

Overview of Incubation in Canada

- Background
- Current Landscape
- CABI's Contribution

Background

- Canada's first venture into Incubation was in 1975 in Charlottetown PEI as a joint initiative of the provincial and federal governments
- The small 'industrial mall' was mostly a real estate venture as opposed to an incubation venture



Canadian Association of Business Incubation

Background

- For the first 10 years, the subsequent growth of Incubation was spotty at best
- In 1985, the federal government expanded its support of Incubation
- For the next 5 years federal money was made available for establishing Incubators

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Canadian Association of Business Incubation

Background

- By 1990 it was obvious that the provision of seed capital alone wasn't working
- To avoid ongoing failures there needed to be viable plans in place for the long term sustainability of Incubation Programs

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Canadian Association of Business Incubation

Background

- In 1992 CABI was founded as Canada's *'Voice of Business Incubation'*
- In 2001 CABI worked with Industry Canada to develop one common definition for a Business Incubation Program in Canada

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Canadian Association of Business Incubation

Background

- In 2005 CABI worked with Stats Canada to develop the first ever comprehensive study of business incubation's role and impact throughout Canada
- Subsequently, numerous incubation programs have used this survey for benchmarking purposes

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Canadian Definition

- Business Incubation nurtures the growth of new and emerging businesses by providing the physical facilities, advisory resources and tools appropriate to the venture's stage of development thereby helping them to survive and grow during the start-up period when they are most vulnerable

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Canadian Model

- A Business Incubator is normally defined as the 'bricks and mortar' in which the Business Incubation process occurs
- However, the Canadian model includes numerous programs operating 'without walls' which have become better known as 'virtual incubators'

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Canadian Model

- Regardless of the model, their main goal is to produce successful firms that will leave the incubation program financially viable and freestanding within a given timeframe

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Canadian Association of Business Incubation

Current Landscape

- CABI has grown from 6 dedicated members to over 135 members representing all provinces
- CABI has information sharing agreements in place with Business Incubation Associations worldwide

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Current Landscape

- Current research indicates that there are over 150 Business Incubation Programs operating throughout Canada
- These Incubation Programs help diversify economies, commercialize technologies, create jobs, and build wealth, knowledge and innovation

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CABI's Contribution

- As the voice of Canadian Business Incubation, CABI provides information, training, networking opportunities and access to resources for CABI members to better assist them in establishing and managing productive and successful Business Incubation Programs

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CABI's Contribution

- CABI's annual conferences provide a forum for the interchange of ideas on principles, practices and experiences in the field of Business Incubation
- CABI's industry surveys provide a means to collect and disseminate information regarding best practices in Canada

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CABI's Contribution

- On December 1st, CABI will be launching its CABI List-Serve Service
- CABI Members will be given on-line access to all other members across Canada to gain instant feedback to their questions and concerns from numerous members nationwide

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Canadian Association of Business Incubation

CABI's Contribution

- As Canada's '*Voice of Business Incubation*'
CABI's executive is constantly promoting a better understanding of Business Incubation's role as an economic development tool

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www.cabi.ca

'Business Incubation Works'

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