

British Columbia's Aboriginal Small Business Resources

ABORIGINAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: IT'S ROOTED IN HISTORY

Aboriginal peoples have a long history of entrepreneurship in British Columbia. From thriving fisheries to international trade economies, the entrepreneurial spirit has existed for centuries.

In recent history, Aboriginal owned and operated businesses are growing and succeeding in all sectors of the economy, from technology and agrifoods to forestry and Aboriginal cultural tourism.

This handout provides information on small business start-up and growth support services tailored to Aboriginal entrepreneurs and small business owner needs. The list of services is not exhaustive, but it identifies resources to support all aspects of business start-up and growth.



"As an Aboriginal business owner starting a business on reserve, I wasn't able to access funding or loans from conventional banks. All Nations Trust and the Business Development Bank of Canada helped me with financing.

The good news is that support and opportunities for Aboriginal entrepreneurs and small businesses are changing in

a positive way. I want Aboriginal youth to know that entrepreneurship is an option for them - you don't have to work for someone else."

~Sharon Bond-Hogg, Owner of Kekuli Café, Westbank and Merritt

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE FOR ABORIGINAL BUSINESS START-UP

Business Planning

- Create a business plan create a budget, and conduct market, product and customer research
 - List activities research location, build timelines, get training
 - Choose a business structure sole proprietor, partnership or corporation

Business Financing

- Contact the local band office or Aboriginal organization for funding opportunities and advice
 - Contact an Aboriginal Financial Institution to explore financing options
 - Contact Business Development Bank of Canada or Community Futures

Business Registration

- Complete the business name application and registration at www.bcbusinessregistry.ca
 - Choose a location and apply for a business licence with the local municipality
 - Obtain permits (building permit, food service permit) at www.bcbizpal.

Business Start-up

- Set up the business install any necessary furniture and equipment, and hire staff
 Open the business invite customers, create an event or throw a party
 - Market the business spread the word, advertise products and services

Doing Business on Reserve?

Learn more about doing business on reserve by contacting the local band office. Seek advice from Aboriginal Financial Institutions or the Business Development Bank of Canada.

Have Employees?

Learn about B.C.'s workplace safety standards by contacting WorkSafeBC's small business liaison at 1-855-214-5438 and discover other helpful employer resources at www.WorkBC.ca/employers

Collecting Taxes?

Learn about tax collection and remittance by contacting the BC Ministry of Finance at 1-877-388-4440 and Canada Revenue Agency at 1-800-959-5525 or www.cra-arc.gc.ca/aboriginalpeoples/

B.C.'S ABORIGINAL BUSINESS RESOURCES





Skills Training



Advisory Services





Mentorship Support

Aboriginal Business Advisory Centers



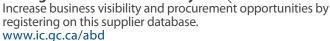
Northeast and Cariboo regions. Phone: 1-800-880-1022

www.gov.bc.ca/aboriginalbusinessadvisorycentres

Aboriginal Business Awards

Celebrate and honour Aboriginal businesses in B.C. www.bcachievement.com/aboriginalbusiness

Aboriginal Business Directory



Aboriginal Business and Entrepreneurship Development



Provides a range of services and supports to promote the growth of a strong Aboriginal business sector in Canada. Phone: 604-666-7891 www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/

Aboriginal Business Entrepreneurship and Skills Training Program



Phone: 1-800-663-7867 www.ccae.ca/aboriginal-best

Aboriginal Business Investment Council



Promotes economic growth and certainty in the province and among Aboriginal communities. www.bcabic.ca/

Aboriginal Business Mentorship Program



Experienced mentors who can assist to develop your business. Phone: 1-416-961-8663

www.ccab.com/aboriginal_business_mentorship_program

Aboriginal Business Service Network



A collective of Aboriginal business services providers in B.C. who enhance access to business information and resources. Phone: 1-888-576-4444

www.absn.ca

Aboriginal Financial Institutions



Information and advice on business planning, financing and other economic development opportunities throughout B.C. Phone: 1-844-827-0327

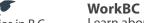
www.nacca.ca/aboriginal-financial-institutions

Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS)



ASETS links training needs to labour market demands, providing training, skills upgrading and job search assistance. www.esdc.gc.ca/en/aboriginal/asets/index.page

Aboriginal Tourism Association of B.C.



Resources for Aboriginal entrepreneurs and communities in B.C. who are operating or looking to start a tourism business. Phone: 1-877-646-2922

www.aboriginalbc.com/corporate/info

BC Aboriginal Economic Development



Programs, training and funding for Aboriginal businesses. Phone: 1-800-880-1022

www.gov.bc.ca/aboriginaleconomicdevelopment

BizPaL

Identify and obtain business permits and licences online. www.bcbizpal.ca

Business Development Bank of Canada



Access business financing and advice through the BDC's Aboriginal Banking Department.

Phone: 1-877-232-2269 (ask for Aboriginal Banking Unit) www.bdc.ca/en/i am/aboriginal entrepreneur

First Citizens Fund Business Loan Program



Access business loans for Aboriginal-owned enterprises. Phone: 1-800-663-2959

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/aboriginalpeople/first-citizens-fund

Futurpreneur



Provides mentoring services and loans to young entrepreneurs. Phone: 1-866-646-2922 www.futurpreneur.ca

Junior Achievement BC



Entrepreneurship training and support for Aboriginal youth through the Aboriginal Business Circles program. Phone: 604-688-3887 www.jabc.ca/

Métis Nation BC Economic Development Portal



Economic development information and business registry for Métis businesses and entrepreneurs.

Phone: 1-800-940-1150 http://ecdev.mnbc.ca

New Relationship Trust 🔪 🌠 🛗 🕏



Access business financing and economic development information for Aboriginal enterprises in B.C. Phone: 1-877-922-3338

www.newrelationshiptrust.ca/initiatives/

Peace Hills Trust



Provides banking services for Aboriginal entrepreneurs. Phone: 250-769-9081

www.peacehills.com/Business/

Small Business BC



Get support for business planning, financing and registration to start and grow a business in B.C.

Phone: 1-800-667-2272 www.smallbusinessbc.ca



Learn about Aboriginal skills training programs, read success stories and access business and employment resources. Phone: 1-877-952-6914

www.workbc.ca/Aboriginal