



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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STARTER COMPANY PLUS CONNECTS SEVEN LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS WITH FUNDING

\$26,000 in funding announced to support entrepreneurs as they start and grow their businesses in Peterborough & the Kawarthas

[PETERBOROUGH, ON]: Peterborough & the Kawarthas Business Advisory Centre hosted a celebration and showcase this evening for the grant recipients from the first intake of the new Starter Company Plus program.

Starter Company Plus, a Government of Ontario funded program which launched in March, is open to all entrepreneurs over 18 who are out of school and looking to either start a business or grow an existing venture that has been operating for five years or less. The program guides entrepreneurs through a robust series of workshops to support in the creation of a formalized business plan. After completing the program, entrepreneurs pitch their business ideas to a panel of judges for the opportunity to secure up to \$5000 in funding.

This is the first of three intakes for Starter Company Plus that will take place in 2017. A total of \$26,000 in funding was announced for the seven most successful business pitches. The following entrepreneurs were grant recipients:

Entrepreneur	Business Name	Description
Kelli Coon	Ship Shape Service	A unique, dockside interior boat cleaning service located on the Trent-Severn Waterway.
Brian Fawcett	Fawcett Architectural	Architectural design services, specializing in all types of Residential and Small Commercial architecture.
Nancy Nickle	Birchview Design	Interior design firm offering Residential, Commercial and Cottage design services.
Erin Watson & Anna Eidt	Watson & Lou	Shared studio space and contemporary handmade boutique in the heart of downtown Peterborough
Paula Blackburn & Anthony Andrews	Q & G Unique Wood Designs	Custom wood furniture and décor pieces tailored to the clients' needs.
Roxanne McDonald-Brown	Renew Medi Spa	Medical spa located in Peterborough's East City offering microdermabrasion, chemical peels and laser hair removal.
MJ Weightman	Then and Now Goods	Online shop curating hundreds of vintage, retro and hard-to-find sports clothing items.

"We are proud to showcase the first round of enterprising business owners from the new Starter Company Plus program and look forward to continuing to celebrate the success of these entrepreneurs as they start and grow their businesses right here in Peterborough & the Kawarthas." said Suzanne McCrimmon, Director of Business Development with Peterborough & the Kawarthas Economic Development. "We are also looking forward to supporting many more entrepreneurs on their path to success with the support of the Starter Company Plus program in 2017 & 2018."

"I want to congratulate the seven businesses who have been successful in receiving grants through the new Starter Company Plus program." said Peterborough MPP, and Minister Responsible for Small Business, The Hon. Jeff Leal. "By developing business skills, these individuals will grow into intelligent successful business men and women that will sustain our economy for many years to come. This program raises awareness of entrepreneurship as a viable career option, helps individuals develop entrepreneurial skills, such as creativity, innovation, self-confidence, planning and risk taking. I wish you continued success into the future."

The second intake for Starter Company Plus is now open, with an application deadline of June 30th. Those interested in applying are encouraged to attend a "Starting Point" workshop taking place every Monday afternoon (2:30pm – 4pm) in June at the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce's Board Room, located at 175 George Street North in Peterborough.

For full details on the Starter Company Plus program, including program description, eligibility requirements, terms and conditions for the program, please visit: peterboroughed.ca/starter-company-plus.

The mission of Peterborough & the Kawarthas Economic Development is to lead Peterborough's economic growth by attracting the talent, innovation and investments that create desirable jobs and an irresistible place to live and visit.

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