



## Youth Entrepreneurship Services

*Recognizing youth as human capital is crucial to long-term, sustainable growth. As the labour market changes and individuals move towards self-employment, entrepreneurship becomes a prime driver of job creation. In a study of G8 countries, Canada's high level of entrepreneurial activity was ranked second only to that of the United States. Canadian youth cited entrepreneurship as being the most desirable profession. More than ever before, young Canadians are creating opportunities for themselves instead of looking to traditional employers for jobs.*

**Integrating youth into community economic development encompasses employment, training and entrepreneurship, especially through skill development in leadership and decision-making.**

**Mature organizations undertook evaluations of their youth enterprises. One social enterprise in Québec developed software to evaluate their programs while another undertook strategic planning to evaluate their production facility and supply-chain management practices. And a YWCA in northern Saskatchewan reflected upon their youth engagement practices.**

**Early-stage organizations include a co-operative development centre's youth leadership programs in the Atlantic region, a youth social centre's investigation of a youth enterprise centre, and a housing co-operative association's start-up of a summer youth training program.**



**Businesses in which young entrepreneurs are gaining transferable skills for future endeavours include:**

- furniture making
- landscaping/horticulture
- farming/agriculture
- housing

**CEDTAP support ranges from:  
\$13,000 - \$25,000**

**CEDTAP offers a variety of technical services to organizations at different phases of development. The types of technical service accessed in this cluster include strategic planning, financial planning and business plans.**



*"I've been to plenty of camps. This is the first one where the facilitators helped you discover and use your own strengths to become leaders rather than put you in a leadership role and let you fail."*  
Program participant, Atlantic Canada Youth Leadership Program  
Regional Co-operative Development Centre  
Fall 2000

### **Case Studies:**

#### **Les Bureaux d'Antoine, Montréal, Québec**

Les Bureaux d'Antoine is a non-profit company, established in 1997, that recycles old office furniture for resale. While it sounds simple, this work is being undertaken by a group of Montréal's troubled youth. As they learn technical furniture-making skills, they also gain transferable, real work experience. Initially involved with cabinet making at their 6,000 square-foot factory, the company started to make custom laminate office furniture within three years and large orders were being taken. Sales climbed to over \$100,000 annually, but money was still being lost.

#### **Regional Cooperative Development Centre, Moncton, New Brunswick**

The Regional Cooperative Development Centre (RCDC) is a mature community economic development co-operative established in 1995 to serve the needs of both rural and urban East Coasters. The organization took a proactive approach to the issue of out-migration of youth in marginalized communities by delivering an Atlantic Canada Youth Leadership program. Through the program, young leaders exercised their voices in decision-making within their own communities.

### **Other Community Partners:**

#### **1997-2000:**

YWCA of Prince Albert, Prairies  
North End Community Renewal Corporation, Prairies  
Co-operative Housing Association of Eastern Ontario Inc., Ontario  
Le boulot vers...Québec  
Coopérative de solidarité du Granit en formation et développement rural,  
Québec

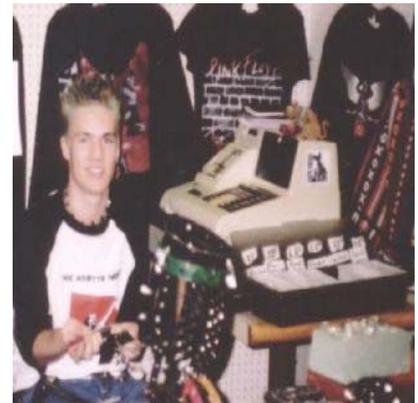
#### **2001-2003:**

Sault Ste Marie Teen Centre, Ontario

### **The CEDTAP Contribution**

After five years in operation, there was a need to reflect upon the company's mission, programs and resources. CEDTAP assistance provided an industrial engineer to evaluate and re-organize the floor plan to optimize capacity. Each square-foot was costing the firm \$60. Les Bureaux learned it needs a system of capital controls.

The RCDC commissioned a market study funded by CEDTAP to consider the expansion of its successful youth leadership-training program into other Atlantic communities. The study generated a significant amount of useful and positive feedback from interested youth.



*"At the time, we would refer youth enterprises to CEDTAP; it's who we contacted to show us our own needs."*

Patsy Joncas, Director General, Les Bureaux d'Antoine, December 2002