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## Library partners with Perth Community Futures to support small businesses

Stratford, ON, Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> – The Stratford Public Library (SPL) has recently partnered with the Perth Community Futures (PCF) to support small businesses and startups in Perth County. The SPL MakerSpace is excited to provide opportunities for small business owners to access equipment and services, as well as to learn the skills needed to promote their businesses.

*“The Library has always been a strong supporter of small business education and development, and the MakerSpace has been a critical new tool in helping us support the modern evolution of business and entrepreneurship,”* says Julia Merritt, SPL CEO. *“Partnering with the PCF is wonderful as it allows us to expand this service and help even more local businesses thrive.”*

Now more than ever, small businesses can use the support of the community. The mission of this partnership is to connect entrepreneurs with tools and services to improve and grow their businesses. “In an economic downturn, businesses are stretched financially,” states Meghan Marshall, General Manager of PCF. “The Perth Community Futures partnership with the Stratford Public Library gives entrepreneurs in Stratford, St Marys and Perth County additional hours to utilize the tools and technology within MakerSpace in an accessible and affordable way.”

Thanks to generous sponsorship from the PCF, the MakerSpace has expanded Open Lab appointments to include: Mondays – 10am-4pm, Tuesdays – 1pm-4pm, Thursdays – 5pm-8pm. Visit the MakerSpace to create branded promotional items, access photocopying and printing services, and learn new skills.

**Book an appointment:** visit us online at [splibrary.ca/makerspace](http://splibrary.ca/makerspace) or phone 519.271.0220 x 164.

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For more information about small business opportunities, contact Eric at [eball@pcin.on.ca](mailto:eball@pcin.on.ca) / x 164.

