



Vaughan Public Libraries: Helping Local Businesses and Entrepreneurs Grow!

Vaughan businesses and entrepreneurs don't have to look much further than their local Vaughan Public Libraries branch if they need support and the tools to help their business grow. At Vaughan Public Libraries, you'll find resources and services that will help jump-start a new business or assist businesses that have been in service for decades.

We have an extensive collection of resources in the library and online, which are accessible for free with a VPL library card. You can access many high-quality electronic **databases** providing a wealth of information on various subjects, including business related resources, tutorials, directories, statistics, and live coaching with professionals.

- ▶ **LinkedIn Learning** gives users free access to thousands of video tutorial courses focusing on technology, software development, business skills, project management, and creative skills like animation and video editing. The courses are taught by recognized industry experts who will guide you in learning the skills you need for personal and professional development. **How to use LinkedIn Learning**
- ▶ **Scott's Canadian Business Directory** lists Canadian manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, sales agents, and business services providers.
- ▶ **Hobbies & Crafts Reference Centre** offers detailed "how-to" instructions and creative ideas to meet the interests of craft-based businesses.

We have many business-related resources within our collection of books and magazines, which can be easily searched on our website catalogue or under our **Business Information webpage**. Our Information Staff update and create recommended reading lists with business information and resources to assist you in **starting a new small business, creating a Business Plan, understanding business financing, and marketing your business.**

In our **Creation Spaces**, you will find what you're looking for to grow your business and ignite your passion for creativity. We welcome makers, entrepreneurs, artists, and musicians to explore our newest technologies, access our online courses that'll teach the basic knowledge required to use creation equipment, and book a time to use our wide range of equipment and tools for free.



Make It! Tools at Pierre Berton Resource Library

- Roland GS-24 Vinyl Cutter
- Glowforge Laser Cutter/Engraver
- Carvey Desktop CNC Machine
- Ultimaker 3 Extended 3D Printer



Create It! Equipment at Civic Centre Resource Library

- Green Room
- Recording Studio
- Nikon Cameras
- Sony Film Cameras
- Apple Mac Pro
- Ultimaker S3 3D Printer

We are passionate about creating innovative spaces where entrepreneurs can co-work, connect with other innovators, gain advisory support, and attend workshops and other events. We've partnered with The City of Vaughan and **ventureLAB** to establish an innovation space in Vaughan, strengthening the City as a place where entrepreneurs and small businesses can flourish and grow. All VPL locations have space for quiet individual and group study, and some libraries have **meeting rooms** available for rent. Businesses and entrepreneurs may also enjoy using in-library Wi-Fi, public computers, printers, photocopying, scanning services, and borrowing devices, including **iPads, GoPros, GPS & Mifi**.



The Business Value Calculator



We recently discovered through The Business Value Calculator, developed by the Urban Libraries Council (ULC), that we delivered over \$5,000,000 in value to entrepreneurs and businesses in the past year alone.



Online training and education investment contributed to \$110,200.00, which entailed one-on-one technology consultations, business-related courses, professional development training, and external consultant access.



Research services investment was \$2,444,683.24, which includes industry reports and marketing research reports access, Language Learning (Business) and LinkedIn Learning, and uses of print books and digital collection materials on business topics.



Technology and Equipment investment was \$802,023.77 and included public Internet computer use and devices borrowed for business uses, Internet access, office equipment and photocopier usage, and Adobe Creative Cloud and Microsoft Office Suite Access.

Vaughan Public Libraries believes in providing the foundations for local businesses and entrepreneurs to thrive. Our efforts in designing, building, and investing in the extensive collection of resources and spaces for learning, connecting, and discovering are invaluable to our local economy and community. As our libraries advance, so does our community. The Business Value Calculator shows how libraries serve their community and customers. However, the relationships we've built with local organizations, our dynamic services, multifaceted collections and technology and strong citizen engagement demonstrate our commitment to enrich people, inspire opportunities, and transform community.