

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MEDIA RELEASE

LOCAL STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR PROVINCIAL SUMMER COMPANY PROGRAM

Summer Company Grants of \$3K Available to 7 Student Summer Start-ups

Stratford, Ontario – Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024 ... **Today the Stratford Perth Centre for Business announced the application process has opened for a popular government program aiding local students wanting to try their hand at entrepreneurship this summer.** Summer Company is an Ontario government program for students between the ages 15 and 29 that helps them to start their own summer business. The Summer Company program is funded by the Province of Ontario, and the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade and with the mentorship of the Stratford Perth Centre for Business helps students start their entrepreneurial business dreams. This year, the program, delivered by the Stratford Perth Centre for Business, will work with the 7 students to turn their business ideas into a reality by providing hands-on training, mentorship, and financial grants of up to \$3,000.

Over last decade, the Stratford Perth Centre for Business has helped launch dozens of new student-run businesses, many of which have matured into full-time enterprises. All participants in the current program will be provided with Provincial grant money of \$1,500 to help with start-up costs and the remaining \$1,500 at the end of the summer, upon the completion of the program. The Stratford Perth Centre for Business runs events throughout the year to support business and connect entrepreneurs. It also offers individual consultations and advice and is the access point for funding and programs to support start-up and established businesses.

For information about the Summer Company program and other services offered by the Stratford Perth Centre for Business, visit <https://www.stratfordperthbusiness.ca/>. Interested individuals must complete their applications by May 17, 2024.

Quotes:

"I'm grateful to the Province of Ontario, and the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade for their continued support of young entrepreneurs through the Summer Company Grant program. Their funding allows us to continue to deliver mentorship, training and support to the next generation of business owners." - Joani Gerber, CEO, investStratford

"This year, we've seen an explosion of interest in the Summer Company program from students looking to spend their summer exploring entrepreneurship and learning how to handle running their own business in a time that will present multiple challenges for them to overcome. Our seven students have all begun the process of becoming their own boss and are navigating small business ownership like pros." - Holly Mortimer, SPBC Business Advisor:

The Stratford Perth Centre for Business operates as a department of investStratford in partnership with the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.

-30-

About the Stratford-Perth Centre for Business

The Stratford Perth Centre for Business is committed to helping small business owners achieve their business goals. The Centre offers local small business support and complimentary consultation and easy access to resources, including business start-up services to support the development of new and already established small businesses. In addition to advisory services, events, seminars, and training opportunities are held throughout the year to meet small business essentials. For more info visit: [stratfordperthbusiness.ca](https://www.stratfordperthbusiness.ca) or info@stratfordperthbusiness.ca

About investStratford:

investStratford is committed to advancing the economic future of Stratford, Ontario, Canada through investment in arts, education, and industry. Globally Connected | Community Driven For more info visit: [investStratford.com](https://www.investStratford.com)

For further information contact:

Joani Gerber, CEO, investStratford 519-305-5055 x1001

Holly Mortimer Stratford Perth Centre for Business 519-305-5055 x1005