

Laurel Douglas, CEO of Women's Enterprise Centre, celebrates the launch of their new learning guide with Minister Rick Thorpe. *Creating Your Business, Success by Design*, funded in partnership with the provincial government was launched last October in celebration of Small Business Week.



A Message from Minister Rick Thorpe

This October, Premier Gordon Campbell has proclaimed Small Business Month in British Columbia, to recognize and celebrate the valuable contribution small businesses make to our growing economy and to acknowledge the achievements of small business in all regions of British Columbia.

British Columbia's small businesses and their employees – numbering more than one million – continue to be a driving force in building our strong economy. Small business growth in British Columbia increased for the fifth consecutive year, and 98 per cent of all businesses in British Columbia are small businesses, accounting for 57 per cent of private-sector jobs.

Women entrepreneurs play a major role in the success of British Columbia's small business sector. In fact, the statistics from the Small Business Profile 2006 showed 35 per cent of all self-employed workers in British Columbia are women and over 143,000 women in British Columbia are working for themselves either as a one-person operation or running companies they have founded. This October, the Small Business Profile 2007 will be released and we expect once again to see high levels of self-employed women in British Columbia.

Small Business Month is an opportunity for all British Columbians to show their support for the small business sector and to celebrate its success and its entrepreneurial passion. To ensure the continued success of small business across British Columbia, our government continues to work in partnership with small businesses, communities and our industry partners to make it easier to do business and pursue our goal of making British Columbia Canada's most small business friendly jurisdiction.

During Small Business Month, I will be touring different regions across British Columbia and I look forward to meeting and hearing from many more small business owners on ways to make it easier to do business.

Our government is committed to growing British Columbia's economy, and I want to applaud and thank women entrepreneurs and the small business sector again, for an outstanding entrepreneurial spirit, their hard work and enormous contribution to British Columbia's economy. Working together in partnership, we will continue to ensure British Columbia is the best place on earth to live, work and invest.

Yours truly,

Rick Thorpe
Minister of Small Business and Revenue
Minister Responsible for Regulatory Reform

Submitted by Ministry of Small Business and Revenue