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Thinking of starting a new small business?

Recently, the Orangeville and Area Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) held a workshop entitled ?Starting a Business' at the Contact North Centre at the Mel Lloyd Centre, Entrance E.

The SBEC provides guidance and support to start-up and existing small business during their initial years of operation. They can help your business to develop, grow and succeed and are a one-stop destination for business information and support. Offering a wide variety of free support services to assist in business decisions including on-site business registration services and free start up consultations with qualified business consultants, to business plan assistance, free consultation through their lawyer and accountant referral service to workshops and seminars.

At this recent session participants learned about what is involved in starting a small business in Ontario. They explained why a business plan is so important, and what is involved in developing a successful business plan. The workshop was geared to answer many start-up questions and provide participants with the tools needed to being working on their own ?road maps? to success.

Upcoming October workshops and seminars that the SBEC have scheduled are; Innovation and Your Business, being held October 2nd, in which they will talk about taking your business to the next level with three industry experts explaining what is involved in introducing innovation into the business and offer information on resources available to help your company achieve its potential.

First Steps in Exporting, a seminar that will provide an overview of the resources available to potential exporters, including key websites, preliminary market research and sample export plans. Practical aspects like paperwork and legal requirements will be explained, and exporter support programs from various levels of government will be described. A handout will be provided with full details and key export programs, being held October 6th.

October 7th you can attend the Workplace Health and Safety Regulations seminar, which will guide you through the compliance with Occupational Health and Safety Act and other relevant legislation and regulations related to health and safety of employees. An important and legal requirement of all small businesses. Legislation introduced in 2014 requires employers to ensure that all workers and supervisors have completed basic occupational health and safety training.

Financing Your Business is a workshop being held October 14th and will help entrepreneurs understand small business financing from a banking perspective and provide information on government programs for business funding.

Finishing off the month the E-Business Toolkit is an information-packed session being held on October 29th and will provide business owners with a broad overview of the many online, e-business techniques available to them. Mary Clarke from the Ministry of Economic Development Employment and Infrastructure will provide an overview of their comprehensive, free E-Business Toolkit available to business owners and demonstrate the wide array of online resources that businesses can take advantage of. Cloud computing, e-commerce, online marketing, customer relationship management (CRM), Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP), blogging, and mobile marketing will all be reviewed. If you want to learn how to make web-based and e-business technologies work for your business, this introductory workshop is for you.

For more information on these seminars, their costs and the locations where they are being held please go to www.orangevillebusiness.ca

By Michelle Janzen