



ELGIN

BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTRE

A Community Futures Development Corporation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REACHING ELGIN YOUTH WITH ENTREPRENEURSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Youth Entrepreneurship Partnership program launched at Elgin Business Resource Centre

Steve Peters, MPP for Elgin-Middlesex-London announced \$57,680 in funding for the Youth Entrepreneurship Partnership (YEP) program, through the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, today at the Elgin Business Resource Centre. Non-profit organizations from across Ontario launched projects that offer educational and entrepreneurial opportunities to youth as part of the YEP initiative. As part of the Year of the Entrepreneur, Elgin Business Resource Centre will reach out to unemployed and under-employed youth to spark entrepreneurial ideas.

The EBRC project is called “thinkbusiness – imagine create innovate” and the focus will be on youth under the age of 29 who are not in school. Youth from St Thomas and across Elgin County will be provided with the opportunity to discuss their business idea through meetings organized in local communities. EBRC staff will interact with hundreds of youth and help them to think through the concept at the initial meetings. The youth entrepreneurs will then develop a business plan and launch their business with ongoing support from EBRC. The goal is to see 18 businesses started in the first year. If the YEP program is successful, EBRC will have the opportunity to apply for a second year of support to continue to operate the YEP program and see more local youth open their own business.

The Talbot Teen Centre and myFM St Thomas are two local partners who are helping get the word out to provide networking with youth. County of Elgin, Bowsher and Bowsher Law Firm, Early Learning Centre and Jim Fish Educational Consulting have also sponsored YEP. The Innovation Centre for Entrepreneurs, R A (Bob) McCaig, and 300 SERi are supporting the YEP

program by providing a youth office and manufacturing space in the new business incubator at EBRC.

"I am excited about the opportunities the Youth Entrepreneurship Partnership program will provide to young people in our local rural communities," Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP Steve Peters said. "Young entrepreneurs need all the help they can get to make their business dreams a reality. I congratulate the Elgin Business Resource Centre for adding another important program to help create jobs and develop an enterprising culture in Elgin-St. Thomas."

"EBRC will reach out to youth who are under served in our community, perhaps they are looking for work or underemployed. The YEP program will show them the opportunities that starting their own business can offer. Our centre then provides the support to make that business idea a success!" says John Regan, EcD (f), General Manager of Elgin Business Resource Centre.

thinkbusiness | **yep**
imagine **create** innovate