



19 December 2013

Dear Friends,

Many of our partners choose to start small businesses or income-generating activities, in order to provide funding for their programs and operational costs. NGOs and CBOs can face various challenges when attempting to begin a business venture. This week's resources are focused on helping your organization decide whether or not you are prepared to start a small business, and how you can prepare.

We hope you enjoy this week's edition of the Newsflash!

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Resource) Canadian Social Enterprise Guide (Ch. 3) - Organizational Readiness

(Resource) Canadian Social Enterprise Guide (Ch. 4) Idea Identification and Feasibility Analysis

(Accepting Applications) Fellowship for Young African Leaders

(Call for Proposals) Grand Challenges Canada: Saving Brains

(Resource) Canadian Social Enterprise Guide (Ch. 3) - Organizational Readiness

This guide, developed by Social Enterprise Canada, provides you with ways to prepare your organization for the challenge of starting a social enterprise. It describes the process of assessing three types of readiness:

- basic organizational readiness;
- social enterprise readiness; and
- business readiness.

Once you have reviewed these sections, we recommend that you specifically gauge your own organization's readiness. You can use the self-assessment exercise provided towards the end of this chapter. Based on the results of this self-assessment, you can identify specific activities and decisions that are necessary and develop an action plan to enhance your readiness. Following the exercise are practical tips on preparing your non-

profit for its entry into creating a social enterprise.

To view this resource, visit: <http://bit.ly/1gqqrZZ>

(Resource) Canadian Social Enterprise Guide (Ch. 4) Idea Identification and Feasibility Analysis

Many a great business starts with an idea that is relentlessly pursued by a dogged entrepreneur. While this process isn't unknown in the field of social enterprise, there are many reasons for being cautious about the idea you pursue. It is not a matter of just some sorts of sectors being better than others. Indeed, many different business ideas have been embodied in social enterprises. The real issue is how you go about the idea selection process. That is what this chapter is all about.

To view this resource, visit: <http://bit.ly/1cC4PpY>

(Accepting Applications) Fellowship for Young African Leaders

The Washington Fellowship is the flagship program of President Obama's Young African Leaders Initiative. President Obama launched YALI in 2010 to support young African leaders as they spur growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Africa. The Washington Fellowship, which begins in 2014, will bring 500 young leaders to the United States each year for academic coursework and leadership training and will create unique opportunities in Africa for Fellows to put new skills to practical use in leading organizations, communities, and countries.

The online application for the Washington Fellowship is currently available. Completed applications, including all supporting documents, are due by 12:00 midnight Eastern Standard Time, January 27, 2014. All applications must be submitted via the online application system. The application instructions provide detailed information regarding the financial provisions of the fellowship, eligibility and selection criteria for the program, and details on applying. Please read the application instructions carefully prior to beginning the application. We recommend printing these instructions and referring to them while completing the application.

If you have questions about the application, please email washingtonfellowship@irex.org

For more information or to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/18E4nGe>

(Call for Proposals) Grand Challenges Canada: Saving Brains

The challenge is to develop and scale up products, services and policies that protect and nurture early brain development in a sustainable manner, thereby unlocking the potential of the next generation of children and providing their countries with an exit strategy from poverty.

To address this critical challenge, Grand Challenges Canada has developed the Saving Brains Program which promotes the fulfillment of human capital potential by focusing on interventions that nurture and protect early brain development in the first 1,000 days of life.

In this call for proposals, Grand Challenges Canada seeks bold ideas for products, services, policies, and implementation models that protect and nurture early brain development in a sustainable manner. Proposals must provide innovative solutions relevant to low-resource settings in low- or middle-income countries.

The total funding available to support this competition is up to \$6.8 million CAD. We expect to fund proposals through two funding streams: seed (up to \$250,000 CAD) and transition-to-scale (up to \$1 million CAD in matched funding).

For more information or to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/1drpDim>

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Capacity Building Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website: <http://www.firelightfoundation.org/resources/newsflash/>.

We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org.

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