

# Small Business Week 2024

# Agenda

- What is Small Business Week
- Theme – Why we focus on DEI
- Calendar Overview – How we are focusing on DEI

# What is Small Business Week

Small Business Week is a nationally recognized celebration of the contributions small businesses make to our local economies. The Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) has led national small business week celebrations for 44 years.

The Vaughan Business and Entrepreneurship Centre hosts Vaughan Small Business Week every October to provide local Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), and entrepreneurs access to the latest programs, best practices and networking opportunities.

Small Business Week events will take place virtually and include an in-person networking event. This series of virtual event is offered at no cost to entrepreneurs and will be delivered during the week of October 21 – 25, 2024.

# Theme – Why we focus on DEI

The City's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Plan identifies the vision that the City of Vaughan strives to foster a culture that is diverse, inclusive and equitable where all citizens, employees businesses and visitors are provided with accessible opportunities to engage and participate. The City recognizes that inclusion is an active, intentional, and continuous process to build a respectful and diverse community that ensures welcoming space and opportunities to flourish for all.

As part of a continuous effort to create welcoming spaces and opportunities, Small Business Week will focus on empowering businesses to become more inclusive, sustainable and resourceful through providing content on a variety of programs, practical tools and strategies to embrace diversity and inclusion and understanding cultural competence.

# Small Business Week 2024 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>7:30 - 10:00 a.m. (In-Person) Location TBU   <b>Kickoff Networking/Breakfast</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Mayor Del Duca   Jennifer Coletta Rashty, VCC   Amy Siu, BDC   Nicole Stibbe, Keynote: The Hidden Advantage: How Small Businesses Can Grow Through Inclusivity and Connection, Diversity Advocate</p> <p>Sponsor: BDC(Program Sponsor), VCC (Kickoff Co-host), TechConnex (Keynote Sponsor), Venue TBU</p>		<p>10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (in-person) <b>Break Barriers: Funding for Black-Owned Businesses with FACE Coalition and Networking</b></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Priscilla Iyari, Regional Marketing and Communications Outreach officer, Federation of African Canadian Economic</p>	<p>11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Virtual) <b>Entrepreneur Essentials: Start-Up 101: Regulations, Registering &amp; Licenses</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Don De Los Santos, Manager, Economic Service, City of Vaughan</p>	<p>10 a.m. - 11 a.m. (In-person) @BDC Vaughan <b>Inclusive Entrepreneurship Program with Entrepreneurship Fundamentals</b> (Tentative)</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> BDC</p>
	<p>12 p.m. - 1 p.m. (Virtual) <b>Sustainable Business Development</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Professor Mark Terry, Consultant for the City of Vaughan's Social and Environmental Sustainability Program</p>	<p>2 p.m.- 3 p.m. (Virtual) <b>Introduction to the Vaughan Business Café</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Eliot Fenwick, Senior Program Manager, 10k Coffees</p>	<p>2 p.m. - 3 p.m. (Virtual) <b>Mental Health 4 Small Business</b></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Vaughan Public Libraries</p>	
<p>6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. (virtual) <b>Market Insights Made Easy: SimplyAnalytics</b></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Vaughan Public Libraries</p>				

This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change.

\*Tentative lineups: YSpace, ChangeConnect, Workplace Safety & Prevention Services, VBEC EE:Business Plan Writing Tips

# Contact for more information

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