

The objective of the Self-Employment Benefits Program is to promote self-sufficiency in the labour market through self-employment. The program provides financial assistance and entrepreneurial support for eligible participants who want to start their own business.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To qualify for the SEB program you must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Currently receive Employment Insurance Benefits
2. Received Employment Insurance in the past three years.
3. Received maternity/Parental Benefits within the last five years.

In addition you must:

1. Be able to work full time (Min 35 hours a week)
2. Be able to contribute a portion of the start up equity in cash or kind.
3. Have a viable idea for a business

The following are the necessary steps to successfully join the SEB program.

1. Attend an interview with Career Edge to determine your "Return to Work Action Plan" for self-employment. All necessary paperwork will be forwarded to MTCU for their approval.
2. Meet with the SEB Coordinator for a business viability assessment.
3. Sign an agreement with MTCU and be enrolled in the Entrepreneurial Certificate Program.
4. Begin Phase one of training.

## PHASE ONE

In phase one you receive three weeks of training on how to run all aspects of a business. From how to market your business to balance a balance sheet.

You will prepare and write a business plan.

In Phase two for the next 12 months you will meet with the SEB coordinator on a regular basis to ensure your business is on track, and to assist you in any possible way to help your business to reach its goals.

You will also receive financial assistance in the form of your Employment Insurance Benefits from the time you enroll in the SEB program till the end of your contract. This means while your in the growth stage of your business you can be assured you will still have some financial security.