

Appendix 1: Self-Employment Tools and Resources

If you want to be self-employed and have an entrepreneurial spirit, creating your own business may be a good choice. You will need to translate your idea into a business plan and will likely need to find grants and loans to get it off the ground.

Thinking about self-employment

- Starting a business is time-consuming and will require market research, business planning and the ability to sell your goods and services.
- Your income can go up and down greatly, and managing your finances could be complicated. Examine your options, from keeping your own accounts to hiring a bookkeeper. You may feel more secure starting your business on a part-time basis while you have a full-time job.
- Connecting with others and exploring through research is usually an important part of building a business.

Grow your business with the following resources:

<i>WorkBC.ca's Business Resources</i>	Get the resources, tools and information you need to support the success of your business, from developing a business plan and getting financing to marketing your product.
<i>Indigenous Small Business Resources guide</i>	Find information on small business start-up and growth support services for Indigenous entrepreneurs.
<i>Business Development Canada</i>	Access loans and grants for small Indigenous businesses. 1 877 232-2269
<i>Indigenous Business Advisory Centres</i>	If you are in the Northeast, the Kootenay region or Prince George, get support for business start-up or expansion, partnerships and planning. 1 800 880-1022
<i>Aboriginal Business and Entrepreneurship Skills Training (BEST)</i>	Nurture your entrepreneurial skills and spirit with free training in business skills and take the steps to start or grow a business. 1 250 352-3878
<i>Aboriginal Business Mentorship Program</i>	Meet experienced mentors who can assist you in developing your business. 1 416 961-8663 Ext. 238
<i>Community Futures British Columbia</i>	Access small business loans, business counselling and specialized programs to help you start or grow a business. 1 888 303-2232
<i>Aboriginal Financial Institutions</i>	Get support through business loans, business grants and business planning assistance for Indigenous-owned businesses. 1 844 827-0327

Business Development Resources

- *Small Business BC*
- *Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business*
- *Canadian Centre for Aboriginal Entrepreneurship*
- *Indigenous Tourism BC*
- *BC Indigenous Economic Development*
- *Indigenous Business and Investment Council*