



EY

ENTREPRENEURS ACCESS NETWORK

Entrepreneurs aren't
determined by race.

Their potential
shouldn't be either.



Building a better
working world



BUILDING AN EXCEPTIONAL ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM STARTS WITH INCLUSIVITY.



EY is teaming with Canada's Black and Indigenous business founders to help them transcend barriers and scale their businesses.

Do you know a Black or Indigenous entrepreneur who's ready to reach new heights? Put them forward for the EY Entrepreneurs Access Network. This year-long program is designed to help entrepreneurs transcend barriers, accelerate their businesses to scale and reach their full potential.



The **Entrepreneurs Access Network** is an expansion of our programs aimed at helping entrepreneurs succeed.

The program helps **Black and Indigenous leaders** access learning and networks to bridge the disparity gap and soar to new heights.

EY Entrepreneurial Winning Women™ is an endorsement of potential, an executive program and community of women leaders.

EY Entrepreneur Of The Year® recognizes success among the world's best entrepreneurs in more than 50 countries.



- + A no-fee opportunity to invest in personal growth and leadership to enhance business performance.
- + Entry into an elite community of Black and Indigenous high-growth company leaders.
- + Assignment of an EY Entrepreneurs Access Network Ambassador for ongoing, personal guidance throughout the program journey.
- + Access to learning sessions and events featuring top business leaders and organizations.
- + Access to an exceptional ecosystem of trailblazing entrepreneurs through multiple programs offered at EY.
- + Introductions to EY Growth Navigator.
- + Increased brand exposure to potential investors, new customers, M&A opportunities and alliances.



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Minority-owned companies contribute greatly to Canada's economy and capital markets. But many struggle with barriers to funding, capital and connections. Through the Entrepreneurs Access Network, participants tap into EY knowledge, tools and professionals and build a powerful support community so they can grow successfully and sustainably.



CHRIS GORDON

Entrepreneurs Access Network Program Leader
EY Canada



- ▶ Candidates must be a Black or Indigenous CEO, business leader or founder of a privately held company in Canada.
- ▶ For businesses with outside capital, the founding entrepreneur may still be nominated if they retain a majority ownership stake of what is left after deducting outside investments.
- ▶ If there are multiple cofounders, they may participate as a group if they meet the ownership criteria.
- ▶ The company must be at least two years old and 51% Black or Indigenous owned.
- ▶ Only for-profit businesses with potential to scale are considered.



≈3.5m entrepreneurs in Canada.

45,000 Canadians started a business in 2018 – the highest rate in the last decade, with many newcomers among them.

1.2m Canadians identify as Black, 3.5% of Canada's total population. Despite this, a Statistics Canada survey estimated there are only approximately 2,000 black-owned businesses of significant scale Canada-wide.

1.8m+ Indigenous People live in Canada. Yet only 1.4% of Canada's small and medium enterprises are owned by Indigenous People.



To nominate an entrepreneur:

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EY | Building a better working world

EY exists to build a better working world, helping to create long-term value for clients, people and society and build trust in the capital markets.

Enabled by data and technology, diverse EY teams in over 150 countries provide trust through assurance and help clients grow, transform and operate.

Working across assurance, consulting, law, strategy, tax and transactions, EY teams ask better questions to find new answers for the complex issues facing our world today.

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