



Access B.C.

Small Business Profile 2000

– A profile of success

British Columbia's dynamism leads the country in small business* growth and in the proportion of gross domestic product (GDP) according to the 3rd annual federal-provincial report released October 20, 2000.

The report, **Small Business Profile 2000**, produced by Western Economic Diversification, the B.C. Ministry of Small Business Tourism and Culture and B.C. Stats, shows the number of small businesses in B.C. grew from 216,000 in 1990 to 358,000 in 1999 - an increase of 62 per cent or, stated another way, an average annual compound growth rate of 5.4 per cent. This figure is significant because it demonstrates B.C.'s small businesses lead the country in entrepreneurial spirit. Growth of new small businesses in B.C. outpaced Ontario, our next closest rival, by 1.5 percentage points and the national average by 2.1 percentage points. Alberta was the only other province to place above the national average.

Specifically, high-tech, tourism and secondary manufacturing - considered the components of the new economy - all experienced strong small business growth from 1994 to 1999. In the high-tech sector for example, small businesses make up 98 per cent of employers and well over half of all high-tech sector employees. The basis for growth in this sector is innovation.

Small business growth can be measured in broader terms as well. Small Business Profile 2000 shows British Columbia is

the province with the highest proportion of gross domestic product created by the small business sector - 33 per cent compared to the national average of 26 per cent.

SMALL BUSINESS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA KEY FACTS

- The number of small businesses in B.C. grew from 216,000 in 1990 to 358,000 in 1999 - an increase of 62 per cent.
- In 1999, small businesses accounted for more than 98 per cent of all businesses in B.C. and 52 per cent of all jobs (up from 50 per cent in 1998).
- Among the provinces, B.C. has the highest proportion of gross domestic product attributed to small business (33 per cent compared to the national average of 26 per cent)
- On average, the small business sector in B.C. has added 21,200 new jobs every year over the past decade.
- High-technology, tourism and secondary manufacturing - considered the components of the new economy - all experienced strong small business growth from 1994 to 1999. In this period, high-tech had an average annual compound growth rate of 9.4 per cent; tourism - 3.2 per cent; and secondary manufacturing - 2.6 per cent.
- Young people (aged 15 to 34) account for 21 per cent of all entrepreneurs - an increase of 70 per cent since 1995.

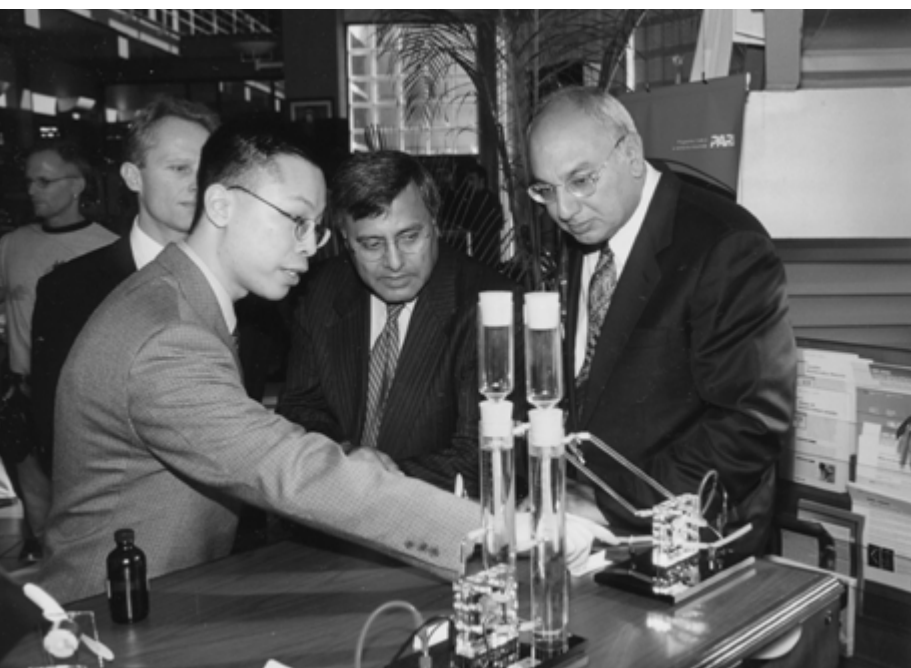
Copies of the profile are available by calling WD toll-free at 1-888-338-WEST (9378) or on the Web at:
<http://www.wd.gc.ca/eng/mediacentre/smepaper2000.pdf>.

* Businesses with fewer than 50 employees

Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C.

British Columbia C89/9/3-2-2000E 0-662-28902-1

Fuelling Alternate Technology



(left to right): Terrance Wong, Ph.D, Assistant Research Officer, Fuel Cell Program, National Research Council, demonstrates fuel cell technology to Premier Ujjal Dosanjh and Fisheries and Oceans Minister Herb Dhaliwal.

Fisheries and Oceans Minister Herb Dhaliwal, B.C. Premier Ujjal Dosanjh and provincial Employment and Investment Minister Gordon Wilson announced a federal and provincial investment of \$13 million in the fuel cell industry under the **Canada/British Columbia Western Economic Partnership Agreement (WEPA)**.

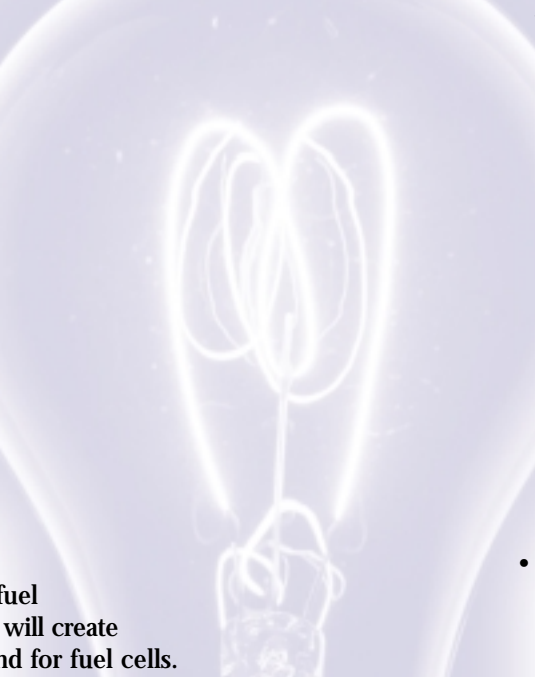
The event, held October 12 at the National Research Council's Innovation Centre located on the UBC campus, was well attended and had representatives from the business community on hand with fuel cell demonstration kiosks.

The assistance announced includes a \$980,000 contribution to establish **Fuel Cells Canada (FCC)** as a non-profit organization. The remaining \$12.02 million will be made available for demonstration projects.

Fuel Cells Canada will collaborate with all levels of government, the private sector and educational institutions to encourage a cluster of manufacturers and service suppliers for existing and new fuel cell systems developers, and related balance of plant technologies. While a major activity will be identifying and coordinating demonstration projects for funding consideration, other activities and services to foster the development of fuel cell industry clusters in B.C. and Canada will be provided.

Fuel Cells Canada will communicate to the public the benefits of fuel cell technology; help develop B.C.'s and Canada's emerging fuel cell industry; and promote, encourage and develop industry participation in Fuel Cells Canada.

Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C.



ing industry."

a's
n the
1

y

r and
by
d for fuel
e and will create
demand for fuel cells.

ectors of Fuel Cells Canada
ity to create a new industry

development and job
Western Econ
Ministry o
the lea
F

- This to
to glob
problem
"trans
B.C. v
growt

Access B.C. Access

1
s B.C.

1
s B.C.

1
s B.C.

1
s B.C.

1
s B.C.

- 1
s B.C.

1
s B.C.

Busiest Business Service Centre in the Country Moves Into New Location

For the past six years, a federal-provincial partnership has been successfully supporting the creation and expansion of small business in British Columbia. The **Canada/B.C. Business Service Centre** has been busy providing a one-stop location for business people to access a wide range of assistance and information. In fact, the B.C. Business Service Centre is the busiest of 12 business service centres in the country! The centre is meeting changing client demands with innovative on-line services, the latest program being the **Interactive Export Planner (IEP)**, which was recently demonstrated at the future site in downtown Vancouver.

The Canada/B.C. Business Service Centre delivers programs to support small and medium-sized businesses through a single window access to business information, primarily government programs and services. Nationwide, the centres are linked electronically to other federal government departments (as well as provincial governments in some centres) to provide fast and accurate information.

Each year, the Canada/B.C. Business Service Centre serves more than 60,000 clients over the phone, 50,000 clients in person and receives 700,000 hits on its award-winning Web site. They have been constantly growing in a number of areas, not the least of which being the addition of remote sites outside the Lower Mainland under the **Regional Access and Community Help (R.E.A.C.H.)** program, and they will soon be moving into larger facilities in Vancouver.

The new site will enable entrepreneurs to access quality, up-to-date business information products and services on one level. All resources at the new site - the statistician, the GST and Income Tax Specialists, and both libraries - will be more accessible to the public, within an open environment on one floor. Representatives of the Vancouver Economic Development Commission and Infrastructure Canada, a program administered by Western Economic Diversification, will have a presence when the new location opens in early 2001. The new CBSC site was the site for the media launch for B.C.'s Small Business Week 2000.

Innovation was also highlighted at the Small Business Week launch with the introduction of the Interactive Export Planner (IEP), a new interactive tool jointly designed by the federal government and the B.C. and Alberta governments. The Web-based IEP assists businesses with planning their exporting strategies. The IEP is the one more of the commitment of the centre to respond to today's changing business world.

Canada/B.C. Business Service Centre developments include:

- The Interactive Business Planner (IBP), an award-winning Web-based business planning tool. More than 1,000 business plans a month are now being created on the IBP across Canada.
- The On-line Business Workshop, a workshop on beginning or expanding a small business.
- Regional Access and Community Help (R.E.A.C.H.), a program that combines innovative technology with strategic partnerships to deliver the services of the business center to clients outside B.C.'s main centres.
- Public access Internet terminals that are easy to use for those unfamiliar with the Internet or who use English as a second language.
- The Interactive Export Planner, a valuable tool in the exporting field.



From left to right: The Honourable Ian Waddell, BC Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks; Melody Carruthers, Manager, Canada-B.C. Business Service Centre; Loretta Mahling, Co-chair of the CBSC Small Business Council and Vancouver Board of Trade; Richard Putney, Director, Client Service Division, WD-B.C. Region.

The Canada/B.C. Business Service Centre acts on behalf of the province and some 35 federal departments and agencies. The employees of the centre are federal and provincial public servants who have jointly contributed to its success. The new location for the C/BCBSC is across the hall from the centre's present site

and is expected to be open to the public early 2001.

<http://www.sb.gov.bc.ca/>

**601 West Cordova
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1G1
1-800-667-2272**

Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C. Access B.C. Access