffshoreWind4Kids Beach Demo Day with COVE - Dominion Beach: **July 20**
- Cape Breton Partnership Partners Day – Glenora Inn & Distillery: **July 29**
- **MORE EVENTS** - To be kept informed of all upcoming events as they unfold, follow the Cape Breton Partnership's social channels or [subscribe to the Pulse Newsletter](#).

## Metrics Overview:

(Full Metrics are available in Addendum 1: CBRM REN Metrics (April 1 – June 30, 2025))

Your Economic Development Officers, and CBRM REN team members, continue to provide business support and advisory services to entrepreneurs, business clients, and individuals throughout the CBRM. These projects are reflected in the Addendum below.

Additional Information:



**CBRM REN Website:** Additional information on the CBRM REN, including the CBRM Forward Strategic Plan, annual business plan, quarterly reports and more is located on the [CBRM REN webpage](#).



**Welcome to Cape Breton Website:** Additional Information on Living, Working, Investing, Studying and Moving to the CBRM - including community profiles and economic data - can be found on the [Welcome to Cape Breton website](#).

- **News and Updates** – Elevate Magazine, and articles from Pulse Newsletter, new podcasts, news releases and more can be found on the [Partnership News section of our website](#).



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## Signatures:

Respectfully submitted by:

Tyler Cole  
Economic Development Officer - CBRM  
CBRM REN, Cape Breton Partnership

Lan Zheng (Aug 5, 2025 10:47:23 ADT)

Lan Zheng  
Economic Development Officer - CBRM  
CBRM REN, Cape Breton Partnership

Tyler Mattheis  
President and CEO  
CBRM REN, Cape Breton Partnership

Addendum(s):

- **CBRM REN Metrics (April 1 – June 30, 2025)**

---end report---

## Addendum I - CBRM REN Metrics: April 1 – June 30, 2025

|  | <b>Q1 Metrics</b><br><i>Q1 April 1st - June 30th, 2025</i> |                  | <b>YTD</b><br><i>Since April 1</i> |
|--|--|------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Activities</b>                                      | <b>In Progress</b>   | <b>Completed</b> | <b>Total Completed</b>             |
| <b>Business Support, Sustainability, &amp; Growth</b>  | <b>Total: 54</b>   | <b>Total: 24</b> | <b>Total: 24</b>                   |
| Business Retention & Expansion (BRE) Surveys Completed |  | 9                | 9                                  |
| Continuous Improvement & Business Advisory Services    | 8  | 8                | 8                                  |
| Business Quick Support                                 |  | 4                | 4                                  |
| Succession Planning & Support                          | 1  | 0                | 0                                  |
| New Businesses Supported in Navigating Resources       | 45   | 1                | 1                                  |
| Microloan Participants                                 | 0  | 2                | 2                                  |
| Other Business Support Services                        | 0  | 0                | 0                                  |

|  |                  |                 |                 |
|--|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Major Projects &amp; Strategic Sector Support</b> | <b>Total: 19</b> | <b>Total: 4</b> | <b>Total: 4</b> |
| Sector Development Projects                          | 19               | 1               | 1               |
| Major Economic Development Projects                  | 0                | 3               | 3               |

|  |                  |                   |                   |
|--|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Addressing Talent Needs (Labour &amp; Population)</b> | <b>Total: 45</b> | <b>Total: 191</b> | <b>Total: 191</b> |
| Projects Assessing Local Labour Market                   | 0                | 0                 | 0                 |
| Cape Breton Job Board Advertisements                     |                  | 105               | 105               |
| Immigration Advisory Services                            | 33               | 29                | 29                |
| Immigration Applications Submitted                       | 12               | 14                | 14                |
| Business Immigration Quick Support                       |                  | 43                | 43                |

|   |                  |                   |                   |
|---|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Newcomer &amp; Talent Retention Programs</b> | <b>Total: 30</b> | <b>Total: 186</b> | <b>Total: 186</b> |
| Connector Program Matches                       | 30               | 25                | 25                |
| Newcomers Welcomed Through the Welcome Network  | 0                | 51                | 51                |
| Local Immigration Partnership Members           |                  | 71                | 71                |
| Events Aimed at Talent Attraction & Retention   |                  | 39                | 39                |
| Other Activities Addressing Talent Needs        | 0                | 0                 | 0                 |

**Note on Addendum 1:** The data provided is sourced from our Insightly CRM software and, at times, CBRM REN metrics may not be complete due to data availability from all programs and projects at the time of report preparation. Year-to-date data will be adjusted accordingly in subsequent quarterly reports to ensure accuracy.












# FY25-26 CBRM REN Q1 Report - FINAL

Final Audit Report

2025-08-05

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
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