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About this Document

This is an ANNOTATED sample business plan for a new business.

The origin of this was a Futurpreneur sample business plan which has been substantially altered and annotated for teaching purposes.

A CLEAN version of this business plan is in another file, part of the same JEDI Indigenous Entrepreneur Toolkit.

About this Table of Contents

This is a sample table of contents.

Your business plan might be very different depending on several factors:

- 1. The stage / maturity of your business
- 2. The purpose of your business plan (Is this for you and your team vs for a funder who needs it to decide yes or no on your funding request?)
- 3. The complexity of your business
- 4. Do you need to explain a lot of market research?
- 5. Some other factor that is unique to your business

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1.0 Executive Summary

General Notes about Executive Summary

The executive summary should be short and to the point. Often the target is to make it fit on one page, although that is not a hard rule.

In our example, we highlight 4 areas: company profile (so that the reader quickly learns about the business), products, marketing & sales, and finance ... each is explained below.

For your executive summary, you'll choose the subject areas that are most important for the purpose of the business plan. Always ask yourself, "What does the reader need to know and understand for me to achieve my objective?" (For example, to agree to lend me money.)

Your executive summary is the last page(s) you will write in your business plan. Complete everything else first, and then reflect on what you've written to write the highlights, i.e., the executive summary.

Something to keep in mind: Often, readers will read the executive summary and then decide if they want to read more. Therefore, it's critical that this section is written to cause the reader to want to read more.

Company Profile Summary

Auntie's Bakery recognizes that cupcake stores have started to saturate large urban centres and that opening locations in suburban and less populated cities is the next wave of growth. Fredericton's tourism focused BIA and growing population makes it ideal for an Auntie's Bakery location.

Auntie's Bakery is a franchise that specializes in gourmet cupcakes and tarts baked fresh daily. Auntie's Bakery is owned and operated by Willow Birch, a graduate of the NBCC Culinary Arts Management program, and a baking enthusiast. The business will be located at 5012 Main Street in the already high trafficked downtown core.

Market Research Driven Products

The bakery industry continues to see growth across Canada. While some analysts report that the "cupcake bubble" is going to burst in the United States market, the Canadian market remains unaffected. Cupcakes have become a more mainstream purchase for special events and impulse purchases. In addition, Auntie's Bakery will

Purpose of Market Research Section: Here, we're describing the products we plan to sell but we're doing so by establishing that there is demand for these products via market research.

provide individual tarts, which has been reported by foodies as "the next cupcake". Auntie's Bakery

targets individuals, couples, and families seeking out an affordable indulgence that's convenient. Auntie's Bakery will focus on customers who value fresh products made of whole ingredients provided by local businesses.

Marketing & Sales Summary

Auntie's Bakery will focus on being an active member of the community, creating authentic relationships with customers and local businesses. Auntie's Bakery will launch with a grand opening party to build these relationships and create awareness of the store's location. Since Auntie's Bakery target market is making impulse purchases, it is important that Auntie's Bakery brand consistently appears at events in the community. Auntie's Bakery will further support this with direct mail campaigns that include promotional offers.

Finance Summary

Auntie's Bakery in Fredericton is targeting sales of \$138,000 in their first year with expenses of \$80,000. Auntie's Bakery requires \$67,800 for start-up expenses, this includes the required cash reserve needed to meet the franchisee application requirements. Auntie's Bakery owner will invest \$30,000 into the business and will apply for \$14,000 from local community funding. The remaining \$35,000 will be from a loan request through Futurpreneur Canada and the Business Development Bank's start-up programs.

Purpose of Marketing & Sales Summary: Sales are always an important subject, especially if you're using your business plan with a lender.

In our example plan, we're using this section to highlight both marketing (how people learn about your product) and sales (generating revenue) because they go hand-in-hand.

Purpose of Finance Summary: The finance paragraph establishes how the business is being funded and (in this case) the additional funding that is required.

Notice that the first sentence also establishes the sales target to support the financial ask.

Additional general notes: There are many subjects to choose from to include in an executive summary. Remember, you don't need to summarize everything from the business plan in the executive summary but you do need to decide the subjects that best support your objective. A full list of this business plan's subjects can be found in the table of contents. There are many templates available on the Internet; some are listed in the JEDI Indigenou Entrepreneur Toolkit.

2.0 Company Profile

Business Overview

Business Overview Purpose: To give the reader basic information about the business Auntie's Bakery is a bakery franchise dedicated to making delicious wholesome cupcakes and tarts baked fresh daily using whole food local ingredients. It has a strong marketing campaign as "The Original Maritime Bakery". Auntie's Bakery also provides customized catering services for small to medium size events. Auntie's Bakery was established on

15/01/2014.

Auntie's Bakery is a premium peanut-free bakery providing delicious and beautiful desserts baked fresh daily to indulge the sweet tooth in everyone.

Company History

Company History Purpose: In this sample, the background about the franchiser (Auntie's Bakery) and Elizabeth, who is the franchisee and writer of this business plan, is given Auntie's Bakery is a well-known Franchise bakery located throughout New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and PEI with an established corporate marketing campaign as "The Original Maritime Bakery". Auntie's Bakery's original location opened in Moncton in 1975 by Annabelle Watson, way ahead of the cupcake trend that hit in the 21st century. Although having a long history of being in business.

Auntie's Bakery has a very thorough franchise application and approval process and therefore there are only 12 franchisees currently in operation.

Willow Birch has submitted her pre-application request to Auntie's Bakery Confectionery Inc. to open a franchise in Fredericton and met with a franchising representative to discuss the start-up requirements, franchisee fees and approval process. Ms. Birch has received conditional approval for locating her franchise in Fredericton, subject to successful completion of the franchisee application form. Ms. Birch is in negotiations for the commercial lease of a location at 5012 - 49 St, Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Location Purpose: A reader will be

A reader will be naturally wondering about where the store will be located.

Note that a photo is being used here to communicate the "look and feel" of the business. A map is also helpful.

Location

Auntie's Bakery will be a storefront. Auntie's Bakery will be located at 5012 Main Street, Fredericton, New Brunswick. This location was previously a coffee shop and therefore only modest renovations are required to accommodate a



commercial kitchen. Auntie's Bakery will focus on selling cupcakes and tarts in the downtown core, capitalizing on the high foot traffic in the area anchored by the library. Auntie's Bakery will look into partnering with the local library and Fredericton Community Theatre to offer birthday party packages.

Legal Structure Purpose: Most lenders have different rules for sole proprietors vs incorporated businesses. It's important to have a section that clearly establishes your business structure.

Vision & Mission Purpose: This section explains to the reader your "big picture" reason for your business. In this case, the reader learns that Willow has a vision to be one of the best Auntie's Bakery stores and she is also making a point about using "local wholesome ingredients."

Professional Advisors Purpose:

Lenders will wonder are you doing this on your own or do you have access to qualified help. Here, Elizabeth is making the point that she will be formally trained and has professional marketing services available to help her.

Goals & Objectives Purpose:

Naturally, a lender will wonder about your goals and objectives. They will be particularly interested in financial goals (covered later) but this is your opportunity to put your financial goals into words.

Legal Structure

Auntie's Bakery is a sole proprietorship. Auntie's Bakery will open as a sole proprietorship, which complies with Auntie's Bakery franchise restrictions while also reducing start-up costs.

Vision & Mission

To become a flagship Auntie's Bakery franchise location, known for quality cupcakes and tarts, and outstanding customer service.

Auntie's Bakery provides delicious fresh cupcakes and tarts made with local wholesome ingredients for consumers to indulge their sweet tooth.

Professional Advisors

Auntie's Bakery will rely on the training and brand marketing services provided by Auntie's Bakery Confectionery Inc. the head office of the franchise chain.

Goals & Objectives

Steady sales of 200 cupcakes/tarts per week after two months

10 custom cake order in first year

Franchisee of the Year award for outstanding customer satisfaction after two years

3.0 Products & Services

Auntie's Bakery is a product and service business. Auntie's Bakery product offering is divided into two main categories: cupcakes and tarts. Auntie's Bakery also offers custom cake creation and event catering services on a by-request basis.

Purpose: This is a very straight-forward section → What do you make and/or sell? Photos are always helpful in this section, especially for "colourful" products.

Auntie's Bakery Cupcake Menu

We'll have eight flavours:

- Vanilla Bean Cake with Vanilla Buttercream Frosting
- Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Buttercream Frosting
- Red Velvet Cake with Cream Cheese Icing
- Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Icing
- Banana Cake with Chocolate Buttercream Frosting
- Angel Food Cake with Lemon Buttercream Frosting
- Chocolate Cake with Cream Cheese Icing with Caramel Sauce and Rock Salt
- Vanilla Bean Cake with Chocolate Mint Buttercream Frosting and Cookie crumbs

Auntie's Bakery Tart Menu

Our 3-inch tarts include:

- Vanilla Custard Tart
- Butter Tart
- Chocolate Custard Tart
- Lemon Bakewell Tart
- Seasonal Fruit Tart



4.0 Market Research

Purpose: This section is a summary of what you learned from your market research activities. What you write here often contains the non-financial answers that lenders need to make their funding decisions, such as the items highlighted in **bold blue** below. Note the use of links to provide supporting research. (IMPORTANT: Don't forget to check that the links are still good when you send your business plan to people.)

Industry Profile & Outlook

Auntie's Bakery operates primarily in the bakery industry.

The bakery market in Canada is highly fragmented with many companies and products. There are a few large companies such as Weston, Kellogg, Maple Leaf Foods, etc. that have significant market share, but no one company controls the market. In fact, artisanal bakery products make up 29.5% of the market according to

What are the market characteristics for this business and its products?

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (http://www.ats-sea.agr.gc.ca/can/6333-eng.htm). If looking specifically at the cupcake market, there are a few brands building market share, such as Cupcakes, Cupcake Girls and Auntie's Bakery, but they have yet to expand nationally and instead are building traction in regional markets.

What are the barriers to entry and how are you solving these?

The bakery industry has many barriers to entry, primarily with regards to operations. Securing permits and licences can be difficult with different requirements at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. In addition, inventory management of perishable ingredients is a delicate balance to ensure the minimal amount of waste.

Auntie's Bakery franchisor providers training and guidance for estimating ingredient purchase, predicting inventory spikes, and managing product production.

Auntie's Bakery also represents the increasing popularity of bakery franchises specializing in cupcakes. Consider brands like Crumbs and Magnolia's in the United States, where consumers drive to their locations for the novelty of having one of *their* cupcakes. Auntie's Bakery provides the same cache in the Canadian market, without having the 'big business' feel of having a location on every corner. Still, with the 'buy local' trend, Auntie's Bakery will need to

What's special about this business vs other businesses in this industry?

develop strong relationships with the local community and business owners in order to be viewed as a sole proprietor and not a large corporation.

Why should the reader be excited about this business / industry?

The gourmet cupcake segment of the bakery industry has seen exponential growth over the last decade, made popular through an appearance on Sex in the City. Although growth has slowed, the Canadian market is still going strong. Cupcakes, a Vancouver based gourmet bakery, reported that year-to-date sales were up by 24% from that same time last year in a statement to the Globe

and Mail

(http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/food-and-wine/food-trends/sweet-news-for-canadian-cupcake-lovers/article11510344/). And they're not alone. Yummy Stuff Bakery in Toronto also reports that cupcakes are still their number one seller, with 50 to 60 percent of Yummy Stuff's pre-ordered business coming from cupcakes and impulse purchases.

(http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/food-and-wine/food-trends/sweet-news-for-canadian-cupcake-lovers/article11510344/). The price point of cupcakes and other single serve desserts provide mass appeal, as they are an "affordable indulgence". It is for this reason a location with high foot traffic is essential for an Auntie's Bakery franchise to cater to impulse purchases. Cupcakes also provide an alternative to cakes for special events that are more

Never shy away from potentially negative views about your industry. It's better to think about how to respond to them and include them in your business plan.

convenient and easier to serve while still providing an upscale dessert to mark the occasion.

Although many analysts have been calling for the cupcake trend bubble to burst, sales numbers continue to grow. All major Canadian cities have at least one cupcake specialty shop. Lori Joyce, co-owner of The Cupcake Girls, says "shifting taste trends won't affect her business". She notes in an article in MacLean's magazine, that the suburbs are the next big growth frontier.

(http://www.macleans.ca/society/life/cupcake-gridlock/). She goes on to note that 85% of customers go to their

Victoria store, buy six-packs and shop at Wal-Mart. Auntie's Bakery looks to capitalize on a similar market by opening in Fredericton. It's bringing its well-known and wholesome brand to everyone.

Local Market

Zoning in on the local market helps the reader better understand your plans In the Fredericton area there are currently only two independent bakeries providing gourmet cupcakes and cakes. However, there are several large mixed merchandise stores on the outskirts of town, including Real Canadian Superstore, Sobeys, and Wal-Mart that sell pre-packaged cupcakes. There are also an unknown number of home bakers in the area selling online and baking in unlicensed

home kitchens.

Fredericton's census metropolitan area (CMA) has a population of 108,000 has seen a 3.3% growth from 2016 to 2021 according to Statistics Canada. The population increase is important since it's been concentrated in the 0 – 14 year old and 15 – 64 age groups, which align with Auntie's Bakery target market.

Population statistics are used to help describe the size and characteristics of your target market

Auntie's Bakery will be the only bakery in Fredericton that will target local foot traffic, composed of youth 0-14 and their parents who are visiting the local library for after school programming. Auntie's Bakery location will help to promote impulse purchases for dessert as well as convenient options for celebrating birthdays, baptisms, graduations, and life's other special events.

There are many free sources of Market Research available to you

- ACOA has a <u>market research service</u>
- Statistics Canada
- US Bureau of Labor Statistics https://www.bls.gov/
- US Census Bureau https://www.census.gov/
- Major consulting firms frequently publish research reports (Accenture, Deloitte, EY, KPMG, PwC, McKinsey)
- Check out more consulting companies at this <u>link</u>
- Use Google to search for specific topics ... but always question the source of what you find (is it authentic? is it backed up with reputable data?)
- Note that you can also do a search using voice or image on Google (look for these symbols in the search bar when you're doing a Google search):



Key Competitors / SWOT Analysis

Cupcake Girls

Strengths

- Established part of the local community
- Go to destination for custom cake orders for special events

Weaknesses

• Doesn't have the cache of Auntie's Bakery brand

Opportunities

 Could decide to expand into the west side of Fredericton

A SWOT analysis is a common tool used by entrepreneurs and lenders.

SWOT stands for

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Opportunities
- Threats

SW are considered "internal" – i.e., what are your strengths and weaknesses (and of your competitors)

OT are considered "external" – i.e., what are the opportunities for you (and competitors) in the market and what are the threats to success

In this business plan, Willow is providing the SWOT for a competitor (Hey Sugarl) and for her business.

SWOTs are important because they show the reader that you understand who you're up against and how you and they compare.

Threats

Auntie's Bakery could start focusing marketing efforts on custom cake orders

Auntie's Bakery

Strengths

- Well-known brand throughout the Maritimes that started in New Brunswick
- Reputation of high quality cupcakes and tarts

Weaknesses

- Not familiar with the local market
- No established relationships with suppliers for sourcing local ingredients

Opportunities

Partnerships with local youth focused programming to provide entertainment packages

Threats

Cupcake Girls could start discounting cupcakes to increase sales volume

Target Market

Auntie's Bakery is focused on selling to Consumers (B2C).

Target Market profile for Auntie's Bakery:

- Single, married or common-law woman with or without children (demographics)
- Household income: \$30,000 \$150,000 (demographics)
- Consumers who are the primary grocery purchaser (behaviour)
- Consumers who are looking for convenient and beautiful desserts to celebrate special occasions (behaviour)
- Consumers desiring an indulgence without the purchase guilt (psychographic)
- Consumers looking to support revitalization of downtown Fredericton (scope)

Keys to Success

Why will you be successful?

Since Auntie's Bakery is an established brand with guaranteed marketing from the corporate office for the launch of the Fredericton franchise, product quality will be critical to success. It will be the quality that will encourage people to come back and tell others about

their experience. Auntie's Bakery will work to establish a reliable supplier network for quality local ingredients to produce Auntie's Bakery signature line of cupcakes and tarts. Auntie's Bakery will also need to keep costs low due to the small margins the industry works within.

Specifically who are you targeting for sales?

5.0 Strategy and Implementation

Purpose: While every section in a business plan is important, this section is particularly important because here is where you will explain your overall sales process, i.e., how you generate revenue. More notes are in **dark blue**.

Sales & Marketing Strategy

Pricing Strategy

- Prices range from the low end of \$2.50/cupcake or tart to \$4.75/cupcake or tart.
- Competition: \$2.75/cupcake
- Auntie's Bakery: \$3.00/cupcake when sold individually
- Auntie's Bakery: \$2.75/cupcake when sold as a dozen
- Pricing is determined as part of the Franchise agreement and cannot be altered by the individual franchisee. The price point reflects the reputation of Auntie's Bakery cupcakes and tarts in the market.

What are your prices and how did you arrive at them?

Marketing Strategy

Networking with local community

How will target buyers learn about you and your products? Creating hype and excitement about the opening of an Auntie's Bakery location will be critical to capturing the sale volume needed for the business to succeed. With Valentine's Day following shortly after the store's opening, Auntie's Bakery will host a Grand Opening Party in January. It will be a "Beat the Winter Blues'

themed event providing an opportunity for Auntie's Bakery owner Ms. Birch to engage with local businesses, artists and the community at large. Auntie's Bakery's key strategy is to create a positive celebration atmosphere for consumers to associate with the Auntie's Bakery brand in hopes of purchasing cupcakes or tarts for their own special events. To increase awareness of the event, Auntie's Bakery will send out a postcard direct mail campaign announcing the event.

Postcards

A secondary strategy will be to deliver a postcard to all homes in the Fredericton area announcing the arrival of an Auntie's Bakery location in their city. It will contain a special offer for \$1 off a second cupcake with the purchase of the first at full price.

Social Media

In social media, Auntie's Bakery will focus on Instagram and Twitter as a way to engage in an authentic manner with the community. By re-tweeting other local businesses events, thanking customers, posting behind the scenes photos and collecting input for new menu items.

Primary Marketing Activity

Auntie's Bakery' key marketing activity will kick off with Auntie's Bakery Grand Opening Party at the end of January. Prior to the event, Auntie's Bakery will send out a 4x6 postcard to 5000 homes in the Fredericton area announcing the opening and two-day special offer.

The goal of this event is to create awareness and excitement about the opening of Auntie's Bakery in Fredericton. To help build relationships within the community, Ms. Birch will contact the Streetscapes Committee for recommendations on local artists and bands to participate in the event. Ms. Birch will also contact the local library to find out how the event could integrate into their existing after school programming.

Note that it's good to provide some details here ... which reflects the heightened importance of this section

The goal of the event is to create a community showcase that attracts a broad range of community members to Auntie's Bakery's new storefront. Ms. Birch would provide free refreshments and \$1.00 off the purchase of a second cupcake. The goal of the event would be to establish Auntie's Bakery as a part of the local community and not as a 'big business'. The event would be considered a success if 500 cupcakes are sold over the course of the event.

In addition to this one time event, Auntie's Bakery would continue to foster authentic relationships with the community by joining the Fredericton Business Improve Association

(BIA) and the Streetscapes Committee. Auntie's Bakery will contribute to the economic development of the community. Ms. Birch would also look for community events to represent Auntie's Bakery such as events at the Roots: Emporium monthly showcase, productions at Black Box Theatre, and markets and Pow Wows. Ms. Birch will personally attend as many events as possible. She will also closely monitor community calendars for proposed events that correlate with spikes in Auntie's Bakery sales, such as Valentines Day, Mother's Day, Easter, and Christmas.

The goal will be to attend events weekly throughout the year, building up trust and goodwill within the community. In addition, Auntie's Bakery will provide product donations once a month totaling a cost of no more than \$70 dollars. Each product donation will require the recipient to include acknowledgement of Auntie's Bakery in event collateral or signage. The monthly costs for attending events and providing donations will range from \$50 - \$100. It is expected that traffic driven through these events to the retail store will result in the sale of 500 – 800 cupcakes per month.

Marketing Objectives

Goal #1: Addition to the Streetscapes.ca website business directory

Goal #2: Attendance of 4 community events per month starting in February

What are your marketing objectives?

Goal #3: 100 Twitter follows after one month in business

Positioning Statement

In very tight language, what makes you different / better than other choices?

Auntie's Bakery provides fresh gourmet cupcakes and tarts made with local wholesome ingredients for consumers to indulge their sweet tooth.

The Sales Process

Auntie's Bakery sales cycle timeline is <24hrs.

For the majority of Auntie's Bakery sales, the process will involve customers walking into the store and being greeted by a sales associate. Alternatively, during the summer

How do/will sales happen?

months, customers may be greeted on the street outside the store with free tart samples and encouraged to enter. Auntie's Bakery anticipates an 80 – 90% conversion of customers who

enter the store to purchase a cupcake or tart. Payment is due at the time of order for the full amount.

For custom cake and catering orders, the process will involve the potential customer coming into the store or calling. If the inquiry is made in person, the Auntie's Bakery sales associate will review the catering and/or custom cake options with the customer while showing them example photos. During the call or meeting, the Auntie's Bakery sales associate will request details about the number of people, date, type of event, food being served, etc. to help the customer decide on the best option and amount needed for their event. This also allows Auntie's Bakery to confirm they are able to accommodate the order in their workload. Using the calculator kept near the phone and cash, the associate will provide an estimate of the total costs to the customer.

For 75% of inquiries made, the sale is approved during the initial meeting with Auntie's Bakery requiring full payment via a credit card, debit or cash at time of order. Auntie's Bakery sales associate completes the paper order form with the details from the conversation and provides it to the customer for review. If a custom inscription or design is required, the customer is asked to initial the messaging/description as confirmation it is correct. The customer leaves with a copy of their invoice and details for pickup.

Operations

Location(s)

Where / How / When will the business "operate"?

Auntie's Bakery will be a storefront. Auntie's Bakery will be located at 5012 Main Street, Fredericton, New Brunswick. This location was previously a coffee shop and therefore only modest renovations are required to accommodate a small commercial kitchen for the bakery. In addition, this location is in the heart of the downtown,

included in the Fredericton Art Walk tour map, and across from the local library where several after school programs operate. Auntie's Bakery store hours of operation will be: Tuesday – Friday 12pm to 6pm and Saturday – Sunday 10am – 4pm.

These hours will allow for baking products in the mornings prior to the store opening, as well as working on custom cake and catering orders without having to manage a retail store counter at the same time.

Auntie's Bakery website will launch on 01/01/2024.

Auntie's Bakery Fredericton location will appear on the corporate website's store locator. Auntie's Bakery will not have its own individual website.

Auntie's Bakery Fredericton location will create Instagram and Twitter accounts to post photos of their creations as well as engage with customers and local businesses. Ms. Birch will be responsible for creating and posting content to both the Instagram and Twitter accounts.

Regulatory / Legal Issues

Auntie's Bakery anticipates the following legal issues:

What are the regulatory issues that need to be addressed before opening the doors for the first time?

- business licenses
- location & zoning by-laws
- health inspection
- contract agreements (partnerships, independent contractors etc.)

Auntie's Bakery has visited the Fredericton Biz Pal website (https://www.fredericton.ca/en) and started organizing and applying for permits as needed. These include a Business License, Food Handling Permit and Sign Permit. Ms. Birch has also reached out to the Fredericton Region Community Futures organization for legal and accounting referrals.

Process/Production

 Auntie's Bakery will order ingredients from Boyce Farms and Linden Wholesalers. Contact has been made with all suppliers and a review of their reliability has been conducted. Terms for deliveries have been agreed upon, with Auntie's Bakery placing orders on Friday and delivery of orders happening the following Tuesday (4 day turnaround). For occasional seasonal ingredient More operational details, like who does what? How are products made? What activities will be done inside the business vs outsourced to a 3rd party?

orders, Auntie's Bakery has arranged suppliers to contact her when ingredients are set to become available (harvest) so orders can be updated to include purchase of the seasonal items.

- 2. The cupcakes and tarts will be made from whole ingredients without the addition of preservatives. The main ingredients will be flour, eggs, butter, and sugar. As part of the Auntie's Bakery franchise, the recipes for each cupcake/tart will be supplied.
- 3. Ms. Birch will be responsible for baking all cupcakes and tarts. Baking will occur daily in the morning prior to the store's retail hours. The kitchen is visible from the retail setting and outside, therefore all production materials will need to be cleaned immediately following use and stored.
- 4. Cupcakes and tarts not sold during the day are stored in the commercial fridge for up to 2 days. After this time, the products are discarded.
- 5. At the time of purchase, cupcakes and tarts will be served to customers for immediate consumption in the small seating at the front of the store. Alternatively, customers receive their cupcakes in single, 6 pack or 12 pack paper boxes that include dividers to keep cupcakes from touching.

Risk Assessment

Auntie's Bakery will spend the majority of its marketing efforts in promoting the brand and engaging with the community. However, should these efforts prove to be ineffective, Auntie's Bakery would increase their marketing spend and purchase advertising in the local newspaper and online directories.

Auntie's Bakery strength is that it is an established brand with a perception of beautiful and delicious cupcakes and tarts. If for some reason, Ms. Birch is unable to produce a quality product, the store would have to close temporarily while Ms. Birch attended further corporate training.

If, after a full year of business, sales are less than \$50,000 (cumulative) Auntie's Bakery would look for another buyer to transfer their Franchisee license too. If Auntie's Bakery is unable to find a buyer, it would close its door, sell off all kitchen equipment and store fixtures and close both the Instagram and Twitter accounts.

Risk Analysis is another is a common tool used by entrepreneurs and lenders.

What you need to do and describe is determine the mains risks to your business and what you can do to reduce the likelihood of the risk happening and/or the negative impact of the risk.

Every business faces risks, so it would be very unusual (and a red flag) if a business plan did not include a section on risk.

6.0 Organization and Management Team

Management

Up to this point, the reader has been reading all about the business. Now it's time to talk about WHO will be doing / leading the business

This section is about establishing the credibility and capability of the team to execute the plans described earlier. In other words: "Is this the person/team to make this happen?"

Auntie's Bakery franchise is fully owned and operated by Willow Birch, a graduate of NBCC's renowned Culinary Arts Management program. Willow Birch has known that creating delicious and beautiful confectionaries was her passion since childhood. She spent



many weekend and summer afternoons draped in a folded up apron watching as her grandmother produced tarts, cookies, and jams.

Ms. Birch's love for baking has never faltered. While attending NBCC, she worked part-time in an Auntie's Bakery franchise, first as a sales associate and then as a baker. This experience provided her exposure to the corporate support and training Auntie's Bakery provides to franchisees. Following graduation, she was hired full-time as a baker at Auntie's Bakery University of New Brunswick location. Being at the location from its opening, helped Ms. Birch to realize she wanted to be the one in charge, not just baking. With the support of the franchise partner at the University of New Brunswick location, she was transitioned into an assistant manager role. For the last two years she's worked as the assistant manager, managing day-to-day finances while working the odd shift baking, just for the love of it!

Human Resources

Auntie's Bakery will start out small with the owner as the only Full Time employee, but expects to have 2 part time staff.

"HR" is a very important topic to include if you'll be hiring and managing people. Here, the reader needs to understand your staffing strategy

Ms. Birch has contacted the local high school's guidance counselors to ask for student referrals for occasional part-time sales help from students interested in the culinary arts. Ms. Birch anticipates needing occasional support at peak sales points during the year (Valentines Day, Mother's Day, Easter, and Christmas).

7.0 Financials

And now the dreaded "financials!" This is typically the hardest part of your business plan because it involves:

- Numbers and formulas (you can build your own if you're good with spreadsheets or (much better) start with a financial model template)
- Estimates, or more likely "guesstimates" ... which are ok to do providing you have some rationale behind them and they're considered reasonable and doable
 - The one thing you can count on for your forward-looking financial model is that it's always going to be wrong (no one can accurately predict the future 100% of the time!)
 - We recommend that you embrace "Being Less Wrong Over Time™" (trademark of Artful Sciences™) which means that you make the best estimate/guesstimate you can and refine it as you work through your financial model; by doing this you'll have a starting set of numbers which you will refine over time, i.e., they will become "less wrong" as you refine until you reach the point where you are comfortable with the reasonableness and doability of your forecast
 - Why are reasonableness and doability important? → It's important that a lender draws these conclusions when reviewing your business plan, specifically that the "dots are connected" among your target market descriptions, your marketing & sales plans, your projections, and team that will be making these happen

The <u>JEDI Indigenous Entrepreneur Toolkit</u> includes a financial model template. It's scheduled to be available in early 2024.

Purpose of the Financial Section: An obvious purpose is that this section summarizes sales and expenses for the years represented by the business plan. You might expect to see net profit but more important than profit* is *cashflow* defined as total incoming cash less total outgoing cash for any given period, such as a month or quarter or year. As the business owner, you'll want to understand your cashflow to plan your expense payments. The reason that lenders are interested in cashflow is that it tells them if you have sufficient room each month to absorb loan payments. "Yes" gets you to the next stage of the decision process. "No" almost always ends the decision process.

So now let's have a look at the financials section.

*"Profit" is, in fact, a calculation that is done at the end of period (usually per month and at the end of the year. Profit calculations also take in to consideration accounting rules that allow you to legally lower your profit so that you will have lower taxes. But when you're managing a business, you are always watching incoming cash (especially if your sales result in deferred payments) so that you can plan when to pay your bills. In other words, "cashflow".

Important Concepts 1

Startup or One-Time Costs - The initial costs of what it takes to start the business **Operating Expenses** - The costs of what it takes to run the business, not including costs

These definitions (and the definitions in Important Concepts 2 below) are not applied to every business in exactly the same way. There is room for interpretation, especially as they relate to their tax treatment. How they apply to your business will depend on your specific situation. It is best to talk to your advisors and/or accountant about how these definitions will apply to your situation. If you get conflicting advice, explain the conflict to your accountant, then listen to her/him as they will be your best advice regarding anything relating to taxes and CRA.

Start-Up Costs

The business plan for Auntie's Bakery includes start-up costs of \$67,800 for bakery equipment, leasehold improvements, furniture and Point of Sale technology. Start-up costs also include Legal and Accounting set-up fees. Below is a list of Start-up Costs:

One-Time Costs

Tables/Chairs	\$4,000
POS system and computer	\$3,000
leasehold improvements- walls/floors	\$5,000
leasehold improvements- plumbing/fixtures	\$6,000
leasehold improvements- electrical	\$5,000
leasehold improvements- millwork	\$8,000
Kitchen equipment	\$25,000
Kitchen smallware	\$5,000
Initial start up containers/supplies	\$2,000
Hands free phones/headsets	\$300
Accounting System Set-up	\$2,500
Legal Advisory Fees	\$2,000
	\$67,800

"Start-up Costs" are also called "One-time Costs". They are the costs you will incur to get up and running - for equipment, supplies, inventory and professional services

Operating Expenses

Operating Expenses include costs that will be incurred on an ongoing basis to keep the operations running, including rent, insurance, utilities, marketing expenses, loan payments, salaries, etc. In many cases, there is a commitment to make regular payments on a contractual basis, such a rent, insurance, internet, etc. Operating Expenses do not include "direct costs", or the cost of producing goods or services, such as raw materials or the labour to produce items.

Operating expenses are shown in the tables below, starting with a summary, followed by the detail. Operating expenses are projected to be \$88,098 in the first year, and include \$44,369 in salaries and \$8,041 in loan payments. Year 1 reflects a lower salary for the owner for the first 3 months (\$1,500/month vs \$3,000 for the remainder of Year 1 and all of Year 2).

Fixed and Variable expenses are shown so that Break-Even can be calculated (see Break-Even below). The owner's salary has been treated as a fixed expense.

		Year 1	Year 2
Operating Expenses Summary			
Non-Payroll Operating Expenses	Fixed	\$30,860	\$32,508
Non-Payroll Operating Expenses	Var	\$4,828	\$5,317
Employees - PT	Fixed	\$9,436	\$9,614
Owners Compensation	Fixed	\$34,934	\$39,924
Loan Payments	Fixed	\$8,041	\$8,772
TOTAL Operating Expenses		\$88,098	\$96,135

Operating Expenses (Detail):		Year 1	Year 2
		rour r	Tour L
Non-Payroll Operating Expenses	Character of	644 400	614.070
Facility Rent/Lease	Fixed	\$14,400	\$14,976
Facility Maintenance	Fixed	\$2,400	\$2,400
Facility Utilities	Fixed	\$3,600	\$3,600
Office Services (cleanning, security)	Fixed	\$2,400	\$2,400
Internet & Cell	Fixed	\$1,800	\$1,872
Bankiing Fees	Fixed	\$600	\$600
Payment Processor Fees	Var	\$2,428	\$2,785
Vehicle Maintenance	Var	\$600	\$636
Vehicle Fuel	Var	\$1,800	\$1,896
Vehicle Insurance	Fixed	\$480	\$480
Business Insurance	Fixed	\$1,800	\$1,800
Bookkeeping & Accounting	Fixed	\$500	\$1,500
Office Supplies	Fixed	\$480	\$480
Franchise Marketing campaigns	Fixed	\$2,400	\$2,400
Non-Payroll Operating Expenses		\$ 35,688	\$37,825
Payroll Operating Expenses:			
Employees - PT	Fixed	\$9,436	\$9,614
Owners Compensation	Fixed	\$34,934	\$39,924
Payroll Costs		\$44,369	\$49,538
Total Operating Expenses before Loan Paments		\$80,057	\$87,363
Loan Payments	Fixed	\$8,041	\$8,772
Total Operating Expenses including Loan Payments		\$88,098	\$96,135

Break Even

Break-even analysis is a common tool that is used to determine how many units of a product or service need to be sold to cover fixed expenses

Fixed costs for the year are \$83,270 (includes rent, franchise fee, utilities, marketing, salaries, loan payments)

Average sale price is \$3.99/cupcake or tart (assume 95% sold at individual price and 5% sold at dozen bulk price). (Beverages will also be sold at an average price of 3.99)

Average direct cost is \$0.77/cupcake or tart (ingredients, royalties and packaging - labour was not included since the owner is producing the items, and her salary is treated as a fixed operating expense)

Therefore, average gross profit per product is \$3.22, or 81% gross margin.

Break-even point:

Auntie's Bakery would start to make a profit after selling 25,820 cupcakes or tarts (or approximately 2,151 units per month)

Important Concepts 2

Fixed Costs = All expenses <u>excluding</u> direct costs.

Direct (or Variable) Costs = Expenses incurred when you make a product (e.g., materials/ingredients, cost of labour you hire specifically for production purposes, etc.); also known as variable costs

Gross Profit = Selling price minus direct costs = cash you can use to pay for fixed costs **Gross Margin** = Gross Profit divided by Selling Price, expressed as a percentage. **Break Even Calculation** - How many products do you need to sell to cover all fixed expenses (Total Fixed Costs divided by Gross Profit per Item)

Business owners and lenders will always be very interested in gross profit or gross margin because it is a good indicator of the business's ability to cover fixed costs, including loan payments.

Also see the important note about definitions in Important Concepts 1. There are many considerations when determining whether a cost is fixed or variable, especially regarding labour. How you apply all definitions to your financials should be with advice from advisors or your accountant. If you get conflicting advice, explain the conflict to your accountant, then listen to him/her as they will be your best advice regarding anything relating to taxes and CRA.

Sales Forecast

Key Assumptions

- Slowest months: January, September, and November
- Products sales breakdown:
 - o 90% individual cupcake/tart sales
 - 10% bulk orders of at least a dozen cupcake/tarts
- Walk-in customers will purchase a minimum of two cupcake/tarts per average order (\$8)
- Walk-in bulk order will purchase one dozen cupcake/tarts per average order (\$44)
- 25% of walk-in customers will also purchase beverages (coffee, tea, juices, etc.) at an average price of \$4
- 80% of purchasers will become repeat customers within the first six months
- 15% redemption of postcard offer in stores
- \$35,000 loan in the first month (60 months @ 9.25%)

Year One Sales Forecast: First Quarter

January Forecast

- Total sales \$5,006 from
 - \$1,800 Grand opening party January
 15/16 sale of 500 cupcakes (300 @ \$4,
 200 @ \$3)
 - \$440 10 dozen walk-in purchases of bulk cupcakes
 - \$2,050 225 walk-in individual sales for cupcakes and beverages
 - \$741 custom and catering
- Plan to attend Fredericton BIA meeting
- Will meet with the Head Librarian regarding partnership opportunities for after school programming.
- Plan to use social media (Instagram and X(Twitter) to promote and celebrate grand opening

Lenders will want to understand the assumptions you're making in your sales forecast; this enables them to ask good questions of you that will usually be about (1) your rationale for the assumption and (2) why is it not [higher or lower]?

In this sample, explanations are included for only the first 3 months; depending on your business plan, you may need to explain each month, especially if each month's forecast is very different than the month before or after

February Forecast

- Total sales \$7,674 from
 - \$4000 500 walk-in individual sales related to Valentine's day
 - \$440 10 dozen walk-in purchases of bulk cupcakes
 - \$2,700 225 walk-in individual sales for cupcakes and beverages
 - \$530 custom and catering
- Plan March break school programming with Librarian
- Attend planning meeting for Spring Artwalk event for Streetscapes committee
- Attend community theatre showcase (cupcake booth)
- Meet with Taste of the Atlantic about potential opportunity for a co-sponsored cooking class
- Attend gallery opening at Fredericton Culture and Science Centre (cupcake booth)
- Continue to build social media profile: post something every other day

March Forecast

- Total sales \$7,826 from
 - \$4,875 650 postcard promotion re St. Patrick's
 - \$2,025 225 walk-in individual sales for cupcakes and beverages
 - \$625 custom and catering
 - \$300 library camp
- Distribution of 10,000 postcards Buy 1 cupcake/tart, get a second for \$1 off, to Fredericton area expires April 15.
- Meeting with Theatre about upcoming season of programming and cupcakes at concession
- Attend Fredericton BIA meeting
- Attend planning meeting for Spring Art Walk event for Streetscapes committee
- Continue to build social media profile: post something everyday

Remember: If you're using your business plan to support your request to a potential funder, especially if they're a lender, they are primarily interested in learning about your ability to make loan payments.

You can help your own cause by using your explanations and numbers to make key points such as:

- 1. You have a thoughtful (reasonable, doable) plan to achieve sales
- 2. Your financial plan clearly shows inflows and outflows of cash (illustrating how well you understand your business), and
- 3. That your net cashflow can absorb loan payments.

Let's see how the narratives above are supported with some cashflow forecasts.

Two-Year Cashflow Outlook

After establishing the business at the start of year 1 with \$30k investment from the owner + \$35k loan (proposed) + \$10k in grants our two-year outlook demonstrates:

- Ability to cover a loan payment of \$731/month (60 months at 9.25% interest)
- Growing, positive cashflow starting 6th month
- Cumulative cashflow before taxes & dividends of \$31k by end of year 1 growing to \$68k (cumulative) by the end of year 2
- Our forecasts are based on reasonable and doable marketing and sales activities

Important Concepts 3

Building a forecast can be difficult but it's much easier than you think if you consider a few key concepts:

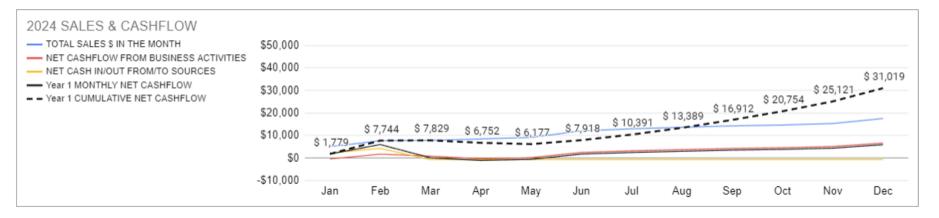
- Being Less Wrong Over Time™ (BLWOTT™) Building a financial plan is not about being right, it's about making your best estimates with thoughtful rationale. See the opening notes for the Flnancial Section for more discussion about BLWOT™.
- You can test the believability of your estimates by looking at each month's numbers for sales, expenses, and cashflow by asking yourself:
 - "Are these numbers reasonable? If I was asked how these numbers were determined, would my answers sufficiently defend them? Would the asker think, 'yes, that's reasonable" or would they think "you're dreaming!" Here's an example of a reasonability test (this is not Auntie's Bakery):
 - I'm focused on selling in my hometown area with a population of 120,000 people. I plan to sell 1,000 units of my product per month.
 - 1,000 per month = 12,000 products = 1 for every 20 people
 - **Is this reasonable?** (Answer: Maybe! It depends on the product. Everyone needs shoes but not everyone buys a car. Is what you're selling more like shoes or cars?
 - "Are these numbers doable? If I was asked, 'can I actually do the work it takes to achieve the sales, would I have a convincing defense for yes?'"

 Here's an example of a doability test (this is not Auntie's Bakery):
 - We make each product we sell. It takes us 3 hours to make each product. Therefore, each month we spend 3,000 hours making 1,000 products.
 - **Is this doable?** (Maybe! If it's one person making and selling, the answer is no, but if more people are involved, it's possible providing labour costs are properly included.. It all depends on the details.

Auntie's Bakery & Catering cashflow forecasts are below.

Year 1 Cashflow Forecast

	Jan	Feb		Mar	Ap	r	May	Jun	Jul		Aug	Se	p	0)ct	Nov		Dec	F	ull Year
TOTAL SALES \$ IN THE MONTH	\$ 5,006	\$ 7,67	4 \$	7,826	\$ 8,4	476 \$	9,126	\$ 12,056	\$12,96	6 \$	13,616	\$14,	266	\$14	1,656	\$15,300	5 \$	17,538	\$	138,511
TOTAL COST OF GOODS SOLD	\$ 961	\$ 1,47	3 \$	1,503	\$ 1,6	627 \$	1,752	\$ 2,315	\$ 2,48	9 \$	2,614	\$ 2,	739	\$ 2	2,814	\$ 2,939	9 \$	3,367	\$	26,594
GROSS PROFIT FOR THE MONTH ON SALES	\$ 4,045	\$ 6,20	1 \$	6,323	\$ 6,8	849 \$	7,374	\$ 9,741	\$10,47	6 \$	11,002	\$ 11,	527	\$ 11	1,842	\$12,367	7 \$	14,171	\$	111,917
GROSS MARGIN ON SALES	81%	81%		81%	819	%	81%	81%	81%		81%	81	%	81	1%	81%		81%		81%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 4,466	\$ 4,50	4 \$	5,508	\$ 7,	194 \$	7,217	\$ 7,269	\$ 7,27	3 \$	7,273	\$ 7,	273	\$ 7	7,269	\$ 7,269	9 \$	7,542	\$	80,057
NET CASHFLOW FROM BUSINESS ACTIVITIES	\$ (421)	\$ 1,69	6 \$	815	\$ (346) \$	157	\$ 2,472	\$ 3,20	4 \$	3,729	\$ 4,	254	\$ 4	1,573	\$ 5,098	3 \$	6,629		31,860
NET CASH IN/OUT FROM OWNERS (excl comp)	\$ 30,000	\$	- \$	-	\$	- \$		\$ _	\$	- \$	-	\$	_	\$	_	\$	- \$	_	\$	30,000
FUNDING FROM LOANS	\$ 35,000	\$	- \$	-	\$	- \$	· -	\$ -	\$	- \$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	- \$	-	\$	35,000
FUNDING FROM GRANTS	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,00	0 \$	-	\$	- \$	-	\$ -	\$	- \$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	- \$	-	\$	10,000
FUNDING FROM OTHER	\$ -	\$	- \$	-	\$	- \$	-	\$ -	\$	- \$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	- \$	-	\$	-
CASH OUT FOR LOAN PMTS, ETC.		\$ (73	1) \$	(731)	\$ (731) \$	(731)	\$ (731)	\$ (73	1) \$	(731)	\$ (731)	\$	(731)	\$ (73)	1) \$	(731)	\$	(8,041)
CASH OUT FOR ONE-TIME COSTS	\$ (67,800	\$	- \$	-	\$	- \$; -	\$ -	\$	- \$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	- \$	-	\$	(67,800)
NET CASH IN/OUT FROM/TO SOURCES	\$ 2,200	\$ 4,26	9 \$	(731)	\$ (731) \$	(731)	\$ (731)	\$ (73	1) \$	(731)	\$ (731)	\$	(731)	\$ (73	1) \$	(731)	\$	(841)
Year 1 MONTHLY NET CASHFLOW	\$ 1,779	\$ 5,96	5 \$	84	\$ (1,	077) \$	(574)	\$ 1,741	\$ 2,47	3 \$	2,998	\$ 3,	523	\$ 3	3,842	\$ 4,367	7 \$	5,898	\$	31,019
Year 1 CUMULATIVE NET CASHFLOW	\$ 1,779	\$ 7,74	4 \$	7,829	\$ 6,	752 \$	6,177	\$ 7,918	\$10,39	1 \$	13,389	\$16,	912	\$20	,754	\$25,12	1 \$	31,019		



Year 2 Cashflow Forecast

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Full Year
TOTAL SALES \$ IN THE MO	ONTH \$	5,757	\$ 8,825	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,747	\$10,495	\$13,864	\$ 14,911	\$15,658	\$16,406	\$16,854	\$17,602	\$20,168	\$ 159,288
TOTAL COST OF GOODS	SOLD \$	1,105	\$ 1,694	\$ 1,728	\$ 1,871	\$ 2,015	\$ 2,662	\$ 2,863	\$ 3,006	\$ 3,150	\$ 3,236	\$ 3,380	\$ 3,872	\$ 30,583
GROSS PROFIT FOR THE MONTH ON S	ALES \$	4,652	\$ 7,131	\$ 7,272	\$ 7,876	\$ 8,480	\$ 11,202	\$12,048	\$12,652	\$13,256	\$13,618	\$14,222	\$16,296	\$ 128,704
GROSS MARGIN ON S	ALES	81%	81%	81%	81%	81%	81%	81%	81%	81%	81%	81%	81%	81%
TOTAL OPERATING EVER		0.004				. 7044								
TOTAL OPERATING EXPE														
NET CASHFLOW FROM BUSINESS ACTIV	/IIIES \$	(1,550)	\$ 820	\$ 5	\$ (495)	\$ 1,166	\$ 3,830	\$ 4,672	\$ 5,276	\$ 5,880	\$ 6,246	\$ 6,850	\$ 8,644	41,341
NET CASH IN/OUT FROM OWNERS (excl of	comp)													
FUNDING FROM LO	OANS \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FUNDING FROM GR	ANTS \$	4,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000
FUNDING FROM O	THER \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CASH OUT FOR LOAN PMTS	, ETC. \$	(731)	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (8,772)
CASH OUT FOR ONE-TIME C	OSTS \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NET CASH IN/OUT FROM/TO SOU	RCES \$	3,269	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (731)	\$ (4,772)
Year 2 MONTHLY NET CASHI				\$ (726)			-							\$ 36,569
Year 2 CUMULATIVE NET CASHI	FLOW \$	1,/19	\$ 1,808	\$ 1,082	\$ (144)	\$ 291	\$ 3,390	\$ 7,330	\$ 11,875	\$17,023	\$22,538	\$28,657	\$36,569	
2025 SALES & CASHFLOW														
	\$100.000													
NET CASHFLOW FROM BUSINESS ACTIVITIES	φ100,000													
- NET CASH IN/OUT FROM/TO SOURCES	\$75,000													
Year 2 MONTHLY NET CASHFLOW	*,													
 Year 2 CUMULATIVE NET CASHFLOW 	\$50,000												\$ 36,569	
											\$ 22,538	\$ 28,657		
	\$25,000						4	0\$_7,330	\$ 11,87	5 \$ 17,02	3			-
		\$ 1,71	9 \$ 1,80	8\$_1,08	2-\$ (144)\$-291	\$-3,39	0 0 7,330						
	\$0													-
	-\$25.000													_
	\$20,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	

Two-Year Cashflow Outlook



