

**Suzanne Doig**

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**To:** undisclosed-recipients:  
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**ONTARIO****JAN****SMALL BUSINESS NET****Did You Know?**

Mini:

- > The number of online buyers in Ontario has almost tripled. In 2007, **59%** of all Ontarians made purchases online, compared to 22% in 2000.
- > Online purchasing by business in Ontario grew from 26% in 2001 to **64%** in 2007. The most common online business purchases are office supplies, followed by computer software and hardware.
- > More and more Ontario businesses are adopting an e-business strategy. In 2007, **31%** of Ontario companies had an e-business strategy in place, up six percentage points since 2001.
- > Companies with an e-business strategy report improved internal and external communications, increased revenues, lower sales and administration costs, and lower cost of goods and services sold.



*How You Can Profit from E-Business*, an e-business toolkit for Ontario SMEs, is available free of charge [online](#).

## Calling all student entrepreneurs

### Do you know a student aged 15–29 with the entrepreneurial urge?

After helping a record 350 student entrepreneurs last year, Summer Company is already receiving applications for the summer of 2009. The popular program (99 per cent of participants would recommend it to a friend) helps

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**McMaster student Anthony Condello is using the proceeds from his summer company, Home Painting & Decorating, to help finance his final year of business school.**

students set up and run their own summer businesses with funding assistance and mentoring. Participants receive up to \$1,500 at the start, up to an additional \$1,500 on the successful completion of their business, and professional advice throughout from volunteer mentors and MSBCS consultants. Summer Company is creating the entrepreneurs of tomorrow: one-third of participants remain self-employed after completing the program. For more information and to apply, visit the [Summer Company](http://www.ontario.ca/summercompany) home page.

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## Job creation remains top government priority

The Ontario government continues its job creation programs on several fronts. The [Next Generation of Jobs Fund](#) is investing \$1.15 billion in companies in emerging industries with international growth opportunities. Priority sectors include “green” auto, clean fuels research, environmental technologies, advanced health technologies, digital media/ICT, and pharmaceutical and biotech. Mississauga aerospace manufacturer Cyclone Manufacturing received a \$7.7 million grant last month to create 133 jobs by investing in new technology.



## Help for your hiring

SMEs who are looking to hire youth or students may take advantage of a program designed to encourage youth employment and apprenticeships. For information on training and employment programs you can use to hire and train new employees, visit [Invest and Trade Ontario](#).

## Ontario students get a Global Edge



The Ontario Global Edge program is giving post-secondary students a u about entrepreneurship and the role of SMEs in the global economy. On universities and colleges to send students to gain valuable international Italy, Holland, England, Germany and Jamaica.

“We’re giving our future entrepreneurs a strong edge in international bus Minister of Small Business and Consumer Services. “Ontario is building competitive small business sector for our province’s future.”

The four-year, \$1.7-million program is the result of a successful pilot pro

“It gave me a head start on thinking about how to start a successful busi far before graduation,” said Gordon Hunt, an architecture student at the Ontario Global Edge participant.

## Upcoming Events

- Technology for Competitive Edge: How SMEs can use technology to their benefit, [Peer to Peer Ro](#) Toronto, February 2, 2009
- [Economic Developers Council of Ontario](#) Annual Conference and Showcase, Toronto, February 3-
- [Contracts Canada](#) Helping Business Sell to the Government, introductory seminar, February 4, 11,
- [Wisdom Exchange 2009](#) networking and best practices forum, Toronto, February 18–19, 2009
- [Summer Company](#) is now accepting applications from entrepreneurial students for summer 2009

**Ministry of Small Business and Consumer Services**