



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

TWENTY LOCAL YOUTH LAUNCH NEW BUSINESS VENTURES

Kingston, ON – Summer Company 2009 will officially launch on Saturday, May 30, 2009 and showcase 20 young entrepreneurs starting their own businesses this summer. The launch takes place at the Kingston Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO) offices at 67 Brock Street and the courtyard patio of Le Chien Noir restaurant (adjacent to KEDCO) from 2:30 – 4:30pm.

Summer Company is an Ontario government program funded by the Ministry of Small Businesses and Consumer Services (MSBCS) which grants eligible students between the ages of 15-29 years up to \$1,500 for start up costs and up to an additional \$1,500 for successful completion of the program. The Entrepreneurship Centre at KEDCO has been overseeing the Ministry of Small Business and Consumers Services Summer Company program in Kingston and the surrounding area for the past eight years. Participating students are assisted by KEDCO's Youth Business Consultants throughout the entire process and receive hands-on training in various aspects of business such as bookkeeping, networking and marketing.

"Every year we see more and more enthusiastic and excited students bring their budding business ideas to fruition for the course of the summer and in many cases, they keep their businesses operating throughout the school year. Some students have even expanded and hired people! It's a great learning experience for the students and an excellent way to build their resume and earn some spending money," says William Miranda, Entrepreneurship Centre Youth Business Consultant. "Applications are currently being reviewed, but confirmed businesses this year include financial software training, lawn and garden care, website and graphic design, home telephone systems and health and fitness training."

The Kingston Summer Company program typically has an intake of five to 10 students each summer but will be doubling the intake in 2009 to accept up to 20 new start-up businesses. "Due to the current state of the economy and concerns that students may not be able to secure summer employment, the Ontario government has increased funding for the program. Kingston has generally led the province in the number of applications received to participate in the program and has also realized one of the highest successful completion rates for the Summer Company program. This speaks to the entrepreneurial spirit of our local youth and to the strength of the services which we provide locally," states Jan Dines, Manager of The Entrepreneurship Centre at KEDCO.

-30-

For more information please contact:

Jan Dines
Manager, The Entrepreneurship Centre
Kingston Economic Development Corporation
Tel: (613) 544-2725 ext. 228
Email: dines@kingstoncanada.com



visit | live & work | do business
www.kingstoncanada.com