



**ALBERTA BUSINESS GRANTS LTD.**

# **Grant Resources Start-Up Businesses**

**Prepared by:  
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INTRODUCTION

After building our database for years, we have finally been able to determine broadly where all the money is located.

The best industries for grants are agriculture, environment, and technology. Contrary to popular expressions, few grants exist for start-ups, consultants, and service-based/retail companies.

However, multiple grants and resources are still available to you, and we have compiled them all in this easy-to-read document. Don't be afraid of applying for a grant. A little bit of work can yield an enormous return for your small business.

Good luck!

David Kincade  
President  
Alberta Business Grants  
780.297.6177



GRANTS

Employment/Training

Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP) | Government of Alberta:

Value: A standardized wage subsidy of \$7.00/hour to a maximum of 37.5 hours/week will be provided to approved applicants (maximum \$4,200).

Description:

STEP is a 4 - 16-week wage subsidy program that provides funding to eligible Alberta employers to hire high school or post-secondary students into summer jobs from May to August.

Eligibility:

Eligible Employers:	Positions/Year
o Small businesses excluding franchises (1-49 employees)	3
o Non-profit organizations	3
o Public Libraries	1
o School boards (Public, Separate, Francophone)	2 - 5*
o Municipalities, First Nations, and Métis Settlements	2 - 40*
o Publicly funded post-secondary institutions in Alberta	10 – 40

Student Eligibility:

- o At least 15 years of age
- o A Canadian citizen, a permanent resident, or person protected under the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and legally entitled to work and study in Canada
- o International students and Temporary Foreign Workers are not eligible for STEP
- o Resides in Alberta with Alberta address
- o Returning to high school or a post-secondary institution to continue studying full-time in the fall.
- o Must be enrolled in a program that will result in a Certificate, Diploma, or Degree. Technical training for Apprenticeship is not eligible
- o Is available for full-time summer employment
- o Participates in only one STEP position during the summer
- o Not currently employed in the organization
- o Not immediately related to the owners or staff responsible for hiring in the organization

Deadline: Applications open annually in January and close in February.

Contact: STEP | 1-866-338-4727 | [step@gov.ab.ca](mailto:step@gov.ab.ca)

Website: <http://www.albertacanada.com/opportunity/employers/summer-temporary-employment-program.aspx>



Canada Summer Jobs | Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC):

Value: Varies

Description:

Canada Summer Jobs provides funding to help employers create summer job opportunities for students. It is designed to focus on local priorities, while helping both students and their communities.

Canada Summer Jobs:

- o Provides work experiences for students
- o Supports organizations, including those that provide important community services
- o Recognizes that local circumstances, community needs and priorities vary widely

Eligibility:

- o Not-for-profit organizations
- o Public-sector employers
- o Small businesses with 50 or fewer employees

Student Eligibility:

People aged 15 to 30 years who are full-time students intending to return to their studies in the next school year.

Deadline: February 2, 2018

Contact: Canada Summer Jobs | 1-800-935-5555

Website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/youth-summer-job.html>



## Career Focus | Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC):

Value: Maximum of 80% of the costs associated with operating and delivering approved activities; contribution recipients are required to leverage (to include contributions {cash or in-kind} provided by project partners other than the Department) a minimum of 20% of total project costs (contribution recipients who are employers funding their own work experience activities would be included as providing leveraging).

### Description:

Career Focus provides funding for employers and organizations to design and deliver a range of activities that enable youth make more informed career decisions and develop their skills. The Program is part of the Youth Employment Strategy, a horizontal initiative involving eleven federal departments and agencies. Career Focus aims to:

- o Increase the supply of highly qualified workers
- o Facilitate the transition of highly-skilled young people to a rapidly changing labour market
- o Promote the benefits of advanced studies
- o Demonstrate federal leadership by investing in the skills required to meet the needs of the knowledge economy

### Eligibility:

- o Not-for-profit organizations
- o Municipal governments
- o Aboriginal organizations (including band councils, tribal councils, and self-government entities)
- o For-profit organizations
- o Provincial and territorial governments, institutions, agencies, and Crown Corporations

### Eligible Expenses:

- o Overhead costs, including costs related to central administrative functions of the recipient organization that are drawn upon to support agreement activities (such as shared postage, telephones, IT maintenance and head office)
- o The costs of materials and supplies
- o Wages and mandatory employment-related costs (MERCs)
- o Honoraria and hospitality costs
- o Printing and communication costs
- o Travel costs
- o Professional fees (such as consultants, IT, technical expertise, facilitation, legal, research, audit, assessment, and evaluation)
- o Capital costs
- o Other costs necessary to support the purpose of the funding, as approved by ESDC

Deadline: Ongoing

Contact: Career Focus | 1-800-935-5555

Website: <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/epb/yi/yep/newprog/career.shtml>



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Canada-Alberta Job Grant (CAJG) | Government of Alberta:

Value: Employers will be able to receive a minimum of one third direct training costs up to a maximum of \$10,000 per training in government contributions.

### Description:

The Canada-Alberta Job Grant is an employer-driven training program. This means that employers decide on who gets training and what type of training may be needed for new and existing employees. Employers are required to use a third-party training provider to deliver the formal training either onsite, online, or in a classroom setting. The Canada-Alberta Job Grant is part of the Government of Canada and Government of Alberta's commitment to help address skills mismatches and ensure that employees are being trained in high-demand areas.

### Eligibility:

#### Eligible Employers:

- o All private sector and non-profit employers in Alberta
- o First Nations and Métis Settlements in Alberta
- o Some Crown agencies in communities with population less than 100,000

#### Eligible Trainees:

- o New or existing employees that will fill current or future job vacancies
- o Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or protected persons under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada) entitled to work in Canada who are currently residing in Alberta

#### Training Providers:

- o Must be eligible Alberta third-party training providers who are separate and distinct from the employer
- o An explanation must be provided to justify out-of-province training requests

#### Eligible Training Programs:

- o Training must be incremental, meaning that the training is in addition to the employer's regular operational training, and would not have otherwise taken place without the grant
- o Must result in a credential

Deadline: Ongoing

Contact: Canada-Alberta Job Grant | 1-855-638-9424 | [jobgrant@gov.ab.ca](mailto:jobgrant@gov.ab.ca)

Website: <http://www.albertacanada.com/opportunity/employers/jobgrant.aspx>



Métis Employment Services (MES):

Value: Employers can access a subsidy of up to 50% of the employee's wages for a maximum of six months (or one year for a person with a disability).

Description:

Métis Employment Services (MES) training programs can help support the cost to employers of providing work experience and one-on-one on the job training for skills qualified Métis employees. MES has three programs:

Métis Targeted Wage Subsidies (TWS):

The Métis Targeted Wage Subsidies (TWS) Program is open to employers who provide direct work experience and practical on-the-job training to Métis people who have the required skills and accreditation but lack related work experience. The employer must commit to hiring the trainee at the conclusion of the subsidy period.

Métis Youth Career Internship Program:

The Métis Youth Career Internship Program is available to employers who can provide career related work experience to Métis youth (ages 15 to 30) who have completed secondary school or post-secondary training. The employer must commit to hiring the trainee at the conclusion of the subsidy period.

Métis Youth Summer Employment Program:

The Métis Youth Summer Employment Program is available to employers who hire a Métis youth, between the ages of 15 to 30 during the summer months. The job must be for minimum period of six and a maximum of sixteen consecutive weeks between May and August, and the client must intend to return to school in September. Employers can receive a subsidy of 50% of the wages paid to the employee to a maximum contribution by the program to equal the provincial minimum wage.

Eligibility:

Métis Aboriginal heritage

Deadline: Ongoing

Contact: Métis Employment Services | 1-888-486-3847

Website: <http://www.metisemployment.ca/for-employers/programs>



Workplace Training (WT) | Alberta Human Services:

Value: Maximum \$390.00 per week, up to 26 weeks (maximum \$10,140).

Description:

Workplace Training (WT) provides individual-focused training or work experience to enable individuals to find and maintain employment that would not otherwise occur. Participating employers agree to train or provide work experience for a predetermined period of time, with the expectation of the individual being able to engage and maintain employment in most cases with the same employer. Workplace Training has two separate options that are differentiated by length of time and the method in which employers are supported. Supplemental training is available to all participants. The purpose of Workplace Training is to provide employer-delivered, work-site training opportunities to individuals with barriers to employment; provide work experience opportunities at a worksite for individuals with limited or no work experience; and provide a Paid Work Experience opportunity as an option for individuals to keep a job.

The objectives of Workplace Training are:

- o To enable unemployed individuals with barriers to employment to acquire essential skills and occupation-related skills required in the local labour market which will allow for meaningful participation within the labour market
- o To assist unemployed and marginally employed individuals to obtain viable employment that provides increased income and work-related benefits
- o The Workplace Training is not intended to replace regular orientation, or basic training that would be provided by the employer to new employees hired outside the program

Eligibility:

Eligible Employers:

Employers are selected based on their ability to provide On-the-Job training or to facilitate the Paid Work Experience component and their ability to provide ongoing employment after the Workplace Training contract is over. Contracts must be in place prior to employers hiring an individual in this program.

Eligible Individuals:

Workplace Training is targeted for individuals 18 years of age or older, experiencing barriers to obtaining and maintaining employment, including, but not limited to:

- o Having been unsuccessful in finding and maintaining employment
- o Having limited or no experience in competitive employment
- o Lacking the minimum qualifications that employers require

Deadline: Ongoing

Contact: Alberta Human Services | 1-800-222-6485

Website: <http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/AWonline/ETS/4365.html>

Self-Employment Program | Alberta Human Services:

Value: Varies

Description:



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This program supports unemployed and marginally employed individuals who have a viable business idea and require additional training to facilitate entry into self-employment. If you are unemployed, you could get self-employment training, continue to receive benefits, and get additional assistance for training and living expenses for up to 26 weeks. The objectives of the Self-Employment program are:

- o To assist unemployed and marginally employed Albertans to create employment opportunities for themselves
- o To create additional employment opportunities in the community that might not otherwise be available

### Eligibility:

To qualify for this program, individuals must:

- o Have a viable business concept for starting a new business or taking over an existing business where they didn't have prior ownership
- o Have the capital or access to capital needed to start and operate their business
- o Have the personal attributes to be successful entrepreneurs (i.e. self-motivated, risk taker and perseverance, good organizational skills)
- o Have the skills and knowledge of the products or services pertaining to their new business

### Eligible Expenses:

- o Training costs and supplemental benefits
- o Individuals participating in the Self-Employment program may be eligible for Income Support to cover living costs while in training

Deadline: Ongoing

Contact: Career Information Hotline | 780-422-4266

Website: <http://work.alberta.ca/skills/self-employment-training.html>



Start-Up

Aboriginal Business and Entrepreneurship Development (ABED) | Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada:

Value: Funding maximums are up to \$99,999 for Aboriginal individuals and incorporated businesses and up to \$250,000 for community owned businesses.

Description:

ABED works with Aboriginal entrepreneurs, communities, and organizations to achieve their business goals by providing a range of services and support that promote the growth of a strong Aboriginal business sector. Support will vary depending upon the needs of the client, the availability and sources of funding, the eligibility of costs, the economic benefits, and the project viability.

Eligibility:

- o Clients must be individuals of Canadian Aboriginal heritage — Status or Non-status Indian (on or off-reserve), Métis or Inuit — or a majority-owned Aboriginal business, or an Aboriginal community and/or development corporation
- o To be eligible for support, clients should also be involved full-time with the proposed business in a management capacity and must be able to provide some level of cash equity to support the project

Eligible Expenses:

- o Business planning
- o Establishment (capital) costs
- o Business acquisitions
- o Business expansions
- o Marketing initiatives that are local, domestic, or export oriented
- o New product or process development
- o Adding technology to improve operations and competitiveness
- o Operating costs in association with capital costs
- o Financial services, business support, business-related training, and mentoring services

Deadline: Ongoing. Speak with regional Aboriginal Financial Institution (AFI) before applying.

Contact: Alberta Métis Development Inc. (AMDI) | 1-800-252-7963 | [office@apeetogosan.ab.ca](mailto:office@apeetogosan.ab.ca)

Website: [www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1375201178602/1375202816581](http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1375201178602/1375202816581)



## Agriculture | Products To Markets Program

Value: 5.1 The Program provides grants on a cost-shared basis to cover Eligible Expenses for approved Projects up to a maximum of \$50,000 per Applicant per Fiscal Year. Eligible Capital Expenses shall be cost-shared at 25% grant and 75% Applicant; and b) Eligible Non-Capital Expenses shall be cost-shared at 50% grant and 50% Applicant.

### Description:

The purpose of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Products to Markets Program is to support growth of Alberta's agricultural industries by supporting development of New Products and/or processes, commercialization of products in New Markets, and expansion into local, domestic and international markets.

### Eligibility:

- Processors;
- Industry Organizations;
- New Entrants; and
- Producers who are adding value past primary agricultural production; or involved in international market development activities.

### Eligible Expenses:

- Product and Process Development
- Label and Package Development (must be supported by marketing plan)
- Processing Capacity Expansion
- Market Development
- Export Preparation and Planning
- Product Demonstration
- Activities to Support Aggregation and Distribution of Food
- AF-led Outbound Trade Initiatives

Deadline: Open.

Contact: [AF.AG-GRANTS@GOV.AB.CA](mailto:AF.AG-GRANTS@GOV.AB.CA)

Website: [https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/program/MARKETS\\_SMALL](https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/program/MARKETS_SMALL)



Build in Canada Innovation Program (BCIP) | Public Works and Government Services Canada:

Value: Maximum \$500,000. Purchasing and testing covered.

**Description:**

Created to bolster innovation in Canada's business sector, the Build in Canada Innovation Program (BCIP) helps companies bridge the pre-commercialization gap by procuring and testing late stage innovative goods and services within the federal government before taking them to market by:

- o Awarding contracts to entrepreneurs with pre-commercial innovations through an open, transparent, competitive and fair procurement process
- o Testing and providing feedback to these entrepreneurs on the performance of their goods or services
- o Providing innovators with the opportunity to enter the marketplace with a successful application of their new goods and services
- o Providing information on how to do business with the Government of Canada

**Priority Areas:**

**Standard Component**

- o Environment
- o Safety and security
- o Health
- o Enabling technologies

**Military Component**

- o Command & Support
- o Cyber-Security
- o Protecting the Soldier
- o Arctic and Maritime Security
- o In-Service Support
- o Training Systems

**Eligibility:**

Any private company, not-for-profit organization, university or individual can submit a proposal.

Deadline: Ongoing

Contact: Build in Canada Innovation Program | [innovation@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:innovation@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)

Website: <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/initiatives-and-programs/build-in-canada-innovation-program-bcip>



Micro-Voucher | Alberta Innovates Technology Futures (AITF):

Value: Up to \$10,000, paid directly to a Service or Product Provider.

Description:

The Micro-Voucher is designed to support technologies in the early developmental stages, from TRL 2 to TRL 4 inclusive – for early start up development. The Service or Product Provider provides any one or more of the following items for the benefit of the Applicant:

- o Market assessments
- o Industry Development
- o Corporate training
- o Conferences (with the support of a Technology Development Advisor)
- o Intellectual property assessments
- o Acquisition of materials and/or equipment critical to the Applicant's operations

The Applicant must pay a minimum cash contribution of 25% of the Project Costs directly to the Service or Product Provider. Strategic Timelines Inc. is a service provider for this program.

Eligibility:

The Service or Product Provider (applicable for the Micro-Voucher Program only) – the person or entity named in the Application who is providing services and/or products to the Applicant during the course of the Project must meet the following criteria:

- o Must have demonstrated qualification, capabilities and capacity to successfully perform the work required or deliver the applicable product in or for the Project in a timely manner
- o Must be Arm's Length from the Applicant (cannot have any legal relationship with the Applicant)
- o Does not have an outstanding balance or otherwise owe money to an Alberta Innovates organization, subsidiary, or partner
- o Must provide the service(s) and/or product(s) at reasonable market rates

Deadline: Ongoing

Contact: Neelum Mangat | 780.450.5085 | [neelum.mangat@albertainnovates.ca](mailto:neelum.mangat@albertainnovates.ca)

Website:

<http://innotechalberta.ca/Fund/CommercializationServices/MicroVouchersVouchersandProductDemonstration.aspx>



Women Entrepreneurship Fund | Startup Canada:

Value: Maximum \$3000

Description:

The Startup Canada Women Entrepreneurship Fund invests in high-impact, grassroots initiatives across Canada that advance women entrepreneurship through education, investment, mentorship and access to growth opportunity. The Fund is brought to you in partnership with Startup Canada and Dell Canada in an effort to enable entrepreneurial leaders across Canada to mobilize and create an entrepreneurial environment that encourages and empowers women to be successful entrepreneurs. The programs objectives are:

- o Invest in community-driven initiatives that foster an environment and culture which encourages women entrepreneurs in Canada
- o Develop and harness the potential for women entrepreneurs in Canada through education, mentorship and support
- o Drive awareness of the importance of women in entrepreneurship to increase engagement, investment and growth opportunities for women-led companies

Eligibility:

Any Canadian-based entrepreneur, group or organization.

Eligible Expenses:

Programs or events that support women entrepreneurs and women-owned businesses such as:

- o Women's entrepreneurship conference
- o Speaker series
- o Mentorship program
- o A workshop series
- o Trade missions, etc.

Deadline: Currently closed. Future deadline February 2018.

Contact: Renee Tavares | [Renee.Tavares@startupcan.ca](mailto:Renee.Tavares@startupcan.ca)

Website: <http://www.startupcan.ca/womenfund/#1479285668746-b1ecd6e5-c357>



## OTHER FINANCING OPTIONS AND RESOURCES

### Business Link:

#### Description:

Business Link is Alberta's entrepreneurial hub. We are a non-profit organization that helps Alberta entrepreneurs start their own businesses. You've got an innovative idea and the motivation to take the next step. Now what? We'll give you the tools to make your business idea a reality, and connect you with the most relevant small business resources to help bring your idea to life.

Contact: Business Link | 780-422-7722

Website: <http://businesslink.ca/>

### Alberta Women Entrepreneurs (AWE):

#### Description:

Alberta Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to enabling women to build successful businesses. AWE provides unique programs and services to women at all stages of business through advising, financing, mentoring, and skills and network development.

We believe our communities and economies are stronger when women are full participants in entrepreneurship.

Contact: Alberta Women Entrepreneurs | 1 800-713-3558 | [info@awebusiness.com](mailto:info@awebusiness.com)

Website: <https://www.awebusiness.com/>

### Startup Canada:

#### Description:

Startup Canada is a grassroots network of entrepreneurs working together to build an environment for entrepreneurship in Canada. Through online platforms, grassroots Startup Communities and cross-sector initiatives, Startup Canada is advancing entrepreneurial momentum and a culture of entrepreneurship, as the voice of Canadian entrepreneurs.

Contact: Startup Canada | (613) 627-0787 | [hello@startupcan.ca](mailto:hello@startupcan.ca)

Website: <http://www.startupcan.ca/>

### Alberta Enterprise:

#### Description:

Formed as an independent corporation in 2008, Alberta Enterprise is a key component of the Government of Alberta's goal of building a more sustainable, diversified technology industry in Alberta, one where home-grown innovation is encouraged and technology entrepreneurs have greater access to venture capital.

Our mission is to promote the development of Alberta's venture capital (VC) industry. We achieve this by investing in VC funds that finance early stage technology companies and that have a commitment to



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Alberta – including a full-time presence in the province. We also support Alberta’s VC ecosystem by connecting investors, entrepreneurs, and experienced technology veterans who share our passion for building a bright, innovative Alberta.

In the long term, our activities will help Alberta claim a larger share of the venture capital invested in Canada. We anticipate venture funds will be more active in pursuing investments here with local lead investors and in looking at Alberta-based companies and technologies. Alberta’s investment community will also be better networked within Alberta, across Canada and internationally.

Contact: Alberta Enterprise | 1-877-336-3474 | [info@alberta-enterprise.ca](mailto:info@alberta-enterprise.ca)

Website: <http://www.alberta-enterprise.ca/>

Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC):

### Description:

BDC is Canada’s business development bank and the only financial institution devoted exclusively to entrepreneurs.

BDC helps create and develop strong Canadian businesses through financing, advisory services and capital, with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises.

- o BDC supports entrepreneurs in all industries and at all stages of development from 118 business centres across Canada and online at [bdc.ca](http://bdc.ca)
- o BDC is committed to the long-term success of Canadian entrepreneurs and understands that a business is more than just dollars and cents
- o BDC complements the role played by private-sector financial institutions and have been serving Canadian entrepreneurs since 1944
- o BDC is a financially sustainable Crown corporation and operates at arm’s length from its sole shareholder, the Government of Canada

Contact: Business Development Bank of Canada | 1-888-463-6232

Website: <https://www.bdc.ca/en/business-centres/alberta/edmonton/pages/default.aspx>

### ATB BoostR

Our rewards-based crowdfunding platform that helps small businesses in Alberta raise capital. Through [ATB BoostR](#), businesses can raise money, test ideas, and gain exposure and market insights from the crowd. All that in exchange of a reward—a product, service, or experience.

Entrepreneurs also get:

A team of supportive advisors that entrepreneurs can reach out to before, during and after their crowdfunding journey.

Coaching and guidance through monthly Crowdfunding 101 workshops in Calgary and Edmonton.

Opportunities for exposure through live pitch events and ATB’s marketing channels.

Helpful resources! Even if you’re not crowdfunding you can tap into these!)

BoostR is for businesses of all stages—from startup to well established—whether you’re looking to launch or reach the next level of growth.

<http://atb.com/business/experts/Pages/ATB-BoostR.aspx>

### ATB X Accelerator

Get your business to market faster with ATB X.



20 startups. 14 weeks. Endless opportunities.

Our intensive, 14-week business accelerator program supports Albertan entrepreneurs from diverse industries, who are in the market validation stage, with a curriculum, connections and community. If entrepreneurship is the path you've chosen, you don't have to go it alone. That's why we created ATB X—a three-month accelerator program built and operated by ATB, exclusively for our early-stage entrepreneur clients.

What you get:

Dedicated 24/7 office space.

Tailored networking opportunities and weekly workshops.

Access to our Advisory Panel for one-on-one support.

Celebrate the journey and the wins.

We're here to support you from a 360 degree perspective with:

Curriculum. Validate your business model and target customers while you test your go-to-market strategy.

Connections. Grow your network in a meaningful way by tapping into ATB's connections.

Community. Co-work and collaborate with other ambitious Alberta entrepreneurs.

Website: <http://atb.com/business/experts/Pages/ATB-X-Accelerator.aspx>

Western Innovation Initiative (WINN) | Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD):

Description:

WINN is a \$100 million five-year federal initiative that offers repayable contributions for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with operations in Western Canada, in order to help move their new and innovative technologies from the later stages of research and development to the marketplace. The intent of WINN is to promote the development and diversification of the western Canadian economy by providing financial support to qualified SMEs to help them accelerate the commercialization of innovative products, processes and services in Western Canada, and by stimulating greater private sector investment in western Canadian commercialization activities.

Eligibility:

- o For-profit businesses incorporated to conduct business in Canada
- o Less than 500 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees (parents and subsidiaries included in final FTE count)
- o Have been in operation for at least one year
- o Have operating facilities located in Western Canada (defined as British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan or Manitoba)
- o Have a viable plan to commercialize (i.e., generate revenues from sales) an innovative, technology-driven, new or improved product, service or process within three years of project commencement
- o Have sufficient intellectual property rights to carry out the proposed project and to commercially exploit the results of the project



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- o Have provided a current business plan, that includes elements of the proposed project and recent financial statements
- o Have confirmed, at the time of application, funding from all other sources, including government and non-government (non-government funding must represent at least 50 percent of the proposed project costs)
- o Are requesting no more than \$3.5 million in WINN support

Contact: Western Economic Diversification Canada | 1-888-338-9378

Website: <http://www.wd.gc.ca/eng/14857.asp>

Community Futures Alberta:

Description:

For 30 years, Community Futures has been supporting small business development and rural economic diversification in Alberta. We are a community driven, non-profit organization with 27 offices in rural areas throughout Alberta. Each office is staffed by local business professionals and guided by a volunteer Board of Directors.

In other words, we live where you live, and reap the benefits of a strong local economy created by business entrepreneurs just like you! Read about some of the many successful businesses we have helped start-up and grow over the years.

We provide a wide range of small business loans, business coaching/training services and business management tools for people wanting to start, expand, franchise or sell a business.

We also run a number of specialized business programs, and actively work with community and business leaders to foster rural economic growth.

Contact: Community Futures Capital Region | 780-968-7013 | [capitalregion.albertacf.com](http://capitalregion.albertacf.com)

Website: <http://albertacf.com/>

TEC Edmonton:

Description:

TEC Edmonton's purpose is to accelerate growth of emerging technology-based companies.

Through its people, networks and facilities, TEC Edmonton develops the Edmonton region's innovation reputation worldwide by:

- o Commercializing technology from private, university and public sources
- o Helping build successful innovation-based companies
- o Fostering and promoting innovation and new enterprise development

Contact: TEC Edmonton | 780.492.8977 | [info@TECedmonton.com](mailto:info@TECedmonton.com)

Website: <https://www.tecedmonton.com/>



## Startup Edmonton:

### Description:

Startup Edmonton is an entrepreneurial community hub. We connect entrepreneurs and product builders with skills, community and workspace to support them as they take ideas to reality.

We're here to help you each step of the way. We have mentorship & programs, a vibrant community of peer support, and workspace that can grow with you.

Contact: Startup Edmonton | [hello@startupidmonton.com](mailto:hello@startupidmonton.com)

Website: <http://www.startupidmonton.com/>

## Edmonton Economic Development Corporation (EEDC):

### Description:

We build Edmonton's reputation, drive the global growth ambition of Edmonton companies, and attract visitors and investment—increasing resiliency and growth of the city.

At EEDC, we know that economic development is a team sport, and our five divisions work in unison on initiatives that generate economic impact and build the brand and reputation of our city:

- o Trade and Investment Division
- o Urban Economy Division
- o Edmonton Tourism
- o Shaw Conference Centre
- o EEDC Corporate Services Division

Contact: Edmonton Economic Development | 780 424 9191 | [info@edmonton.com](mailto:info@edmonton.com)

Website: <http://www.eedc.ca/>

## Microbusiness Training Centre Inc:

### Description:

Are you considering your career options? Is it time to start your own business? Check out the Self-Employment Training at Microbusiness Training Centre. It's a training program designed to help Albertans get into business quickly. If you qualify, you could be eligible for free Government funding or Learner Income Support while you are taking Self-Employment Training. To qualify, you must be unemployed, retired, semi-retired, working part-time (less than 20 hours a week) or employed but not working at your skill level, and want to learn how to start your own business.

The Self-Employment Training Program features:

- o 8 weeks full-time classroom learning with experienced facilitators, business coaches and entrepreneurs helping you gain business skills and develop your own professional Business Plan
- o 18 weeks professional business coaching that follows classroom training to help you through the start-up phase and launch your business
- o 6 months additional business coaching and mentoring to help you become sustainable



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- o Interactive and motivational group learning experiences in a small class setting
- o Guest Speaker Program including legal, accounting, finance, marketing and social media specialists, business owners, former Microbusiness clients and more
- o Comfortable classroom with access to WiFi and hi-speed internet
- o Networking Sessions to meet other successful business owners
- o Feature for your business in "Success Stories" at [www.microbusiness.ca](http://www.microbusiness.ca) or on Facebook
- o A convenient location in the downtown core. Easy access by bus and LRT. Self-parking available

### Eligibility:

To be eligible for Government funding or income support while you take training, you must meet one of the following criteria:

- o Currently receiving Employment Insurance (EI) benefits
- o Have received Employment Insurance (EI) in the past 3 years
- o Have received Maternity or Paternity Employment Insurance (EI) benefits in the last five years
- o Be in receipt of Income Support from Alberta Works
- o If you are not receiving Employment Insurance (EI) or Alberta Works funding, you may qualify for Learner Income Support based on your personal financial circumstances
- o You may also qualify as an Other Albertan if you are not receiving Employment Insurance (EI) or Alberta Works funding, but have the personal financial resources to support yourself through SE training

Contact: Microbusiness Training Centre | 780-482-4462 | [microbiz@microbusiness.ca](mailto:microbiz@microbusiness.ca)

### Website:

<http://www.microbusiness.ca/index.php?page=webpages&menucat=22&id=94&action=displaypage&side=1>

### Northern Alberta Business Incubator (NABI):

#### Description:

For over 26 years, the Northern Alberta Business Incubator (NABI) has offered entrepreneurs and small businesses the office spaces, marketing resources, path finding advised, coaching, inspiration, capital and networking connections they need to improve their chances of survival and success at 5 years to 80%. Grow your business, manage the risk with NABI.

NABI provides excellent customer service to meet your needs. We offer flexible month-to-month leases, readily available support services, access to meeting rooms, and opportunities to work with other NABI businesses.

Contact: NABI | 780.460.1000 | [info@nabi.ca](mailto:info@nabi.ca)

Website: <http://www.nabi.ca/>

### Innovate Calgary:

#### Description:



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Innovate Calgary is the technology-transfer and business-incubation centre for the University of Calgary working with the Office of the Vice-President (Research) to help bridge the gap between discovery and innovation. We help guide research or innovation-driven enterprises to market or to the next stage of business growth.

From ideation to commercialization, we have successfully supported our innovation-driven community for 35 years. We are proud members of Alberta's innovation ecosystem and work with local, national and international partners to help you move your ideas forward.

Contact: Innovate Calgary | (403) 284-6400

Website: <https://www.innovatecalgary.com/>

Startup Calgary:

Description:

By partnering with the best resources in and out of Calgary, we foster startups, connect founders and support the local business community with programming, events, and initiatives.

Contact: <https://www.startupcalgary.ca/contact-us>

Website: <https://www.startupcalgary.ca/>

Calgary Economic Development:

Description:

Calgary Economic Development works with business, government and community partners to position Calgary as the location of choice for the purpose of attracting business investment, fostering trade and growing Calgary's workforce.

Contact: Calgary Economic Development | 403-221-7831 | [info@calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com](mailto:info@calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com)

Website: <https://www.calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com/>

Futurpreneur Canada:

Description:

Futurpreneur Canada makes it easier for aspiring young business owners to secure financing. And we've partnered with the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) to extend our support to you even further.

We offer collateral-free loans at better interest rates than most banks. But we can't do it alone. We're able to finance up to \$15,000 per business. If you need more money, BDC may provide up to \$30,000.

Contact: Futurpreneur Canada | 1-866-646-2922

Website: <http://futurpreneur.ca/en/get-started/financing-and-mentoring/>

Tundra A.C.E. Program

The Tundra A.C.E program is an exciting new initiative to help fast track the commercialization of near market ready technologies that solve some of industry's most pressing problems. Learn more about the Tundra A.C.E program.



Contact: 1-800-265-1166

Website: <https://tundrasolutions.ca/news/tundra-ace-program-2/>

#### District Adventures Accelerator Program

Twice a year we invest \$130k with 10 Canadian food/beverage and health/wellness entrepreneurs in exchange for a minority equity stake of their company.

The founders take part in a 5-month accelerator program designed to rapidly increase valuation through sales, distribution, and marketing support. The accelerator also provides members with access to blue chip service sponsors, like ATB Financial, Bennett Jones LLP, and BDO Canada to deliver workshops on debt financing, legal, and tax and accounting management.

While we encourage all the companies to move to Calgary for 5 months to work alongside their peers, where it is not feasible, we require each company to spend a minimum of one full week per month in the accelerator during programming weeks.

At the end of the program, founders will pitch their companies at Demo Day, where you will be introduced to investors to attract your next round of funding, including the possibility of receiving follow-on investment from District Ventures Capital.

Throughout the course of the program, we will broadcast your company through public relations efforts, a profile on Youinc.com, our website, and on our social channels.

District Ventures Accelerator is part of an ecosystem of support that delivers capital, mentorship and marketing to innovative CPG companies. Founded by Arlene Dickinson, [District Ventures Accelerator](#), [District Ventures Capital](#), and [Venture Communications](#) operate with the sole purpose to turning successful companies into globally respected brands.

Contact: [accelerator@districtventures.ca](mailto:accelerator@districtventures.ca) | 2540 Kensington Road NW Calgary, AB T2N 3S3

Website: <https://www.districtventures.ca/>



## Kinetica Energy Technology Accelerator

Kinetica Ventures was launched in 2015 through an Innovate Calgary (now [Calgary Technologies](#)) initiative to develop an energy technology accelerator program. The launch was made possible with \$3 million in funding over five years from the Government of Canada through the [Canada Accelerator and Incubator Program](#) (CAIP), and is supported by [Alberta Economic Development and Trade](#).

Kinetica Ventures bridges the energy industry and technology innovators to accelerate world-class energy technologies. We support industry partners by working with technology developers who have emerging innovation that addresses industry's key challenges, lowers costs and improves competitive advantages. This unique industry-driven program works closely with key energy sector partners in four focus areas: hydrocarbon recovery and processing; energy transport; carbon capture, reuse and storage; and renewable energy.

Kinetica Ventures assists entrepreneurs to bring their technologies to market and scale them for industry. We work with clients that:

- Have a market demand
- Are a technology developer
- Are ready to commercialize
- Are committed, credible, and coachable
- Are incorporated
- Have a validated prototype
- Want to build a business

Contact: Alastair Ross Technology Centre (Main Office) 3553 31 St NW Calgary, AB, Canada T2L 2K7 | 403-284-6400

Website: <http://kineticaventures.com/>

## Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program

Western Canadians who have a disability can access a network of business professionals and a world of resources through Western Economic Diversification Canada's Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program (EDP). The EDP provides business information, training and development, mentoring and one-on-one counseling services.

### Rural Communities

In rural communities, the program is delivered through [Community Futures offices](#).

### Urban Areas

In urban areas, Western Economic Diversification Canada works with organizations to deliver the program. For more information on the program and the services available contact the organization listed below that is nearest to you.



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Alberta

Edmonton

Prospect Human Services Society

Telephone: 1.877.483.2562

Calgary

Momentum

Telephone: 403.272.9323

Rural Alberta

Community Futures Network of Alberta

Telephone: 1.877.482.3672

Website: <https://www.wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/13643.asp>

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc.

Apeetogosan is committed to providing profitable and sustainable financial services and support to clients who seek the means to attain economic self-sufficiency.

Services Provided Include:

- **Small Business Loans**
- **Access to Small Business Grant (MEAP & SEAP)**
- Support Service Programs
- Business Advisory Services  
(Through Pinnacle Business Services Ltd.)

Like other business lending institutions, Apeetogosan's future lies in the success of its clients. The loan process is designed to ensure that the ingredients for profitability are contained in the business proposal. We are here to help you along the path of turning your idea into a successful reality.

Contact: 780-452-7951

Website: <http://apeetogosan.com/>

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) is a provincial Crown corporation with a private sector Board of Directors that provides producers, agribusinesses and other small businesses loans, crop insurance and farm income disaster assistance. AFSC has provided Alberta farmers with hail insurance for 80 years and has grown into a diverse corporation with several core business areas, including crop insurance, livestock price insurance, farm loans, commercial loans and farm income disaster assistance.

Contact: 1.877.899.2372 Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Website: <https://www.afsc.ca/home.aspx>