

Business Advisory Table on Expanding Sustainable Local Economic Opportunities

The [Social Planning Council of Ottawa](#) is inviting applications from entrepreneurs and professionals to be part of an exciting new “Business Advisory Table (BAT)”

Wanted!

Market savvy professionals and entrepreneurs to volunteer to improve economic outcomes for young adults, through the incubation and expansion of sustainable local economic opportunities.

BAT Purpose: To expand sustainable economic opportunities in Ottawa, by providing concrete strategic recommendations on micro and macro market growth and collective economic opportunities. Priority will be on strategies leading to increased economic opportunities for young adults through the growth of triple bottom line economic industries, localism and sustainable, collaborative strategies.

BAT Philosophy and Orientation

- It is taken as a given that the domestic municipal economy is in transition due to powerful economic and technological forces, leading necessarily to important dislocation and equally necessarily to important opportunity.
- The BAT will provide high level strategic advice on catalyzing sustainable, local economic opportunities which are resistant to off-shoring and enterprises that combine job and wealth creation with community social or environmental benefits.



The **BAT** is part of a larger cross-sector initiative called [Partnering For Success in Youth Employment \(PSYE\)](#), to improve labour market outcomes for young adults in Ottawa (employment and entrepreneurship for those aged 15 – 30) while growing the local economy. PSYE includes:

- a multi-stakeholder Roundtable on Youth Employment (governance body);
- a neighbourhood employment pipeline working group supporting pro-active and inter-personal engagement with young adults and small-medium size enterprises in neighbourhoods in a powerfully organic model for growing economic opportunity for young adults and business;
- a service agency coordination working group; and
- the development and use of a technology platform to link cohorts of trained and empowered young adults to each other and to existing economic opportunities in participating businesses.

Advice from the **BAT** will enable the PSYE to leverage:

- the strengths and advantages of today’s young adults;
- the power of technology for networking amongst youth and between youth and market makers;
- catalysts to effective collective young adult responses to current market conditions and barriers;
- solutions to barriers to young adult engagement for businesses and market makers.

PSYE is convened by the [Social Planning Council of Ottawa](#), an Ottawa charity which has served as a catalyst for sustainable social and economic development since 1928.



BAT Member Commitments

- Attend the monthly 1.5-hour facilitated continental breakfast meeting for a session of 6 months (last Wednesday of each month, beginning June 2016).
- Make a best effort for an appropriate replacement if unable to attend.
- Be engaged, prepared, ready to speak, to listen and to make decisions through consensus.
- Promote agreed BAT recommendations within your organization and sphere of influence.
- Support PSYE's promotion of BAT recommendations to the greater Ottawa community.
- Be part of a celebratory end-of-6-month breakfast, to which you will invite additional guests.
- Agree to be highlighted in SPCO communications related to the BAT and PSYE.
- Agree not to use the information/ideas shared within the initiative for an individual venture unless there is prior minuted agreement from the members of the BAT.
- Provide end-of-session member survey feedback on the experience for future improvement
- Continue on the BAT for a subsequent 6 month session, if desired.

SPCO Commitments

- Support BAT members in their role through appropriate background information, orientation, communications and effective facilitation. Summary minutes, meeting agenda, and a background deck (max 10 pages) will be provided one week ahead of each meeting.
- Ensure BAT meetings are fast-paced, inclusionary and focused on producing implementable solutions, with decisions by consensus. BAT proceedings will not be made public, though BAT recommendations and outputs will be.
- Infuse BAT strategic advice into: (i) SPCO young adult economic improvement project directions, (ii) training and informational materials provided to young adults and engaged businesses, (iii) project findings and advice provided to other sectoral partners.
- Report back to BAT members regularly re implementation of BAT recommendations.
- Honour and recognize BAT members for the contribution of their expert high value advice.
- *****Note** BAT members will not be asked by the SPCO to hire young adults or to fundraise as part of this initiative - the focus is on providing expert high value advice.***

BAT Member Advantages

- Being part of a dynamic group committed to making positive change in Ottawa's economy;
- Opportunity to network with and benefit from other market makers and business-oriented subject matter area experts, and also an opportunity to learn more about young adult economic opportunity promotion;
- Opportunity to 'give back' to the next generation of up and coming young adults, to help make Ottawa truly a dynamic and attractive place for underutilized young adults to thrive, and to help enrich both neighbourhood and region-wide economic networks;
- Space to critically examine business opportunities for improved leverage of young adult HR resources short and long term;
- Opportunity to challenge yourself by grappling with real world scenarios and working to move the needle on youth and young adult under-employment and on a sustainable local economy;
- Profile provided to BAT members and to their businesses or organizations in SPCO communication products and publicity to municipal and public and private partners.

For further information contact: Dianne Urquhart, SPCO Executive Director, at dianneu@spcottawa.on.ca (613-236-9300 ext. 303)