



Program Overview: Build Your Own Future (BYOF)

In response to weakening markets and changes in the forestry sector, the BC Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction has provided 3 years of funding for Hubspace to deliver a tailored business startup support program for tradespeople and technicians affected by BC mill closures and curtailments.

The Build Your Own Future program offers specialized business training and guidance to provide participants with the foundational business skills and capacity training needed to start their own business or to grow their side gig into full-time employment. In addition to training and customized support, participants who complete all workshops are eligible for \$5,000 to reimburse business startup expenses. EI claims are protected during participation in the 5-day BYOF Foundational Business training. Contractors, and workers taking advantage of the Bridging to Retirement program are welcome to apply.

- **Training and Workshops:** This program starts with a 5-day in-person foundational business training series. Followed by 7 Capacity-building workshops (3 hours in length) held once per month in the evening for 7 months; Topics include Finance and Sales, Marketing, Operations, Project Management, Customer Service, Leadership, and Diversity. Virtual attendance is available.
- **Coaching and Mentorship:** Coaching is available throughout the 8-month program duration. Mentorship is available to all participants, with fully funded sessions, 1:1 with an experienced entrepreneur in your industry as required.
- **\$5,000 Grant:** **\$5,000** is available as a reimbursement for eligible business expenses. Participants qualify for \$2,500 upon completion of the 5-day accelerated business training, and the other \$2,500 is available upon program completion. Receipts must be provided.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Eligible participants are:

- A tradesperson or technician (employees and contractors are both eligible) in any forestry sector.
- Affected by a BC mill closure or extended curtailment.
- Interested in operating a trades or technician service business.

This program welcomes applications from anywhere in British Columbia. Cohorts are held in-person but are also offered in hybrid format - open to virtual participation.

APPLICATION FORMS

- Tradespeople and Technicians can [apply here](#)

HELPFUL LINKS

- [Hubspace's BYOF Website](#)
- [Press Release](#)

Contact us:
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