



Ready.Set.Work.

Making an Impact: the Youth Jobs Strategy Funding Programs

OLA Superconference: January 29th 2014

Bill Mantel, Assistant Deputy Minister
Research, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship Division
Ministry of Research and Innovation and the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and
Employment

ONTARIO NETWORK OF ENTREPRENEURS


ONE network consists of –Regional Innovation Centers, Small Business Enterprise Centers, Business Advisory Services and Colleges and Universities – Go to www.onebusiness.ca for more details.

Connect with an Expert

Ontario's consultants can help you prepare, launch and grow your business. To connect with the right expert for your business needs, choose one of the following options and enter your postal code below:

- ☐ I am opening or running a business in my community.
- ☐ I want to commercialize new research, or start or grow a technology-based company.
- ☐ I have an established small or medium-sized business and want advice on a significant expansion (exporting, product development, staffing, etc.).
- ☐ None of these describes my situation.

Postal Code

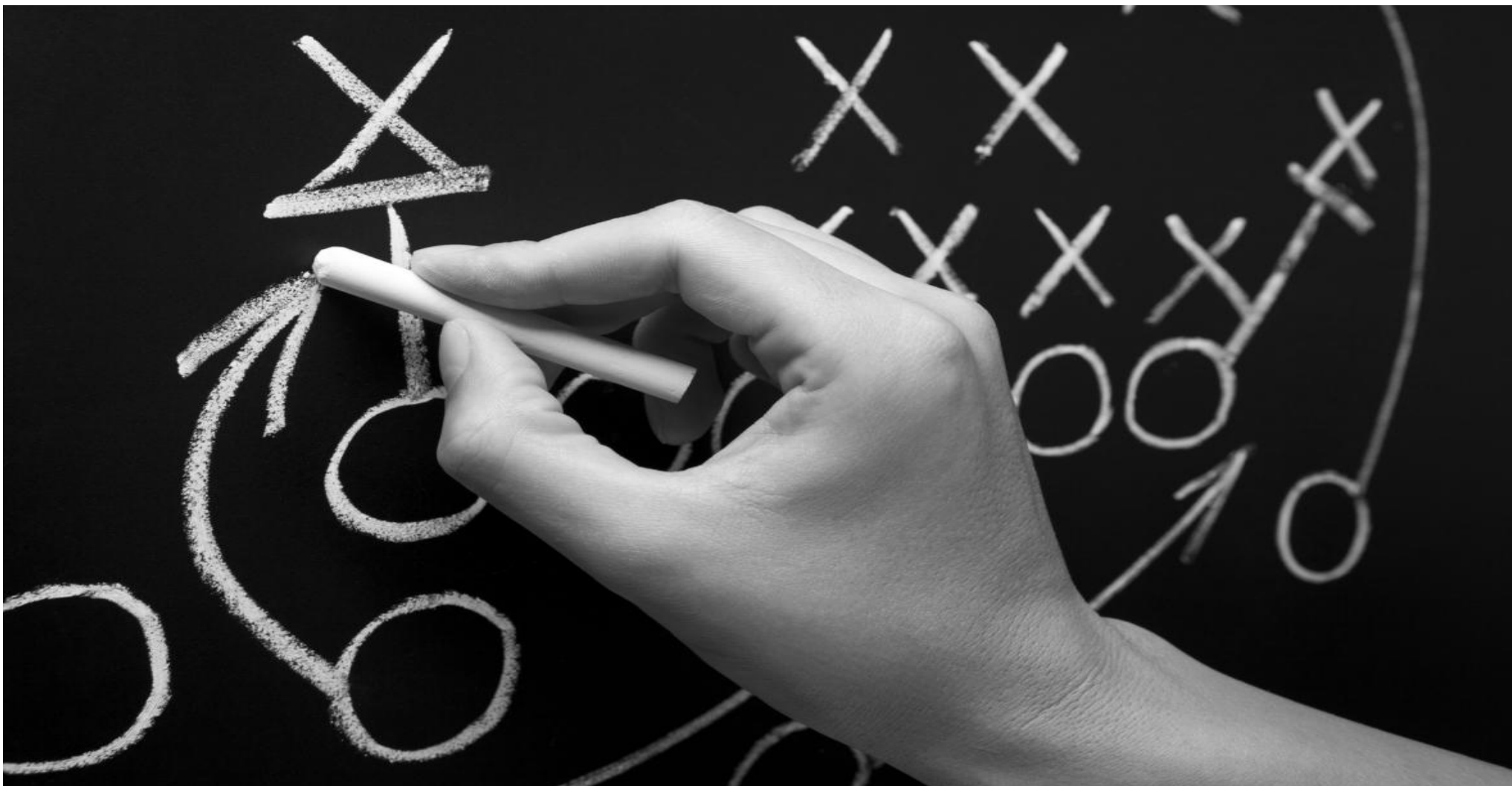




THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENT

- The average Ontario unemployment rate for youth aged 15-24 is between 16% and 17% which is close to double the average employment rate of Ontario workers 25 and older.
- Education is a critical element for labour market success.
- Youth facing multiple barriers to employment need more opportunities for training, work placements and mentorship.

Ready.Set.Work.



YOUTH JOBS STRATEGY

- Investment of \$295 million over two years.
- Create jobs for youth through employment or entrepreneurship.
- Tools and programs that provide work experience. Skills for the 21st century
- “Ready.Set.Work.” website launched: www.ontario.ca/jobs-and-employment/employment-programs-people-under-30

Ready.Set.Work.



FOCUS ON VULNERABLE YOUTH

- The strategy includes a focus on helping youth facing multiple barriers to employment, youth living in high needs communities, and youth with disabilities.
- While all programs will engage in outreach, some programs have been specifically designed to provide employment and entrepreneurship opportunities to under-served populations.

Ready.Set.Work.



THE OUTCOME - 30,000 YOUTH EMPLOYED

- Job opportunities for 30,000 youth in Ontario.
- Giving young people in Ontario the right skills, experiences and supports they need to succeed in today's global economy.
- Bringing entrepreneurship, innovation, science, technology and creativity to youth.
- Support for vulnerable youth

Ready.Set.Work.



HIGH SCHOOL ENTREPRENEURSHIP OUTREACH

- New models that spark an interest in entrepreneurship and its viability as a career choice for high school students.
- Target partners are not-for-profit organizations that have existing relationships in secondary schools, entrepreneurship expertise and a capacity to engage a high volume of students.
- Application period is now closed.

Ready.Set.Work.



YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS, MAKE YOUR PITCH

- High school students are invited to submit a two minute video pitching their business idea.
- Finalists participate in the OCE Discovery conference. Includes networking with entrepreneurs and innovators.
- Finalists compete for a chance to implement their business.

Ready.Set.Work.



SUMMER COMPANY

- Provides students aged 15 to 29 with grants up to \$3,000 to start a summer business.
- Includes hands-on business training, mentoring and coaching.
- Participants receive up to \$1500 for start-up costs and a second \$1500 for successfully completing the program..
- Delivered through Small Business Enterprise Centres (members of ONE) and select not-for-profit organizations.
- Applications for Summer Company 2014 now being accepted.
- Students apply directly at www.ontario.ca/summercompany

Ready.Set.Work.



STRATEGIC COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROJECTS (SCEP)

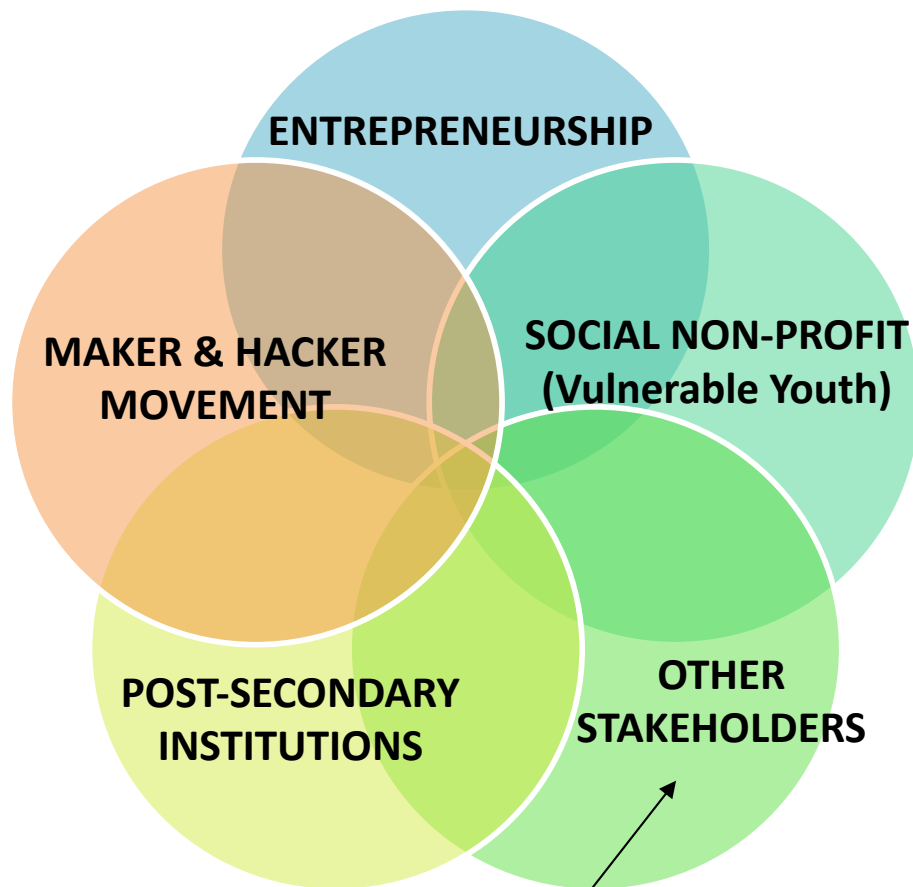
- Funding for not-for-profit organizations to deliver projects that will enable youth aged 15 and 29 and facing multiple barriers to employment to become self-employed or to start a small business.
- Funding up to \$200K per one-year project.
- All projects must provide structured training and may include:
 - mentorship
 - wrap around
 - micro start-up grants (up to \$3000).
- Multiple intake periods until funding has been committed.
- Next intake deadline: February 28th, 2014.

Ready.Set.Work.



IDEAS FORUMS

- Delivery by Ministry partners: Small Business Enterprise Centres and Regional Innovation Centres.
- 18 Forums across Ontario.
- Promoting funding programs while strengthening regional ecosystems for vulnerable youth employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.
- Kingston Ideas Forum example: using forum to introduce new maker space to a wide spectrum of organizations that have an interest in youth concerns.
- Eliciting discussion, raising awareness about vulnerable youth priorities, and promoting new models for collaboration (build community/regional partnerships).



How Libraries can fit into the equation:

- Bring innovation & entrepreneurship exposure to youth
- Instilling creativity in youth
- Strong connections to youth

IDEAS FORUMS (cont.)

Post-Secondary Institutions

- Portable 3D printers and other equipment
- Student and faculty volunteers
- Access to other equipment

Entrepreneurship Organizations

Regional Innovation Centers (RICs)

- Entrepreneurial Training

Small Business Enterprise Centres (SBECS)

- How to start a business; financing; etc.

Maker & Hacker Movements

- Connecting with vulnerable youth
- Events; space; trainers, etc.



KEY THEMES

- Collaboration, collaboration, collaboration.
- New models for addressing youth unemployment need to be encouraged, while supporting traditional players.
- Vulnerable youth populations are a key priority.
- Programs span the spectrum of job experience, employment skills and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Ready.Set.Work.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.ontario.ca/jobs-and-employment/employment-programs-people-under-30

Mike Marcolongo

Outreach Lead – Youth Jobs Strategy

Entrepreneurship Branch

Phone: 416-327-0528

Mike.marcolongo@ontario.ca

Tiffany Mah

Senior Policy Advisor

Commercialization Branch

Phone: 416-326-6282

Tiffany.mah@ontario.ca

QUESTIONS?

Ready.Set.Work.