

REGIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OFFER EXPORTING SUPPORT

Whether you need help to get started on your exporting path or to expand your international growth, tap into these regional assistance programs, some even specifically designed for women.

WESTERN ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION CANADA WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE (WEI)

WHAT IT IS: Business information and services specifically tailored to the needs of women in Western provinces and delivered through non-profit groups – the Women's Enterprise Society of B.C., Alberta Women Entrepreneurs Association, Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan Inc. and Women's Enterprise Centre of Manitoba (see page 11). They offer access to a loan fund and advisory services, pathfinding to existing services plus education and training, networking and mentoring. WEI offices are located in Kelowna, Calgary, Saskatoon and Winnipeg, with satellite offices in Vancouver, Edmonton, and Regina.

EXPORTING SUPPORT: Coaching and providing referrals about training resources, assistance with export plans and supporting trade-related organizations in order to help women expand their businesses globally.

INFORMATION:

WD Toll-Free Number (accessible in Western Canada only)
1-888-338-WEST (9378)

WEB: www.wd.gc.ca

CONTACT: Sharon Jackson, Corporate Policy & Planning Officer
Western Economic Diversification Canada
Tel: (780) 495-3182; e-mail: sharon.jackson@wd.gc.ca

NETWORK FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS (NWE) ONTARIO

WHAT IT IS: Launched in the spring of 2005 as a result of a recommendation from the *Prime Minister's Task Force on Women Entrepreneurs* and administered by the Canada-Ontario Business Service Centre, NWE provides women entrepreneurs in the province with information on programs and services to start and grow their business as well as guidance in locating key community support services. NWE will work with existing organizations to tailor services where appropriate, organize events geared to women entrepreneurs and expand the network throughout Ontario.

EXPORTING SUPPORT: Through its web portal and toll-free line, NWE provides access to key business information, business counselling and community outreach services, expert consultants and trade-related organizations throughout Ontario.

INFORMATION:

Toll Free: 1-888-300-9308

WEB: www.cbcs.org/ontario/nwe

E-mail: NWE-RFE@cbcs.ic.gc.ca

CONTACT: Catherine Goguen, Senior Coordinator
Women's Program, Canada-Ontario Business Service Centre

FEDNOR

WHAT IT IS: An initiative to address the economic development needs of Northern Ontario. Working with numerous partners, and through its programs and services, FedNor helps fund community projects as well as other initiatives designed to improve the economic and social well-being of the North as a whole.

EXPORTING SUPPORT: Provides SMEs with information and services to develop and expand their international markets through its International Business Centre (IBC). Working with International Trade Canada and other government export agencies, the centre helps guide SMEs to become successful exporters by improving access to trade and export-related information and services through conferences, training and trade missions.

INFORMATION:

Toll Free: 1-877-333-6673

WEB: www.fednor.ic.gc.ca

CONTACT: Pam McRae, Initiatives Officer,
FedNor International Business Centre
E-mail: mcrae.pam@ic.gc.ca

ATLANTIC CANADA OPPORTUNITIES AGENCY WOMEN IN BUSINESS INITIATIVE (WBI)

WHAT IT IS: An initiative to strengthen the management capabilities and business development skills of women entrepreneurs, to provide them with improved access to capital and business support services for business start-up and growth, and to increase the number of women business owners selling in international markets and in knowledge-based industries.

EXPORTING SUPPORT: WBI's *Exposure to Exporting and Innovation Program* focuses on growth strategies for established women-owned businesses. It targets women-owned firms for participation in trade missions and helps women entrepreneurs access trade training and exporting seminars and pre-exporter orientation training.

INFORMATION

ACOA New Brunswick 1-800-561-4030

ACOA Newfoundland and Labrador 1-800-668-1010

ACOA Nova Scotia 1-800-565-1228

ACOA Prince Edward Island 1-800-871-2596

Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation 1-800-705-3926

WEB: www.acoaapeca.gc.ca/e/business/entrepreneurship/wbi/wbi.shtml

CONTACT: Rose-Marie LeBlanc, Manager,
Women in Business Initiative

Tel: (506) 851-2095; e-mail: rose-marie.leblanc@acoa-peca.gc.ca

INTERNATIONAL TRADE CANADA REGIONAL OFFICES

If you are thinking today's global economy looks inviting, your local International Trade Regional Office (RO) can help. In partnership with members of the Regional Trade Network, the RO can help direct you to the existing products and services that relate to your particular exporting needs. They work with a range of other partners making up Team Canada Inc, which is a network of government export service providers helping Canadian business succeed in world markets. Clients achieve maximum benefit by receiving the right kinds of services, quickly and efficiently.

Located in every province, the RO provides a full range of trade development services and assistance to Canadian small and medium-sized enterprises, including: one-on-one export help to implement your export strategy; up to date foreign market and industry information; advice on how to access export financing or funding programs in your province or territory; and information on trade fairs, missions and events including seminars to help you learn about business environments and opportunities abroad.

Most importantly, each RO has a trade commissioner who is your key contact, and will help you to navigate your way through the variety of programs and services available. For more information, please call the toll-free Export Information Service at 1-888-811-1119, log onto www.infoexport.gc.ca, or contact your province's RO at one of the addresses below.

VANCOUVER

Tel: (604) 666-0434

Fax: (604) 666-0954

E-Mail: itc-vancouver@ic.gc.ca

WINNIPEG

Tel: (204) 983-5851

Fax: (204) 983-3182

E-Mail: itc-winnipeg@ic.gc.ca

MONCTON

Tel: (506) 851-6452

Fax: (506) 851-6429

E-Mail: itc-moncton@ic.gc.ca

CHARLOTTETOWN

Tel: (902) 566-7382

Fax: (902) 566-6859

E-Mail: itc-charlottetown@ic.gc.ca

EDMONTON

Tel: (780) 495-2944

Fax: (780) 495-4507

E-Mail: itc-edmonton@ic.gc.ca

TORONTO

Tel: (416) 973-5053

Fax: (416) 973-8161

E-Mail: itc-toronto@ic.gc.ca

HALIFAX

Tel: (902) 426-7540

Fax: (902) 426-5218

E-Mail: itc-halifax@ic.gc.ca

ST. JOHN'S

Tel: (709) 772-5511

Fax: (709) 772-5093

E-Mail: itc-st.johns@ic.gc.ca

SASKATOON

Tel: (306) 975-5315

Fax: (306) 975-5334

E-Mail: itc-saskatoon@ic.gc.ca

MONTREAL

Tel: (514) 283-6328

Fax: (514) 283-8794

E-Mail: itc-montreal@ic.gc.ca

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WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURIAL CENTER OF QUEBEC (WECQ)

WHAT IT IS: Offers women entrepreneurs a range of services, including diagnosis of entrepreneurial needs and channelling to appropriate advice and services, access to information on programs and services, skills upgrading, customized consultation and coaching and mentoring, and networking activities. A bilingual web portal is also in the works. WECQ was launched early in 2005 in response to a recommendation from the *Prime Minister's Task Force on Women Entrepreneurs*.

EXPORTING SUPPORT: Referrals, training, mentoring and coaching programs for both start-ups and growing women-owned businesses.

INFORMATION:

Toll Free: 1-800-332-2683

WEB: www.rfaq.ca

CONTACT: Nicole Beaudoin, Chair

Tel: (514) 521-2441; e-mail: info@rfaq.ca

CANADA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR QUEBEC REGIONS (CED-DEC)

WHAT IT IS: A network of 14 business offices across Quebec that works to promote economic development in the province, focusing on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The agency offers financial assistance and non-financial services.

EXPORTING SUPPORT: IDEA-SME is a financial assistance program to help SMEs become more competitive globally. Eligible activities include: consultant studies to develop a marketing strategy, market analysis, implementation of a marketing strategy, including work to comply with standards for government contracting and international markets and form strategic alliances, and support activities for new exporters.

INFORMATION

Tel: 1-800-322-4636 or (514) 283-6412

WEB: www.dec-ced.gc.ca

CONTACT: Neila Ghribi, Advisor

Tel: (514) 496-8789; e-mail: neila.ghribi@dec-ced.gc.ca