



A DRAGONS' DEN INSPIRED EVENT

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Hawks' Nest postponed to June 2021 due to COVID-19 Crisis

Neustadt, Ontario – Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the Saugeen Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) and the Bruce Community Futures Development Corporation (BCFDC) have determined to suspend the Hawks' Nest event originally scheduled for June 17 at the Roxy Theatre in Owen Sound until June of 2021.

The project, which is a Dragons' Den inspired event, assists local entrepreneurs and small to medium sized enterprises with training, coaching, mentorship and investments for new and expanding business ideas. Training sessions were completed this month, with a deadline of March 27th for applications to be submitted for consideration to pitch to six regional Hawk investors at the summer event.

"It is the right thing to do at this unprecedented time," said SEDC General Manager Rose Austin, adding all partners, participants, sponsors, Hawk investors and community organizations contacted will be communicated with directly over the coming days. "We are responding to concerns of businesses and community in postponing this event."

The biennial event, Hawks' Nest, has been successfully run twice before and, including this year's event, has seen over 100 people participate in free business plan training sessions with more than 50 applicants submit proposals for consideration for the opportunity to pitch to the Hawks. Past events generated over \$104,000 in investments as grants, loans and partnerships, leveraging over \$3.2M in economic impact. Hawks' Nest has helped create and maintain over 160 jobs, all within the project coverage area of Bruce, Grey, Owen Sound, Minto and North Wellington.

"We believe this is an important event for our regional economic development efforts," said BCFDC General Manager Barb Fisher. "We are very grateful to all our partners, sponsors, community business organizations and, of course, our Hawk investors for continuing to support this project."

Entrepreneurs and small and medium sized businesses with applications in the works are encouraged to complete their business plans and submit them for consideration for the postponed event in 2021. A new round of free training sessions will be planned this fall, where current and future participants will once again have an opportunity to learn about business planning and put their new or expanding ideas into a format for submission.

For more information or additional comments, please see the websites at www.sbdc.ca or www.bruce.on.ca .

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