

SELF-EMPLOYMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

This is not like Dragon's Den! Going into business for yourself is exciting, risky, frightening, fun, wonderfully fulfilling, stressful. BUT ANYONE CAN DO IT. It requires focus, discipline, and stick-to-it-ness! You can take a test and see if you have the personality (trait-type) makeup to be a businessperson. But it won't be definitive. Does Woody Allen look like Donald Trump? Think of someone standing at the edge of the pool . . . or in the wet sand on the side of the sea shore. The water is cold. Some are going to baby step their way. Some are going to wade in. Some are going to back up, get a running start and dive. But everyone who wants to learn how to swim will eventually find their own way into the water. You can too.

Resources for Women

Professional Women's Clubs of Canada

www.bpwcanada.com/

Canadian Association of Women Executives & Entrepreneurs (CAWEE)

www.cawee.net/

Canadian Women's Business Network

www.cdnbizwomen.com/

Women Entrepreneurs of Canada (WEC)

www.wec.ca/

Women in a Home Office

<http://www.womeninahomeoffice.com/>

Women's Executive Network (WXN)

www.wxnetwork.com/

WomenCEO Network

www.women-ceo.com

Occupation specific associations for women e.g. **Canadian Women in Communications,**

www.cwc-afc.com/ may also be useful

HRSDC funds **self-employment** initiatives for Employment Insurance eligible individuals and some of these programs focus on helping women start businesses

www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/epb/sid/cia/grants/self-emp/desc_self-emp.shtml

General Resources

Toronto:

Toronto Public Library's Small Business XPress

<http://smallbizexpress.torontopubliclibrary.ca/>

Toronto Public Library's **Toronto Reference Library** (Yonge & Bloor) conducts small business seminars, usually beginning in the Fall each year. Call 416 393 7131.

Other libraries probably offer similar services to entrepreneurs

BizStart Entrepreneurship

BizStart is a full-time, 11-month Entrepreneurship Training Program at YES. BizStart assists youth to launch a new business and become self-employed.

Twenty committed, creative youth ages 15-30 are accepted from over 100 applicants each year. In our Youth Business Centre, participants attend classes in marketing, business planning, management, and web design, and are matched with a mentor from the business community for ongoing support and advice.

<http://www.yes.on.ca/get-informed/yes-programs/bizstart/>

The **City of Toronto** has a great guide to **Economic Development**, Culture and Tourism available on its website www.toronto.ca/business_resources/econdevoffice.htm. Other towns and cities will have similar resources on their websites. Type in City of ... in Google to get the appropriate city.

Possibilities

<http://www.poss.ca>

This is a great general site. " From determining your career path to signing your contract Possibilities can help make your job search a success. Poss.ca offers all of the information, tools and resources you need to find employment in Toronto. Explore your Possibilities!" You have to register to get to the really good stuff, but registration is worth it and they have an excellent Entrepreneur section under their **Toolkits** section, including a quite comprehensive Resources for Entrepreneur (training, funding, incorporating, etc.)

COBSC – Canada-Ontario Business Service Centre

www.cbosc.org/ontario

There are often also local programs operating by federal, provincial and municipal funding and going to the appropriate funder's website will usually elicit details

Toronto Business Development Centre offers web resources and seminars

www.tbdc.com

Canada – wide

cybf.ca

<http://www.cybf.ca/>

We are the Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF), a national charity providing start-up **mentoring, financing and business resources** for young Canadians, age 18-34, to create their own successful businesses. This is one of those power organizations working silently in the background.

Social and Enterprise Development Innovations www.sedi.org provides reports, publications and programs for those considering self-employment

Network for Entrepreneurs with Disabilities (NEWD)

<http://www.ednns.ca/>

Settlement.org, www.atwork.settlement.org, has a section for newcomers to Canada, who want to start a business

BusinessPartnerships.ca

<http://businesspartnerships.ca/>

Canadian business networking opportunities and online discussion groups

Internships/Experience/ Government Sites

Career Edge

www.careeredge.org

University graduates gain practical, career-related experience through 6, 9, or 12 month paid internships with Canadian businesses. Internships are available in a wide variety of industries with over 400 Host Organizations. Ability Edge, a division of Career Edge, is an

internship program specifically designed for graduates with disabilities. See website for details www.abilityedge.ca

Ontario Internship Program

<http://www.internship.gov.on.ca/>

The OIP is an Ontario Government initiative designed to help recent college and university graduates get hands-on professional experience and a promising start to a career in the Ontario Public Service (OPS). The program is aimed at developing a future generation of public service professionals in the OPS by hiring graduates for two-year internships in a variety of business areas such as: Business & Financial Planning, Communications, Electronic Service Delivery, Human Resources, Information Technology, Labour Relations, and Policy Development.

Young Canada Works

www.pch.gc.ca/ycw-jct/

CIDA'S International Youth Internship Program (IYIP)

<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca>

This is an employment program for young Canadian professionals that offers post-secondary graduates the opportunity to gain valuable international development work experience. Positions have included: International Marketing, Youth Journalist and Community Outreach Officer (Costa Rica), Appropriate Technology Internship (Guatemala), Associate Professional in Sexual and Reproductive Health (Paraguay), Business Education Intern (Ukraine)...and more.

United Nations Association in Canada– Young Professionals International Program

http://www.unac.org/en/get_involved/internships/index.asp

This program, implemented and coordinated by the United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada), offers Canadian university and college graduates valuable first paid career related work experience in a United Nations (or UN-related) setting. This program accepts applicants from many disciplines including: international affairs (relations), political science, economics, history, women's studies, public policy, geography, environmental studies, anthropology, sociology, law, languages, etc.

<http://www.ontario.ca/summercompany>

Innovative provincial initiative. Persons between 15 and 29 apply to this program which is designed to help enterprising young people start up and run their own summer business.