

Subject: News from the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission - May 17, 2010

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**Community Futures
Now Agency for
Small Business
Internship Program**

Community Futures BC has recently become the agency responsible for Industry Canada's [Small Business Internship Program](#).

The program provides small and medium-sized enterprises with financial support to hire a post-secondary student intern to assist them in their adoption of e-business strategies to increase their productivity and competitiveness.

Through the program your firm can receive financial support towards the employment of post-secondary students who will work on e-business projects. The Government of Canada will reimburse 75% of the eligible wages and related expenses such as statutory employee benefits, up to a total of \$10,000. Your firm is responsible for covering other expenses such as fringe benefits and overhead costs. Support will be available for twelve weeks.

Students gain valuable work experience as well as help fund their post-secondary education.

More information is



**Okanagan's Time to Shine: 20 International
Technology Leaders Come Together in the
Okanagan in June, 2010**

[metabridge](#), a unique initiative that provides British Columbia technology companies with direct connection and access to key international technology partners for investment, joint strategic partnerships, mentorship and advisory opportunities, will host its second annual event in Kelowna on June 10 and 11, 2010.

Twenty senior technology leaders from the United States (San Jose/Silicon Valley) and the United Kingdom, representing foreign direct investment opportunities for the local tech economy, are currently being secured to participate. These executives will join approximately 60 local and provincial high tech companies to identify strategic prospects and assist in their growth. Attendees from previous metabridge events have included senior executives from Hewlett Packard, Mitel, Red Beacon, AVG Antivirus, Trend Micro, RIM and Radware.

The two day event will consist of interactive presentations and round table discussions and multiple VIP networking opportunities. An access pass is available to technology companies at a cost of \$500 and single events are also available.

metabridge is the brainchild of Steve Wandler, a successful technology entrepreneur who returned to the Okanagan after his company, YourTechOnline was acquired by support.com in the Silicon Valley. The metabridge initiative is supported by the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission (COEDC) in partnership with the British Columbia Innovation Council (BCIC), with support from the Okanagan Science & Technology Council. Four metabridge events are planned each year to connect technology companies in British Columbia with key technology players from Silicon Valley, across the US and Canada.

For more information and to purchase tickets, [click here](#).

available online by [clicking here](#).



Kelowna Housing Starts Move Higher in April

Kelowna area housing starts increased to 77 homes in April from 29 homes in the same month a year ago, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

Both detached home and multi-family starts have picked up from the unusually low levels of new home construction recorded in 2009. "New home buyers are taking advantage of favorable interest rates and lower construction costs," explained CMHC Market Analyst Paul Fabri. "Kelowna's multi-family construction sector has moved away from big apartment condominium projects."

High inventories of new, completed and unoccupied units and strong price competition from a well supplied existing home sector have constrained apartment condominium construction this year. "For now, builders have focused on smaller, phased attached housing projects and rental apartment construction," Fabri added.

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CENTRAL
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COMMISSION



Foreign Affairs and
International Trade Canada

Affaires étrangères et
Commerce international Canada

Greening Your Business - Exporting to the USA Workshop - Tuesday, May 25 Ramada Inn - 2170 Harvey Avenue, Kelowna Cost \$15 Person

The program will provide you with detailed information on US customers and US immigration requirements and feature a presentation by Irv Weinberg, co-founder of Mind over Markets, a green marketing/business development company in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Irv has helped many "green" companies achieve sustained success brings more than 30 years of senior level advertising and marketing experience.

Irv is also co-author of *The Tao and the How of Green Marketing*, and co-authors the Green Marketing Blog, a definitive, thought-provoking and educational guide to marketing success in the green products world. His highly popular podcast, *America the Green*, was one of the most successful environmental podcasts on i-Tunes. He is also featured author on green marketing in the Reuter's *Inside the Minds* book series.

Additional presentations will be made by Charles Emard, Key Account Manager for Livingston International; Jason Ankeny of *GetUSImmigrationHelp.com*, and Michael Jacobson, Immigration/Labor Law Attorney.

Pre-registration for this workshop is required as space is limited. Payment may be made by Visa, MasterCard or cheque. To participate in the seminar please contact Sandra Ballan-Brown at (250) 469-6280.

[Click here](#) to view the complete agenda.

Links and Events

[Peachland Business After Hours - May 19](#)
[Kelowna Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours - May 20](#)
[Kelowna Downtown After 5 - May 26](#)
[Small Business BC Seminar Listing](#)
[Purchasing a Business - May 27](#)
[The Power of Distribution, Expanding your Business Markets - May 28](#)

[Westbank Chamber Breakfast & Learn - May 28](#)

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