



New Grant Program Helps Companies and Academic Researchers Connect on Short-term R&D Projects

Through a new program called Engage Grants, the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) has made it easier for companies and academic researchers to work together on short-term (up to a six-month duration) research projects that address a company-specific problem.

NSERC provides the funds for this relationships-building exercise to take place. The program awards up to \$25,000 to cover the direct project costs and is aimed at helping businesses solve their research problem while keeping the rights to any intellectual property arising from the project.

For more information on our Engage Grants Program call toll free, 1-877-767-1767.

Report Shows Canada's Entrepreneurial Spirit Remains Strong

A recent Industry Canada report provides a portrait of the state of entrepreneurship in Canada and demonstrates that the state of entrepreneurship in the country has been stable and relatively strong.

The report uses a variety of indicators such as entries, exits, survival rates and



Public Asked To Participate In Economic Development Survey

The District of West Kelowna has launched a survey to gauge key issues, concerns and opportunities for economic development in West Kelowna.

Residents and business people are encouraged to take a short 17-question online survey. Results of the survey will aid in the development of a West Kelowna Economic Development Strategy intended to strengthen economic development in the community.

"Council has placed the creation of an Economic Development Plan for West Kelowna as a top priority in this year's strategic planning," says Mayor Doug Findlater. "Our long-term objective is to recognize the economic development assets of the region and capitalize on unique opportunities to improve the economic viability of the community. This survey is the first step in establishing what residents and business people think of the current economic climate and what directions West Kelowna should take."

The online survey is available immediately via the District's website at www.districtofwestkelowna.ca and participants have until March 31, 2010 to complete the survey.

The survey was developed for West Kelowna by Lion's Gate Consulting working in conjunction with the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission.

The survey is one of many opportunities ahead for public consultation with plans underway for focus groups, interviews and planning workshops.



OKANAGAN

UBC-Okanagan Will Offer Master of Management Degree in September

UBC Okanagan will offer a new Master of Management degree starting in September. Dan Muzyka, Dean for both UBC

March 8, 2010

high-growth measures. Some comparisons are made with other countries using data from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

According to Statistics Canada's Business Register, there were 2,289,329 business establishments in Canada in June 2009, a decrease of 4.06 percent from June, 2008. In June 2009, small businesses accounted for 97.9 percent of employer businesses, with the majority (54.8 percent) of firms being micro-businesses (fewer than five employees). Medium-sized businesses represented 1.8 percent of employer businesses, while large businesses accounted for 0.3 percent. These figures are largely unchanged from June 2008.

To view the full report, [click here](#).

Okanagan's Faculty of Management and UBC Vancouver's Sauder School of Business says, "There is a world-wide trend towards Master of Management degrees for students who have a non-business undergraduate degree. The Masters prepares people for management positions. There's a real need in the marketplace for this."

The Master of Management degree can be taken right after an undergraduate degree and is seen as an alternative to the highly-touted Master of Business Administration (MBA) which usually can only be taken after being in business for at least five years. Six weeks near the end of the program students have a real-life experience in a local company to develop some sort of strategic or business plan that will help the business grow and improve.



UBC Vancouver has had the program for some time. Eighty-five percent of Vancouver students tracked six months after graduation have decided to continue their education or have a good job in fields ranging from sales and marketing and information technology, to software development and government.

For more information, go to www.ubc.ca/okanagan/mm

Links and Events

[Westbank Chamber Business After Hours - March 11](#)
[Expanding Markets - Increasing Sales Seminar - March 16](#)