

The Business Connection

Quarterly Newsletter from your local Business Centre—GEDC
QR 3, 2016

Government of Canada Supports Business Development and Growth in the Greenstone Region



Kathy Durocher, GEDC Board Vice-President; The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Status of Women and Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay-Superior North; Sylvie Goulet, GEDC Executive Director, Shelly Stanert and Brian Adams, GEDC staff members; Evan Armstrong, GEDC Board Director.

August 5, 2016 - Greenstone, ON - Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario – FedNor

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Status of Women and Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay-Superior North, on behalf of the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, and Minister responsible for FedNor, today announced an investment of \$335,000 in support of small business development and growth in the Greenstone region. The FedNor contribution will enable the Greenstone Economic Development Corporation to offer business counselling and access to capital services, as well as support community strategic planning initiatives for a one year period.

Quick facts

- The Community Futures funding, provided through FedNor in Northern Ontario, supports projects that promote sustainable community economic development, enhance business development and growth, and facilitate innovation,
- Based in Greenstone, the Greenstone Economic Development Corporation is one of 24 Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) funded by FedNor to serve Northern Ontario businesses and communities, CFDCs are community-based, not-for-profit organizations run by volunteer boards and staffed by experienced business and economic development professionals,

- Greenstone Economic Development Corporation's catchment area includes the communities of Beardmore, Carleton Place, Geraldton, Jellicoe, Longlac, MacDiarmid, Nakina, and Orient Bay, as well as the following six First Nations: Anishinabe Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek (Lake Nipigon Ojibway First Nation), Aroland First Nation, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek (Rocky Bay First Nation), Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (Sand Point First Nation), Ginoogaming First Nation, and Long Lake #58 First Nation.

Quotes

"The Government of Canada is committed to assisting small and medium-sized businesses compete in today's global market. By working in partnership with organizations such as the Greenstone Economic Development Corporation, we are helping businesses to grow, diversify the economy and create jobs."

The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, and Minister responsible for FedNor

"The Government of Canada recognizes the important role Community Futures organizations play in helping businesses and entrepreneurs to create a new venture, innovate or expand. Many local businesses have achieved success thanks to the support of the Greenstone Economic Development Corporation and I'm pleased that this investment will help generate many more success stories throughout the region."

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Status of Women, and Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay-Superior North

"We would like to thank the Government of Canada for its continued support that enables us to assist Communities in our region in finding solutions to their business and economic development challenges. We are proud of our strong and productive working relationship with our community partners."

Frank Hildebrandt, Board President, Greenstone Economic Development Corporation

Source: FedNor Press Release

GEDC Board and staff would like to thank everyone who attended the announcement.

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What is GEDC?

Greenstone Economic Development Corporation (GEDC) is your local Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC)

We provide FREE services to both the business community and inspiring entrepreneurs. We assist with all your business needs. Check out our website for more information: www.gedc.ca

MISSION

Foster and encourage the start-up and operation of successful enterprise in all economic sectors within the Greenstone Service Area.

MANDATE

Strategic community planning and socio-economic development

Support for community based projects

Business information and planning services

Access to capital for small and medium sized businesses and social enterprises

GEDC Feature business – Master Print & Design

GEDC would like to congratulate Justin Saindon, owner of Master Print & Design on his successful start-up with assistance from our Micro-loan program.

Located at 306 Main Street, Master Print & Design provides Greenstone with top quality commercial printing/design, innovative advertising and is the home of the “Greenstone Coffee Talk”. They also offer photo restoration / editing, sign making, custom clothing, vehicle graphics, wall art, wedding invitation packages and many more services. Visit Master Print & Design on Facebook or stop in to find out more.

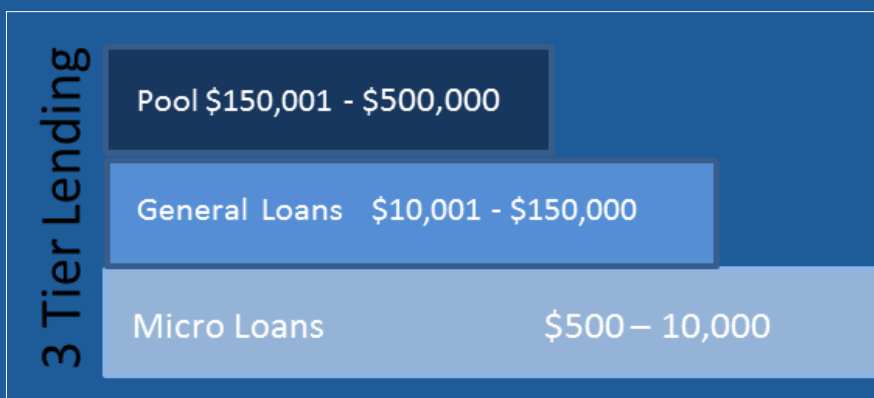
GEDC Business Centre is available to help new businesses like Master Print & Design get off to the right start with business counselling and lending solutions. To find out more, contact GEDC’s Business Outreach Officer at 854-2273 ext. 22 or visit www.gedc.ca.



Business Loans with GEDC

If you are unable to get financing through traditional lenders, you can apply for a business loan at Greenstone Economic Development Corporation. The primary objective of GEDC financing is to invest in sound businesses that create and maintain sustainable employment in all economic sectors with the Greenstone services area.

As a solution lender, GEDC has a 3-Tier Lending system:



NEED HELP??

At GEDC, our qualified business professionals are here to help your business with every step of the application process; and the best part is our services are at no cost to you!

Call or email today to set up an appointment: 807-854-2273 / info@gedc.ca

Pool Loans: These loans are available through the CFDC's Northwestern Ontario Investment Pool.

General Loans: Ranging from \$10,001 - \$150,000, GEDC's general loans can help Greenstone businesses of all sizes reach their maximum potential.

Micro-Loans: Starting as low as \$500, these loans are ideal for smaller businesses looking for help with start-up and other costs. We have created a simplified application and approval process that will help get your business going quickly and easily.

Community Economic Development (CED) Activity / Projects

Business Outreach Initiative—Update



GEDC Business Centre and the Municipality of Greenstone launched the “Business Outreach Initiative” in spring of 2016. The goal of the initiative is to have face to face discussions with local businesses to raise awareness, get feedback and provide information on available services.

To date, there have been over 180 business meetings and follow-ups completed in the communities of Nakina, Beardmore, Jellicoe, Longlac and Geraldton. From the face to face feedback, approaching business owners in-person has been well-received. These visits have produced a variety of questions, comments, requested services, business directory updates and new listings. During the visits, many questions and concerns were addressed for the business owners by GEDC and the Municipality. A survey has been distributed as part of the follow-ups to gather feedback

about the initiative and how it can be developed moving forward.

If your business hasn't been contacted as part of this initiative, please contact Brian at 854-2273 ext. 22, or Brent at 854-1100 ext. 2061.

BONJOUR Campaign

In July 2016, GEDC launched our “BONJOUR Campaign” to promote and raise awareness of the French language services provide in the Municipality of Greenstone. Our goal is to encourage businesses and organizations that provide French services to be identified by customers and clientele by wearing the “Bonjour” pin.

To date we have been successful in providing the “Bonjour” pins to numerous organizations and businesses. We are pleased to have Councillor Sylvie Lemieux promoting the French language by wearing the symbolic pin that she has received from GEDC. The campaign is still open for any organizations or businesses in need of pins for their staff. Contact Sylvie at 854-2273 ext. 27 or email sylvie@gedc.ca and we would be pleased to supply the pins to you at no cost.



Greenstone Workforce Preparedness Committee

The Greenstone Workforce Preparedness Committee was created pursuant to the mutual goal of engaging in meaningful and ongoing discussions and information sharing about anticipated workforce preparedness for the Greenstone region. The Committee will work collaboratively in examining issues with a view to providing guidance including multi-party approaches to address labour shortage concerns.

The committee is comprised of the following representative groups: Confederation College, Greenstone Gold Mines, GEDC Business Centre, MTW Employment Services, Contact North, Greenstone Regional Skills Centre, Municipality of Greenstone, Thunderbird Friendship Centre and Private Sector; with Ex-Officio members FedNor and Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM)

The Committee's first action item was to produce a survey for local employers to complete in order to clearly determine the challenges they are facing when it comes to hiring and keeping new employees. The results are in and under review by the committee for action planning, as indicated in the responses there are several common barriers and issues being faced by Employers in the Greenstone Area.

Thank you to everyone who participated and stay tuned for updates!



Small Business Week

October 17-21, 2016

GEDC encourages ongoing training and development by offering bilingual seminars/workshops at no cost in collaboration with our many partners locally and regionally. We believe that a strong network of training resources and facilities can provide opportunities and benefits for all businesses in Greenstone. One of our key features is the "Small Business Week" that is celebrated across Canada on the 3rd week of October.

October 17, 2016

Open House

Place: GEDC, 1409 Main Street, Geraldton

Time: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Everyone Welcome!

GEDC Business Centre Services (bilingual)

Presented by: Brian Adams and Sylvie Goulet

Topic: A presentation on GEDC Business Centre's Services

Time & Place: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

GEDC, 1409 Main Street, Geraldton

October 18, 2016

Social Enterprise Roundtable

Presented By: Aleksa Shermack, PARO Centre For Women's Enterprise

Topic: Bring your thoughts to this open forum to discuss challenges, community issues and ways of creating positive change in our communities

Time & Place: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

GEDC, 1409 Main Street, Geraldton

October 19, 2016

Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund - Programs and Services

Presented by: Duane Armstrong, Business Support Officer

Topic: Information on Aboriginal Programs and Services

Time & Place: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

GEDC, 1409 Main Street, Geraldton

Introduction to Microsoft Word

Presented by: Brian Adams, Business Outreach Officer

Topic: A guide Microsoft Word and it's features

Time & Place: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

GEDC, 1409 Main Street, Geraldton

October 20, 2016

Mining Update - Where are we Now?

Place: Geraldton Legion, 520 Main Street, Geraldton

Time: 10:00 - 2:00 pm. Lunch will be provided.

"Want to know where Mining stands in our Region"

Conclude with a Q&A of presentations from Mining Representatives.

Please RSVP via email info@gedc.ca or 807-854-2273 ext 21 or 27

October 21, 2016

Presentation Skills: "HELP!" program

Place: GEDC, 1409 Main Street, Geraldton

Time: Open Session, 9 am - Noon

Presentation skills are crucial to your success in business, yet many have a fear of speaking in public.

"It doesn't have to be like this!"

Help is on the way with master Coach and Professional Speaker, Maggie Chicoine.

Call our office to register!

Special afternoon follow-up session available - call for more details.

Please RSVP via email brian@gedc.ca

or 807-854-2273 ext 22

GEDC Staff:

Sylvie Goulet, Executive Director

Shelly Stanert, Administrative Officer

Brian Adams, Business Outreach Officer



GEDC

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