

Women's Enterprise Mentor, Theresa McPhillamey, Shares her Passion with New Entrepreneurs

One of the first women to sign up to become a Mentor for Women's Enterprise Centre's new One to One Mentoring program was Theresa McPhillamey of Summerland.

During her successful career training managers for a global cosmetic company, Theresa McPhillamey discovered her passion for motivating people and helping them to draw on their strengths. For her, the true reward was seeing her client's growth in confidence.

When her position was cut due to restructuring, what seemed like an utter disaster at the time actually led to a lifestyle change that allowed her to focus on her priorities and return to her roots.

McPhillamey grew up on a farm in Alberta with her self-employed father supporting their family. During her youth he taught her the importance of having an incredible work ethic, while her mother instilled in her the magnitude of believing in herself.

"My mother and father did not just change or influence my life and my decisions; their teaching moulded me into the woman that I am today," says McPhillamey.

Adopting her father's entrepreneurial spirit, McPhillamey saw her job loss as the perfect motivator to start a business. She has combined that spirit with her career experience and life skills to build 24 Karat Salon & Spa in Summerland, BC.

"We are always accountable for our decisions, but I really enjoy being first and foremost accountable to myself for the decisions I make in my business. I really look forward to taking things to the next level," says McPhillamey.

Now comfortable and confident with her success in life and in business, McPhillamey is ready to offer her knowledge to new entrepreneurs and become a mentor.

"Putting forward all that you've learned in order to help another woman succeed is an incredible thing. What you receive in return is so much more than you give. To see their growth and their success, and to know that you played a part in helping them get there is the greatest reward," recognizes McPhillamey. "Being a mentor is so important because you can save business women countless hours by sharing your experiences and helping them find solutions to the common problems that arise in business."

McPhillamey has experienced mentorship firsthand. Along her journey to self-employment, she was fortunate enough to have many successful business people to look to for advice and guidance. Having mentors of her own played a huge role in McPhillamey's determination and success.

“Their words of wisdom are more valuable than you can appreciate or understand until you’ve personally seen in your business the benefit of their advice and suggestions,” says McPhillamey. “No matter what the business is, many challenges remain similar and someone who has already lived through them can help you remain realistic and motivated in moving through them yourself.”

If you are an experienced business woman who is passionate about helping others, then becoming a Women’s Enterprise [Mentor](#) could be for you. As a [mentor](#) you will help a female entrepreneur in her first two years of business expand her confidence and knowledge while she builds a successful business. By offering advice, experience and support to a [mentee](#), you will play a huge part in her entrepreneurial development and growth. Women’s Enterprise Centre would like to invite you to give back to your community by participating in their [one-to-one mentoring program](#).

All women throughout BC are encouraged to apply for this program, even if you are in a very rural area, we have Mentee’s that need Mentor’s!

If you are a serious entrepreneur in the first two years of business who is dedicated to the growth and success of the business, you might very well benefit from an experienced [mentor](#). Entrepreneurs face many challenges in developing and operating a new business. A [mentor](#) can offer you support, encouragement and expertise when it comes to facing the daily challenges of self-employment.

If you are interested in Women’s Enterprise Centre [one-to-one mentoring program](#) as a [mentor](#) or [mentee](#), starting in September, please visit our website for more information and application instructions.

Women’s Enterprise Centre serves women across the province from its offices in Kelowna, Vancouver and Victoria. For more information call 1-800-643-7014 or visit online at www.womensenterprise.ca.