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Small Business Forum October 19 will challenge entrepreneurs to 'Dream Up'

The City of Toronto is encouraging the business community to *Dream Up* -- asking entrepreneurs where they want to take their businesses. Small Business Forum 2009 is a free, full-day event on Monday, October 19 providing entrepreneurs and small business owners with an opportunity to learn about sources of finance and online business solutions to make valuable business contacts and access new markets.

This year's event will be held at the Metro Toronto Convention Center, 255 Front St., North Building, and will run from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 416-392-6646. To register, visit <http://www.enterprisetoronto.com> or call 416-395-7416.

The event is being hosted by Enterprise Toronto and the City of Toronto. Sponsors and partners include Scotiabank Small Business Banking, PayPal Canada and Yahoo! Canada as well as the National Angel Capital Organization, Toronto Community News, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Thomson Reuters and CBC Dragon's Den.

W. Brett Wilson, CBC Dragon, celebrated entrepreneur and philanthropist, will launch the forum with a keynote address starting at 9 a.m.

The forum will offer 16 roundtable discussions and 16 in-depth seminars presented by industry leaders. A trade show with 70 exhibitors and experts in business incubation, accounting, intellectual property, market research, and research and development grants is also to take place.

"It is important for all small businesses and entrepreneurs to be propelled by business dreams and aspirations," said Eva Pyatt, Director of Business Services, City of Toronto Economic Development, Culture and Tourism. "The goal of this year's Small Business Forum -- *Dream Up* -- is to provide Toronto's business community the necessary tools and resources to achieve those dreams."

Enterprise Toronto provides services and programs for Toronto's entrepreneurs and small businesses including business plan consultations, free seminars, business name registrations and BizPaL. Enterprise Toronto is part of the Business Services Section within the City of Toronto, Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Division.

Toronto is Canada's largest city and sixth largest government, and home to a diverse population of about 2.6 million people. It is the economic engine of Canada and one of the greenest and most creative cities in North America. Toronto has won numerous awards for quality, innovation and efficiency in delivering public services. 2009 marks the 175th anniversary of Toronto's incorporation as a city. Toronto's government is dedicated to prosperity, opportunity and liveability for all its residents.

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