



Enter the 2023 RDBN Start-up Business Contest for a chance to win big!

CONTEST DETAILS

Eligibility:

1. Entrants must be age 19 or older at time of entry.
2. Proposed new businesses must be ready to begin start-up process within 6 months of contest closing.
3. Existing small businesses must have started operations in January 2020 or later.
4. Existing business must have plans to diversify, innovate, or scale within 6 months of the contest closing.
5. Businesses must be located within the following communities:
 - Granisle, Topley, and Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)
 - Burns Lake, Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural), and Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)
 - Fraser Lake, Endako, Fort Fraser, and Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural)
 - Vanderhoof, and Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)
 - Fort St. James, and Electoral Area C (Fort St James Rural)
 - Smithers, Telkwa, and Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Following the entry deadline the selection panel will review all entries and the top five finalists will be selected. Each finalist chosen will present their concept pitch at the 2023 RDBN Business Forum in Telkwa on March 28, 2023.

Entry Requirements

Stage One: October 2022 - February 2023

- Applicants submit a Contest Entry Form along with applicable financial documents and resume (see applicant checklist).

Stage Two: February - March 2023

- Selection panel chooses the top five finalists from across the region.
- Finalists submit a reference letter and meet with Business Mentor to refine concept pitch before presentation at the Business Forum.

Stage Three: Regional Business Forum, March 28, 2023

- Finalists present their concept pitch at the 2023 Regional Business Forum on March 22, 2023, in Telkwa.
- Finalists will be interviewed by the selection panel during the Business Forum.
- Winner will be announced at the Gala Dinner on March 28, 2023.



Prizes

Previous prize packages included a variety of valuable start-up business supports from local donors including accounting services, website services, and helpful business products. The 2023 packages will be announced as sponsors are confirmed.

All finalists will receive prize packages which will include Business Forum registration, Gala Dinner tickets, and hotel accommodations in Smithers for the event. The Grand Prize winner will be chosen at the Gala Dinner on March 28th.

Check www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/economic-development/business-events for prize package and updates.

2023 Contest Deadlines

October 15th	Contest opens
February 10th	Entry Deadline
February 28th	Finalists announced
March 10th	Deadline for Stage 2 requirements
March 13th–24th	Finalists to review presentations with business coach
March 28th	Stage 3 concept pitch meeting (Business Forum)
March 28th	Announcement of RDBN Start-up Business Contest Winner (Gala Dinner)

How to Submit

In Person: RDBN office located at 37 3rd Avenue, Burns Lake, BC

By Mail Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Attention: Start-up Business Contest
Box 820
Burns Lake, BC
V0J 1E0

By email Economic.development@rdbn.bc.ca

All entries must be received by 4:30 p.m. February 10th, 2023. Mailed copies must be physically received at the RDBN office by this deadline. It is the responsibility of the contestants to ensure their entries have been received.