



ENTERPRISE RENFREW COUNTY
ENTREPRISE COMTÉ DE RENFREW

From Summer Success to Autumn Momentum!

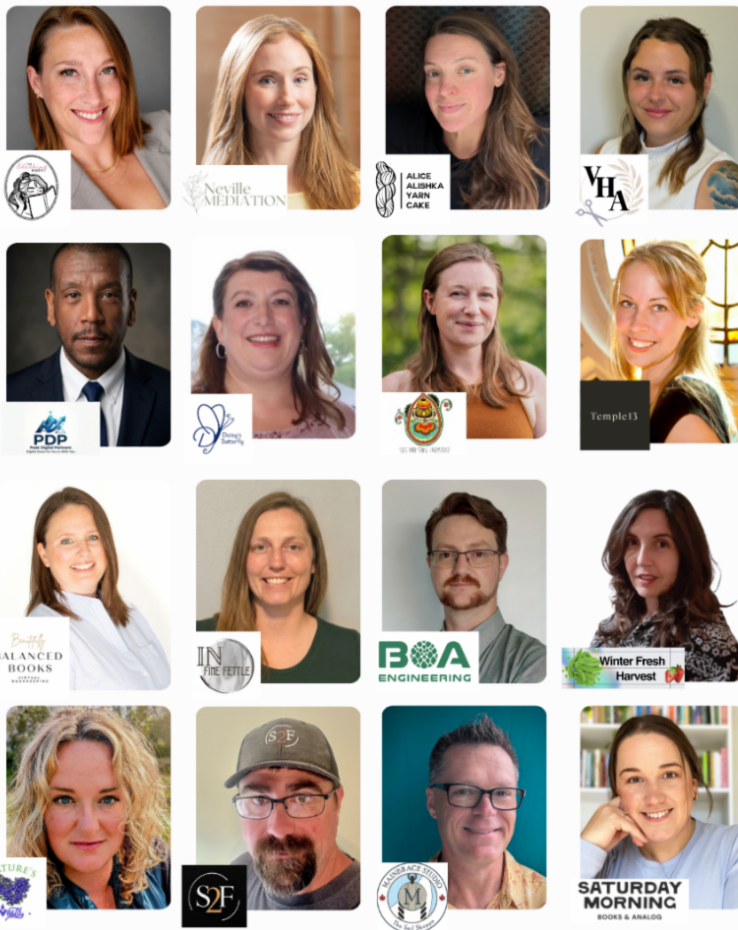
What a summer it has been for entrepreneurship in Renfrew County!

As we turn the page into September, we're celebrating an incredible season filled with new ideas, growing businesses, exciting milestones, and inspiring local entrepreneurs. Through our Starter Company Plus and Summer Company programs, we've had the opportunity to work alongside entrepreneurs at all stages—helping them turn ideas into action, strengthen their skills, and take meaningful steps toward building successful businesses.

And we're not slowing down! As we head into fall, there are plenty of exciting opportunities ahead. Whether you're exploring a new business idea, ready to grow your existing business, interested in networking with peers while learning, or looking for resources and support, Enterprise Renfrew County is here to help you take that next step.

Keep reading to see what we've been up to, celebrate some of our local entrepreneurs, and discover what's coming next!

Celebrating Our Starter Company Plus Graduates!



STARTER COMPANY 2026 PLUS



Generously Sponsored by:



This program is delivered locally by
Enterprise Renfrew County and funded in
partnership with the Government of Ontario.



Proudly Recognizing Our 2026 Starter Company Entrepreneurs!

Enterprise Renfrew County is pleased to announce Starter Company Plus training has now concluded for 2026. This transformative business development program sponsored by [Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation](#), guides small business owners through creating a full business plan and two years of cash flow projections with opportunity to compete through a business pitch for grant awards.

To complete this program takes dedication, motivation, and perseverance! These 16 stand-out businesses (left to right in rows) were awarded grant awards totaling \$80,000 in 2026:

- Valerie Proulx of [The Blushing Reader](#) (Town of Petawawa)
- Marina Neville of [Neville Mediation](#) (City of Pembroke)
- Alice Banks of [Alice Alishka Yarn Cake](#) (Town of McNab/Braeside)
- Riley Thatcher of [Valley Hair Artistry](#) (City of Pembroke)
- Matthew Chalifoux of [Peak Digital Partners](#) (City of Pembroke)
- Carolyn Mathews of [Daisy's Butterfly](#) (Town of Deep River)
- Blakeney Malo of [Seed and Stone Farmstead](#) (Township of Madawaska Valley)
- Tina Thompson of [Temple 13](#) (Town of Arnprior)
- Stephanie Williamson of [Beautifully Balanced Books](#) (City of Pembroke)
- Jolene Kellsey of [In Fine Fettle](#) (Town of Petawawa)
- Oliver Richards of [Boa Engineering Inc.](#) (Township of McNab/Braeside)
- Rebecca Paulson of [Winter Fresh Harvest](#) (City of Pembroke)
- Melissa Jardine Ridley of [Nature's Vesta Holistic Nursing](#) (Township of Whitewater Region)
- Dereck Wilson of [Start 2 Finishes Construction](#) (Township of McNab/Braeside)
- David Meek of [Mainbrace Studio](#) (Town of Arnprior)

- Salina Vanderhorn of [Saturday Morning Books & Analog](#) (Town of Deep River)

Congratulations to all grant award recipients!

The Starter Company Plus program is delivered locally by Enterprise Renfrew County and funded in partnership with the Government of Ontario.

Continuing Our Commitment to Entrepreneurs

Whether you're starting a business, growing an existing one, or exploring a new opportunity, Enterprise Renfrew County is here to help. Our experienced Business Consultants provide confidential business coaching and guidance to support entrepreneurs at every stage of their journey.

From business planning and market research to strategy development and problem-solving, we work alongside local business owners to help them achieve their goals and build successful, sustainable businesses.



[Connect with our team](#) today to learn how we can support your business success.

Upcoming Webinars & Events...

SUCCESSION ONTARIO

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOUR BUSINESS?

Whether you're planning to sell, transfer, or wind down your business, Succession Ontario Advisers provide the knowledge, resources and support network you need to take the next step with confidence. Start planning today...

SEPTEMBER 29
10:00 TO 11:00AM

To Register Visit:
www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com/workshops-events

This webinar is delivered locally by Enterprise Renfrew County and funded in partnership with the Government of Ontario.

Sarah Grobell
Succession Ontario
Project Coordinator

September is wrapping up, but we have one more webinar you won't want to miss before we kick off Small Business Month!

Don't miss this final learning opportunity of the month. Be sure to register and save your spot!

[Register now](#)

For more information and to register for a webinar or event, visit:

<https://www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com/workshops-events>

Get Ready, Small Business Month is Coming!

Bridges to Business Empowerment guides business owners to adapt to economic uncertainty, rising costs, workforce challenges, and rapid technological change with resilience, creativity, community support, and optimism. It positions networking and knowledge-sharing as critical tools for building stronger businesses and thriving communities. Sessions focus on

future-ready strategies that help entrepreneurs navigate challenges while building businesses that are sustainable, agile, and purpose-driven. With four events occurring across the region over the month of October and multiple expert keynote speakers, entrepreneurs are sure to find the networking and learning opportunities valuable!

All events run 8:30 am to 12:00 pm and include breakfast (\$30+HST).

Seats are Limited! Register Now by Visiting:

[Workshops & Events](#) | [Enterprise Renfrew County](#)

Hosted by Enterprise Renfrew County in partnership with Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation, which is funded by the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario). Sponsored by Perri-Rae Boell & Associates Inc., Northern Credit Union, the Town of Petawawa, City of Pembroke, Townships of Laurentian Valley, Whitewater Region, Horton, and Madawaska Valley. These events are delivered locally by Enterprise Renfrew County and funded in partnership with the Government of Ontario.



BRIDGES TO BUSINESS EMPOWERMENT

OCTOBER 6

8:30AM to 12:00PM
Le Belge Euro Bistro
Barry's Bay
Catering by: Le Belge Bistro

Hiring for Success: Proven Strategies to Recruit, Onboard & Retain Great Employees

with **Kris Dawson**,
People & Culture Strategist

\$30+HST to register

To Register Visit: www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com/workshops-events

This event is delivered locally by Enterprise Renfrew County and funded in partnership with the Government of Ontario. Presented in Partnership with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario).

co-operators NORTHERN CREDIT UNION Petawawa Ontario Canada

October 6:
Location Le Belge Euro
Bistro in Barry's Bay,
Catering by Le Belge
Hiring for Success: Proven
Strategies to Recruit,
Onboard, & Retain Great
Employees presented by Kris
Dawson, People & Culture
Strategist



BRIDGES TO BUSINESS EMPOWERMENT

OCTOBER 13

8:30AM to 12:00PM
Pembroke Fire Department
Catering by: The Kitchen Eatery

AI for Main Street Retailers: Practical Ways to Increase Sales, Save Time, and Improve Customer Service

with **Andrew Patricio**
of BizLaunch

\$30+HST to register

To Register Visit: www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com/workshops-events

This event is delivered locally by Enterprise Renfrew County and funded in partnership with the Government of Ontario. Presented in Partnership with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario).

Pembroke PETAWAWA Laurentian Green with us Ontario Canada

October 13:
Location Pembroke Fire
Department in
Pembroke, Catering by
The Kitchen Eatery
AI for Main Street Retailers:
Practical Ways to Increase
Sales, Save Time, and Improve
Customer Service presented
by Andrew Patricio of
BizLaunch



**BRIDGES
TO BUSINESS
EMPOWERMENT**

OCTOBER 20

Hacking the Human: How Cybercriminals Trick Small Businesses
with **Travis Czech**
of **Solis Indago**

Community Marketing & Brand Building
with **Matthew O'Leary**
of **Remind Media**

8:30AM to 12:00PM
Horton
Community Centre
Catering by:
Horton Township
Breakfast Volunteers

\$30+HST to register

To Register Visit: www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com/workshops-events
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Presented in Partnership with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario)








**BRIDGES
TO BUSINESS
EMPOWERMENT**

OCTOBER 27

The Operational Edge: Systematizing Your Business for Growth and Consistency
with **Dez Bair-Patel**
of **Integrated Health**

Better Together: Building Strategic Partnerships Through Co-Marketing
with **Erin Norris**
of **OVTA**

8:30AM to 12:00PM
Ottawa River Barn
Whitewater Region
Catering by: Ottawa River Barn

\$30+HST to register

To Register Visit: www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com/workshops-events
This event is delivered locally by Enterprise Renfrew County and funded in partnership with the Government of Ontario.
Presented in Partnership with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario)







October 20:

**Location Horton
Community Centre in
Horton Township,
Catering by the Horton
Township Volunteers**

**Session 1: Hacking the
Human: How Cybercriminals
Trick Small Businesses
presented by Travis Lothar
Czech of Solis Indago**

**Session 2: Community
Marketing & Brand Building
presented by Mathew O'Leary
of Remind Media**

October 27:

**Location Ottawa River
Barn in Whitewater
Region, Catering by
Ottawa River Barn**

**Session 1: The Operational
Edge: Systematizing Your
Business for Growth and
Consistency presented by Dez
Bair-Patel of Integrated Health**

**Session 2: Better Together:
Building Strategic
Partnerships Through Co-
Marketing presented by Erin
Norris of Ottawa Valley Tourist
Association (OVTA)**

Good Things Are Growing: Exciting Updates From Our Partners



**Renfrew County
CFDC | SADC**
du comté de Renfrew

Celebrating 40 Years • Célébrant 40 ans



**Need financing to grow your
business, expand into new
markets, or bring parts of
your supply chain back
home? Discover how
CANtrade™ can help!**

CANtrade™ was built to help small businesses in Renfrew County take the next step, whether that means reaching new customers, increasing production, or investing in smart upgrades. CANtrade™ loans will be available to qualifying ventures as part of the Community Futures Program in Renfrew County through **January 31, 2027**, or until all funds are deployed. The program is designed to support businesses investing in future growth and adaptability. [Connect with RCCFDC to learn more!](#)



Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation

Find Your Next Career or Business Opportunity!

Everyone is welcome! Whether you're looking for your first job, a new career, or inspiration to start or grow your business, this event is for you.

Join us at the **Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation AOPFN Career & Entrepreneurship Fair 2026** and connect with employers, businesses, entrepreneurs, and community partners—all in one place!

Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: Makwa Community Centre

83A Kagagimin Inamo, Pikwakanagan, ON K0J 1X0

Vendor Registration is NOW OPEN!

Interested in showcasing your organization or business?

Registration Deadline: Friday, September 4, 2026

Register by emailing hr@pikwakanagan.ca

Booth Fee: \$140.00 (6' x 8' booth)



Your favourite local vendor
show is ready to greet you!

From local food and farm-fresh products to handmade goods, artisans and amazing community spirit, **Taste of the Valley** brings the best of Renfrew

County together.

Get a taste of what's coming, and make plans to join us at a Taste of the Valley market this season.

Rain or shine, there's always something local to discover.

#TasteOfTheValley #RenfrewCounty #SupportLocal #ShopLocal
#BuyLocal #LocalFood #FarmersMarket #OttawaValley



Explore the Ottawa Valley This Fall with the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association

Are you looking for ways to make the most of autumn in the Ottawa Valley? The [Ottawa Valley Tourist Association](#) is your go-to source for festivals, markets, concerts, outdoor adventures, and [community events](#) happening throughout the region. Whether you're planning a weekend getaway or looking for something fun close to home, be sure to check out their summer events calendar and discover all that the Ottawa Valley has to offer.

If you own or operate a tourism-related business and are interested in increasing your visibility while connecting with others in the industry, consider [becoming a member](#) of the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association. Membership offers valuable opportunities to promote your business and be part of a strong network dedicated to showcasing the region.



UPPER OTTAWA VALLEY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

[Business Excellence Awards Gala](#)



Join the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce at the annual Business Excellence Awards Gala, set to take place on September 26th at the Normandy Officers' Mess, Garrison Petawawa. This prestigious event will celebrate the exceptional accomplishments of businesses and individuals who have demonstrated outstanding performance, innovation, and leadership in our community.

To Sponsor, nominate a business, or purchase tickets visit: [UOVCC Business Excellence Awards Gala](#)



Grow Your Network with the Renfrew & Area Chamber of Commerce's Monthly After-Hours & Educational Events

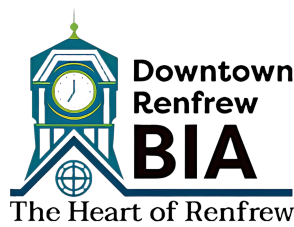
Who's Ready to Get Social?!

Connect and network with local business owners and community leaders from across Renfrew and the surrounding area while enjoying light refreshments at Boston Pizza.

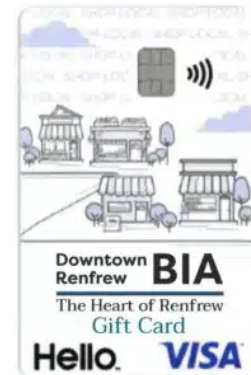
Who's Ready to Grow?

Join Renfrew & Area Chamber with Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation to lunch & learn for The Growth Blueprint! To register visit: [The Growth Blueprint - Lunch and Learn - Renfrew & Area Chamber of Commerce](#)

These are great opportunities to build new relationships, share ideas, and grow your network in a relaxed and welcoming atmospheres.



The **Downtown Renfrew BIA Reloadable Gift Card** is the perfect way to shop, dine, and support local all year long. Accepted at **over 60 participating downtown businesses**, this convenient gift card can be used at a wide variety of shops, restaurants, services, and specialty stores throughout Downtown Renfrew. Even better, the card is **reloadable**, making it easy to continue giving or using again and again.



Whether for birthdays, holidays, employee appreciation, thank-you gifts, or special occasions, the Downtown Renfrew Gift Card is a great gift idea that keeps spending local and supports our vibrant downtown business community. **Give the gift of choice while helping support local businesses!** Gift Cards are available at the Downtown Renfrew BIA Office located in Renfrew Town Hall 127 Raglan Street Renfrew, On. or **ONLINE**



Helping Businesses, Job Seekers and the Community Understand the Labour Market.

At the **Centre for Workforce Development (CFWD)**, we understand the daily struggles that our local employers face in retaining and growing their workforce. We work in partnership with local Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development and community organizations to develop solutions to their workforce issues.

CFWD collaborates with community partners on projects, events and initiatives. From workshops for businesses to career events for students and the public, CFWD leads, participates or supports in a variety of actions to help address local labour market issues and workforce development. To learn about upcoming events and services: **Join CFWD Monthly Newsletter**



RSIFEO

RÉSEAU DE SOUTIEN
À L'IMMIGRATION FRANCOPHONE
DE L'EST DE L'ONTARIO

Eastern Ontario Shines at the 2026 Municipal Fair

On **August 19, 2026**, the **Rogers Centre in Ottawa** welcomed **1,037 participants** to the **2026 Municipal Fair**, organized by **RSIFEO** and its partners under the theme *"My Favourite Destination in Ontario."*

Participants connected with municipal representatives and community partners to explore employment opportunities, settlement services, economic development initiatives, and the many advantages of living and working in Eastern Ontario. This successful event highlighted the strength of collaboration among municipalities, employers, organizations, and institutions working together to support the vitality of Francophone communities and newcomer talent integration.

Acknowledgements This initiative was made possible through the financial support of **IRCC** and the valued support of **Desjardins**, **CSDCEO**, and **Équipe M ~ Leadership M. Relive the Day**

📸 View the event photos: <https://lnkd.in/gdBVwJAd>

Photo credit: Berwin Sydney

Learn more about RSIFEO services through the website: 🔗 [RSIFEO – À propos du Réseau](#)

Subscribe to RSIFEO newsletter through the webpage or directly here: 🔗 [RSIFEO Newsletter Subscription](#)

Grants, Funding Programs, and Business Growth Opportunities

Business Benefits Finder

Looking for funding or support for your business? The Business Benefits Finder is a free online tool that helps Canadian businesses identify government grants, loans, tax credits, wage subsidies, and other programs they may be eligible for.

Available funding opportunities from the Ontario Government

Find out what funding is currently available from the Government of Ontario, if you're eligible and what you need to apply.

FedDev Funding to Help Businesses Grow

Interest-free funding to help established Southern Ontario businesses expand, invest in new equipment and technology, boost productivity, and create jobs. | Applications are open.

Retail Modernization Project Grant

Up to \$5,000 in funding is available to help Ontario-based retail businesses invest in technology that increases sales, streamlines operations, and improves customer experiences. | Applications are open.

SaveON Energy Efficiency Grants

Help your business save money and improve efficiency with support and funding for energy-saving equipment upgrades that reduce electricity consumption, lower operating costs, and support long-term sustainability. | Applications are open

Ontario Together Trade Fund

Financial assistance for small and medium-sized businesses affected by U.S. tariffs and trade-related challenges. | Applications are open.

We recognize that the land on which Enterprise Renfrew County is situated is the traditional, unceded, and unsundered territory of the Omàmiwinini (Algonquin) People. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples on the land on which we gather. We express our gratitude to have the opportunity to be present in this territory here today to learn, thrive, and grow together.

We are called to treat this land, its waterways, plants, animals, stories and Peoples with honour and respect. We are committed to reconciliation and incorporate the Seven Grandfather Teachings of love, respect, bravery, truth, honesty, humility and wisdom into our daily lives.



ENTERPRISE RENFREW COUNTY
ENTREPRISE COMTÉ DE RENFREW

Starting or Growing a Business in Renfrew County?

Enterprise Renfrew County (ERC) is here to support you! Whether you're a new or existing entrepreneur, we offer free, confidential business coaching, monthly webinars, and training programs to help you succeed. Network, learn, and grow with us!

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