

The Business Connection

Quarterly Newsletter from your local Business Centre—GEDC

QR 2 2017

GEDC's 2017 AGM

On April 21st GEDC hosted its AGM at Between Bridges Inn in Geraldton to approximately forty attendees.

The Vice-President gave an update on the status of GEDC and the initiatives that have been undertaken and those that continue to be pursued by the staff and volunteer board.

Recent GEDC Clustering sessions and other reports had shown that there were significant challenges and missed opportunities happening in the Forestry sector.

Therefore GEDC approached representatives from Aditya Birla, AV Terrace Bay, Longlac Lumber Inc., and MNM to provide further insight at their AGM.

Common themes with workforce and contractor shortages were noted for both mills; where recruitment, attracting and retaining of people and their families to our area is proving difficult. It was a very interactive session with numerous questions and possible solutions being formulated. Suggestions included but not limited to; have clear readily available information for recruiters and interested parties, collaboration between key stakeholders, apprenticeship program awareness, youth strategy, available/accessible relevant trade education at a local level, on-site/field visits to engage youth, enlist mentorship/coaching from retiring population to new recruits...

Visit the new Forestry page (under Community Development tab) on the website www.gedc.ca for more details!



Pictured from left to right: Frank Hildebrandt, Evan Armstrong, Ryan Murphy, Kathy Durocher, Mikko Koivisto, Marcel Pelletier, Calvin Cloutier, Moe Lavigne, Maria Michel, and Dina Quenneville.

GEDC welcomed two new Board Members this year, and wished outgoing Board Members all the best in their future endeavours!

The 2017 GEDC Board of Directors is as follows:

Frank Hildebrandt, President
Lori Belzile Vice President
Moe Lavigne, Secretary
Mary-Jane Dunn, Treasurer
Evan Armstrong, Director
Calvin Cloutier, Director
Dina Quenneville, Director

GEDC is your local Business Centre, which also pursues projects and activities based on community needs and priorities. We develop and maintain partnerships to support growth and sustainability in the region.

Contact us via email at info@gedc.ca or by telephone 807-854-2273.

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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

Business Development

GEDC offers flexible financing tailored to your specific needs!

Call to set up an appointment to discuss your financing requirements, our consultation services are free of charge and are kept in strictest confidence.

GEDC's 3-Tier Lending Program was developed to assist new and existing small to medium enterprises (SME) to finance start-up, maintenance, expansion, purchase of assets or working capital.

Micro Loans: \$500 - \$10,000

These loans are ideal for smaller businesses looking for help with start-up and other costs.

General Loans: \$10,001 - \$150,000

GEDC's general loans can help Greenstone businesses of all sizes reach their maximum potential.

Pool Loans: \$150,001 - \$500,000

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

The primary objective of GEDC financing is to invest in sound businesses that create and maintain sustainable employment in all economic sectors.

Borrowing from the GEDC Business Centre can be your choice!

Contact us: info@gedc.ca or 807-854-2273

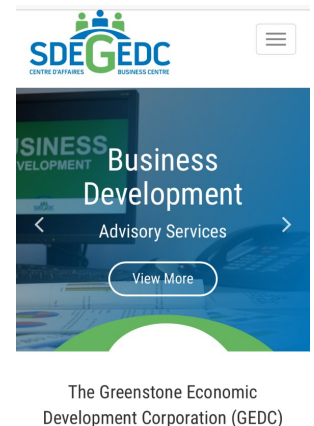
Community Development

GEDC's "Business Resource Guide"

The GEDC Business Centre completed a "Business Resource Guide" which identifies potential funding and services available for entrepreneurs in the Greenstone region. However, the guide underwent some recent updates in light of new program information. The second edition of the "Business Resource Guide" is now available on our website at www.gedc.ca.

GEDC is Mobile Friendly!

GEDC Business Centre has launched their new mobile friendly website, with a new design and colour scheme. The new site has been designed for mobile devices so it is cleaner and easier to read with information at your fingertips, while providing links to additional information as necessary. There are "buttons" for quick access to our Business Directory, Available Database, Reports Page, and News articles. Numerous pages have been updated with the addition of a Forestry information page, under our community development tab. Check out our website today at www.gedc.ca

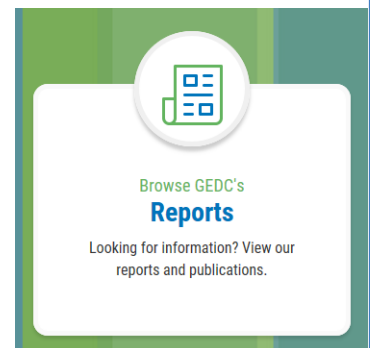


BR+E recommendation update

GEDC is working on the outstanding recommendations outlined in the original 2014 Greenstone BR+E Project Report. Upon completion this year we will release a BR+E progress report with updated Strategic Plan, outlining our accomplishments since project end and any matters that require further addressing.

Activities to date for 2017:

- Workshops and information sessions on various topics such as: succession planning, workforce innovation resources, Indigenous programs
- Business Clustering Sessions which inspired a Forestry Industry themed AGM
- Succession Matching Initiative
- Business Resource Guide and New Business Ideas Report
- GEDC Mobile friendly website
- Local and regional partnership projects in progress



Looking for information? View our website report page at www.gedc.ca.

Northwestern Ontario Youth Internship Program

GEDC in partnership with The Lake of the Woods Business Incentive Corporation (LOWBIC), is offering an exciting opportunity for private sector business, with the following categories:

Innovation; Information & Communication technology; and Export/Trade

The program could reimburse 50%, or up to \$31,500 for wages, benefits and business/skill development and related travel costs.

For more information, please contact GEDC at 854-2273 or stop by our office located at 1409 Main Street, Geraldton.



SUCCESSION
MATCHING

SuccessionMatching COMMUNITY PROJECT

ARE YOU LOOKING TO TRANSITION YOUR BUSINESS?

SuccessionMatching.com is an on-line platform that matches business owners looking to sell with people looking to buy a business.

If you fit in one of these categories;

- Owners looking to sell their business and retire
- Owners looking to divest for a lifestyle change or desire to pursue other interests
- Business owners who are looking to grow their operation and would like to find a partner that can help them financially and strategically

Then **SUCCESSIONMATCHING.COM** is for you

SuccessionMatching has established a partnership with the Northwest Ontario Community Futures, to sponsored business coupons which gives business owners free access to the SuccessionMatching site.

For more information on accessing the **SuccessionMatching.com Community Project with the Northwest Community Futures**, contact your local CFDC- the GEDC Business Centre at 854-2273 or email at info@gcdc.ca

In partnership with:



FINDING THE RIGHT BUYER FOR THE RIGHT BUSINESS

GEDC Staff:

Sylvie Goulet, Executive Director
Shelly Stanert, Administrative Officer
Brian Adams, Business Outreach Officer



GEDC

1409 Main Street; Geraldton, ON P0T1M0
T: 807-854-2273 F: 807-854-2474
info@gcdc.ca www.gcdc.ca