

Social Enterprise For Sustainable Communities Program

***“Social enterprises** are business ventures operated by non-profits. They sell goods or provide services in the market for the purpose of creating a blended return on investment, both financial and social. Their profits are returned to the business or to a social purpose, rather than to shareholders.”* *Enterprising Nonprofits*

A PARTNERSHIP TO BUILD A BETTER COMMUNITY

Funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the “Social Enterprise for Sustainable Communities Program” brings together three communities (London, Sarnia and Ottawa) to share and learn from each other’s experiences in promoting and supporting the growth of social enterprise. Community-based support systems for social enterprise can be important resources for building vibrant and resilient communities.

IN LONDON, Pillar Nonprofit is partnering with the Richard Ivey School of Business and our United Way to establish a social enterprise support system for London. We will:

- Help nonprofits and social entrepreneurs **explore** and learn about social enterprise as a tool for creating a healthy community.
- Help organizations **decide** if social enterprise initiatives are right for them.
- **Engage** professionals, entrepreneurs, funders, academics, community leaders, corporations, local governments and other experts in our community. By facilitating **conversation and connections**, we hope to help social enterprises in our community meet their social goals and remain viable.
- **Support the launch** of new social enterprises by offering business planning consulting services and providing connections to key community resources and experts.

We will facilitate:

- networking and learning workshops
- feasibility and business planning consultation services
- ongoing technical supports and mentoring
- small grant and micro-loan opportunities (through an application and selection process)
- a learning platform to share tools and experiences
- collaboration by nonprofit, business and government sectors

IN THE THREE COMMUNITIES, each will share lessons learned as they embark on their plans to promote and support social enterprise. Case studies will capture the process followed by each community and the localized framework that is developed. Led by the Richard Ivey School of Business, these community level case studies will be valuable to other Ontario cities as a planning tool for creating community-level social enterprise supports.



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