



ENTERPRISE RENFREW COUNTY
ENTREPRISE COMTÉ DE RENFREW

Celebrating Business!

As we turn the page on 2025, we're taking a moment to celebrate a year full of growth, collaboration, and dynamic entrepreneurship. From helping local business owners launch and grow through our Starter Company Plus and Summer Company programs to hosting four successful Small Business Month events with the support of our amazing partners and sponsors, it's been a year to be proud of. In this edition, you'll find program highlights, helpful tips for entrepreneurs, and a look ahead at what's coming up next—we're excited to have you along for the journey!

Small Business Spotlights



STARTER COMPANY 2025 PLUS



Renfrew County
CFDC | SADC
du comté de Renfrew



Ontario 



Celebrating Our 2025 Fall Starter Company Plus Grant Recipients!

Enterprise Renfrew County, in partnership with program sponsor Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation, is proud to welcome these outstanding businesses to the Starter Company Plus alumni network. Through this program, a total of \$30,000 in grant funding was awarded to support the growth and success of these dedicated local entrepreneurs. We congratulate each recipient on this achievement and look forward to seeing their businesses continue to thrive and contribute to our regional economy.

- Steve Benoit of Benoit Anishinaabe Ventures (Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation)
- Laura Galenkamp of Lulo Gardens Inc. (Township of Bonnechere Valley)
- Tania Leclerc of Lost Loon Groundskeeping (Township of Admaston Bromley)
- Sydney Montgomery of Flock'n Fleet Repair Inc. (Township of Whitewater Region)
- Matthew O'Leary of Remind Media Inc. (Township of Laurentian Valley)
- Kelsea Shore of Wool Witch Tattoo (Township of Horton)

The Starter Company Plus program provides entrepreneurs with mentoring and training over three months supporting business plan and cash flow projection development. At the end of the program there is an opportunity for participants to compete, by pitching their business plan, for a grant of up to \$5,000 to be applied to their business operations.

Please support these businesses and shop local!



Summer Company 2025



ENTERPRISE RENFREW COUNTY
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Generously sponsored by:
TOWNSHIP OF McNab/Braeside
Where nature awaits.



Ontario



Nella Rosendic
Nellart Commissions



Paige Hodgson
Paiges Projex



Noah Obrien
Wisdom By Words



Emmanuel Young
Manny's Mowing



Minnah Rehan
NoorHenna



Jazmin Clark
Sprout Wings



Hunter Prince
Moose 3D Designs

Proudly Recognizing Our Summer Company 2025 Entrepreneurs!

Over the summer months, seven driven students stepped up to turn their entrepreneurial ideas into working businesses, marking a very successful Summer Company season. The Summer Company Program running from June through September, wrapped up with outstanding success! We're thrilled to celebrate these emerging entrepreneurs for their creativity, dedication, and the bright futures they're building for themselves.

Congratulations to:

- Paige Hodgson of **Paiges Projex** (Town of Arnprior)
- Noah Obrien of **Wisdom By Words** (Township of Madawaska Valley)

- Minnah Rehan of **NoorHenna** (Town of Arnprior)
- Hunter Prince of **Moose 3D Designs** (Township of Horton)
- Jazmin Clark of **Sprout Wings** (City of Pembroke)
- Emmanuel Young of **Manny's Mowing** (Town of Arnprior)
- Nella Rosendic of **Nellart Commissions** (Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards)

Ready to launch your business this summer? The 2026 intake is now open!

Small Business Month 2025 - Thank you to Our Partners and Sponsors !

Bridges to Business Growth: Linking Passion, Purpose, & Profit brought together small business owners and expert speakers at four events across the region. Connections were made, ideas were shared, and we hope all attendees left feeling nourished and inspired!

A special thank-you to our partners – Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation, and our municipal sponsors including City of Pembroke, Town of Petawawa, Township of Laurentian Valley, Whitewater Region, Madawaska Valley, Township of McNab/ Braeside. Delivered in partnership with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) and the Government of Ontario Your support makes it possible for us to provide valuable resources, networking events, and skill-building opportunities for our entrepreneurs across Renfrew County.



Township of Whitewater
Region



Township of McNab/Braeside



Township of Madawaska
Valley



Township of Laurentian Valley

Program Intake Dates

Starter Company Plus 2026 Intake Coming Soon!

We are excited to launch another session of our signature intensive business development training program and grant pitch competition!

Starter Company Plus Enhancements:

Starter Company Plus will offer a **single 2026 intake for spring/summer**, extending the program training length by several weeks, and enhancing participant learning by taking a deeper dive into key topics such as marketing and finance. We are excited to implement these changes in 2026!

For program guidelines, eligibility requirements, and to register for an info session scheduled for April 7th (11am - 12pm) & April 9th (1-2pm) Visit: [Starter Company Plus](#)



Summer Company 2026 Intake Open January 15th

Do you know a student aged 15 to 29 returning to school in September 2026? Do they dream of being their own boss? If so, the Summer Company program could be the perfect opportunity!

This program offers valuable business training, mentorship, and a \$1,500 grant to help cover startup costs. Successfully complete the program and students could receive an additional award of up to \$1,500!

Visit [Summer Company](#) to read program guidelines, check eligibility, and book an intake call with the Program Coordinator. **Don't miss the May 15th deadline to apply!**

Sponsorship Opportunities!

Ready to support regional entrepreneurs by becoming a Champion, Premier, or Community Sponsor? Would you like to bring a small business month event to your municipality in 2026?

Sponsorship maximizes municipal and partner organization visibility on social media, email lists, radio, print, and web. Sponsorship highlights your commitment to small business growth by supporting networking and learning events across the Renfrew County region not only for small business month but throughout the year based on level of sponsorship!

To view recent sponsors
and access the information package for 2026-2027 Visit:
[Enterprise Renfrew County/About-Sponsorship](#)

Upcoming Webinars & Events...



HST REMITTANCE FOR BUSINESS

Free webinar
February 11
10:00am to 11:30am

Register:
www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com/workshops-events

Andrew Seguin
Founder of Seguin Financial

Logos: Renfrew, Petawawa, Laurentian, Pembroke, Ontario



FREE TAX GUIDANCE FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

Canada
Canada Revenue Agency

CRA CORPORATE TAX PREPARATION WEBINAR

FEBRUARY 19, 2026
10:00AM - 12:00PM

PREPARE TO FILE YOUR 2026 CORPORATE TAXES WHILE ENSURING REGULATORY COMPLIANCE!

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

Logos: Renfrew, Pembroke, Petawawa, Laurentian, Ontario



DÉJEUNER DE RÉSEAUTAGE DES ENTREPRISES FRANCOPHONES

FRANCOPHONE BUSINESS NETWORKING BREAKFAST

le 10 mars de 8h30 à 12h00 + March 10 - 8:30 am to 12 pm
Centre culturel Francophone de Pembroke, 303 rue James, Pembroke, ON

Logos: Canada, FGA, Ontario

For more information and to register for a webinar or event, visit:
<https://www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com/workshops-events>



Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation

 **Francophone Business Networking Breakfast – March 10, 2026**
Join Renfrew County's Francophone business community for a dynamic morning of networking, practical workshops, and the presentation of the Francophone Entrepreneur Award.

 **Tuesday, March 10, 2026**
 **Centre culturel francophone de Pembroke**

What to expect:

- **Bernard Charlebois (Boum Strategies) – Understanding marketing in a changing environment**
- **FGA – Financing solutions to accelerate your business growth**
- Meaningful networking and a celebration of Francophone entrepreneurship

 **Reserve your spot:** <https://bit.ly/3KGIHt6>

Please note: workshops will be delivered in French.

 **Petit-déjeuner réseautage des entreprises francophones – 10 mars 2026**

Joignez-vous à la communauté d'affaires francophone du comté de Renfrew pour une matinée de réseautage, d'ateliers pratiques et de célébration du Prix de l'entrepreneur-e francophone.

 **Mardi 10 mars 2026**
 **Centre culturel francophone de Pembroke**

Au programme :

- Bernard Charlebois (Boum Strategies) – Redécouvrir le marketing qui fonctionne
- FGA – Solutions de financement pour accélérer la croissance de votre entreprise
- Réseautage et célébration de l'entrepreneuriat francophone

👉 Réservez votre place : <https://bit.ly/3KGIHt6>

Le marketing par courriel comme moteur de croissance pour les PME

Jeudi 19 février, 10 h à 11 h

Trop de PME misent presque exclusivement sur les réseaux sociaux sans contrôler la relation avec leur clientèle. Ce webinaire gratuit vous montrera comment le marketing par courriel peut devenir un canal direct, durable et mesurable pour soutenir la croissance, la fidélisation et les ventes. Webinaire gratuit, **présenté en français** Animé par Geoffrey Blanc, directeur général de Cyberimpact.

👉 Réservez votre place : <https://bit.ly/4brveLR>



Qui sera notre prochaine entreprise francophone inspirante?

Proposez une entreprise francophone qui vous inspire pour le Prix 2026 !
Et notez la date : **mardi 10 mars 2026** pour notre **Petit-déjeuner réseautage des entreprises francophones** au Centre culturel Francophone de Pembroke

Faites briller une entreprise – proposez-la dès aujourd'hui ! **proposez-la**

Who will be our next inspiring Francophone business?

Nominate a francophone business that inspires you for the 2026 Award!
And save the date: **Tuesday, March 10, 2026** for our **Francophone Business Networking Breakfast** at the Centre Culturel francophone de Pembroke.
Shine a spotlight on a business – nominate today! **Nominate**



Exciting updates from our partners...



Ottawa Valley Tourist Association

Calling all tourism, hospitality, retail & culinary businesses in the Ottawa Valley!

Did you know you can join the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) for *free*? Membership is open to businesses within Renfrew County, the City of Pembroke and Indigenous-owned businesses within the Ottawa Valley, and comes with some great perks—like exclusive advertising rates, free promotion through a listing on OttawaValley.travel, and regular industry updates to keep you in the loop. If you're looking for more visibility, connections, and support for your business, OVTA membership is an easy win. [Click here](#) to get started!



UPPER OTTAWA VALLEY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce

Don't wait- Become a member of the Chamber today!

Our professional support services are just a call or click away, giving you direct access to trusted experts in legal, accounting, human resources, marketing, and other critical areas of business. Through our member portal, you'll find quality resources and timely advice tailored to your needs. Whether you're looking for local expertise or global insights, the Chamber's professional network is here to help you strengthen your business and grow your success. If you are interested in becoming a member, click [here](#) to learn more.



Renfrew & Area Chamber of Commerce

Call for Directors: Join Our Board of Directors!

The Renfrew & Area Chamber of Commerce is looking for passionate, community-minded leaders to fill vacancies on our Board of Directors. This is your opportunity to help guide the voice of business, strengthen our local economy, and make a meaningful impact right here at home. Are you passionate about supporting local business and shaping the future of our community? Join the Renfrew & Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and help guide the voice of business in our region. This is your opportunity to make a meaningful impact, build connections, and contribute to a stronger local economy

How to Apply:

This opportunity is open to all current Renfrew & Area Chamber of Commerce members. To apply, contact the Chamber office at **613-432-4848 ext. 181** or email info@renfrewareachamber.ca. The deadline for applications is **February 13, 2026**.



JOIN OUR CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Help us lead the way to a better future and shape the future success of our business community and the way we do business. Make a real impact in your community! The Renfrew & Area Chamber of Commerce stands as "The Voice of Business" - working together to drive positive change for our local economy and beyond.

We need you to fill our vacancies.

Interested Renfrew & Area Chamber of Commerce Members can contact the Chamber office at 613-432-4848 ext. 181 or email info@renfrewareachamber.ca on or before February 13, 2026.

Workplace Safety & Prevention Services

Make Your Service Workplace Safer – At No Cost to You. Register for Free WSPS eCourses!

From December 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026, WSPS is offering select health and safety eCourses completely free to Ontario employers, supervisors, and workers in the service sector.

Whether you're looking to meet OHS requirements, refresh your team's knowledge, or upskill before the busy season, now's the perfect time to take advantage of this limited-time offer.

Why enroll in WSPS eCourses?

- No cost – expert-developed training, free until March 31, 2026.
- Flexible, mobile-friendly online learning.
- Technical support and reminders included.
- Help your team stay safe, informed, and compliant without impacting your budget.

Topics include:

- WHMIS
- Violence & Harassment Prevention
- Supervisor Responsibilities & Due Diligence
- Musculoskeletal Disorder (MSD) Prevention Awareness
- And much more

To Register for eCourses click [here](#).



PARO Centre- Women's Enterprise

You have a big dream for your business, and we're here to help make it happen!

We're thrilled to announce our role as the Title Sponsor of the upcoming Self-Made Breakfast Tour, the first national event series empowering women entrepreneurs with expert insights, funding opportunities, and social capital – all in a show-stopping experience.

Upcoming Tour Dates

- Calgary – November 24, 2025
- Ottawa – February 26, 2026
- Vancouver – March 31, 2026

Trust us, this is an opportunity you will not want to miss!

It's your chance to connect, learn, and be part of a movement that's making real change. And the best part? You could receive a sponsored ticket! Join our waitlist for your chance to be part of an unforgettable experience. [Sign up](#) to join the waitlist



With gratitude...

We are deeply grateful to our valued partners for their commitment to supporting economic growth throughout Renfrew County. Your collaboration helps create lasting impact and a stronger, more prosperous community. Thank you for your continued support. As we head into the new year, we're excited to unveil what 2026 has in store—stay tuned for exciting updates ahead!

We recognize that the land on which Enterprise Renfrew County is situated is the traditional, unceded, and unsurrendered territory of the Omàmiwininì (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
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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!

Melissa Marquardt

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Renfrew, ON K7V1P8

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