

LONDON FOR ALL

A ROADMAP TO END POVERTY

Income & Employment

2.19 Create more supports for Londoners looking to develop new social enterprises

Pillar Nonprofit Network - Social Enterprise Coaching

Social enterprises are non-profit, for-profit & cooperative organizations using business strategies to achieve positive social and environmental impact. Pillar provides access to support and expert knowledge to social enterprises at all stages of business development, from idea to growth.

Pillar's Social Enterprise Team helps guide individuals on their social enterprise journey. From ideas to growing social enterprise, Pillar provides guidance and the following resources:

1. **VERGE Capital** helps social enterprises (non-profit, for-profit and cooperatives) bring their business ideas to fruition through two social finance loan funds.
 - The VERGE Capital Startup Fund provides loans to local early-stage enterprises with both a solid business case and a strong community impact model.
 - The VERGE Breakthrough Fund is Southwestern Ontario's first impact investing fund providing growth capital to social and environmental enterprises.
2. **Socialpreneur Chats** - An opportunity to meet other social innovators and entrepreneurs. A drop-in program held the last Friday morning of each month at Innovation Works. Facilitated by a Social Enterprise Coach, this is an opportunity to meet the Pillar team and other social entrepreneurs and share ideas and challenges.
3. **Social Enterprise Incubator** - Sponsored by Libro Credit Union, the Social Enterprise Incubator provides budding entrepreneurs a front seat into the world of social enterprise. Participants are engaged for 6 months and work with Pillar staff, Libro Credit Union staff, volunteer Business Advisors and the Innovation Works community.

Other services available include:

LEAP Junction (Entrepreneurial Services)

LEAP Junction is an exciting initiative mandated to seek out, support and promote student entrepreneurial enterprise located on the Fanshawe College campus. Leap Junction is part of the London Campus Linked Accelerator, a joint initiative with Western University funded by the Government of Ontario under the Youth Jobs Strategy.

Futurpreneur Canada

Futurpreneur Canada is the only national, non-profit organization that provides financing, mentoring and support tools to aspiring business owners aged 18-39. Their internationally recognized mentoring program hand matches young entrepreneurs with a business expert from a network of more than 2,800 volunteer mentors.

London Small Business Centre

London Small Business Centre (SBC) is local, non-profit and open to anyone looking for information and guidance to develop their business. The SBC Counsellors advise individuals about turning a concept into a business plan and on to actual business start-up. Most services are free.

Tech Alliance

When entrepreneurs need help starting or growing a tech-based business, they turn to TechAlliance. As the regional innovation centre for London and surrounding areas as part of the Ontario network of entrepreneurs, TechAlliance is the ultimate resource for tech companies at any stage of their growth.