



District of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BusinessSTART Geared to Help Businesses Thrive

Maple Ridge, BC: On October 22, 2013, the North Fraser economic partners officially launched BusinessSTART www.businessstart.ca a program designed to introduce local entrepreneurs to more than 70 available tools and resources to help small businesses thrive.

“We are extremely proud to launch this program during Small Business Week,” exclaimed Mayor Ernie Daykin. “With BusinessSTART, entrepreneurs have local access to information to help them start or grow their small business.”

Mayor Daykin added “There are 3,000 businesses in Maple Ridge today. Our goal is to double that number in the next decade. Innovative programs like BusinessSTART will help ensure businesses have the tools they need to succeed. With our population forecast to double to 132,000 by 2040 there will be lots of customers for those businesses. Not only will they fill the growing demand for retail and services; they will also create even more high value local jobs for our citizens.”

The District of Maple Ridge in partnership with Small Business BC, the Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Youth Business Foundation, the BC Technology Industry Association and the Downtown Maple Ridge Business Improvement Association are geared up to help small businesses thrive. The BusinessSTART program is great for business owners as it introduces entrepreneurs to a comprehensive toolkit of business resources tailored for their needs.

The announcement was made at the official opening of the North Fraser Business Innovation Centre. The concept was identified as a priority project in the North Fraser BC Jobs Plan pilot. Still in its infancy the centre is already home to the BCIT School of Business Part Time Studies, the BC Technology Industry Association (BCTIA) Centre4Growth, BusinessSTART seminars and Small Business BC webinars; with significant interest from others for programs and services that will further support business and innovation across the North Fraser (Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows & Mission) economic region.

“The BC Government is committed to making BC the most small-business friendly jurisdiction in Canada, and we support programs like BusinessSTART that help small businesses get off the ground and on the path to success,” said Minister of State for Tourism and Small Business, Naomi Yamamoto. “Small businesses are the heart and soul of our communities - they create jobs that support families and local economies throughout the province.”

New and existing businesses are eligible to sign up for free BusinessSTART information seminars. Information provided will include business start up checklists, business licence applications, business registry information, resource brochures and much more.

“We think Maple Ridge is one of the best places in Canada to start a business, and with BusinessSTART, we are demonstrating that we are here to help businesses succeed. Not only are we connecting business owners to the many resources in the area, we are connecting them to wide network of business professionals, which is an invaluable asset,” concluded Mayor Daykin.

To register for a BusinessSTART seminar or for more information, email BusinessSTART@mapleridge.ca or call 604-467-7320 x 1

A founding partner of Invest North Fraser, Maple Ridge is poised for unprecedented growth. With 266 square kilometres of the most affordable land in the region, a trading area population in excess of a million and one billion of new bridge connections to Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley, we're primed and ready for investment. Ranked '#5 Top Investment City and for the 4th consecutive year '#2 Top BC Investment Town' and 'the place to live for lifestyle' by the Real Estate Investment Network (REIN). Affordable, accessible Maple Ridge. Start Here. Go Far!

For information on: www.facebook.com/BusinessStartNorthFraser

Twitter at @investmr

The Invest North Fraser economic partnership of Maple Ridge, Mission & Pitt Meadows visit

www.investnorthfraser.com

The BC Jobs Plan 24 Month update visit www.bcjobsplan.ca

The BC Small Business Accord visit www.bcjobsplan.ca/bc-small-business-accord-survey