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**PARTNERSHIP CONNECTS AND INSPIRES ENTREPRENEURIAL MOMS ACROSS BC**

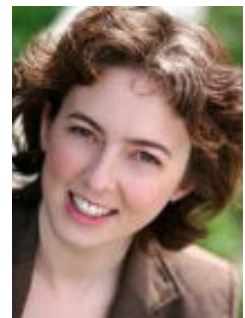
**Vancouver** - On October 21, 2009, Small Business BC (SBBC), the Women's Enterprise Centre and momcafe Network Inc., pioneered a virtual moms' network video conference connecting 23 participants located in Vancouver, Kelowna and Kamloops. Designed especially for women who are facing the challenges of combining professional life with family life, the workshop was led by a dynamic panel of four entrepreneurial moms who have successfully navigated career changes to encompass their new roles as moms.

SBBC's Business Development Coordinator, Jennifer Reid, notes that the success of the first "Moms' Panel" has led to more regional network panel sessions for working moms in 2010. "The purpose of the Moms' Panel is to promote interaction and create venues for education and community building amongst mothers who feel isolated and would like to be part of a community of like-minded women," explains Reid. "SBBC is proud to be involved in this dynamic new partnership with the Women's Enterprise Centre and momcafe Network Inc."

Jill Earthy, Co-Founder of momcafe Network Inc., says the first of the Moms' Panel was truly inspiring. "Panelists and participants agreed that creating a supportive virtual network is an important first step in meeting challenges and finding creative solutions that work for work, and family."

The Women's Enterprise Centre's, Heather Martin, agreed the October panel indicated a strong need for women across the province to connect with each other, and she noted how important it is for new moms to have role models in the business world. "We were very pleased to have Michelle Kelsey of Nannies on Call, Rebecca Clapperton from BC Hydro, Andrea Cosar of Dandy Diva Gems & Jewels and Angie Bricker from Natural Baby Shop as panelists in our pilot session," says Martin. "The Women's Enterprise Centre looks forward to collaborating with SBBC and momcafe Network Inc. to deliver the Moms' Panels in 2010."

Sarah Dakin, M.Ed., of Baby Steps Life Coaching, attended the October 20 seminar and noted that, "connecting with other mothers and hearing their stories have been a critical driver in my business success." Dakin will deliver the first of the 2010 Moms' Panels: Managing Your Time in 2010 – New Tools for Busy Moms. (January 20, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., \$25.00) In this interactive session hosted by Women's Enterprise Centre in Kelowna, "mom professionals" will learn some fresh perspectives on time management, including how to say 'no' with encouragement instead of guilt, simplifying schedules and figuring out what lights you up.



Sarah Dakin of Baby Steps Life Coaching

For more information and to register for upcoming workshops, visit [www.smallbusinessbc.ca/seminars](http://www.smallbusinessbc.ca/seminars).

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**About Small Business BC:** Small Business BC provides advisory services, education and community to help entrepreneurs succeed in all stages of business. Small Business BC is



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