

BC's Women's Business Networks Are Active.

As part of the research for the *New Pioneers: Stories of 100 BC Women Entrepreneurs* book, Women's Business Networks around the province told us how active they are in supporting and mentoring their members. Activities ranging from education programs to tradeshow and social events to advocacy and networking to mentoring are occurring in WBNs all over the province.

Of the 22 non-profit organizations surveyed, almost 60% are engaged in both educational and social activities to help their members grow their businesses while 42% are offering mentoring opportunities and 77% offer networking activities.

Speakers and tradeshow are the favourite activities for almost half of the organizations. For many women, giving back to their community is a high priority in their life. It's not surprising then that just over half the organizations do this through community services like a scholarship, sponsoring a child or family overseas, or volunteering.

Given that these organizations are focusing on women in business, it's not surprising that non of the organizations provide child care at any event.

Almost all the organizations have some sort of member list compiled either online or in print and 11% of the organizations offer an opportunity for their members to pay additional money to advertise their own businesses.

Next month we'll report on how WBNs stay in touch with the needs of their members and what issues women business owners face in their community.

If you would like more information about Women's Business Networks or would like to find a WBN, please visit the professional guidance section of our website:
<http://www.womensenterprise.ca/professional-guidance/networking.php>

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.

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