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helping business succeed



## MEDIA RELEASE

# PERTH COUNTY AND PERTH COMMUNITY FUTURES DEVELOPMENT CO. CONTRIBUTIONS ALLOW MORE LOCAL STUDENTS TO LAUNCH SUMMER COMPANIES

Local Partnerships Expand Reach of Ontario Summer Company Program

Stratford, Ontario – March 22, 2023... **Today, investStratford announced a unique partnership with Perth County and the Perth Community Futures Development Corporation (Perth CFDC) which will allow more local students to try their hand at entrepreneurship this summer.** Summer Company is an Ontario government program for students between the ages 15 and 29 that helps them to start their own summer business. This year, the program, delivered by the Stratford Perth Centre for Business, will work with 10 students to turn their business ideas into a reality by providing hands-on training, mentorship and financial grants of up to \$3000. The additional funding from Perth County and the Perth CFDC, means the Summer Company program will be able to allow 10 students to turn their business ideas into a reality.

Over last decade, the Stratford Perth Centre for Business has helped launch over 80 new student run businesses, many of which have matured into full-time enterprises. All participants in the current program will be provided with \$1,500 to help with start-up costs and the remaining \$1,500 at the end of the summer, upon the completion of the program. The Stratford Perth Centre for Business runs events throughout the year to support business and connect entrepreneurs. It also offers individual consultations and advice and is the access point for funding and programs to support start-up and established businesses.

For information about the Summer Company program visit [www.ontario.ca/summercompany](http://www.ontario.ca/summercompany)

### Quotes

*“I’m grateful to the Perth CFDC and the County of Perth for their partnership in Summer Company this year. We’ve seen increased interest in entrepreneurship from our young community members and without the support of both organizations we might not have been able to offer the grants, mentorship and programming to these additional bright, student business owners.”* - Joani Gerber, CEO, investStratford

*“We are so pleased to contribute to this program. It will allow these young entrepreneurs to discover their passions and will encourage the next generation of business leaders to drive economic growth, jobs and investment in Perth County.”* - Meredith Forget, Manager of Economic Development and Tourism, Perth County

*“We love the passion, dedication and professionalism that young people bring to their businesses. Innovation and youth entrepreneurship are important to the community and supporting our youth and giving them opportunities to succeed is a priority for the Perth CFDC and this program helps to achieve that.”* - Meghan Marshall, General Manager, Perth Community Futures Development Corporation

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### About the Stratford Perth Centre for Business

The Stratford Perth Centre for Business is committed to helping small business owners achieve their business goals. The Centre offers local small business support and complimentary consultation and easy access to resources, including business start-up services to support the development of new and already established small businesses. In addition to advisory services, events, seminars, and training opportunities are held throughout the year to meet small business essentials. For more info visit: [stratfordperthbusiness.ca](http://stratfordperthbusiness.ca) or [info@stratfordperthbusiness.ca](mailto:info@stratfordperthbusiness.ca)

About investStratford:

*investStratford is committed to advancing the economic future of Stratford, Ontario, Canada through investment in arts, education, and industry. Globally Connected | Community Driven For more info visit: [investStratford.com](http://investStratford.com)*

For further information contact:

Joani Gerber, CEO, investStratford 519-305-5055 x1001

Holly Mortimer Stratford Perth Centre for Business 519-305-5055 x1005

Elke Bidner, Marketing and Communications Lead x1003