

Access B.C.

2,669 Find Out More about Government Services for Small Business

On March 25th in Vancouver 2,669 local small businesses and budding entrepreneurs took part in the Vancouver Small Business Conference and Info-Fair held at the Pacific Coliseum. Organized by Western Economic Diversification Canada, and sponsored by the Business Development Bank of Canada, the event opened with a conference bringing together over 320 members of the local business community. Raymond Chan, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific), and Member of Parliament for Richmond, hosted the event.

During the conference, moderated by Ron Yuers, President, The Kryton Group of Companies, Secretary of State Chan outlined the federal government's initiatives to support business development and growth. Three local successful entrepreneurs then shared their business experiences with conference participants:

- Harold Copping, President, Teleflex (Canada) Ltd.
- Bob Maddocks, President, Maddocks Systems Inc.
- Sushma Datt, President, Rim Jhim Radio FM.

The associated Small Business Info-Fair showcased over 20 exhibitors from different federal departments who were on hand to answer questions and to explain products and services available to businesses and entrepreneurs in the Lower Mainland. More than twenty-six hundred people visited the Info-Fair.

Also part of the Info-Fair, twenty-seven workshops on topics ranging from – E-Commerce to Self Employment for Women in the New Millennium to Correction Canada's Alternatives to In-house Production – helped provide 2,165 participants with useful information for putting their business plans into operation.

These Info-Fairs have enabled the public and the business community to obtain valuable information on the support the Government of Canada offers business to help encourage growth and prosperity.

Federal Government Invests Additional Funding In Coastal Communities

At a news conference Monday, April 17, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Herb Dhaliwal and Secretary of State for Western Economic Diversification, Ron J. Duhamel announced additional funding for community economic development in British Columbia's coastal communities. The funding was administered under Western Economic Diversification Canada's Community Economic Adjustment Initiative (CEAI).

The initiative, which is part of the \$400 million Pacific Fisheries Adjustment and Restructuring Program (PFAR), was announced in January 1999. The CEAI funds projects, in BC's fishing dependent Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, will address local adjustment priorities that have demonstrable community support and which result in strategic investments with positive long-term economic benefits in coastal communities. The federal program is delivered locally in recognition that communities themselves know their needs and opportunities best.

"The federal government is investing an additional \$7 million under the CEAI to help communities affected by the restructuring of the Pacific salmon fishery. This further funding raises total federal funding to \$25 million," Minister Dhailwal said. "This investment will enable these communities to build on local and coast-wide opportunities to cope with challenges in their economy. It will also assist the Project Steering Committee in continuing their excellent work supporting locally-driven initiatives that will build greater self-sufficiency in BC's coastal communities."

To date, \$7.4 million has been invested in 24 coastal communities, many of which have been the hardest hit by the changes in the Pacific salmon fishery. Many of these communities are small remote Aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities that were identified in the Ghislason Review Fishing Communities in Transition, released in January, 1999. The projects are the result of creative partnerships including band councils, community organizations and volunteers, the private sector and different levels of government.

"I am pleased at the level of success this program has achieved so far," Mr. Duhamel said. "This additional funding will provide opportunities for continued diversification in communities





along the coast of British Columbia. CEAI investments, to date, of \$7.4 million have generated more than \$27 million in local funding, proving that locally-driven solutions are working and supporting people who need the assistance the most."

Two of the CEAI Project Steering Committee Co-Chairs were also in attendance at the news conference.

"The inclusion of First Nations communities in the CEAI process has exceeded expectations," Fred Tolmie from the Tsimishan Tribal Council and Co-Chair of the CEAI Project Steering Committee said. "The hiring of CFDC outreach workers has been the key in assisting more remote First Nations communities complete proposals to access CEAI funds. Without this vital link, these communities would be unable to develop some of their project ideas, which are creating new opportunities in their communities."

The second Steering Committee Co-Chair, Gillian Trumper was equally enthusiastic about what the additional funding could do for coastal communities.

"By investing in basic infrastructure in some of the hardest hit communities in coastal British Columbia, the CEAI is enabling a lot of other projects to start up," Ms. Trumper, Mayor of the City of Port Alberni said. "These initial important investments encourage the establishment of other new businesses which will lead to long-term employment benefits."

In addition to the extra funding, the Ministers also announced the appointment of three new representatives to the independent Project Steering Committee that renders decisions on the CEAI. The committee consists of local representatives including the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), Aboriginal peoples, Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs), and the federal government. Anfinn Siwallace of the Oweekeno-Kitaso-Nuxalk Tribal Council, Don Scott, the Mayor of Prince Rupert, and Cathy Denham, Chair of the Mount Waddington CFDC, will fill three vacancies on the Committee.

CEAI funding applicants must demonstrate that their project is financially viable and has community support; helps diversify the local economy; has tangible and direct results such as job creation and employment enhancement; leads to sustainable development; and is not eligible for funding under an existing program.

left to right - Herb Dhaliwal, Gillian Trumper, Ron J. Duhamel and Fred Tolmie

Spring Tour 2000

Rock stars aren't the only ones who tour the country -- politicians often make the circuit as part of their jobs to keep in touch with what is happening in each region and take what they find out back to Ottawa.

So began Spring Tour 2000 -- a western tour by Secretary of State for Western Economic Diversification and la Francophonie, Ron J. Duhamel, which took Dr. Duhamel to Vancouver, Edmonton and Saskatoon during the week of April 17, 2000.

Dr. Duhamel kicked off his western tour in Vancouver on Monday, April 17, where he met with key opinion leaders and discussed with them how WD can serve and support western interests -- an area of great importance to Dr. Duhamel.

During his visit Dr. Duhamel also discussed his vision for Western Canada and how he plans to refocus the direction of Western Economic Diversification Canada to meet these interests. He also wanted to hear from westerners as part of an

ongoing process of consultation -- getting the western viewpoint and "tapping the pulse" of B.C. stakeholders and interest groups to listen and learn -- and then take those viewpoints back to Ottawa.

While in Vancouver, Dr. Duhamel appeared on the Rafe Mair radio morning show (CKNW). He also met with key business people at a Vancouver Board of Trade luncheon, announced, along with Fisheries and Oceans Minister Herb Dhaliwal, additional funding for community economic development in B.C.'s coastal communities under Western Economic Diversification Canada's Community Economic Adjustment Initiative (CEAI). Finally, he met with B.C.'s francophone community to discuss francophone resources in the province.

A busy time but well worth it. As a minister who holds the portfolio on Western Canada and as someone who understands Western Canada, he appreciated being able to hear concerns from western Canadians in order to promote their interests in Ottawa.