

Subject: News from the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission - July 12, 2010

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*It's your business.
Start. Grow. Succeed.*

Become a Mentor or Mentee this Fall!

Women's Enterprise Centre is looking for women in business to become mentors and mentees as part of their FREE mentoring program for entrepreneurs.

If you're a woman with five years or more experience running a business and would like to give back to your community, become a One-to-One Mentor or facilitate a Peer Mentoring Group and help other women in business succeed.

If you're a woman who is in the first three years of business operation and would like to benefit from a mentoring relationship, then apply today to participate in One-to-One Mentoring or a Peer Mentoring Group.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Premier's Technology Council Releases 13th Report

The Premier's Technology Council (PTC) has released its 13th report. The report focuses on issues of venture capital, on applying clean-energy technology and on the delivery of the government's innovation programming.



***Our Okanagan* Database and Directory Launched**

Our Okanagan is an online tool that connects businesses and individuals to local suppliers of products and services. The project was initiated when Community Futures of the Valley and Okanagan Partnership noticed many organizations were sourcing products and services outside of the Valley that could be sourced locally.

Thanks to funding support from several organizations, searching the *Our Okanagan* database is free for businesses and non-profits for the first year and there are no paid advertisements influencing your search. After the first year, the fee is based on a cost sharing for hosting the portal and the number of organizations registered.

Our Okanagan is an independent steering committee with representation from the Community Futures of the Valley; Okanagan Partnership; the Okanagan Science & Technology Council (OSTEC), Chambers of Commerce and the economic development community. Funding for this initiative is provided by the Rural Economic Diversification Initiative of BC, the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust, Okanagan College, University of British Columbia-Okanagan and the Ministry of Housing and Social Development - Employment and Labour Market Services.

[Add Your Business](#)

Click on this button if you'd like to promote your business in Our Okanagan.



To view the 13th report [click here](#).

More information about the council and copies of its previous reports and recommendations are available on the [Premier's website](#).

Links and Events

July 14

Kelowna Chamber Breakfast with the Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Labour at Manteo Resort. For more information and to book your tickets call Allison at (250) 469-7350 or email: Allison@kelownachamber.org

July 20

Kelowna Chamber Luncheon with Finance Minister Colin Hansen at the Coast Capri Hotel. For more information and to book your tickets call Allison at (250) 469-7350 or email: Allison@kelownachamber.org

July 22

Export USA Webinar Series

Improving your bottom line through better foreign exchange management

July 30

[BBB 2010 Torch Awards](#)
Nomination Deadline
Province-wide

BC Week at Shanghai Expo

Are you planning to expand your business to China?

The Shanghai World Expo will host BC Week from September 3 to 6 at Canada Pavillion in Shanghai, China. There are two opportunities to showcase your business at the world's largest fair in Shanghai and the China International Fair for Investment & Trade (CIFIT) in Xiamen.



[Full details . . .](#)

To learn more about the Canada Pavilion [click here](#).



Small Business Roundtable

The Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development is hosting a Small Business Roundtable Consultation in your community. This is part of the Ministry's commitment to engaging the small business community around the province in a continuous dialogue to identify opportunities and actions to strengthen the small business sector. We are seeking your views on how to enhance and support small business success in your community. This is your opportunity to help make British Columbia Canada's most small business-friendly jurisdiction.

You are invited to participate in the Roundtable Consultation in Kelowna:

Thursday, July 15, 2010
7 am to 9 am - Light breakfast provided
The Cove Lakeside Resort
4205 Gellatly Road, West Kelowna BC

Seating is limited - register early to guarantee attendance.

To attend the Kelowna Small Business Consultation please send an email to RoundtableSecretariat@gov.bc.ca. Indicate in your email the location and date you wish to attend, along with your contact information. A confirmation of your registration will be sent to you along with any other details of the event.

For more information see www.smallbusinessroundtable.ca

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