



E-Bulletin – Dated 12 March 2009

Dear ICOBC members,

We are very pleased to announce that the Indo Canada Ottawa Business Chamber (ICOBC) has been chosen by Microsoft Corporation as a Network Partner for its prestigious BizSpark programs for budding start-ups in the Ottawa region.

Microsoft's BizSpark is an innovative new program that unites Startups with entrepreneurial and technology resources in a global community with a common goal of supporting and accelerating the success of a new generation of high-potential Startups.

Microsoft offers qualified startups access to a wide list of their software products for up to three years free of charge valued approx at \$ 25,000. The only charge to qualified startups is a US\$100 fee payable when exiting the program. One catch is that you have to be "sponsored" into the program by a Microsoft Network Partner such as ICOBC, as far as we know, ICOBC is the only business Chamber in Canada that has been accepted by Microsoft as a Network Partner. This is, in part, due to our reputation in the Canadian community as a Business Chamber that works with and contributes to technology startups and the startup community.

To be a "qualified" startup your company must meet the following criteria at the time of joining (and each anniversary of enrollment):

- Actively engaged in development of a software-based product or service that will form a core piece of its current or intended business,
- Privately held,
- In business for less than 3 years, and
- Less than US \$1 million in annual revenue. .

Part of our job as a "Network Partner" is to confirm that your company meets the foregoing criteria.

For more details on the program please visit the Microsoft's site at <http://www.microsoft.com/BizSpark/>

Please contact us if you need more details about the program, we will be happy to help you with you with your start-ups software requirements.