



Client Feature: Spice Joint Jamaican Café



Our monthly Immigrant Entrepreneurship Newsletter features some of the incredible immigrant entrepreneurs in Alberta that we work with, like Isis and Dwain from the [Spice Joint Jamaican Café](#) in Jasper National Park. We spoke with Isis Valerio about their journey as immigrant entrepreneurs in Alberta:

Tell us about your business and what it does: It is a small cafe in Jasper National Park. We serve Jamaican food with a twist (grilled cheeses, wraps, sandwiches), coffee, and treats.

What motivated you to start your own business? Dwain has been working in the food industry since he was 17 years old and one of his goals was to open his own restaurant. As for me, I have been working in the food industry since I got to Jasper in 2011. There is nothing better than being able to make your own decisions and creations.

What advice would you share with other immigrant entrepreneurs in Alberta? It is possible. You can do it. Do not let anyone put your dreams down. It may take time and effort but it can be done! Do a lot of research and write down all your ideas. It will be useful down the road. To grow your business you need to know if your business is ready for the next level. There is a right time for everything, just wait for yours.

[Read More](#)

Q: I am working on writing a business plan for a new or established business. Where can I find support?

A: Business Link is here for you all the way! Our market research team will assist you in gathering secondary market research, and we will provide you with specialized guidance throughout the process, including:

- Sample business plans & templates
- Customized advice for immigrant entrepreneurs
- Business plan guides
- Business plan reviews



[Learn More](#)

Featured Partner



Community Futures West Yellowhead supports their region's economic development and diversification by providing coaching, training, and funding for entrepreneurs, small business owners, and non-profits organizations. They work in the communities of Jasper, Hinton, Edson, Grande Cache, and Yellowhead County.

CF West Yellowhead also runs several specialized business programs, organizes exciting business events, and actively works with community and business leaders to promote rural economic growth and resilience. Their specialized business programs provide one-one coaching and business tools for entrepreneurs that could face additional barriers in their entrepreneurship journey. Entrepreneurs with Disabilities, Women Entrepreneurship, Youth Entrepreneurship, Indigenous Entrepreneurship, and New Canadians Entrepreneurship are the specialized programs that are ready to support all the members of their region.

Veronica Santafe has just joined the Community Futures' team. She is leading the specialized programs for Indigenous and New Canadian entrepreneurs in the region. She is from Ecuador and immigrated to Canada to enroll in a doctoral program in Environment and Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan. Her academic background and professional experience have been connected to Indigenous entrepreneurship, sustainable tourism, local food systems.

[Learn More & Connect](#)

Updates & Upcoming Events

The **Supporting Black Canadian Communities Call for Proposals (CFP)** provides capital assistance to Black organizations in Canada to build capacity to:

- better fulfill their missions
- better serve Black communities in Canada

Not-for-Profit organizations that are Black-led, can apply for up to \$100,000 for equipment purchases for work or community spaces, and/or renovations or retrofits of existing workspaces or community spaces to improve their functionality. You can apply only once for this CFP, for a maximum of \$100,000 — applications close on July 27, 2020.

[More Information](#)

WEBINAR
**Starting a Business
While on a Temporary
Resident Visa**
JULY 9 | 11 AM-12 PM

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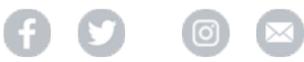
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