



Must-Have Resources for Canadian Small Businesses

According to a recent study sponsored by HP Canada and Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), 92 per cent of Canadian small business owners agree that increased productivity and efficiency are benefits of technology in the workplace. That's why trusted Canadian businesses and organizations have designed resources specifically for small-sized businesses. Listed below are services that will help small business owners by increasing efficiency and productivity, providing creative ideas and ultimately connecting you with other like-minded small business owners.

Must-Have Resources for Small and Mid-sized Businesses (SMBs)

1. Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB)

- CFIB is a big voice for your small business. For more than 35 years, CFIB has lobbied for their members at the federal, provincial and local levels of government. With more than 105,000 members nationwide in every sector, CFIB provides valuable services to its membership including tips and daily management solutions for your business, solutions to corporate challenges and information on government policy and legislation. To learn more or to become a member, visit www.cfib.ca.

2. STAPLES Business Depot

- STAPLES Business Depot is committed to Canada's small business market, offering customers low prices, huge selection and top-notch customer service. From traditional office supplies, to furniture and cleaning supplies, there are more than 8,000 office products available. STAPLES understands that busy small business owners don't always have the time or resources to come into the store, which is why they offer next-business-day delivery on online orders. If you're not 100 per cent satisfied, they'll pick up the item at no charge and refund your money. With 26 distribution centres and over 270 stores across Canada, STAPLES can help provide your small business with the tools it needs to succeed. For more information or to place an order, please visit www.staples.ca.

3. Canada Business Services for Entrepreneurs

- Canada Business Services for Entrepreneurs is a government information service designed for small businesses and entrepreneurs in Canada. Their goal is to help Canadians navigate their way through various levels of government by serving as a single point of access for federal and provincial government services, programs and regulatory requirements for business. To see how Canada Business Services for Entrepreneurs can help you, please visit <http://www.canadabusiness.ca/gol/cbec/site.nsf/en/index.html>.

4. Grand & Toy

- In 2007, Grand & Toy shifted its focus away from office stationary and towards a full suite of business services targeted at the Canadian small business market. By altering their business model, Grand & Toy is now able to offer small business owners bulk rates and discounts. They have expanded beyond their traditional base of office equipment and now provide a broad range of services including print imaging and web hosting. To learn more or to subscribe to their

monthly e-newsletters, visit

http://www.grandandtoy.com/sites/CORP/Services/Category_Services.aspx.

5. Scotiabank

- Scotiabank offers an array of benefits and rewards designed specifically for small businesses. From banking packages and lending programs to investing and protection, Scotiabank is one of Canada's largest financial resources for small business owners. Their small business portal features podcasts that can teach you how to start and manage a skilled trade business. Their online learning centre offers tools and resources to help you to do everything from creating a business plan to assessing your small business' financial health. You'll also find programs designed to expand your business skills and expertise. To get started, please visit http://www.scotiabank.com/cda/index/0,,LIDen_SID20,00.html.

6. Canada Post

- Canada Post understands that to run a small business you need to get more out of every hour and they are committed to making your business essentials easy. Get affordable couriers without waiting around for pickups and save time by ordering postal products online. Grow your business with direct mail marketing even if you don't know what that is. Canada Post shows you how to grow your customer base. What's more? Set up an online store and be filling orders immediately with Canada Post's online registered mail service. To learn more, please visit <http://www.canadapost.ca/business/intsol/sb/default-e.asp>.

7. Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)

- For more than 60 years, BDC has been helping small businesses develop into Canada's business leaders. They offer financing, capital and consulting services to help create and grow Canadian small businesses. When working with BDC you will have your very own account manager who, backed by a team of top industry professionals in financing, consulting services, venture capital and subordinate financing, will work to understand your vision and needs in order to offer you the best solutions. For more information, please visit <http://www.bdc.ca/en/home.htm?cookie%5Ftest=1>.

8. HP Canada

- HP Canada offers a wide selection of products and services designed specifically for SMBs. The HP SMB Portal provides webinars and podcasts to educate small business owners on everything from PC security to Bluetooth technology. Attend free online classes to receive expertise on personal computing. Read success stories to learn how HP has helped other businesses just like yours grow and prosper. Find out about special offers and rebates from HP that can help you benefit from the latest HP technology and save money. To learn more, please visit HP Canada's SMB partner portal at www.hp.ca/smb.