



IWD '26 Summit

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As we step into the second quarter, we want to take a moment to reflect with gratitude on an incredible start to the year. Thanks to the energy, commitment, and collaboration of our community, the first quarter was nothing short of impactful. From meaningful conversations to growth-defining initiatives, your support continues to drive our mission forward.

Welcome to our new members and collaborators who have recently joined us. Your perspectives, expertise, and passion strengthen our network and expand what we can achieve together. Welcome to the AWEC Canada community!

This season also gave us the opportunity to celebrate International Women's Day, a powerful reminder of the importance of advancing equity, amplifying voices, and recognizing the achievements of women across all sectors.

Finally, we are excited to welcome this year's "Pitch Your Vision" competition cohort. Another group of Ontario female founders bringing bold ideas, fresh thinking, and tremendous potential. We look forward to supporting their journey and celebrating their growth in the months ahead.

Happy spring, and here's to another quarter of impact and dynamic connection!

Lev 😊

Lev Eleazar Calang
Founder | Board of Director
AWEC Canada





HIGHLIGHTS



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

AWEC's New Year and Valentine's Day Markets showcased handmade goods and engaged customers, while masterclasses provided expert-led learning.

The International Women's Day event featured speakers, networking, mentorship, and community collaboration, promoting growth and shared success.

HIGHLIGHTS

2026, NEW YEAR MARKET

The New Year's Market at Tett Centre for Creativity & Learning featured seasonal offerings and unique creations, allowing vendors to showcase new products and engage with visitors, fostering a creative and community-focused year ahead.





HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUME 2
ISSUE 2 2026

VALENTINE'S DAY MARKET

The Valentine's Day Market at Tett Centre for Creativity & Learning (Tett) featured local vendors offering handmade goods, engaging shoppers in a warm, creative atmosphere, while building community connection, supporting small businesses, and celebrating artistry.

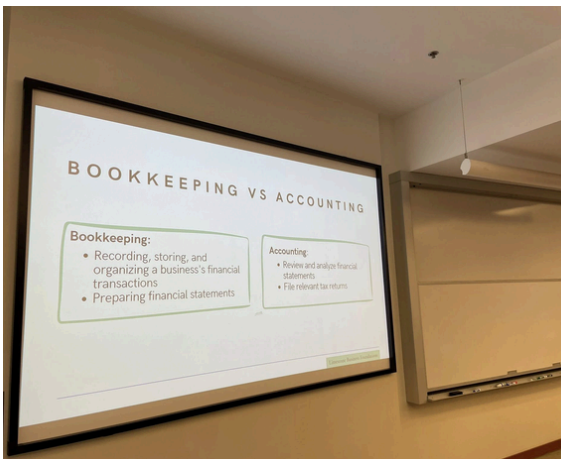




HIGHLIGHTS

LUNCH & LEARN MIXER

We hosted our Lunch & Learn Mixer on February 28, 2026, at Goodes Hall, featuring a session led by Kseniia Reidman on bookkeeping and tax reporting for small businesses, with practical insights, engaging discussion, and valuable networking opportunities throughout.





IWD EVENT

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY SUMMIT

On March 9, 2026, Toronto's Metro Hall came alive with inspiration and connection as AWEC Canada, in collaboration with Up With Women and House of Neighbours, hosted its first-ever International Women's Day Summit.

Bringing together women founders, aspiring entrepreneurs, and community leaders, the summit offered a full day of empowerment through a dynamic panel discussion, hands-on workshops, and a curated pop-up showcase. This year's theme, "Give to Gain," encouraged women to embrace collaboration, share knowledge, and step confidently into entrepreneurship.

The event opened with a welcome address from AWEC Founder Lev Calang. It featured a keynote by MPP Andrea Hazell, who inspired attendees with her message on leadership and community impact.

A standout session, "How Women Entrepreneurs Turn Collaboration into Growth," was moderated by Shari Doherty and brought together an accomplished panel including Agnes Haydock, Victoria Hirst, Sandra Rosier, Tanya Darisi, and Aisha Arshad. The discussion highlighted how strategic partnerships and community-building can fuel sustainable business success.

Interactive workshops led by Kerry Ramsay, Michelle Lawrence, Gaby Pineda, Skylar van Rossem and Noha Fazili equipped participants with practical tools ranging from marketing strategies to personal development techniques and financial planning.

Entirely volunteer-run, the summit showcased the strength and resilience of the entrepreneurial community, creating a vibrant space for women to learn, connect, and celebrate growth together.



IWD EVENT





CONTEST

ANNOUNCEMENT

AWEC Pitch Your Vision Competition 2026 Cohort

We are proud to present this year's cohort for the annual AWEC Pitch Your Vision Competition, a pitch accelerator program. Congratulations to the 19 female-led brands selected to participate in an intensive 8-week entrepreneurship bootcamp. This program will culminate in a business pitch competition, where these entrepreneurs will compete for seed funding to support their ventures.

- ***Toronto Girls Sports Association - Founder, Sapna Sharma***
- ***Mater Bricks - Founder, Randi Kerr***
- ***Endless Desire - Founders, Cindy and Lillian***
- ***Family Tree Treasure and Treats - Founder, Jennifer Steele***
- ***Wyse Woman Words with Lesley - Founder, Lesley Hervey***
- ***Petal n Dust - Founders, Suri and Phung***
- ***Thethani & Co - Founder, Shathvahi Ramesh***
- ***ANKAS Creations - Founder, Khush Asif***
- ***Remix Queen - Founder, Stacey Richards***
- ***FieldNote AI - Founder, Eunice Ajayi***
- ***Vastrakala - Founder, Bhakti Bhargava***
- ***Earth & I - Founders, Joceline Joshy Kozhipatt & Claudia Paredes Núñez***
- ***Noble Alchemist Jewellery - Founder, Virginia Muralt***
- ***Vira's Store - Founder, Vira Bagarova***
- ***BridgePoint Law Professional Corporation - Founder, Ningjing (Natalie) Zhang***
- ***VW Insurance & Financial Solutions - Founder, Vicky Wosu***
- ***Santa Mia Cosmetics - Founder, Emily Green***
- ***Kingston Current - Founder, Leila Goyer***
- ***Bubble Butter Creme - Founder, Lydia Lawson***



MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Become part of a vibrant community of women dedicated to business growth, personal empowerment, and holistic wellness. Enjoy exclusive access to events, resources, and support that will elevate your personal and entrepreneurial journey!

Join the AWEC community today!

WHO CAN JOIN

- Female business owner or aspiring entrepreneur, at any stage of the entrepreneurial journey
- Passionate about personal growth and committed to professional development
- Open to collaboration, learning, and shared experiences
- From any industry or business sector

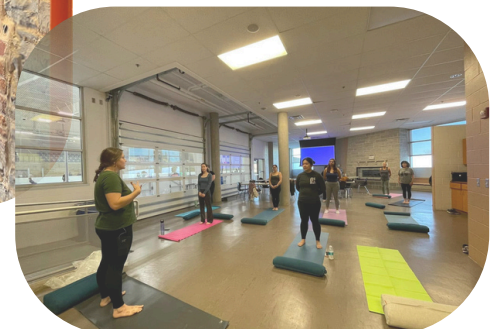
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Business exposure
- Networking and mentorship
- Business consulting
- Wellness events
- Learning events
- Exclusive discounts & MORE!

HOW TO JOIN

Check out **AWEC MEMBERSHIPS** to register online.

Join any of our upcoming Lunch and Learn or Mixer events to register in person.





2ND QUARTER - 2026 EVENTS

APR
18

LUNCH & LEARN MIXER

11:00 AM - 2 PM | Goodes Hall Queen's University

APR
25

SPRING POP-UP MARKET

10:30 AM - 4 PM | Tett Centre, Kingston ON

APR
29

MASTERCLASS - VIRTUAL

Topic: The AI-Powered Solopreneur

5:30 PM - 7:30PM | **Zoom

MAY
9

SPRING BAZAAR AT DOW'S CLIMATE CARE

11:00 AM - 2 PM | 2495 Princess St., Kingston ON

MAY
10

MOTHER'S DAY POP-UP MARKET

10:30 AM - 4 PM | Tett Centre, Kingston ON

MAY
27

MASTERCLASS - VIRTUAL

*Topic: From Buzz to Business:
Building Smarter Social Media Campaigns*

5:30 PM - 7:30PM | **Zoom

JUNE
27 &
28

SUMMER POP-UP MARKET

10:30 AM - 4 PM | Confederation Park, Kingston ON



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

ANNUAL WOMEN'S WELLNESS RETREAT

September 12, 2026 | 9 AM - 3 PM

Shibagau Creek Forest Farmstead
Tamworth, ON



COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Mabuhay Fil-Can Inc. Presents Mabuhay Festival

A vibrant celebration of Filipino heritage, culture and the resilience of Filipinos across Kingston and the surrounding region. This inaugural event brings together families, community members, and local businesses for a day filled with culture, connection and community spirit.

AWEC members and partners are warmly invited to take part in the festival as vendors. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your businesses, connect with a diverse market, and celebrate entrepreneurship within a lively cultural setting.

We look forward to welcoming you to a festival that honors tradition, fosters collaboration and brings communities together.



[@mabuhay.filipino-canadian.kingston](https://www.facebook.com/mabuhay.filipino-canadian.kingston)



[@mabuhayfilcan.ca](https://www.mabuhayfilcan.ca)



AWEC PARTNERS FEATURES

*Here are our valued and generous partner businesses offering special discounts and exclusive promotions for AWEC members. **Present your AWEC member ID to enjoy these benefits.**



613-417-0445

*10% off day passes, meeting rooms and membership options



ali@drivisa.com

*10% discount for all AWEC members and their family



info@themercury.ca



613-766-7225

*15% discount on food and drinks



613-900-7254

*Showroom space to showcase AWEC members' products



inf0@columbuscafekingston.ca



416-428-3177

*10% discount on food and drinks



CONNECT WITH US

VOLUNTEER WITH AWEC!

Roles are available in Marketing & Communications, Graphic and Multimedia Design, Business Consulting, and Events Coordination, all in support of women entrepreneurs and women-owned businesses.

Interested to become a volunteer?

SIGN UP HERE: [Volunteer](#)



www.awecca.com



[@Awec Canada](#)



[@AWEC Canada \(All Women Entrepreneurship Circuit\)](#)



[@awec.ca](#)

LEARN MORE ABOUT:

MEMBERSHIPS

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POP-UP MARKET

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MEDIA/PARTNERSHIP

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AWEC is a proud member of:

