

BUSINESS PLANS CANADA**Gibsons couple creates online tools**

CHRISTINE WOOD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A local consulting company that has helped more than 200 businesses raise capital from \$15,000 to \$320-million is now launching a free online tool to help more entrepreneurs succeed.

Business Plans Canada is offering the interactive online business planner, which combines all their experience and expertise, to help guide people through the process of creating an award-winning business plan.

The two owners of Business Plans Canada, Coast residents Adrian Rudzikas and Celeste Lozano, know what it takes to make a plan that gets noticed.

The pair worked tirelessly for months on their own plan for Only Empanadas, a business that would make and sell empanadas, which come from the couple's homeland of Argentina.

After the plan's completion, they were able to demonstrate the viability of the potential business and gain financial backing to execute that plan. They were also honoured when the business plan won an award from Small Business B.C. And that recognition set in motion a chain of events that would lead to the creation of Business Plans Canada.

"After we won that award, we had many calls from people who wanted to know how we did it and how we could help them," Lozano said.

Lozano and Rudzikas helped a few people with their plans, but soon realized there were many more who needed help.

"We thought if we could help a few, we could help many, many more. And one day it started to take shape and form in Business Plans Canada," Lozano said.

The shift in focus meant Only Empanadas had to be put on the back burner, but the couple said they will continue with the venture at a later date.



CHRISTINE WOOD PHOTO

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"Only Empanadas is in our plans for the future, but right now we need to focus on Business Plans Canada," Rudzikas said.

When creating the plan for Business Plans Canada, the couple realized that although they had experience in all the intricacies involved in creating a business plan, they were not necessarily equipped to service the volume of customers they would soon have.

"We needed to put together a team of people who had the expertise in each area," Rudzikas said.

That team now includes a financial planner, project manager, sales team, market analyst and six professional business plan writers.

"We realized that customers, after

working with us, are very satisfied with the results. The business plans we help them create allow them to get the financial backing they need and ultimately help them achieve their dreams," Rudzikas said.

The pair are passionate about helping people realize their dreams, and although they have created a successful and growing consulting company based in Gibsons, they wanted to do more to help those who may not be able to afford their services.

With 10 years of IT experience under their belts, Rudzikas and Lozano got to work creating an online tool that entrepreneurs could use for free, which would result in a printable, presentable business plan,

demonstrating the viability of a business to potential investors.

"There used to be a similar tool offered for free before by the government, but it was discontinued after being available for 10 years," Rudzikas noted.

"We saw a gap that needed to be filled, and this is something we can do that we can offer to everybody," Lozano added.

The tool itself has been about one year in the making and is simple to use, while incorporating state-of-the-art technologies.

Lozano noted that many programs now avail-

able say they are free, but there is a charge once the user tries to download any of their work.

"The main goal is to help those that can not afford to pay. [The tool] has all the support needed. But if someone needed more help, they could contact us," Lozano said.

The couple hopes the online tool will be accessible from the Small Business B.C. and the Government of Canada websites in the future, and note it will be available by link on their website at www.businessplanscanada.com later this month.



Chatelech
Secondary School
Loyalty, Excellence and Justice

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly newsletter is available on the website at: <http://chatelech.schools.xspression.com>

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS FOR OUR
UPCOMING EVENTS!

First day of School for the 2010/2011
School Year Tuesday, September 7

Grad Tea for all Grade 12's - 10:15 in the foyer

All other students start at 11:15

Friday, September 10 - last day for course change

Monday, September 13 - PAC Meeting 7:00 pm

Friday, September 17 - Terry Fox Run

Wednesday, September 22 - Open House TBA

Please check the school website for any updates

<http://chatelech.schools.xspression.com> or simply google "Chatelech"

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