

Building a skilled  
and productive workforce

## Self Employment Option

Helping you start  
a small business

### Other Brochures in this Series

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- ▶ Graduate Transition Program
- ▶ Individual Skill Enhancement
- ▶ Learning Support for Persons with Disabilities
- ▶ Local Labour Market Partnerships
- ▶ Training on the Job
- ▶ Youth Employment

### NWT Career Centre, Canada/NWT Service Centre

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#### Fort Smith

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#### Hay River

Courthouse Building      874-5050      Fax      874-5062

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Mack Travel Building      777-7365      Fax      777-7218

#### Norman Wells

Town Square      587-7120      Fax      587-2612

#### Yellowknife

Greenstone Building      766-5100      Fax      873-0423

[www.ece.gov.nt.ca](http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca)

[www.jobsnorth.ca](http://www.jobsnorth.ca)



Si vous désirez ces renseignements dans une autre langue officielle, veuillez communiquer avec nous.

## What is the *Self Employment Option*?

The Self Employment Option (SEO) provides support to eligible individuals who would like to start a small business.

## Am I Eligible?

To be eligible for the Self Employment Option, you must:

- ▶ Be currently receiving Employment Insurance benefits (EI) or have had an EI claim which ended within the past 3 – 5 years;
- ▶ Have not previously participated in the Self Employment Option funded by the Department of Education Culture and Employment within the past 5 years;
- ▶ Be approved for the program prior to starting your business activity;
- ▶ Be starting a new business or taking over an existing business in which you have had no prior ownership;
- ▶ Agree to work full-time (30 hours or more weekly) on the business; **and**
- ▶ Attend business information sessions, as required.

Note that all participants will be required to develop a business plan identifying potential for long-term self-employment.

## My Contribution

In addition to time and hard work, you are expected to make a minimum financial contribution towards your business. The financial amount you must contribute will vary depending upon your business needs.

## Financial Assistance

While accessing the program, you will continue to receive Employment Insurance (EI) benefits. Earnings from the business will not be deducted from your EI benefits. You may also be eligible for personal supports.

## Length of Program

The duration of the program will vary depending on the progress of your business and the level of business skills developed while participating in the program.

## How to Apply

Contact your local Career Centre for more information.

