

LENDING PROGRAM

In order for AWE to consider a loan application, we must have proof of the following:

- The business is 51% owned/operated and controlled by a woman/women.
- Applicant(s) must have a minimum credit score of 650.
- Applicant(s) will contribute a minimum or have contributed a minimum of 25% owner equity on total project costs.
- Applicant(s) will contribute a minimum of 30% security contribution on the AWE loan.
- Applicant is an Alberta resident.
- Business will be based in Alberta.

AWE cannot finance:

- Owner's salary.
- Re-financing existing debt.
- Commission-based businesses, independent agents, or commissioned salespersons.
- Pyramid based businesses including network or multi-level marketing programs.
- Franchise fees.
- Speculative ventures (ie. Purchase of land for resale, unpublished books, etc.).
- Business purchases that are solely share purchases.
- Intangible goodwill (i.e. business name or reputation).
- Research and development.
- Purchase of stocks, shares, or other non-productive investment.

About AWE

Alberta Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to enabling women to build successful businesses. AWE provides unique programs and services to women at all stages of business through advising, financing, mentoring, and skills and network development.

We exist to build strong, independent Alberta businesses.

Alberta Women Entrepreneurs connects our clients to the people and resources needed at all stages of business growth. One of the ways that we help women-owned businesses is through our repayable loans of up to \$150,000.

Grow Your Business Today!

Our loans have flexible repayment options and terms up to 5 years. If you require financing beyond \$150,000, we attempt to partner with other lenders to meet your full borrowing requirements. In addition, we offer a competitive business rate – Prime + 3%. There are no penalties for early repayment and we do not charge annual renewal fees. Loan administration fees are on 1% of the amount loaned to a maximum of \$500.

AWE is a non-profit, business plan lender and our lending decision is strongly tied to our assessment of the viability of your business plan (economic viability, marketing strategies, competition in the marketplace and financial projections). We also consider the economic impact of the business in terms of job creation and future growth.

"For us, at a later stage of growth and already established with a proven model, AWE was able to provide that next step... That's the beauty of AWE, they are a full-service operation for women in Alberta at all stages of business growth..."

Lauren Regan
Social Club Discount Listing

AWE is supported by:



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THE LOAN PROCESS

AWE's Loan Approval Process is broken down into three steps:

Step 1: Pre-Application

This is the time when AWE will review initial documents, dependent on whether you are starting or purchasing a business or expanding your existing business. Once we have completed an initial assessment of the documents, we will meet with you to discuss whether an AWE loan is right for you.

- *You have a completed business plan and want to apply for financing.*
- *We recommend that you download the checklist to ensure you have all the required documentation.*

Step 2: Application

If we recommend moving forward, the second step is loan application. The loan application includes a non-refundable application fee and a completed AWE loan application form for each director/partner. AWE will conduct a credit review on all applications, and your Business Advisor will then assess the loan application in detail.

- *You are ready to apply.*
- *You and all principles have filled in the loan application form.*
- *You have the loan application fee.*

Step 3: Loan Committee Review

This is the time when AWE will review initial documents, dependent on whether you are purchasing a business or expanding your existing business. Once we have completed an initial assessment of the documents, we will meet with you to discuss whether an AWE loan is right for you.

- The viability of the business venture
 - Management and operational capacity
 - Overall financial risk
 - Marketability
 - Repayment capacity
 - Credit history
 - Collateral security
 - Owner equity
 - Consumer acceptance of the product/service
- *Your loan application is submitted to the review committee.*
 - *The loan review committee will assess your application to decide if it fits with the lending portfolio.*

You will be informed if the loan is approved or declined.

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