

# Growing communities one idea at a time.



Small Business is an integral component of the BC economy and is a key

contributor to economic growth and job creation in the province.

There were approximately 382,200 small businesses operating in BC in 2013, representing about 98% of all businesses in the province. About 81% of these small businesses were micro-businesses with fewer than 5 employees.

In 2013, an estimated 1,032,900 people worked in small businesses in BC. These jobs accounted for 55% of private-sector employment in the province, well above the national average of 49% and enough to rank BC second in the country.



**Self-Employment Services  
Business Financing for  
Self-Employment Clients**  
1 877 724 1241  
[www.cfac.ca](http://www.cfac.ca)



**Business Financing outside of  
Self-Employment Services**  
250 591 7499  
[www.cfnanaimo.org](http://www.cfnanaimo.org)



**Business Opportunities**  
1 855 421 0082  
[www.ventureconnect.ca](http://www.ventureconnect.ca)

## *Self-Employment*



SERVICES



*Create Your Own Career*

## SELF-EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

The Employment Program of British Columbia may provide financial supports to eligible individuals to start their own business or purchase an existing business, in which they have had no prior ownership. Self-Employment Services provide financial support, business skills development workshops and one-on-one coaching and mentoring.

### To be eligible you must:

- Work with your Case Manager and be identified as being eligible, needing and potentially suitable for self-employment services
- Be currently on employment insurance (EI) or have had an EI claim in the past three years or a parental claim in the past five years
- Be unemployed
- Be legally entitled to work in Canada
- Want to start a “new to you” business
- Have a controlling interest in the business
- Propose a business concept that would be suitable for public funding
- Plan to work full-time (minimum of 35 hours per week) in your business



To learn more about Self-Employment Services please visit [www.careercentre.org](http://www.careercentre.org)



The Employment Program of British Columbia is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

## BUSINESS FINANCING

Self-Employment Services does not provide start-up financing. Individuals requiring a business loan to start or buy their business are referred to the Community Futures Loans Officer and other financial institutions. Community Futures offers a line-up of flexible and affordable loan products up to \$150,000.



**Financing to buy an established business**—sometimes, buying a successful business is the best way to go. “There’s a great little business I’d love to buy. But

how?” Great little businesses can be great little investments. And in times like these buying an established business can make a lot of sense. If you have the dedication, commitment and creativity to be your own boss, self-employment could be exactly what you’re looking for.



**Funds for starting up a new business**—if you’ve got what it takes to be an entrepreneur, we can help you get up and running. “I’m thinking of starting a

business. Am I crazy?” Crazy like a fox, maybe. You’d be amazed how many successful businesses were started during a recession. If you plan carefully and work hard, this could be the perfect time to launch your dream.

To find a Community Futures Office near you visit [www.communityfutures.ca](http://www.communityfutures.ca)

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

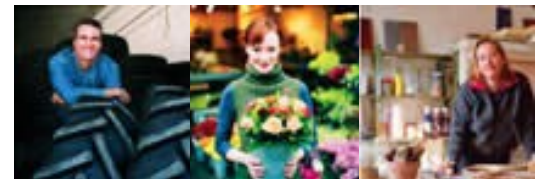
The region offers a number of small businesses for sale.

**Browse Listings**—there are hundreds of listings on the Venture Connect website. Browse through the list of businesses randomly or narrow your search by region or price point. Check back often as listings are constantly changing and being added.

**Price Validation**—if you’ve identified a business opportunity we can provide you with knowledge to help you negotiate to pay a fair price for a business by performing a price validation on a business of interest.

### What’s Your Dream Business?

**venturematch** Take our fun quiz and receive a list of industries best suited to your interests.



Venture Connect is a subsidiary of Community Futures. Check [www.ventureconnect.ca](http://www.ventureconnect.ca) for more information on locating a business, taking the venturematch quiz or checking other services designed to assist business buyers.