

YES' YOUTH BUSINESS CENTRE

Youth Business Centre responds to the needs of youth with an abundance of enthusiasm and entrepreneurial spirit but no financial resources or business skills. Starting your own business can be difficult at any age. For young people it can seem impossible. They often lack the financial resources, experience and contacts necessary to launch a new business idea. YES' Youth Business Centre is a full service centre providing youth, ages 15- 30, with individualized business skills training, mentorship opportunities, links to start-up lending sources and an open concept incubator. (office space with shared access to equipment).

For the 2012-2013 YES will target priority communities and underserved young people across the greater Toronto region to facilitate the launch of new start-up businesses. We will achieve this via YES' Youth Business Centre which houses our three flagship Entrepreneurial programs:

- Bizstart
- A Passion for Fashion
- Summer Company

BizStart

BizStart is a full-time, 11-month Entrepreneurship Training Program for at-risk youth. The goal of the program is to reduce youth unemployment and enhance economic development in Toronto. The program enables 20 youth facing barriers to employment to research, plan, launch and operate small businesses. The participants follow a structured entrepreneurship program that facilitates business interaction which enables each participant to tailor the assignments and activities to their individual business needs. Participants attend classes in marketing, business planning, management, and web design, and are matched with a mentor from the business community for ongoing support and advice.



A Passion for Fashion

Now in its third year in partnership with Toronto's Fashion Incubator, this exciting program gives young fashion designers and entrepreneurs the opportunity to explore the world of entrepreneurship in the fashion industry. The final phase of the program is the *Fashionista's Den Competition*. Participants have the opportunity pitch their fashion business idea to a panel of fashion industry experts by preparing a business plan and a powerpoint presentation. Youth receive one-on-one coaching sessions to receive feedback on their plans prior to submitting them to the competition. Winners of this competition will receive to win \$1,000, a one year membership to TFI and 50 hours of business advisory and fashion mentorship!



Summer Company

Summer Company is a program designed to help enterprising young people, age 15 to 29, start up and run their own summer business. The program is for youth who are returning to school in the fall. The youth can create their own summer job, gather vital business training, and receive advice from a business mentor. Summer Company students who successfully finished the program and received \$3,000 in funding towards their new business. Program includes at least 12 hours of business training and also incorporates an opportunity to meet every two weeks with a business mentor.

