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PRESS RELEASE

“JUST WATCH ME” VIDEO CONTEST SEEKS INSPIRING STORIES OF ENTREPRENEURS WITH DISABILITIES

THOMPSON, MANITOBA - If you are an entrepreneur with a disability and have a business success story to share, you could win \$1000. All you need to do is create a two or three minute video and enter it in the “Just Watch Me” contest by October 31, 2011.

This video contest is being run by the Community Futures Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program (EDP), and is open to people with self-identified disabilities or ongoing health conditions living in rural Western Canada.

“Self-employment can be a great fit for people with disabilities or ongoing health conditions,” explains Susan Bater, EDP Coordinator for rural Manitoba and spokesperson for the contest launched last week during the 2011 Community Futures Conference. “Owning a small business means you can set your own hours, create a personalized work environment, and – most importantly, gain a sense of control over your destiny.”

The contest aims to get more people with disabilities interested in being their own bosses. The contest homepage features the inspiring video story of Vancouver Island’s Al Berman, owner/operator of Berg Bikes. An elite athlete, Al has been a wheelchair user since 2000, and now operates a successful and satisfying business creating hand-made, customized bicycles for enthusiasts around the world.

“Running my own business works extremely well for me,” says Al. “I’m doing something that I love, and that completely fits with my abilities.”

The winning video in the “Just Watch Me” contest will be chosen by a judges panel and public voting process. The winner will be announced on December 2, 2011, in recognition of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3rd).

To find out more, go to: <http://www.communityfuturespanwest.ca/contest/>

Or contact: Susan Bater at edpinfo@mts.net



BACKGROUNDER

Contest sponsor

This is a Community Futures Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program (EDP) initiative across Western Canada. Please feel free to contact Susan Bater at edpinfo@mts.net if you have any questions.

How the contest works

If someone is interested in submitting a video to the contest, they can get all of the information they need from the [contest website](#). Basically this is how the process works:

1. The potential participant should review the contest's [eligibility requirements](#) and [terms and conditions](#) to make sure they qualify.
2. The potential participant should also take a minute to review the [contest theme](#) to make sure it matches with the story they want to tell in their video.
3. If the potential participant has any questions, they might wish to review the [FAQs page](#), and then proceed to the [How to enter](#) and [Help me make my video](#) pages.
4. Once they have finished making their video, they are ready to upload it to YouTube. Uploading a video to YouTube is an easy process, and is outlined in detail on the contest's [help me upload](#) page.
5. A panel of judges representing the small business sector will announce their "top 5" videos on November 7, 2011. At that point, the public is invited to vote for their favourite in the "top 5 list" (one person, one vote). The video with the most votes by November 26, 2011 wins \$1000 cash.

Contest timeline

Contest starts: October 2, 2011

Contest closes: October 31, 2011

Top 5 finalists announced by judges panel: November 7, 2011

Public voting begins: November 7, 2011

Public voting ends: November 26, 2011

Winner announced: December 2, 2011