

Survey of BC Women's Business Networks Results

British Columbia's Women's Business Networks provide a valuable and vital strong support system for women business owners. For many businesswomen, their local WBN is the first place they turn to for advice, networking and workshops. Women's Enterprise Centre recognizes the valuable role WBNs play in their community and region. As part of the research for *New Pioneers: Stories of 100 BC Women Entrepreneurs* book, Women's Business Networks around the province were contacted and asked to participate in a short survey of their organization.

In return, we included the organization and contact information in the *New Pioneers* book and sent each WBN a copy of the book and a gift certificate to be used towards the cost of any of our publications or workshops.

Each month we will be sharing some of the findings from the survey. This month we're providing an overall picture of women's business networks in the province.

Thirty Women's Business Networks from around the province participated in the survey. Twenty-two are community based, non-profit organizations, five are community based for-profit groups and three WBNs cover the entire province with their membership. One WBN, Valley Women's Network has ten chapters however the organization itself was only counted once.

The largest number of individual networks was in the Thompson Okanagan region with eight separate women's business networks. This was followed by the Lower Mainland and Victoria and the Islands regions, each with six organizations and Vancouver with five organizations. Again, the Valley Women's Network was only counted once even though they have ten chapters in the Lower Mainland.

The Kootenay Rockies and Northern BC were the only areas where there weren't any Women's Business Networks identified. If you live in one of those regions and know of a Women's Business Network in your community or region, or, if you're interested in starting a WBN and wonder where to start, please contact us at inquiry@womensenterprise.ca and we'll do our best to help.

Women's Enterprise Centre is the go-to place for BC women business owners for business loans, skills training, business advisory services, resources, publications and referrals. Call us at 1.800.643.7014 or email info@womensenterprise.ca from anywhere in BC