Starting and running your own business can be a profitable and extremely rewarding way to make a living. It also tends to involve a significant amount of risk and hard-work, and is not for everyone.

**IS THIS REALLY WHAT I WANT?**
Are you determined, self-reliant, resilient, motivated by achievement, and have a high tolerance for uncertainty? The Government of Canada provides resources to begin exploring if entrepreneurship is for you.

**DO I HAVE A (GOOD) BUSINESS IDEA?**
Does your idea fill a niche or solve a problem, or can you do something in a new or better way than it has been done before?

**WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?**
Are you looking to start a business from the ground up, to buy an existing business or franchise, or to work free-lance?

**WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?**
Do you have a business plan? Have you consulted with experts and others who have started their own business? How will you arrange financing?

**WHERE CAN I FIND HELP AND LEARN MORE ABOUT ENTREPRENEURSHIP?**
- **Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs** - expert advice on starting and funding your business
- **CUSA Hatch** - student-led entrepreneurship centre which aims to bring people together to transform, and innovate.
- **Futurpreneur Canada** - provides expertise, financing, mentoring and business resources.
- **Invest Ottawa** - carries out economic and business development programs and initiatives.
- **Start-Up Ottawa** - regularly holds networking & workshop events, and provides insights as to how best to get your business off the ground in Ottawa.
- **Canada Business Government Service for Entrepreneurs** - provides information on government programs, services, and regulations to help start a new business.
- **Legacy Conference** - an annual entrepreneurship conference held at the Shaw Convention Centre.
- **Ontario Summer Company** - you can get start-up money to kick-off a new summer business and/or advice and mentorship from local business leaders to help get the business up and running.
- **YMCA Youth Entrepreneurship Project** - helps youth to start a small business by developing a business plan, increasing business skills and personal skills in order for them to succeed.
- **Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada** - becoming incorporated