



MICRO LOANS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Self-Reliance Loan Program

Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) offers the Self-Reliance Loan Program in cooperation with Vancouver City Savings Credit Union (VanCity).

Who is eligible?

The Self-Reliance Loan Program has been specifically designed to benefit small business people meeting the following criteria:

- Are a VanCity Savings Credit Union member in good-standing for at least six months; or
- Enrolled in or a graduate of the Self-Employment Benefits Program, or similar entrepreneurial program; and
- Are operating, or about to operate, in British Columbia's Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley or Victoria Metropolitan Area.

To be eligible, interested applicants must clearly show a commitment to starting or expanding a small business. This may involve demonstrating a significant time commitment to the start-up or management of the business and some financial stake in the potential or existing business.

What can the loans be used for?

The Self-Reliance Loan Program is designed to provide access to credit for projects not normally financed by traditional lenders, such as:

- Research and development of projects leading to commercialization;
- Pre-commercial and commercial product or service development;
- Domestic and international market development;
- New production and service capacity enhancements;
- Acquisition and application of new technology;
- Lines of credit for business operations.

What are the terms of the loans?

The loan terms are designed to be flexible to help you maintain adequate cash flow throughout the year. Individual loans are subject to the following terms:

- Up to 5 years for repayment.
- Loans can range to a maximum of \$35,000 per borrower.
- Principal payments may be postponed up to two times a year, including an option to delay the first two principal payments.
- Interest rates are set at VanCity Savings Credit Union's Prime Rate* plus a risk premium of 3 to 6%.
- VanCity Savings Credit Union to make final decisions on all loan approvals.

** The VanCity Savings Credit Union Prime rate fluctuates with market interest rates*

How can my company apply?

For more information on the Self-Reliance Loan Program, or other programs and services available through VanCity Savings Credit Union, visit their website at www.vancity.com.

