

Small Business Centre (SBC)

The SBC opened in 1986 with the support of its five founding members: the City of London; the Chamber of Commerce; Ontario's Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation; the University of Western Ontario; and Fanshawe College.

The Mission of the Centre is: **"To stimulate, promote and support the entrepreneurial spirit, start-up and early growth of small business to actively contribute to the economic development of London."**

In pursuing this mission over the years the Centre has provided thousands of entrepreneurs with the full range of support services necessary to starting and successfully building their small businesses.

Small Business Centre in London is an independent, non-for-profit organization.

Services and Regular Events

Advisory Assistance

The SBC provides on-site business advisory, business plan assistance, and access to a network of advisors. Find out how we, or other available advisors, can help you with your business.

Business Advisors

A business advisor is available for a detailed discussion of your business idea. This meeting can be used to help you through any roadblocks in the planning process, to develop specific areas of your plan, or as a review prior to talking to lenders or investors. The initial counseling is free, but an appointment is recommended.

Seminars

The Small Business Centre offers various seminars, through which you can educate yourself on a variety of topics regarding small business.

- Starting a Small Business Seminar (monthly)
- Business Planning Workshop (monthly)
- Advanced Business Seminar Series (monthly, various topics covered)

Professional Advisory Services

Through our Access to Professionals service, you can connect with *accountants, lawyers, web and banking* professionals for 30 minute consultations on business related issues.

- Accounting Advisory Service: 30 Minute consultations are available for business related topics. First Tuesday of the month. Nominal fee.
- Legal Advisory Service: 30 Minute consultations are available for business related topics. First Thursday of the month. Nominal fee.
- Online Presence Advisory Service: 30 Minute consultations are available for web design, development, and on-line marketing related topics. Second Tuesday of the month. Nominal fee.
- Banking Seminar: Presented by business banking representatives, this seminar will help you learn how to work with your banker to maximize your business growth. Every second month. Free, but registration required.
- Banking Consultations: 30 Minute consultations with business banking professionals following the "Banking for Success" seminar. Every second month. Free.

Resource Library (Enterprise Centre)

To help you with your initial market research needs, our Centre offers a comprehensive reference library on topics such as government assistance programs, regulations, business planning, marketing, and much more. Everything you need to find is right at your finger tips.

Networking Wednesdays

On the first Wednesday in every month clients, members, and friends of the Small Business Centre meet to exchange business cards and business ideas. This event provides a great opportunity to form new business relationships and maintain established contacts.

Bridges to Better Business™ Entrepreneurs Conference

The annual Bridges to Better Business™ is a unique one-day learning and networking event packed with great ideas to help entrepreneurs succeed. Held every October during the Small Business Month.

Entrepreneurial Programs

The SBC offers a wide range of Self Employment training and mentoring programs including:

Self Employment Benefit Program (SEB)

SEB program is designed to provide "Employment Insurance (EI) eligible" or "Reachback" clients with the necessary training and counselling support to launch full-time new businesses in the London Middlesex region. The application process takes 6-8 weeks and consists of Business Planning training, Advisory and Plan Assessment. If accepted, income support for 42 weeks of business operations, Business Skills Enhancement training, ongoing Business Advisory services and networking opportunities are available.

Ontario Works Self-Employment Program (OW)

OW program helps Social Assistance recipients start their own business. Participants explore self-employment, develop their idea, prepare their business plan, and launch and develop their business.

Self Employment & Entrepreneurship Development (SEED)

SEED is a partnership between Goodwill Industries and the London Small Business Centre. The program offers an opportunity for individuals with disabilities to explore their business idea, entrepreneurial drive and next steps through business planning workshops.

Youth Programs

Summer Company

Summer Company is a great opportunity for enterprising young people who want to start and run their own summer businesses. The program provides business coaching, mentoring, training and an award of up to \$3,000 to students ages 15-29.

Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF)

CYBF is a national charitable not-for-profit organization that provides start-up financing up to \$15,000, mentoring and educational resources that empower young Canadians 18-34 to start and grow businesses.

To learn more about our services, events and programs, sign up for a **Free Information Session**. This session is offered on a weekly basis in English and every second Thursday of the month in Spanish. Visit our website http://www.sbcentre.ca/free_info_seminars.htm for current schedule. Please call to register!