



Simply Halton

Your Halton
Connection
October '08

www.halton.ca

October is Salute to Small Business Month



by Regional Chair Gary Carr

Each year, the Ontario Ministry of Small Business and Consumer Services promotes Salute to Small Business month to recognize the contributions of small businesses to the Ontario economy. Halton Region, which provides small business resources as part of the Ministry's Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) network, proudly supports Salute to Small Business month by offering unique learning and networking opportunities to business owners across Halton.

One of the goals of Halton Region's Business Development Centre is to empower small enterprises and give them the tools to achieve success. By supporting entrepreneurialism, we are supporting the potential of increased employment opportunities in communities across Halton.

- Halton Region's Business Development Centre had more than 1,400 in-person business registrations completed in 2007.
- As of December 2007, there are more than 37,000 enterprises in Halton Region, and 88% have fewer than 10 employees.

Access the right tools for success

Today, economic growth is powered by knowledge, skills, innovation and an entrepreneurial mind-set—skills possessed by the best small businesses. The Business Development Centre supports business in all these areas. We:

- Provide workshops and seminars to provide information, advice and coaching on business start-up and development.
- Consultations for new and existing business owners through on-site appointments and the Access to Professionals program.
- Encourage youth entrepreneurship in cooperation with government partners and local sponsors.
- Make print and online resources available for start-ups and established businesses.
- Liaise with Local Municipal economic development offices to assist businesses with growth and site location.
- Initiate forums for sharing best practices between educational institutions, other levels of government, and businesses and community associations.

Ready, set, launch!

If this is the year that you plan to start or grow your business, contact the Business Development Centre, or visit www.halton.ca/business to find out what services and resources you can access.

The **Business Development Centre** is Halton's walk-in resource for small businesses. Entrepreneurs can register their business name and access a variety of research and resource materials, as well as computer workstations. Business Consultants will provide advice and information on business and marketing plans, Halton's business environment, exporting and employment and training programs.

What can the Halton Region Business Development Centre do for you?

- Consultations with a qualified business consultant
- Review of business plans
- Consultations through our Access to Professionals referral service
- Access to current resource materials, including publications, directories, trade indexes and reference materials, some of which can be loaned out
- Workshops and seminars
- Import and export information
- Information on patents, copyright and trademarks
- Mentoring and networking opportunities
- Internet and computer access for business research and planning
- Business registrations

Visit www.halton.ca/business to see what Halton Region's Business Development Centre can do for you!

Think Fairness for Halton when you vote on October 14th!

Please visit www.halton.ca to find out what the federal candidates have to say about critical issues facing Halton Region, and how they have committed to ensuring that Halton residents continue to enjoy a high quality of life and complete communities.

October Meetings at Halton Region Headquarters

- Oct. 8, 9:00 a.m.** Planning & Public Works Cte
- Oct. 8, 9:30 a.m.** Regional Council Meeting
- Oct. 13** Offices closed for Thanksgiving
- Oct. 21, 9:30 a.m.** Health & Social Services Cte
- Oct. 22, 9:30 a.m.** Planning & Public Works Cte
- Oct. 22, 1:30 p.m.** Administration & Finance Cte
- Oct. 29, 9:30 a.m.** Regional Council Meeting

(Enterprises have a minimum of \$30,000 in annual sales revenue, or are incorporated under a federal or provincial act and have filed a federal corporate income tax form within the past three years.)



We welcome your feedback. Contact Access Halton at accesshalton@halton.ca
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