Small Business Online Resources

Websites and programs to help you start, research and grow a business in the Shuswap. Many are free; some charge fees or offer loans that must be repaid.

On screen, select a name or address to open the site. On paper, type the address shown. Websites change, so check each site for current details (links checked November 2026). These organizations are independent of Community Futures Shuswap. Questions? Call us at 250.803.0156.

Start with us

Community Futures Shuswap
Business loans, one-on-one advising and workshops for Shuswap businesses. Call 250.803.0156.
futureshuswap.com

Government help

Province of BC — Start your business
Step-by-step BC government help with registering, licences and taxes.
gov.bc.ca — search “start your business”

BC small business templates and guides
Free BC government templates for a business plan, cash flow and sales forecast.
gov.bc.ca — search “small business resources”

Government of Canada — Business and industry
Federal help with starting a business, taxes, permits, funding and exporting.
canada.ca — search “business and industry”

BizPaL
Find permits and licences your business may need. Also check with your municipality or regional district.
bizpal-perle.ca

Market research and statistics

BC Stats
The BC government’s statistics office: population, economic and business data.
gov.bc.ca — search “BC Stats”

Statistics Canada
Canada’s national statistics agency: census, industry, consumer and business data.
statcan.gc.ca

Financial Performance Data
Industry benchmarks from the Government of Canada. Compare your finances with similar businesses.
ised-isde.canada.ca — search “financial performance data”

Canadian Tourism Data Collective
Tourism forecasts, performance indicators and visitor spending data from Destination Canada. Some reports may require sign-up.
tourismdatacollective.ca

UBC Small Business Accelerator
Free market research guides, industry guides and tools from UBC Library.
sba.ubc.ca

Training, mentoring and financing

myCommunityFutures Workshops and webinars from Community Futures offices across BC. Free for Shuswap businesses.	mycommunityfuturesbc.ca
Small Business BC Business advice, webinars and on-demand learning for BC businesses. Some services have fees.	smallbusinessbc.ca
Futurpreneur Start-up financing, mentoring and resources for entrepreneurs ages 18 to 39.	futurpreneur.ca
Women's Enterprise Centre Advising, mentoring, training and loans for women starting or growing a business.	womensenterprise.ca
Rise Training, mentoring and loans of $500 to $10,000 for entrepreneurs living with mental health or addiction challenges. Programs for youth and adults.	risehelps.ca
Community Futures North Okanagan Business workshops and advising from the Community Futures office in Vernon.	futuresbc.com
edX Online courses from universities. Many can be taken free; certificates cost extra.	edx.org