

Inventory of Self-Employment and Entrepreneurship Programs and Resources

April 2013

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ACCESS Community Capital Fund www.accessccf.com

- ✓ Helps individuals without collateral or credit history obtain an affordable loan to improve their standard of living through entrepreneurship.
- ✓ Microloan programs in Black Creek, Regent Park, East Scarborough, Thorncliffe Park, and GTA-wide.
- ✓ Must be a Canadian Citizen or Landed Immigrant. Full eligibility criteria and application process available on the website.
- ✓ Provides assistance with development of business plans.
- ✓ Ongoing local information sessions. Details are listed on the website – must register to attend.

Canada Business Ontario www.cbo-eco.ca

- ✓ Web-based information
- ✓ Toll free Information Hotline
- ✓ Business information and services for entrepreneurs who are starting or growing a business.
- ✓ Help with: Business planning, Financing, Government programs, Market research
- ✓ Information in 10 languages
- ✓ No cost
- ✓ Special programs for youth, newcomers and Aboriginal people
- ✓ Sample business plans; consumer spending data; international trade data; etc.
- ✓ Online [Business Guide for Newcomers to Canada](#)

Canada Youth Business Foundation www.cybf.ca

- ✓ Serves individuals 18 to 39 years old
- ✓ Help with business plan development; pre-launch and post-launch services
- ✓ Financing
- ✓ Mentoring
- ✓ Online business resources
- ✓ Newcomer Entrepreneur program

Centennial College Centre of Entrepreneurship www.centennialcollege.ca/coe

- ✓ Business start-up program (online courses)
- ✓ Consulting (first session is free)
- ✓ Ontario Self Employment Benefit program

Connect Legal www.connectlegal.ca

- ✓ Free commercial legal advice for low-resource immigrant entrepreneurs
- ✓ Matches eligible participants with volunteer lawyers
- ✓ Advice on: Structuring a new business, Understanding contracts, Legal implications of borrowing, Licensing agreements, Employment issues, Regulations and zoning by-laws
- ✓ Offer legal education seminars and events for immigrant entrepreneurs and service providers working with immigrant business owners
- ✓ Resource library

Emerging Entrepreneurs Program

www.lefca.org/business_relations/emerging_entrepreneurs.shtml

- ✓ Multi-week program for anyone interested in starting a business or growing a home-based business. Application form available online.
- ✓ General business information and hands-on, practical sessions: Creating a business plan, Customer Service, Goal setting, Marketing, Budgeting and cash flow, Insurance and liability
- ✓ Opportunity to learn key business language.

Enterprise Toronto www.enterprisetoronto.com

- ✓ Free support for small businesses, offered by City of Toronto Economic Development & Culture
- ✓ Regular seminars and events
- ✓ Business plan consultations
- ✓ Advice about rules and licensing; government assistance for businesses; business financing; market research; cash flow analysis; business trends; marketing.
- ✓ Three resource centre locations in Toronto
- ✓ Online resource library

Ontario Self-Employment Benefit www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/employees/selfEmployment.html

- ✓ Provides income support and entrepreneurial support for unemployed individuals who are starting a new business.
- ✓ Eligibility: unemployed individuals who are receiving Employment Insurance or who received EI in the past three years or maternity/paternity EI benefits in the past five years.
- ✓ Program includes business skills development training, individual business counselling, and business plan support for up to 42 weeks.

Ontario Works Self-Employment Development Program

www.toronto.ca/socialservices/pdf/Self-Employment.pdf

- ✓ Full-time program for individuals receiving Ontario Works – up to 12 months
- ✓ 8 week in-class training
- ✓ Advice and mentoring on business plan development, legal issues, account management
- ✓ Apply through a Toronto Employment & Social Services case worker

Toronto Business Development Centre www.tbdc.com

- ✓ Business incubation program for new and emerging businesses: access to advisory support, networks, resources, training programs
- ✓ Tuesday evening seminars on various topics (\$60-\$75 registration fee)
- ✓ 'Starting a Business' Certificate (four sessions + individual counseling)
- ✓ Range of programs including Ontario Self Employment Benefit, Ontario Works Self Employment Development, Biz Futures for individuals with disabilities, Summer Company for youth.
- ✓ Two locations – downtown and central Etobicoke

Toronto Public Library - Small Business Services www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/business/

- ✓ Free workshops, programs, lectures and networking opportunities
- ✓ Meeting spaces and rooms to rent
- ✓ Free computer and Internet access at each branch
- ✓ Books and databases with business information (available online): Market research and statistics, Company information, Marketing, advertising and public relations, Management and accounting.