

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

\$5000 Grant Plus Support for Small Businesses

Sarnia, ON [April 24, 2024] – The Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership and Business Enterprise Centre of Sarnia-Lambton are pleased to announce the upcoming intake for applications to the Starter Company Plus Program. The program offers up to \$5,000 in grant funding for eligible businesses, as well as one-on-one business advisory support to help entrepreneurs take their business to the next level.

Entrepreneurs and business owners in Sarnia-Lambton have the opportunity to access grant funding, coaching, and peer support from other small business owners through the Starter Company Plus program. Whether it's a new business idea or an existing business looking to grow, this year's program is designed to help entrepreneurs learn, navigate business challenges, and achieve their goals.

“Running a successful business is both rewarding and demanding - the Starter Company Plus program recognizes this by providing valuable financial support and programming to help entrepreneurs succeed,” said Alison Minato, Manager of the Business Enterprise Centre. “Our team looks forward to working closely with this year's group of existing and prospective small business owners to help them navigate their business journey and contribute to a stronger local economy.”

In total 10 grants are available through the program and will provide successful applicants with capital to grow or buy an existing business or start a new one.

“We are proud to offer this opportunity in the Sarnia-Lambton area as we strive to make the region an excellent place to live, work, and invest,” said Matthew Slotwinski, Interim CEO of the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership. “Small business represents the heart of every community, and the Starter Company Plus program has directly contributed to the growth and development of small businesses across Sarnia-Lambton for many years. The program this year will surely do the same”.

The program is open to those who want to start a new company, expand an existing company or buy a business in Ontario, and applications will be accepted starting May 1, 2024, through June 1, 2024. It is a competitive process so interested applicants are encouraged to get started early and learn more at www.sarnialambton.on.ca/starter-company, or by reaching out to the Business Enterprise Centre of Sarnia-Lambton.

The Starter Company Plus program is delivered by the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership through the Small Business Enterprise Centre of Sarnia-Lambton in partnership with the Province of Ontario, aimed at fostering economic development and job creation in Sarnia-Lambton.

About Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership:

The Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership (SLEP) is the lead economic development agency for the Sarnia-Lambton area. Funded by the County of Lambton, we have a focus on promoting the distinct advantages that Sarnia-Lambton proudly offers companies and residents. By coordinating community-

based economic development initiatives and maintaining a commercially attractive environment, we foster new business creation, help ensure that established firms remain and grow here, and work to attract growing businesses to the Sarnia-Lambton area. Visit sarnialambton.on.ca to learn more.

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