

Thinking

Business start-up

Business Start up Assistant

Thinking of starting a business? Let the Business Start-up Assistant help you become a successful entrepreneur.

This website is organized by topic and province and provides reliable information on market research, business name and structure, preparing a business plan, financing, taxation, hiring employees, doing business on the internet and much more!

» Address: 601 Cordova Street W, Vancouver, BC V6B 1G1

» Telephone: (toll free): 1-888-576-4444

» Fax: 1-888-417-0442

» Website: <http://bsa.cbasc.org>

Common Business Questions

You can obtain a comprehensive list of Common Business Questions & Answers from:

Community Futures Development Corporation

» Address: #102-3105 33rd St, Vernon, BC V1T 9P7

» Telephone: 545-2215 ext. 200

» Website: www.futuresbc.com

Library-Business Directories

The following Print Resources can be found at your local library or Bookstore.

- **British Columbia Business to Business**
The directory includes owner or manager's names, employee size and sales volume.
- **Canadian Business zip Com Directory**
Provides information regarding Canadian Companies, including manufactures, exporters, distributors, and service companies for manufactured products.
- **Canadian Key Business Directory.**
Names and addresses of larger Canadian Companies.
- **Canadian Trade Index**
The Canadian Trade Index is a directory that allows you to search for companies by Name or product description.
- **D&B Million Dollar Directory**
A directory of America's 50,000 leading public and private companies.
- **Dun & Bradstreet's- Directory of Businesses in British Columbia.**
It includes alphabetical listings, businesses ranked by sales and by employee size, geographical index and a listing of businesses by SIC codes.

- **Fraser's Canadian Trade Directory**
Directory of manufacturers and suppliers in Canada
- **Hoover's Handbook of American Business**
Profiles of 750 major US companies.
- **Scott's Directories**
Canadian Manufacturers listed alphabetically, by community and by product.
- **Thomas Registers of American manufacturers**
Directory information on US and Canadian manufactures.

Library-Small Business General

These resources can be found at your local library or Bookstore

- **Be Your Own Boss**
A guide to buying small business or franchise in Canada.
- **Beat the Taxman! Easy ways to save tax in your small business**
Information on methods of saving tax for small businesses in Canada.
- **Big Ideas for Growing your Small Business**
Workbook style provides a practical guide for improving the small business.
- **Business Plans Made Easy: It's Not as a Hard as you think**
Easy-to-read guide provides assistance with a solid business plan.
- **Canadian Legal Guide for Small Business**
Addresses legal aspects involved in starting and operating a business.
- **The Canadian Small Business Handbook**
General Business information on many aspects of small business operations.
- **Canadian Small Business Kit for Dummies**
Provides guidance from the early stage of evaluating a new business idea to the financial and legal considerations of an establishment firm.
- **The Canadian Small Business Survival Guide**
Includes types of business, financing, government assistance, business plans, financial statements, franchises, and marketing.
- **The Complete Canadian Small Business guide**
Deals with technology, tax planning, human resources, employment law, bankruptcy, and advertising.
- **Market Research Handbook**
Statistics Canada's publication contains statistics on a wide variety of consumer characteristics, economic and financial statistics, and international trade data.

- **Preparing a Successful Business Plan**
Self-Counsel Press publication dealing with all aspects of business planning
- **Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Financing in Canada**
Industry Canada's guide to business financing.
- **Starting a Business and Business Planning**
Your guide to Government of Canada services and support for small business.
Industry Canada's sources of assistance for small business.

Market Research

When conducting Market Research you should be aware that there are two types:

1. Primary research is the collection of data by yourself or someone you hire for your specific project. This source of information can be costly and time-consuming but when designed correctly you will receive extremely valuable data that directly pertains to your particular needs. You can obtain this information from the following research methods: Observation, Comment Cards, Focus Groups & Personal Interviews, and Mystery Shopper, Survey-(Phone, Mail or In-person).

2. Secondary Research is data that has been collected previously by another source. An example of this type of research is Statistics Canada, where the government has collected personal information on the population and makes it available to the public. Other good sources of secondary data are: chambers of commerce, boards of trade, regional district government offices, trade associations, newspapers, radio and television, Trade publications, Trade suppliers, similar businesses in another city, business section in libraries, Telephone books (i.e. Yellow Pages), bookstores and economic/business development departments/offices.

BC Statistics

Click on the Business and Industry link for more information relevant to business. Look for "*Researching your business: A guide to business planning and information resources for entrepreneurs*"

» Website: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

GD Sourcing

A variety of Canadian Statistics from both government and non-government sources.

» Website: www.gdsourcing.com

Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada provides information on Canada's economy, institutions and population. Some of the information is accessible free of charge through the website; more detailed data is available for a fee.

» Website: www.statscan.ca

Strategis

Strategis (produced by Industry Canada) is a searchable database of links to internet resources relevant to Canadian business people and consumers. There is an immense amount of information available on this website-take some time to look at the various sections.

Many of Industry Canada's services (such as filing an application for patent) can now be completed on line through Strategis.

» Website: <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca>

Small Business BC

Created in 1993 as a federal/provincial partnership and then transformed into a non-profit Society in 2002, Small Business BC is British Columbia's key resource centre for business information and services. Click on the "Thinking" link on the home page.

» Address: 601 West Cordova Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 1G1

» Telephone: (604) 775-5525

» Toll Free: 1-800-667-2272 (B.C. region only)

» Fax: (604) 775-5520

» Website: www.smallbusinessbc.ca

Protecting your idea

Patents, Trademarks and Copyrights

The Canadian Intellectual Property Office within the Federal government has information guides that provide you with the details to answer your questions.

- A Guide to Copyrights www.strategis.ic.gc.ca and click on *Copyrights*
- A Guide to Patents www.strategis.ic.gc.ca and click on *Patents*
- A guide to Trademarks www.strategis.ic.gc.ca and click on *Trademarks*