



British Columbia's Indigenous Small Business Resources

INDIGENOUS ENTREPRENEURSHIP: IT'S ROOTED IN HISTORY

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

This handout provides information on small business start-up and growth support services tailored to Indigenous 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 Indigenous 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 Indigenous entrepreneurs and small businesses are changing in a positive way. I want Indigenous 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 INDIGENOUS BUSINESS OWNERS AND ENTREPRENEURS

Start-up Growth

Business Planning

- Create a business plan - conduct customer, product and customer research, prepare a budget
- Create an operating plan – location, staff, training, IT, supplies and materials
- Choose a business structure – sole proprietor, partnership or corporation



Business Financing

- Contact the local band office or Indigenous organization for funding opportunities and advice
- Contact an Indigenous 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.ca



Business Operations

- Set up the business – install furnishings and equipment, hire and train staff
- Market the business – create a brand, develop a website, promote and network



Business Launch

- Hold a grand opening, celebrate



Doing Business on Reserve?

Learn more about doing business on reserve by contacting the local band office. Seek advice from Indigenous 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 INDIGENOUS BUSINESS RESOURCES



Indigenous-Specific
Resource



Skills Training



Advisory Services



Financing
and Loans



Mentorship Support

Aboriginal Business Advisory Centres

Get advice on Indigenous business planning in the Kootenay, Northeast and Cariboo regions.

Phone: 1 800 880-1022

www.gov.bc.ca/aboriginalbusinessadvisorycentres

Aboriginal Business Awards

Celebrate and honour Indigenous businesses in B.C.

www.bcachievement.com/aboriginalbusiness

Aboriginal Business Directory

Increase business visibility and procurement opportunities by registering on this supplier database.

www.ic.gc.ca/abd

Aboriginal Business and Entrepreneurship Development

Provides a range of services and supports to promote the growth of a strong Indigenous business sector in Canada.

Phone: 604 666-7891

www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/

Aboriginal Business Entrepreneurship and Skills Training Program

Skills training, advisory and mentorship services.

Phone: 250 352-3878

www.ccae.ca/aboriginal-best

Aboriginal Business Investment Council

Access to a variety of resources to help start and grow your business including skills training and success stories.

www.bcabic.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.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/indigenous/asets.html

Aboriginal Tourism Association of B.C.

Resources for Indigenous entrepreneurs and communities in B.C. who are operating or looking to start a tourism business.

Phone: 1 877 266-2822

www.aboriginalbc.com/corporate/info

All Nations Trust Company (ANTCO)

ANTCO is an Aboriginal owned trust company that provides financial and advisory services to aboriginal entrepreneurs.

Phone: 1 800 663-2959

www.antco.bc.ca/

BC Aboriginal Economic Development

Programs, training and funding for Indigenous businesses.

Phone: 1 800 880-1022

www.gov.bc.ca/aborigineconomicdevelopment

BizPaL

Identify and obtain business permits and licences online.

www.bcbizpal.ca

Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)

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

Phone: 1 877 232-2269 (ask for Indigenous Banking Unit)

www.bdc.ca

Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business

Tools and financing for Indigenous business.

Phone: 1 416 961-8663

www.ccab.com/tfab/

First Citizens Fund Business Loan Program

Access business loans for Indigenous-owned enterprises.

Phone: 1 800 663-2959

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

Futurpreneur

Provides mentoring services and loans to young entrepreneurs.

Phone: 1 866 646-2922

www.futurpreneur.ca

Indigenous Peoples in Trades Training

Learn about trades training opportunities for Indigenous Peoples, read success stories and receive guidance from the Industry Training Authority Apprenticeship Advisors.

Phone: 1 866 660-6011

www.itabc.ca/indigenous-peoples-trades/overview

Junior Achievement BC

Entrepreneurship training and support for Indigenous youth through the Indigenous 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 Indigenous enterprises in B.C.

Phone: 1 877 922-3338

www.newrelationshiptrust.ca/initiatives/

Peace Hills Trust

Provides banking services for Indigenous 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

WorkBC

Learn about Indigenous skills training programs, read success stories and access business and employment resources.

Phone: 1 877 952-6914

www.workbc.ca/Aboriginal