



2007 Overview of Government Financing

Revised: February 2007



Small Business BC
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Overview of Government Financing

February 2007

The Overview of Government Financing acquaints you with government assistance programs and services for small business.

Both federal and provincial government programs are listed.

The Overview is a collection of more popular programs for small business and is not a complete listing. Programs targeted to specific industries/sectors are not listed.

To access a comprehensive listing of business assistance programs and services, check the Small Business BC's website where you can access the complete collection of government programs and services.

The collection is at: <http://www.smallbusinessbc.ca/pdf/overview.pdf>

Select the financing database on the right and type a keyword into the search bar. Leaving the search bar blank will return a listing of all programs within the database.

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Business Start-up

Be Your Own Boss - (SE) Self-Employment Programs

Funding and Business Planning Programs for entrepreneurs



SUMMARY:

The (SE) Self-Employment Program provides unemployed Employment Insurance (EI) eligible individuals with financial support, planning assistance and mentoring while they get their businesses up and running.

REGION: Locations throughout British Columbia's Lower Mainland.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Eligible participants are those who, pursuant to the Employment Insurance Act, are unemployed individuals:

- For whom an unemployment benefit period has been established or has ended within the 36 months prior to the date of requesting assistance; or
- For whom a benefit period that included a maternity or parental claim has been established within the 60 months prior to the date of requesting assistance, after which the individual remained out of the labor market in order to care for a newborn or newly adopted child and is now seeking to re-enter the labor force;
- Other criteria may apply. Some SE Program locations offer a wide range of services for those who are not EI recipients.

DURATION:

- The maximum duration of support is 52 weeks.
- The maximum duration is 78 weeks for clients with a disability that will affect their ability to make the business sustainable in one year.

FINANCIAL PARAMETERS:

- Individuals currently on an active EI claim may continue to receive their regular EI benefits until the end of their benefit period, and these may be "topped-up" to a locally determined flat rate.
- Persons no longer receiving EI benefits will have to negotiate a locally determined flat rate.
- EI eligible participants may also be eligible for personal supports, such as assistance for disabilities, transportation, dependant care, etc.

LOCATIONS & HOW TO APPLY:

There are 12 SE Program locations throughout the Lower mainland. Visit www.beyourownboss.org to determine which program is the one for you, attend an info session and then apply. Application forms are available upon visiting an information session. If you do not live in the Lower Mainland see Page 5 for other programs.

CONTACT:

Westcoast Community Enterprises
430-688 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B1P1
Tel: 604-685-5058

(or) Towards Excellence Consulting
301-990 Homer Street,
Vancouver, BC
V6B 2W7
Tel: 604.642.6785

**More information visit www.beyourownboss.org
to locate the SE Program nearest you.**

Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF)

Financial Assistance and Mentorships for young entrepreneurs



SUMMARY:

The Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF) will decide whether to help finance your new business on the basis of a written description of your business idea and yourself. CYBF's aim is to provide assistance to aspiring young entrepreneurs who are between 18-34 and who are most likely to succeed in creating a business and for whom our financial assistance is critical. It is expected that the business will provide full-time employment for yourself and others. If you have a viable business plan, and agree to work with a mentor for the life of your loan, CYBF will consider your application for a loan.

REGION: Throughout Canada

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Entrepreneurs need money - that's no secret. CYBF provides start-up loans up to \$15,000 with the following eligibility requirements:
- Between 18-34 years old;
- Eligible to work in Canada;
- Produces a complete and viable business plan;
- Has been in business, fully operating, for less than 12 months;
- Lives or opens the business in the community which is offering the CYBF program;
- Has some training / experience related to their business idea;
- Agrees to work with mentor for the duration of the loan term (three to five years);
- Has a business that creates full-time sustainable employment for the applicant; and
- Must hold at least 51% voting share in the business (if a partnership)

DURATION:

Loans are available in 3 and 5 year terms. The Duration of your program and mentorship will be based on the term of loan. For information on CYBF loans & interest rates see the contact info below.

LOCATIONS & HOW TO APPLY:

CYBF hand-matches qualified business mentors with young entrepreneurs to allow knowledge sharing which drives a higher business success rate. CYBF mentors are located throughout BC. To learn more about locating a mentor, interest rates and how to apply call CYBF Toll Free at: 1-800-464-2923 or visit CYBF Online.

CONTACT:

Canadian Youth Business Foundation

Suite 1010, 833 - 4 Avenue S.W.

Calgary, Alberta

T2P 3T5

Phone: (403) 265-3228

Fax: (403) 265-2343

Toll Free: 1-800-464-2923

(or) Small Business BC

Suite 82 – 601 W.Cordova

Vancouver, BC

V6B 1G1

Phone: (604) 775-5525

Fax: (604) 775-5520

Toll Free: 1-800-667-2272

**More information visit: www.cybf.ca
or call toll free: 1-800-464-2923**

CFDC - Self-Employment Programs

Business Planning Programs for entrepreneurs



SUMMARY:

The Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) provides a ton of business resources to small communities across BC. The CFDC Self-Employment Program provides unemployed Employment Insurance (EI) eligible individuals with financial support, planning assistance and mentoring while they get their businesses up and running.

REGION: CFDC locations throughout British Columbia.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Eligible participants are those who, pursuant to the Employment Insurance Act, are unemployed individuals:

- For whom an unemployment benefit period has been established or has ended within the 36 months prior to the date of requesting assistance; or
- For whom a benefit period that included a maternity or parental claim has been established within the 60 months prior to the date of requesting assistance, after which the individual remained out of the labor market in order to care for a newborn or newly adopted child and is now seeking to re-enter the labor force;
- Other criteria may apply.

DURATION:

- The maximum duration of support is 52 weeks.
- The maximum duration is 78 weeks for clients with a disability that will affect their ability to make the business sustainable in one year.

FINANCIAL PARAMETERS:

- Individuals currently on an active EI claim may continue to receive their regular EI benefits until the end of their benefit period, and these may be "topped-up" to a locally determined flat rate.
- Persons no longer receiving EI benefits will have to negotiate a locally determined flat rate.
- EI eligible participants may also be eligible for personal supports, such as assistance for disabilities, transportation, dependant care, etc.

LOCATIONS & HOW TO APPLY:

There are 90 CFDC locations throughout BC, however not all CFDC's offer an SE Program. Call direct and inquire about their SE Program and apply as instructed.

CONTACT:

Community Future Development Assoc. of BC

Suite 1056, 409 Granville Street,

Vancouver BC, V6C 1T2

Phone: (604) 685-2332

Fax: (604) 681-6575

E-mail: info@communityfutures.ca

[Click here](#) to locate your local CFDC office

**More information visit: www.communityfutures.ca
to locate your nearest CFDC location.**

Business Start Up / Development

Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC)

Financial & Business Planning support for Aboriginal entrepreneurs



SUMMARY:

If you're an Aboriginal entrepreneur with a viable business opportunity, you may qualify for financial support from Aboriginal Business Canada. Depending on the nature of your project, ABC may be able to provide funding to assist you with a range of activities, including business planning, start-up, expansion and marketing. ABC places emphasis on innovation, trade and market expansion, tourism, youth entrepreneurship development and strengthening Aboriginal financial and business development organizations.

REGION: Throughout British Columbia.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & DESCRIPTION:

Before ABC can consider supporting any proposed venture, the entrepreneur or organization applying for support must be able to demonstrate the following:

- Eligibility applicants are individuals of Canadian Indian (on or off-reserve), Métis, or Inuit heritage. Aboriginal business and financial organizations, as well as development corporations, are also eligible for contributions.
- Generally, this means a minimum of 15 percent cash equity to invest in the costs considered eligible for ABC support. Youth entrepreneurs must have at least 10 percent cash equity to invest.
- ABC will assess the training, skills and experience of the entrepreneur, and the track record of an existing business
- Key viability factors (financing, marketing plans, management and operational capacity) must be outlined at this stage.

Each proposal and request for financial support is assessed on its own viability and merits. This takes into account need, the scope of the project, and other sources of financing available. A balanced financial package, involving debt financing from other sources, as well as a minimum level of your own equity is required.

LOCATIONS & HOW TO APPLY:

To learn more about ABC please visit the webpage or contact Service Canada toll free at the number below

CONTACT:

Aboriginal Business Canada

300 West Georgia Street, 21st Floor

Vancouver, BC V6B 6E2

Telephone: (604) 666-3871

Fax: (604) 666-0238

Web: www.abc-eac.ic.gc.ca

Toll Free: 1.800 O-Canada (1.800.662.6232)

**More information visit: www.abc-eac.ic.gc.ca
or call toll free: 1.800 O-Canada (1.800.662.6232)**

Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program

Financial & Business Planning assistance for entrepreneurs with disabilities



SUMMARY

Funded by Western Economic Diversification and delivered by the Community Future Development Corporation and other urban business organizations, the Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program (EDP) is designed to help western Canadians with disabilities gain easier access to business information, training and development, mentoring and one-on-one counseling services, and financial assistance in their pursuit of self-employment and entrepreneurship.

REGION: Throughout British Columbia.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program has been designed to benefit Western Canadians who have a disability that impairs their ability to perform at least one of the basic activities of self-employment or entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurs meeting the following basic criteria may be considered for support:

- have been unsuccessful in acquiring funding for business from other sources;
- are restricted in the ability to perform at least one of the basic activities of entrepreneurship or self-employment;
- are disabled due to physical or mental impairment;
- have a viable business plan and are a new or current small business owner with a disability;
- reside in Western Canada.

LOAN CAN BE USED FOR

The program provides entrepreneurs with disabilities who are unable to obtain financing from a traditional financial institution access to business loans. The loan terms are flexible and tailored to meet your needs.

The types of projects supported by this program include:

- starting or expanding a business;
- purchasing and applying new technology;
- upgrading facilities and equipment;
- developing marketing and promotions materials; and
- establishing working capital for anticipated sales increases.

LOCATIONS & HOW TO APPLY:

To learn more about this program contact your local CFDC or Western Economic Diversification.

CONTACT:

Community Future Development Assoc. of BC

Suite 1056,
409 Granville Street,
Vancouver, BC, V6C 1T2
Phone: (604) 685-2332
Fax: (604) 681-6575

E-mail: info@communityfutures.ca

[Click here](#) to locate your local CFDC office

Western Economic Diversification

700 - 333 Seymour Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 5G9
Phone: (604) 666-6256
Toll Free: 1 888 338-WEST (9378)
Fax: (604) 666-2353

**More information visit: www.communityfutures.ca
to locate the CFDC location nearest you.**

Canada Small Business Financing Program (CSBF)

Financing Assistance for Small Businesses



SUMMARY:

The CSBF Program is one of the federal government's most important programs to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) access financing. Developed under the Canada Small Business Financing Act, The CSBF Program can assist businesses in obtaining term loans of up to \$250 000 to help finance fixed asset needs. CSBF loans can be obtained through all major private sector lenders (chartered banks, credit unions, and trust insurance companies).

REGION: Throughout Canada.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- business carried in Canada;
- its purpose is for gain or profit, and
- for an existing business: the estimated gross annual revenues generated from all the operations within the small business of the borrower must not exceed \$5,000,000 for the business' fiscal year during which the CSBF loan is approved, or
- for a new business: the estimated annual gross revenues generated from all the operations within the small business of the borrower must not be expected, at the time the CSBF loan is approved, to exceed \$5,000,000 during the first 52 weeks of operation.

DESCRIPTION:

Loan proceeds may be used to finance:

- The purchase or improvement of real property or immovable;
- The purchase of leasehold improvements or improvements to leased property;
- The purchase or improvement of new or used equipment necessary for the operation of the business;
- The one time registry fee equal to 2% of the amount loaned, provided that the individual borrower's loan maximum of \$250 000 in total is not exceeded.

Are there borrowing limits?

- Lenders are obligated to take security in the assets financed. When financing leasehold improvements or computer software, the lender may take security in other business assets. The lender may take personal guarantees or surety ships not exceeding, in aggregate, 25% of the original amount of the loan. These guarantees or surety ships cannot be secured with personal assets.

LOCATIONS & HOW TO APPLY:

Application for a loan under the Canada Small Business Financing Program may be made at any bank, credit union, caisse populaire and/or any other financial institution. Lenders are responsible for all credit decisions, making the loans, providing loan funds, and registering the loans with Industry Canada. Lenders are also responsible for the administration of loans.

CONTACT:

Canadian Small Business Financing Program

Industry Canada
C.D. Howe Building
235 Queen Street, 8th Floor East
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H5

Tel.: (613) 954-5540
Fax: (613) 952-0290
Toll free: 1-866-959-1699

More information visit:
www.strategis.ic.gc.ca/csbf
or contact your local chartered bank.

Community Futures Program (CFDC Loan Program)

Financing Assistance for Small Businesses



SUMMARY

Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) take a grassroots approach to community and economic development with the primary focus on job creation in areas outside major urban centers. There are 90 CFDCs across Western Canada. They are non-profit corporations run by volunteer boards of directors, supported by salaried staff. CFDCs deliver a variety of services to small businesses, including advisory services, business training, business resources and financing.

REGION: Locations throughout British Columbia.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligibility is pertinent to each individual location. Contact your nearest Community Futures Development office for information on how you can qualify for Financing. Basic eligibility:

- located in a rural area of British Columbia
- operating, or about to operate, in a designated CFDC area
- contributing to local economic growth
- seeking financing of up to \$175,000
- \$500,000 financing options are available

DISCRIPTION:

A wide range of services and financing opportunities are available to small businesses and entrepreneurs through local CFDCs. Types of Financing include: Loans on commercial terms, equity financing, and loan guarantees.

LOCATIONS & HOW TO APPLY:

Applications are assessed by the CFDC's local volunteer Board of Directors. Training and assistance on preparing business plans are also available at the CFDC offices.

CONTACT:

Community Future Development Assoc. of BC

Suite 1056,
409 Granville Street,
Vancouver BC, V6C 1T2

Phone: (604) 685-2332

Fax: (604) 681-6575

E-mail: info@communityfutures.ca

[Click here](#) to locate your local CFDC office

**More information visit: www.communityfutures.ca
to locate your nearest CFDC location.**

BDC: Co-Vision Start-up Financing Program

Financial Assistance for Small Businesses



SUMMARY:

This Program offers customized term financing up to \$150,000 for new businesses demonstrating long-term viability. If requested, BDC can also provide personalized management support. Co-Vision cannot be used for starting a retail business.

REGION: Bank locations throughout British Columbia.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Are in the start-up or early growth phase (first 12 months of sales);
- Can demonstrate realistic market and sales potential;
- Possess experience or expertise in their chosen field;
- Demonstrate key personal characteristics of a successful entrepreneur;
- Have assembled a competent management team;
- Have invested reasonable financial resources in the enterprise;
- Can provide personal and credit references.

POSSIBLE USES:

- It can be used to finance various types of projects such as:
- Working capital: to supplement an existing line of credit;
- Acquiring fixed assets;
- Marketing / Start-up Fees;
- Buying a franchise.

ADVANTAGES OF DOING BUSINESS WITH THE BDC:

BDC's start-up financing provides a total solution for small businesses. Depending on your situation, BDC may be able to offer:

- Up to \$150,000 in financing;
- Up to a 6 year repayment period;
- Progressive or seasonal repayment options tailored to your business' cash flow;
- Possibility of deferred capital payment;
- Guaranteed term: financing cannot be recalled without due cause;
- Your choice of floating or fixed interest rates;
- Fast-track, no penalty repayment options up to 15% of remaining balance per year.

LOCATIONS & HOW TO APPLY:

Applications are assessed by individual BDC bank locations. Please visit the website or call to learn more about the application process.

CONTACT:

Business Development Bank of Canada

Toll-free: 1 888 INFO BDC

Telephone: (604) 666-7850

Fax: 1-877-329-9232

BDC Website: www.bdc.ca

BDC Locations nearest you: www.bdc.ca/en/branches/british-columbia/default.htm

**More information visit: www.bdc.ca
to locate your nearest BDC bank location.**

Agricultural Loans, Programs & Assistance

Financing, Marketing & Relief programs for Agricultural businesses

SUMMARY

Below is a list of programs delivered from the *Ministry of Agriculture and Land (Provincial)*, the *Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-foods Canada (Federal)* and the *Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (non-for-profit)* which may be of help to your agricultural business.

REGION: Throughout British Columbia

ELIGIBILITY & APPLICATION CRITERIA

Each program has specific eligibility & application criteria. Please follow the links below or call the individual organizations or Ministries to learn more about eligibility and how to apply.

PROGRAMS:

Orchard Renovation Program - Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia

The Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia is a non profit organization that invests federal and provincial funds to help the agri-food industry adapt to change. For complete details on programs available, visit the website link at: <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/ovtfa/>

BC Farm Distress Operating Loan Guarantee – Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

For complete details on this program visit the website link at <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/finance/fdlg/index.htm>

Crop Insurance Program – Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Crop insurance offers financial protection against crop losses due to uncontrollable weather. For complete details on this program, visit the website link at: <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropins/index.htm>

Whole Farm Negative Margin Insurance Pilot Program – Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

This program is a new risk management option for British Columbia farmers. Negative margin insurance allows producers of hogs and eligible vegetables to insure against the risk of negative margins. For complete program details, Phone: 1 888 576-FARM (3276) or visit the website link at: <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/finance/arm/nmi/nmitoc.htm>

BC Feeder Associations Loan Guarantee Program – Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

The Bred Heifer Program allows farmers to start a cow herd or increase an existing herd under an expanded provincial feeder associations programs. For complete program details, visit the website link at: <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/finance/loanguarantee.htm>

The Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program – Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-foods Canada

The (CAIS) program integrates stabilization and disaster protection into a single program, helping producers protect their farming operations from both small and large drops in income. The CAIS program is a whole-farm program available to eligible farmers regardless of the commodities they produce. Phone: 1-866-367-8506 or visit the website link at: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram/main.html>

CONTACT:

Ministry of Agriculture & Land

808 Douglas Street,
Victoria, BC, V8W 9B4
Telephone: (250) 356-1800
Fax: (250) 387-1023
Web Address:
www.agf.gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada

Sir John Carling Building
930 Carling Ave
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0C7
Telephone: (613) 759-1000
Fax: (613) 759-7977
Web Address: www.agr.gc.ca

Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC

3rd Flr, 808 Douglas St
Victoria, BC, V8W 2Z7
Phone (250) 356-1662
Fax (250) 953-5162
Email info@iafbc.ca
Web Address: www.iafbc.ca

Farm Improvement and Marketing Cooperatives Loans Act Program

Business Development program for Agricultural businesses

SUMMARY:

The Farm Improvement and Marketing Cooperatives Loans Act (FIMCLA) program is designed to increase the availability of loans for improvement and development of farms and the processing, distribution or marketing of farm products by co-operative associations.

REGION: Throughout Canada

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

FIMCLA applicants must be actively engaged in farming in Canada, and must match one of the following categories:

an individual, a partnership, a corporation, a co-operative associations

Further, the borrower must:

1. Meet the definitions of '*Farmer*' and '*Farming*'
2. Be using the loan for an **eligible purpose** under the program.
3. Own/lease farm land that is currently being farmed by the borrower, in Canada.

HOW IT WORKS

Under the Act, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food is liable to pay to a lender 95 percent of a loss sustained as a result of a loan made, provided that the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have been met. The Regulations state the procedures to be followed and conditions to be met in the granting and administering of loans, as well as submission and substantiation of claims for loss for loans issued under FIMCLA.

Lenders are expected to take the same care in making FIMCLA loans as would be taken in conducting ordinary business. The program has been designed to enable lenders to incorporate its administration into their normal routine of business while providing government guaranteed loans to farmers and farm co-operatives.

LOCATIONS & HOW TO APPLY:

The application must be made to a lending institution authorized to make loans under the provision of FIMCLA. Authorized institutions are Chartered banks, Credit unions, Trust companies, Loan companies, Insurance companies

CONTACT:

Public Information Request Services - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Sir John Carling Building

930 Carling Ave, Ottawa, Ontario

Telephone: (613) 759-1000

Fax: (613) 759-7977

Email: info@agr.gc.ca

For FIMCLA finance locations visit:

www.agr.gc.ca/index_e.php?s1=prog&s2=fimcla

or call your local financial provider for more information.

VanCity Self Reliance Loan Program

Financial Assistance for Small Businesses



SUMMARY:

The Self-Reliance Loan Program is offered in cooperation with Vancouver City Savings Credit Union and is designed to improve access to patient debt capital for small businesses starting or expanding.

REGION: BC Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley and Victoria Area

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Are a VanCity member in good standing for at least six months;
- Enrolled in or a graduate of the Self-Employment Benefits Program, or similar entrepreneurial program;
- Referred to VanCity by Western Diversification;
- Are operating or about to operate in B.C.'s Program's Region.

Eligible companies 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.

DESCRIPTION:

The loan terms are designed to be flexible to help 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's Prime Rate* plus a risk premium of 4%;
- VanCity to make final decisions on all loan approvals.

***The VanCity Prime Rate fluctuates with market interest rates.**

LOCATIONS & HOW TO APPLY:

Information needed to apply for Self Reliance Loan:

- A business plan, to show us you know your business;
- A resume, outlining your qualifications and experience;
- If the business is already operating, financial statements for the previous months or years of operation;
- Two written character references; and
- Documentation showing you have invested in your business 10% of the amount you want to borrow.

CONTACT:

Vancity Credit Union

Vancouver Phone: (604) 877-7000

Toll free Canada/USA: 1-888-VANCITY

Web Address: www.vancity.com

More information online:

www.vancity.com

or contact your local Vancity.

Women's Enterprise Centre - Financing Program

Financial Assistance and Business Development for entrepreneurs



SUMMARY:

The Women's Enterprise Center (WEC) is a provincial, non-profit organization that assists women who are starting, purchasing or growing a business. Services include financing, free business counseling, training, free business-to-business linking as well as free resource information and referral.

REGION: Throughout the British Columbia

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

WEC services are available to all women entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs in British Columbia.

- Business must be located in British Columbia and at least 51 percent owned and controlled by a woman or women;
- Applicant must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant;
- Applicants are required to submit a loan application, 2 copies of a comprehensive business plan and \$75 non-refundable application fee;
- Applicants are generally required to provide 30 percent security and 25 percent equity.

DESCRIPTION:

The Women's Enterprise Center (WEC) is part of the pan-western Women's Enterprise Initiative developed, funded and coordinated by Western Economic Diversification Canada.

WEC administers a \$5 million loan for female entrepreneurs unable to obtain financing from a bank or credit union. Lending decisions are based primarily on an applicant's ability to clearly demonstrate that the business she wishes to start, purchase or grow is viable. Loans can be a maximum of \$100 000. Counseling and mentoring services are also available.

LOCATIONS & HOW TO APPLY:

Information needed to apply for Self Reliance Loan:

- A business plan, to show us you know your business;
- A resume, outlining your qualifications and experience;
- If the business is already operating, financial statements for the previous months or years of operation;
- Two written character references; and
- Documentation showing you have invested in your business 10% of the amount you want to borrow.

CONTACT:

WEC Kelowna 201-1726 Dolphin Ave. Kelowna, BC V1Y 9R9 Telephone: (604) 868-3454 Fax: (604) 868-2709	WEC Vancouver 82 - 601 W.Cordova Vancouver, BC V6B 1G1 Telephone: (604) 868-3454 Fax: (604) 868-2709	WEC Victoria G8 Sussex, Douglas St Victoria, BC V8W 2C5 Telephone: (604) 868-3454 Fax: (604) 868-2709
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More information online:

www.wes.bc.ca

or contact Toll Free 1-800-643-7014

Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities

Financial Assistance for entrepreneurs with disabilities



SUMMARY:

The [Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities](#) finances projects that aims to help persons with disabilities in preparing for and obtaining employment or self-employment, as well as in developing the skills to maintain that new employment. Administered by HRSDC

- helping individuals start their own business
- assisting individuals to increase their employment skill level
- assisting individuals to integrate into the workplace through services tailored to meet their special needs.

REGION: Throughout Canada

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

To be eligible as a participant, an individual must:

- Self-identify as having a disability
- Be unemployed
- Be legally entitled to work in Canada
- Be in need of assistance to prepare for, find, or become employed or self-employed.

DESCRIPTION:

- Funding may be provided to cover costs such as participant wages or related employer costs;
- Funding may be provided to cover overhead costs related to planning, organizing, operating, delivering and evaluating approved activities, including costs such as staff wages and employment related costs. Eligible expenses will be negotiated with program officials.
- Projects may be approved for a period of up to 52 weeks, but may be extended to a total of 78 weeks.

LOCATIONS & HOW TO APPLY:

Organizations that wish to submit a project proposal and individuals interested in participating in the projects should contact their local [Service Canada Centre](#) to obtain an application kit. [Click here](#) to find a Canada Service Centre nearest you. Non-profits organizations and non-government interested in applying must fill out an application

CONTACT:

HRSDC

Fraser Street Service Canada Centre
4242 Fraser Street
Vancouver, BC,
8:30am – 4:00pm

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD APPLICATION KIT](#)

More information visit:
www.hrsdc.gc.ca
or contact Toll Free 1-800-O-Canada.

Business Development / Existing Businesses

BDC: Innovation Financing

Financial Assistance for entrepreneurs



SUMMARY

The Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) has created Innovation Financing (up to \$250 000) to help innovative businesses position themselves to take advantage of new markets and new technologies available to today's global players. This financing will help businesses adapt to ever-changing rules, develop new practices, and invent new products to improve their chances of success.

REGION: Throughout Canada

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The BDC considers each request case by case.

DESCRIPTION

Possible uses

- Boost sales by increasing support for inventory and receivables or by reducing trade payables;
- Provide working capital needed to develop new markets and products;
- Pay research and development (R & D) costs associated with introducing these new products or services;
- Finance development of e-commerce initiatives, such as Internet sites, intranet or extranet;
- Implement a marketing plan or growth strategy;
- Explore new export markets;
- Adopt quality management standards, such as ISO certifications, QS 9000 and HACCP

FEATURES

- Financing up to \$250 000 when combined with other financing options;
- Flexible terms include possibility of postponing principal payments for the first year and spreading them over a maximum of eight years;
- Stepped and seasonal payments considered;
- Personalized consulting from BDC Consulting Group

LOCATIONS & HOW TO APPLY:

Applications are assessed by individual BDC bank locations. Please visit the website or call to learn more about the application process.

CONTACT:

Business Development Bank of Canada

Toll-free: 1 888 INFO BDC

Telephone: (604) 666-7850

Fax: 1-877-329-9232

BDC Website: www.bdc.ca

BDC Locations nearest you: www.bdc.ca/en/branches/british-columbia/default.htm

**More information visit: www.bdc.ca
to locate your nearest BDC bank location.**

BDC: Term Loans

Financial Assistance for entrepreneurs



SUMMARY

BDC offers flexible term loans for a variety of commercially viable projects, including expansion projects, plant overhauls, the purchase of existing businesses and the acquisition of fixed assets. In some cases, the loan may be used to reconstitute working capital depleted by capital expenditures or to finance sales growth.

REGION: Throughout Canada

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The BDC considers each request case by case.

DESCRIPTION

Possible uses

- Acquiring fixed assets;
- Upgrading or expanding facilities;
- Acquiring an existing business;
- Replenishing working capital.

FEATURES

- Flexible repayment methods (equal, graduated monthly or seasonal payments) to accommodate cash flow fluctuations.
- Unlike a demand loan it has a guaranteed term and cannot be recalled without due cause.
- Floating or fixed interest rates for up to twenty years.

CONTACT:

Business Development Bank of Canada

Toll-free: 1 888 INFO BDC

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and locate your nearest BDC bank location.**

Investment Capital Programs

Financial Assistance Programs for Small Business owners



SUMMARY:

There are many challenges to owning a small business. Among them, access to capital. The ability to raise capital can determine the success of getting a good idea off the ground. It can also determine the ability to attract and retain good employees, to expand, and to compete in the global marketplace.

This government recognizes the primary role of small business in diversifying the economy and in creating new job opportunities. The Ministry of Economic Development offers three key programs to help small business gain access to capital. These programs offer tax credits to investors so that small businesses may continue to lead the economic future of British Columbia.

REGION: British Columbia

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Eligibility is pertinent to each individual Program.

PROGRAM OPTIONS:

1). Venture Capital Program

Our provincial [Venture Capital Programs](#) encourage investments in British Columbia businesses by providing British Columbia investors with a 30 percent refundable tax credit.

2). Employee Share Ownership Program

Our [Employee Share Ownership Program](#) promotes investment by employees in their company by providing them with a 20 percent provincial income tax credit. Retiring business owners can use an employee share ownership plan to transfer ownership of their company to employees by selling shares directly to their employees, who receive a 20 percent provincial income tax credit on their investment.

3). Labour-Sponsored Funds Program

Our [Labour-Sponsored Funds Program](#) assists in the creation of investment funds which are able to invest in small and medium sized businesses with high growth potential that need equity financing to achieve success.

LOCATIONS & HOW TO APPLY:

These programs can be accessed from anywhere in BC. To check your eligibility or apply for any of these programs call the Ministry of Economic Development Toll Free: 1.800.665.6597.

CONTACT:

The Ministry of Economic Development

PO Box 9324, Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC

V8W 9N3

Toll Free: 1800.665.6597

Webpage: www.gov.bc.ca

More information online visit:
[Investment Capital Programs](#)

Employment

ECO – Wage Subsidy Program

Wage Subsidy Program for Environmental Employers



SUMMARY:

ECO Canada develops programs that meet both the demand of employers (recruitment and retention tools and human resource materials) and facilitates the supply of labour by providing practitioners and students with career resources, internships, and certification.

REGION: Throughout British Columbia

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Any employer can become a member. Simply visit www.eco.ca and create a free membership. To apply for a wage subsidy you must call direct for more information.

DESCRIPTION:

ECO has programs for Employers, Students, Practitioners and Educators. Here are the services they offer of Employers:

- Search resumes of more than 25,000 qualified environmental practitioners
- Post jobs to Canada's largest on-line environmental job board (90,000 views/month)
- Apply for internships and receive a wage subsidy of up to \$12,000
- Apply for the Environmental Employer of the Year Awards and receive a free Human Resources audit to improve your HR practices

LOCATIONS & HOW TO APPLY:

To become a member and post or search for jobs visit www.eco.ca and establish a log-in account. Membership is free. For more information please contact the number below.

CONTACT:

Environmental Careers Organization

Suite 200, 308 - 11th Avenue SE

Calgary, Alberta

Canada T2G 0Y2

Phone: (403) 233-0748

Fax: (403) 269-9544

Email: info@eco.ca

More information visit the ECO online:

www.eco.ca

NRCan Science and Technology Internship Program

Wage Subsidy Program for Science & Technology Employers

SUMMARY:

The Science and Technology Internship Program provides an opportunity to recent graduates in science and engineering to gain relevant and meaningful work experience. Interns are invited to work on natural resource sciences projects of commercial potential, in cooperation with Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). Activities may include all aspects of the innovation or technology process including bench level research, scale-up testing, pilot plant operations, analytical testing, calibration, technical documentation and field tests, work in the fields of geomatics and geology, forestry, energy, mines and minerals.

REGION: Throughout Canada

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Private sector organizations;
- Non-federal government organizations;
- Universities/institutions.

DISCRIPTION:

- Unemployed or underemployed youths;
- Have graduated, with a post-secondary degree in a relevant science, engineering, within the last 2 years;
- Be 30 years of age or less;
- Participation of youth from employment equity groups is encouraged (women, Aboriginal, visible minorities and people with disabilities);
- Participants must be legally entitled to work in Canada; this includes Permanent Residents. and
- Participants must not have participated in a related Youth Employment Strategy program previously.

FUNDING AMOUNTS:

- The maximum contribution per internship from the Science and Technology Internship Program fund will be \$12 000 over a maximum of 52 weeks;
- Partners must match Science and Technology Internship Program funding with at least an equal amount in salary;

LOCATIONS & HOW TO APPLY:

These programs can be accessed from anywhere in BC. To check your eligibility or apply for any of these programs call the NRC Toll Free:

CONTACT:

Natural Resources Canada
6th Floor, C2, 580 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E4
General In: (613) 995-6275
Fax: (613) 947-4117
E-mail: jlaplant@nrcan.gc.ca
Webpage: www.nrcan.gc.ca

More information visit:
www.nrcan.gc.ca/css/hrsb/st/intern-e.htm

Summer Work Experience Program

Wage Subsidy Program for summer employers



SUMMARY

The Summer Work Experience program is an initiative of Youth Employment Strategy. The program helps employers/sponsors by providing them with wage subsidies if they hire secondary and post-secondary students for the summer in a career-related job. There are special provisions for employers who hire students with disabilities. This program is delivered in partnership with various private, public and non-for-profit groups.

REGION: Throughout Canada

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Secondary and post-secondary students must:

- Be between the ages of 15 and 30 (inclusively);
- Plan to return to full-time studies; and
- Be legally entitled to work in Canada.

Who can become a sponsor?

- A business;
- An organization (including not-for-profit associations);
- A public health institution;
- An educational institution;
- A band/tribal council; and
- The municipal government.

Federal partners involved in the program

- Canadian Heritage;
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada;
- Industry Canada;
- Parks Canada.

FINANCIAL PERAMETERS

The size of financing may vary with different federal partners.

APPLICATION

To become a sponsor contact Service Canada directly and ask about how you can become involved of the Summer Work Experience Program

CONTACT:

Employers call: Human Resource Centre of Canada or Service Canada

T: 1.800.206.7218 or Toll Free: 1.800.O-Canada

Students Please Call: Youth Employment Strategy

1.800.935.5555 (8am – 8pm eastern time)

More information visit:

www.servicecanada.ca

Targeted Wage Subsidy Program

Wage Subsidy Program for individuals facing difficulty finding work



SUMMARY

The Targeted Wage Subsidy Program enables employers to hire individuals who face barriers to employment by offering temporary wage subsidies and assists individuals experiencing difficulty in finding work to benefit from on-the-job work experience.

REGION: Throughout Canada

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible Employers:

- Businesses;
- Organizations;
- Individuals;
- Public health and educational institutions;
- Municipal governments;
- Band/Tribal councils;
- Provincial/territorial government departments and agencies if specified in a federal-provincial/territorial agreement or Memorandum of Understanding, or specifically approved by the Minister of Human Resources Development Canada.

Eligible Participants (are unemployed):

- For whom an unemployment benefit period has been established or has ended within the 36 months prior to the date of requesting assistance; or
- For whom a benefit period that included a maternity or parental claim within the 60 months prior to the date of requesting assistance, after which the individual remained out of the labor market in order to care for a newborn or newly adopted child and is now seeking to re-enter the labor force.
- Other criteria may apply.

DESCRIPTION

Employers must submit an application to their local Human Resources Centre of Canada.

DURATION

Agreements may be approved for a period of up to 78 weeks.

FINANCIAL PERAMETERS

Under normal circumstances, the wage subsidy should not exceed 60% of the total wages paid to the individual for the period of the agreement.

CONTACT:

Human Resource Centre of Canada and Service Canada

T: 1.800.206.7218 or Toll Free: 1.800.O-Canada

Program Web Address: www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/epb/sid/cia/grants/tws/desc_tws.shtml

Click here to: [Download Employer Application Kit \(EMP 5253\)](#)

More information visit:
www.servicecanada.ca

Young Canada Works

Wage Subsidy Program for Summer Jobs or Internships



SUMMARY

Young Canada Works offers students and young graduates the chance to put their skills to the test, build career equity, earn money for their education or get started on the right career path. Summer jobs and internships that are available give young people access to unique opportunities to learn and work, whether it is practicing their first language in a museum, field-work in one of Canada's great National Parks, or even an internship in Canada or abroad.

REGION: Throughout Canada

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible Employers:

- Be legally entitled to work in Canada;
- Be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or have refugee status in Canada;
- Be between 16 and 30 years of age at the start of employment;
- Meet the eligibility criteria of the program for which you have been approved;
- Be registered in the Workopolis databank;
- Be willing to commit to the full duration of the work assignment for a period of 6 to 16 weeks for a summer job and 4 to 12 months for internships (duration varies from program to program); and
- Must not have another full-time job (over 30 hours a week).

Eligible Employers:

For Employer Eligibility please visit: http://www.pch.gc.ca/special/ycw-jct/html/guide/1_e.htm#5

DESCRIPTION

For 2005-2006, employers and sponsors can participate in the following YCW components:

Young Canada Works (YCW) sponsors three summer job programs:

- YCW for Aboriginal Urban Youth
- YCW in Heritage Organizations
- YCW in Both Official Languages

Young Canada Works (YCW) also sponsors two internship programs for unemployed or underemployed college or university graduates:

- YCW at Building Careers in Heritage
- YCW at Building Careers in English and French

CONTACT:

Human Resource Centre of Canada and Service Canada

T: 1.800.206.7218 or Toll Free: 1.800.O-Canada

Program Web Address

http://www.pch.gc.ca/special/ycw-jct/html/welcome_e.htm

Click here to: [Download Employer Application Form](#)

More information visit:

www.servicecanada.ca

Exporting

Export Development Canada

Services specific to Businesses exporting out of Canada

SUMMARY

Operating in international markets provides great opportunity, but it also carries significant credit risks. That's why EDC has assembled a team of specialists to work with smaller exporters. Small exporters interested in export receivables insurance and export financing support may call toll-free 1-800-850-9626 from Monday to Friday during regular business hours from wherever the call is being made in Canada.

REGION: Throughout Canada

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Any exporter, of any size, operating in any sector of the economy (including services).
- EDC generally looks for at least 50 percent Canadian content.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Risk Management

If a credit check of your buyer looks good, you can export with the assurance that you are covered for 90 percent of the loss if your buyer doesn't pay. We can do the check for you, or show you how.

Working Capital

When your bank knows your export receivables are insured by EDC, it is more likely to accept them as security when providing working capital financing.

Account Receivables Insurance

Don't lose export contracts because you can't offer competitive terms. With EDC insurance, you can protect your financial health and extend credit to your export buyers.

Buyer Financing

EDC loans to foreign buyers of Canadian capital goods can win you the deal by giving your buyer time to pay. This also converts your credit sale into a cash sale, since we pay the Canadian exporter directly.

Bonding and Guarantees

EDC has a range of services that enable exporters to meet the requirement to post bonds (bid bonds, performance bonds, etc.) in connection with export deals.

CONTACT:

Export Development Canada

Toll-free: 1.866.283.2957

Fax: (613) 237.2690

E-mail: export@edc.ca

EDC Website: www.edc.ca

EDC Locations nearest you: http://www.edc.ca/contact/offices_e.htm

**More information visit: www.edc.ca
and locate your nearest BDC bank location.**

NORTHSTAR Trade Finance Inc.

Financing for Export operations



SUMMARY

NORTHSTAR Trade Finance Inc. supports small- and medium-sized Canadian exporters by offering financing to credit worthy foreign buyers of eligible Canadian goods and services.

REGION: Throughout Canada

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

NORTHSTAR complements Export Development Corporation's (EDC's) export financing services by financing export sales of between \$100 000 and \$5 million, with repayment terms of one to five years.

Term Finance

NORTHSTAR provides fixed-rate, medium-term loans to your foreign buyer. This loan is secured by a registered lien over the exported goods and is ensured by the EDC. The buyer then has a predictable repayment stream that will not affect his banking arrangements.

Transactions are tailored to meet the needs of clients worldwide; the goods and services being exported must have Canadian benefits (material, labour, etc.) of at least 50% of the contract value.

Floor Plan Finance

The Floor Plan Finance option provides a direct loan to the foreign distributor. NORTHSTAR pays the exporter upon shipment of the goods to the distributor who, in turn, repays NORTHSTAR when the goods are sold, or in 360 days, whichever occurs first.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Any Canadian exporter, regardless of its location in Canada, can use NORTHSTAR's facilities, provided it meets NORTHSTAR's requirements for export performance and has a credit worthy foreign buyer insurable by EDC (Export Development Canada). NORTHSTAR finances deals in all regions, including: North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Middle East, Australia and New Zealand

DESCRIPTION

EDC insures each transaction against losses due to commercial and political risks. Exporters may apply directly to NORTHSTAR for financing. Once NORTHSTAR and EDC are satisfied with the risk, NORTHSTAR sets up a loan directly with the buyer and disburses to the Canadian exporter at shipment.

CONTACT:

NORTHSTAR Trade Finance Inc.

Suite 833, Three Bentall Centre
595 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC, V7X 1C4
Tel: 604-664-5828
Fax: 604-664-5838
Toll Free 1-800-663-9288

NORTHSTAR Web Address: <http://www.northstar.ca>

**More information visit: www.northstar.ca
to locate your nearest Northstar location.**