

# Enterprising Non-Profits Toronto

## 2008 Program Pilot – Funded Projects



### ENP-TO PILOT PROGRAM

In 2008 the Centre for Social Innovation partnered with Enterprising Non-Profits (enp) in British Columbia to bring the enp social enterprise funding program to the Greater Toronto Area. Our goal was to test the appetite for social enterprise in Toronto and to determine the potential value of an ongoing enp program in the city.

The pilot program was an incredible success. We held five sold-out social enterprise skills training workshops with over 180 attendees representing more than 120 nonprofit organizations. We received 48 proposals requesting a total of over \$400,000 in funding. In December 2008 our Funder's Collaborative awarded over \$100,000 in funding support to sixteen successful applicants.

### ENP-TO PILOT PROGRAM GRANT RECIPIENTS

#### **Dream Now Canada Inc.**

*Continuum*

DreamNow is a charitable organization that "produces ideas that do good for the world."

Engaged in a variety of programs that support social entrepreneurs and social change, DreamNow has recently developed *Continuum*, an initiative that helps non-profits keep the momentum going once a conference has ended. DreamNow has worked with dozens of nonprofits to help them inspire ongoing change, and has refined its program to include an online network, action workshops, conference calls, emails, resource libraries and a mentorship program.

**dreamnow**.ORG

DreamNow has received a \$5,000 grant from enp-TO to map out and increase its technical capacity so they can handle more clients and deliver their social enterprise program more effectively.

#### **Family Transition Place**

*Transitions Training*

Family Transition Place is working to raise respect and eliminate violence in the community by providing violence prevention education to youth, women and men, as well as emergency shelter, housing, legal and



transitional support to abused and sexually abused women and their children.

With \$4,550 in support from enp-TO, Family Transition Place will conduct a feasibility study to determine the viability of providing violence prevention workshops to schools, workplaces and community groups on a revenue-generating model. Workshop topics could include conflict resolution, preventing workplace harassment, recognizing abuse and supporting families in crises.

## **FoodCycles**

### *Soil Regeneration and Urban Farm Project*



FoodCycles is a non-profit urban farm that raises worms, produces compost and grows food. FoodCycles' vision is to create a just and ecological urban food system that encourages all people to come together to grow, learn about, and celebrate food in Toronto.

An \$8,960 grant from enp-TO will help FoodCycles to create a marketing implementation plan for an urban farm that will sell high quality soil and food while supporting community gardens and low-income individuals.

## **Hot Docs**

### *Hot Docs' Digital Shop*

Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival is North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market. Each year, the Festival presents a selection of more than 150 cutting-edge documentaries from Canada and around the globe. Through its industry programs, Hot Docs also provides a full range of professional development, market and networking opportunities for documentary professionals.



Enp-TO has granted Hot Docs \$10,000 to create a sophisticated business plan that will ensure the longevity of the Digital Doc Shop, Hot Docs' social enterprise. The Digital Doc Shop is a groundbreaking new system that aggregates filmmakers' completed projects in an interactive, digitized environment, which allows their art to be accessed by a global audience.

## Literature for Life

*Literature for Life Publication Division*

Literature for Life is committed to engaging at-risk young families by building a culture of literacy and learning. Through reading, writing and performance, young mothers from local parenting centres and agencies develop the confidence to articulate their thoughts, feelings, and needs, and to become better advocates for themselves and for their child.



Literature for Life has received a \$3,000 grant from enp-TO to help develop an advertising and marketing strategy for their publications *Yo'Mama* and *SOLACE*. With this support, Literature for Life will build the skills of its client base and improve its ability to generate revenue through the sales of ad space and subscriptions.

## Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF)

*Backyard Blooms*



LEAF is an incorporated, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the protection and improvement of Toronto's urban forest. LEAF's mandate is to raise public awareness, foster a sense of ownership, engage diverse communities, provide educational tools and resources and facilitate tree planting and urban forest stewardship. Since their first planting season in 1996, over 13,000 native trees and shrubs have been planted in backyards across the city.

With \$9,500 in support from enp-TO, LEAF will undertake a business planning exercise to offer an expanded menu of sustainable landscaping products and services.

## The Neighbourhood Centre

The Neighbourhood Centre is a community organization that promotes community engagement and helps local residents to access social programs and services.

With \$5,500 in support from enp-TO, the Neighbourhood Centre will undertake a feasibility study for converting an underutilized space at Hope United Church into a social enterprise initiative. Its goals are to revitalize the intersection of Main and Danforth, increase employment and training opportunities for the local community, establish a retail hub and serve as an anchor for local community programming.

## **Pegasus Community Project**

*Pegasus Thrift Store*



Pegasus Community Project is a registered Canadian charity that provides a community-based day program for adults with developmental disabilities. Pegasus offers its services within the context of its core belief that all people benefit from opportunities to learn and to grow, that all people can contribute to the common good, and that the health and vitality of a community are enhanced when its members know each other and appreciate each other's differences.

Over the past six years Pegasus Community project has been operating the Pegasus Thrift Store, a retail outlet for gifts made by program participants and volunteers. This social enterprise is mission-driven, offering job training and social inclusion to adults with disabilities and to local community members. With \$2,500 in support from enp-TO, Pegasus Community Project will create a business plan that will lead to improvements in the Thrift Store's efficiency, productivity, income and sustainability.

## **Regent Park Women and Families**

*Women's Dream Social Enterprise*

Regent Park Women and Families is a nonprofit organization with a mission to help women and families overcome barriers to positive change. Their programs are volunteer-run and include homework clubs, heritage language class, ESL for adult women, information referral and workshops.

With \$7,000 in support from enp-TO Regent Park Women and Families will develop its Women's Dream program into a social enterprise model. Women's Dream is a tailoring service that will prepare custom South Asian style clothing to the local Bangadeshi community. This social enterprise will offer skills training and employment for new immigrant women of low income families, while breaking their isolation and enhancing their quality of life.

## **RiverSides**

*Riversides RainBarrel Program*

RiverSides is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating "RiverSafe communities". RiverSides protects rivers by reducing runoff pollution from individual properties through education and by providing the tools people need to make the connection between personal action and healthy rivers.



RiverSides' \$10,000 grant from enp-TO will be used to hire to hire a logistics consultant who will improve operational procedures and efficiencies as they expand the RainBarrel Program to the United States.

### **Somali Business Development Centre**

*CultureLink Printshop*

The Somali Business Development Centre was created in 2005 in response to an identified need to support small businesses, entrepreneurs and artists with particularly low-income and disadvantaged situations. The SBDC is committed to fostering and developing entrepreneurship by offering workshops, seminars and conferences that bring together representatives of the Somali community.

Enp-TO is providing SBDC with a \$3,000 grant toward business plan development for CultureLink Printshop, a commercial print shop with a focus on training and employment for disadvantaged immigrant youth.

### **St. Stephen's Community House (SSCH)**

*Conflict Resolution Services*

St. Stephen's Community House is a multi-service social agency serving over 32,000 people each year. Their mission is to work with individuals and communities in downtown west Toronto to identify, prevent and alleviate social and economic problems by creating and providing a range of effective and innovative programs.



For the past 20 years St. Stephen's Community House has offered professional mediation, training and consulting services to help individuals, organizations and businesses better manage conflict and difficult relationships. A \$7,500 grant from enp-TO will help St. Stephen's to develop and implement a business development plan that will build the social enterprise and increase profitability.

### **The Theatre Centre – Arts**

*Café/Bar at the Carnegie Library*

Founded in 1979, The Theatre Centre is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development and creation of new performance. The Theatre Centre supports artists through an annual local Art Party, a bi-annual national



arts festival, and a residency program that encourages the development of new theatrical ideas led by directors, choreographers, performers and designers.

The Theatre Centre has received a \$7,000 enp-TO grant to explore the feasibility of opening a café/bar in the newly acquired Carnegie Library Performance Hub.

### **Toronto Renewable Energy Co-operative (TREC)**

#### *Our Power*

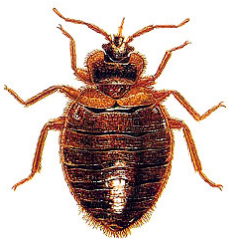


The Toronto Renewable Energy Co-operative is a non-profit, co-operative, environmental organization with a mission to: 1) develop co-operatively owned renewable energy and energy efficiency/conservation projects; and, 2) educate Toronto citizens and visitors about renewable energy, energy efficiency/conservation and the community power model.

TREC has received \$7,000 to assess the feasibility of evolving its Our Power project into an enterprise model, charging customers a fee for the advice and information it currently provides for free. Our Power provides the residential sector with essential advice about how to cost-effectively reduce their energy use and employ solar energy.

### **WoodGreen Community Service**

#### *Peer-Worker Bedbug Response*



WoodGreen Community Service is a charitable organization that manages over fifteen neighbourhood centres in Toronto's east end. Their mission is to deliver services that promote wellness and self-sufficiency, reduce poverty and inequality, and build sustainable communities. Having faced bedbug problems in several of their locations, WoodGreen wondered if this challenge could be turned into an opportunity for organizational development and community impact.

Enp-TO is granting \$7,200 to WoodGreen Community Service to help them undertake a market analysis and a business planning process that will lead to the creation of a fee-for-service 'bedbug prep service' that will employ people living with mental health challenges.

## **Working Skills Centre**

*Academy of Computer & Employment Skills*



Working Skills Centre is a community-based, non-profit organization that supports immigrants. Through services, training and business activities, Working Skills Centre recognizes and promotes the skills, capacity and wisdom of their diverse community. It is the mission of WSC to encourage economic self-sufficiency and the successful integration of immigrants, primarily women, into Canadian society.

Working Skills Centre has received an \$8,000 grant from enp-TO to undertake a long-term marketing plan and to rebrand its existing community-based training program as the *Academy of Computer & Employment Skills*. With enp-TO's support, WSC seeks to attract a more diverse and larger client base that will contribute to the organization's sustainability.

**To learn more about the Enterprising Non-Profits Toronto program, contact Eli Malinsky, Program Manager, [eli@socialinnovation.ca](mailto:eli@socialinnovation.ca), 416.979.3939 ext. 3.**