



Buy Social Canada Social Enterprise Certification

Grow your business, increase your impact.

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You're invited to join

Join a growing network of social enterprise leaders across Canada when you become a **Buy Social Canada Certified Social Enterprise**.

Grow your business.

Purchasers are increasingly putting a social value into their purchasing criteria, and they are asking for verification. Buy Social Canada's Social Enterprise Certification increases your visibility for these social purchasers and provides evidence of your identity as a social enterprise and your commitment to social value.

What is a social enterprise?

1. A Social Enterprise is a business that generates a significant portion of its revenue through the sale of goods or services.

Verified with: Financial documents

2. It embeds a social, cultural or environmental purpose into the business.

Verified with: Incorporation documents

3. 51% or more of profits are reinvested into the social, cultural or environmental mission with no, or limited, distribution to shareholders and owners.

Verified with: Incorporation documents

What is a social enterprise?



Social enterprises sell everything; chocolate and honey, corporate catering, junk removal, construction services, healthcare, family services, employment assistance, arts and culture, and much more. They compete with traditional for-profit businesses, but use their earnings to invest in vibrant, healthy communities.

The future of business is social enterprise: the business model whose foundation is built on justice, equity and inclusion for employees, owners, customers, the environment, and community stakeholders.

If this describes your business, we'd like to meet you!

Social enterprise examples



Smashing Good Pinatas, Toronto ON

Smashing Good Pinatas employs adults with developmental disabilities to make beautiful and fun hand-sculpted and painted piñatas from scratch.



Neighbourhood It's All Good, St. John's NL

Neighbourhood is a Choices for Youth Social Enterprise thrift store that offers at-risk youth the opportunity to gain meaningful employment experiences in a supportive space.



Newo Global Energy, Camrose AB

Newo hires people facing barriers to provide services including solar PV installation, energy audits, food sovereignty initiatives, and community education.

See the full Directory of Buy Social Canada Certified Social Enterprises [here](#).



Why Certification?

Certification Benefits

- Be listed on the Buy Social Canada Social Enterprise Directory
- Join a growing national network with our other suppliers and purchasers
- Use the Buy Social Canada Certified Social Enterprise Badge to verify your status and increase business opportunities
- Be added to a supplier list shared with our purchasing partners
- Be a part of the social value marketplace revolution

Build Your Capacity

You will have access to:

- Two hours of consulting
- Training and resources
- Invitations to Buy Social Canada events
- Discounted rates for Buy Social Canada workshops, events, and courses



Why Certification?

Raise Your Profile and Meet More Purchasers

- The Buy Social Canada Social Enterprise Directory is used by leading social value purchasers across the Country
- Certification provides access to networking, promotional, and RFx opportunities



Photo: EMBERS

Buy Social Canada Pledge Leader Chandos Construction uses our social enterprise certification to identify social enterprise suppliers for construction projects across Canada including day labour and catering services.



CleanStart
Difficult Done Right

"Buy Social Canada has been a valuable resource for CleanStart Property Services. Through their support, we have been able to make meaningful connections with industry purchasers and engage deeply with the social enterprise community."

Charlotte Lewthwaite
CleanStart Property Services
Vancouver, BC



Guidelines for Certification

We're excited that you are interested in joining our growing network of social enterprise leaders across Canada! Here's a step-by-step guide to the certification process.

1. Fill in the application

Fill in [this Wufoo form](#) and tell us about your social enterprise including: your social, cultural or environmental mission, what goods or services you sell, and how your business is incorporated.

2. Meet with us

If you meet the social enterprise criteria for certification, we will set up an introductory meeting to get to know you and your social enterprise better.

3. Share your documents

We'll ask you to share your incorporation documents and financial documents to verify that your revenue comes from the sale of goods and services, and that the majority of your profits are reinvested into your social mission.

4. Join the network

If you meet the social enterprise criteria from the documents provided, you will be added to the Buy Social Canada Certified Social Enterprise Directory and get access to other certification benefits.



“Buy Social Canada is a nationally recognized organization known for its tremendous advocacy and support of all types of social enterprises. It is important for Eva’s Print Shop to be recognized as part of the community that Buy Social Canada is helping to bring together and strengthen.”

eva²⁵s

Jonathan Gault
Eva’s Print Shop
Toronto, ON

Certification Fees

Certification is free for everyone for the first year.

Billing occurs annually, so you may get more than one year free.

After your first year, fees are based on your annual business revenue:

- Under \$500,000 - \$100 per year
- Under \$1 million - \$200 per year
- Above \$1 million - \$300 per year
- Above \$15 million - \$2,500 per year

[Apply now](#)

If you have any questions or want to discuss your certification, contact niamh@buysocialcanada.com