

Program Application Outline

Are you a First Nations member from a regional First Nations community with an awesome business idea? Will your idea benefit your community? Do you need some help developing your business concept?

If so, read on!

The Whistler Centre for Sustainability and the Squamish Lílwat Cultural Centre are teaming up to provide a new and unique program, the Skw̓xwú7mesh Lílwat Stl'at'ímc Business Start-up Program. The program aims to support local First Nations members in developing and launching a new business initiative.

Through the program, entrepreneurs will develop their business concept over four learning sessions, mentorship, and capacity-building support. At the end of the program, a community celebration event will provide a fun and engaging opportunity for all the entrepreneurs to showcase and test their new business ideas and products/services.



CREATING COMMUNITY 'BENEFIT'

By community benefit, we mean outcomes that are good for the environment and/or people. Community benefits could include businesses that:

- Create a stronger culture of Indigenous-based entrepreneurship that can generate greater social, economic, or environmental impact in the region (e.g. Amlec Organic Limited, www.amlec.org)
- Build community confidence and business capacity through meaningful local employment that helps neighbours and communities along the way (604 Movers <https://www.604movers.com>)
- A business that fosters local employment and economic development in your community (e.g. Skwachàys Lodge www.skwachays.com)
- A business that fosters cultural practices (e.g. Creative Journey Studio, www.xwalacktun.ca)

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible in the Skwxwú7mesh Lílwat Stl'at'ímc Business Start-up Program, you must be a local First Nation member (Skwxwú7mesh Lílwat or Stl'at'ímc). We are looking for applicants that are:

- Solo entrepreneurs, non-profit organizations, cooperatives or small businesses
- Just starting to develop a business idea/concept
- Committed to participating in the whole program, from March to November 2018
- Aiming to create a community benefit through the enterprise/business

Up to twelve applicants will be selected. Selected enterprises will be matched with a mentor to help them fully develop their business concept. Program participants should be prepared to commit a minimum of 80 hours (over eight months) to participate in four day and a half cohort-based learning sessions, prepare their business concept (using the [Business Model Canvas](#) framework), meet with mentors, develop a short video and story/pitch, and participate in the final showcase/pitch event.

Thanks to funding support from the Province of British Columbia and other supporters, this program is being offered to you at no cost. Meals, accommodation, and travel will also be covered. Please inquire if you require childcare subsidies.

The Skwxwú7mesh Lílwat Stl'at'ímc Business Start-up Program is modelled after the very successful S2S Corridor [Social Venture Challenge](#).

To apply for this opportunity please complete the following application and submit by e-mail to: djohnson@whistlercentre.ca by 5:00pm February 28th, 2018.

TIMELINES	
Application deadline	February 28th
Successful applicants notified	March 9th
Kick off event	March 28th
Learning Session #1	Week of March 26
Learning Session #2	Week of April 23
Learning Session #3	Week of May 21
Learning Session #4	Week of June 18
Match with mentors	April
Development of business plan and pitch	May to August
Pitch event	Beginning of September
Ongoing individual support	March to November 2018

3. Please describe the stage of your business/enterprise development (e.g. twinkle in your eye, business concept beginning to form, etc.)

4. Please describe your own background and experience in starting and running a business.

5. What would you like to gain out of participating in the Skwxwú7mesh Lílwat Stl'at'ímc Business Start-up program?

6. Describe the opportunities you have identified in your market (why do you think your idea will sell?) and any challenges you face.

7. Feel free to include any other information to help us better understand your business concept.

Please email your completed application form to djohnson@whistlercentre.ca with the subject 'Skwxwú7mesh Lílwat Stl'at'ímc Business Start-up Program Application' in the subject line by 5:00pm February 28th 2018. (You can fill in, scan and email this form, or download it at <http://www.whistlercentre.ca/squamish-lilwat-statimc-business-program>

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