



For Immediate Release  
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## Small Business BC Announces Finalists – of the Fifth Annual Business Plan Contest

**Vancouver** – Small Business BC is pleased to announce the finalists of its fifth annual Business Plan Contest. The contest is a free, provincial-wide competition open to all new and existing small businesses. A panel of eleven small business professionals reviewed all submissions, judging the viability of each entrant's business plan, financial projections and market research. The top three businesses in each of the two contest categories, 'Start-Up' and 'Growth' share prizes and in-kind-donations valued at \$40 thousand dollars.

The finalists in the Business Start-up award category are Art Hornal, Michael Stewart, Graham Syme of MacStewart Brewery in Abbotsford; Teena Legris of Nima'ma Maternity in Vancouver and James Shearer of Peragro Media in North Vancouver. The finalists in the Business Growth award category are Shevy Levy of Lambda Solutions in Vancouver; Linda Aquilini and Reaghan Gasparre of Monkey's Playhouse in Kelowna and Leah Tremain of Tremain Media in Campbell River.

The finalists' standings will be announced during the Awards Ceremony on February 26 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Gastown's "The Landing" heritage building at 375 Water Street (next to Steamworks Brewery).

This year's contest drew more than 170 entries from across the province. A common theme which emerged amongst the six finalists was 'finding a niche'. The contest [finalists' business profiles](#) illustrate just how important finding a unique angle has been in the development of their business plan and the success of their businesses. Judges reported the quality, diversity, ingenuity and creativity of the submitted plans were impressive, demonstrating the increasing strength of B.C.'s small business sector.

Small Business BC CEO, Tara Gilbert, says she is very excited about this year's finalists. "SBBC is proud to support such an exceptional group of entrepreneurs. Many of our contestants use our Business Plan Contest to challenge themselves and set themselves a standard and a deadline for completing this essential step in launching or expanding a business. The contest has become an annual event where entrepreneurs can network, promote their businesses and take that next step towards making their business dreams become a reality."

For more information on Small Business BC fifth annual Business Plan Contest visit, [www.bizplancontest.ca](http://www.bizplancontest.ca).

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### **About Small Business BC**

Small Business BC is a non-profit organization funded by Western Economic Diversification Canada and the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue. It delivers services, government programs and timely business information to communities throughout B.C. Entrepreneurs can access services and information such as: start up and expansion information; financing options and sources; registration and licensing requirements; government acts and regulations; a business library and bookstore; market research and consultation; business planning services; export consultation; business seminars and e-Business information. [www.smallbusinessbc.ca](http://www.smallbusinessbc.ca)