

2026 FALL TRAINING SCHEDULE

MANDATORY TRAINING SEMINARS

Date	Topic	Time
November 24, 2026 IN-PERSON	Orientation Session: Welcome to Starter Company Plus! This interactive session will begin with an orientation of the SCP program. Starting a Small Business: Learn how to navigate through the federal, provincial, and municipal government programs, services, and regulations that may apply to your business.	5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
December 1, 2026 ONLINE	Writing a Business Plan + How to Use AI: A solid business plan is an important document that can chart your success and help prepare you for the unknown. Understand the function of each section, and how you can develop a solid business plan to help guide your business, strategize for the future, and present to potential investors such as the SCP Grant Committee.	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
December 8, 2026 ONLINE	Market Research: Discover what market research is and how to create an effective market research campaign. Learn more about your industry, your customers, and the markets you serve. This information can ultimately help you make informed decisions that maximize the potential of your business.	12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
December 15, 2026 ONLINE	Marketing Basics: Learn how to create effective marketing strategies that will differentiate your business from competitors and generate more leads that are tailored to your unique target audience.	12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Date	Topic	Time
January 5, 2027 ONLINE	Preparing Financial Projections: Working through a case study, you will learn how to prepare a start-up budget, cash flow statement, and financial projections. This is a great opportunity to improve your understanding of the financial statements required for the SCP Grant Committee. Assignment: Submit your completed Start-up Budget and Year One Cash Flow Statement using the Excel templates provided by Sunday, January 10, 2027.	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
January 7, 2027 ONLINE	Drop-In Office Hours (OPTIONAL) During this optional working session, you will have the opportunity to receive guidance and support as you complete your financial projections. This session is designed to help ensure your projections are on track ahead of the January 10 deadline.	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
January 12, 2027 ONLINE	Pitch Training & SMART Goal Setting: Perfect your pitch and convince investors and financial institutions why your business has what it takes to succeed. Learn tips and tricks to improve your chances of success with the SCP Grant Committee. Assignment: Submit your 3 SMART Goals by Sunday, January 17, 2027.	12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
January 19, 2027 ONLINE	Entrepreneur Mentorship Roundtable: Learn from those who have overcome hurdles and achieved success in their enterprises. This is an opportunity to connect with experienced entrepreneurs who have been where you are now.	12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
January 26, 2027 ONLINE	Finance Mentorship Roundtable: Learn from those who have achieved, or helped others achieve, the financial goals your business is working toward. Ask questions and speak with finance professionals as they address topics concerning entrepreneurial finance.	12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
March 11, 2027 IN-PERSON	Business Pitch to the SCP Grant Committee	To be Determined
March 18, 2027 IN-PERSON		

ELECTIVE TRAINING SEMINARS (Must attend a minimum of 1)

To qualify for the \$5,000 grant and participate in the Pitch, participants must complete all mandatory program requirements. Participants must also attend at least one (1) webinar listed on the Regional Business Centre Seminars & Events page. The webinar must be completed by February 7, 2027, or the participant will be ineligible for both the Pitch and the grant.

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Application Process Deadlines:

Application Deadline	Sunday, September 20, 2026
Extended Application Form Deadline	Sunday, October 4, 2026
Interviews With Selected Candidates	November 2 – November 13, 2026

Program Delivery

Tuesday, November 24, 2026: Program kickoff and in-person dinner for all participants

Weekly Training Webinars:

Tuesday, December 1 – January 26, 2027

Time: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Business Plan Submission Deadlines:

Financial Projections Assignment: Submit your completed Start-up Budget and Year One Cash Flow Statement (using the Excel templates provided)	Sunday, January 10, 2027
SMART Goal Assignment: Submit your completed 3 SMART Goals	Sunday, January 17, 2027
First submission of Business Plan for review	Sunday, February 7, 2027
Final submission of Business Plan for Grant Committee evaluation	Sunday, February 28, 2027

In-Person Pitch to Grant Committee:

Participants who successfully complete all training requirements and submit a comprehensive business plan may have the opportunity to pitch their business to the SCP Grant Committee for a chance to earn up to \$5,000. Pitches will be delivered over two days.

Pitch Presentations Due	Sunday, March 7, 2027
In-Person Pitch to Grant Committee	Thursday, March 11, 2027
	Thursday, March 18, 2027