

October WEOC Monthly Link Round-up

Welcome to WEOC's monthly news round-up! We know women entrepreneurs and their advisors are busy people. So we created this new monthly series to share the top headlines in the women's entrepreneurship ecosystem that you may have missed. Here are some links that caught our eye in October.

Minister Valdez announces new investments to help diverse entrepreneurs grow their businesses

On October 11, Rechie Valdez, Minister of Small Business, announced \$25 million in investments to help diverse fund managers and entrepreneurs access capital. The funding is part of the inclusive growth stream of the Venture Capital Catalyst Initiative (VCCI), marking the first of two investments in the federal government's 2021 budget. The funding will go to five VC funds managers, including:

- [BKR Capital](#)
- [District Ventures Capital](#)
- [Ripple Ventures](#)
- [Sandpiper Ventures](#)
- [The51](#)

Each recipient has to track their progress on improving diversity and gender equality, with the overall goal of ensuring more firms across the VC world are owned by women and other members of under-represented groups.

Published on [the Government of Canada website](#).

Minister Valdez kicks off Small Business Week and announces nearly \$3 million in funding to support women entrepreneurs across Canada

On October 16, Minister Valdez announced \$2.7 million in funding for the École des entrepreneurs du Québec (EEQ) to help women entrepreneurs launch their own businesses. The funding, which comes from the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy (WES) Ecosystem Fund, specifically supports the EEQ's [FAIR.E project](#) focused on helping women entrepreneurs at any stage of their business journey. The program will support up to 1,800 women across six provinces: Quebec, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Published on [the Government of Canada website](#).

How to address the funding gap women-owned businesses face

Women entrepreneurs face challenges in finding funding -- especially women of colour. The Forum, a Canadian charity supporting women entrepreneurs, created the AFIA DEI Index to address that reality (AFIA stands for accelerating financial inclusion and access). The index includes tools and resources to help understand the systemic issues that women entrepreneurs face in accessing funding for their businesses. The Globe Advisor spoke to Paulina Cameron, the Forum's chief executive officer, about how funders can use the index to see if they are fairly assessing these entrepreneurs and what more could be done to address their needs.

Published in [The Globe and Mail](#).

[Why diversity in your supply chain will pay dividends](#)

What can working with diverse suppliers add to your business? According to Export Development Canada (EDC), a whole lot. In a new article on their website, they outline the benefits of working with diverse suppliers, widely defined as any company that's majority-owned by people of an equity-seeking group, such as those who identify as women, Indigenous, Black, racialized, having a disability or part of the 2SLGBTQI+ community. Collaborating with these businesses, EDC says, can lead to slew of benefits including increased profits, higher levels of employee satisfaction, better chances of expanding into new markets and more.

Published on [the Export Development Canada website](#).

[Menopause costs Canada's economy billions](#)

A report by the Menopause Foundation of Canada says that menopause symptoms cost \$3.5 billion a year in Canada due to work absences and lower productivity. Most women get menopause between ages 45 and 55, which adds up to about two million people in Canada's workforce who could be experiencing these symptoms. The Menopause Foundation of Canada's president, Janet Ko, said many women end up taking time off or just leaving their job, even when they're at the peak of their careers.

Published on [CBC News](#).



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