

# PRESS RELEASE

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## SPEAKER SERIES TO SPOTLIGHT WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN TECH

In honour of International Women's Day on March 8, the Stratford Public Library MakerSpace has partnered with Perth Community Futures and the Western Ontario CFCO Association to host a virtual speaker series. 'Tuesday Night Spotlight' will showcase entrepreneurial female leaders in the fields of technology and innovation on Tuesday evenings in March.

"Many of today's most admired entrepreneurs, executives and leaders are strong women. They have overcome challenges and made their mark on the world. They also lead by example. The experiences of these women hold the power to inspire each one of us to achieve our ambitions and entrepreneurial dream". Says Meghan Marshall, General Manager of Perth Community Futures. "Perth Community Futures is incredibly grateful the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario for the support through the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund".

International Women's Day is an annual celebration of women's achievements, providing an opportunity to raise awareness against bias and take action for equality. The theme in 2021 is #ChooseToChallenge.

"Our goal is to inspire and motivate not just entrepreneurs, but women interested in the fields of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)," states Systems Librarian Krista Robinson. "Since we opened the Library's MakerSpace in 2017, we have seen many small businesses leverage the space's tools to build their business. We hope by highlighting the stories of these amazing women, more entrepreneurs, or those dreaming of owning their own business, will be motivated to take their next steps and turn their dreams into reality."

The speaker series features five inspirational entrepreneurs who will share their real stories, challenges, and successes encountered on their journey.

Speakers include:

- **March 2: Dreamer to Maker with Zahra Al-Harazi** co-founder of the startup, Skillit, a marketplace for sharing knowledge and building skills. Zahra will be discussing the importance of building resilience and grit and why adopting a growth mindset is the key to success in today's fast-paced world.
- **March 9: Diversity, Inclusion and the Future of Work with Sinead Bovell**, an AI and Future of Work Expert. Sinead will discuss how AI will impact how we work over the next decade and how we need to use this as an opportunity to accelerate equality in our workforce, and to create a tech-centric society that works effectively for everyone.
- **March 16: A Young Tech Entrepreneur's Guide to Becoming a Changemaker with Samaira Metha**, a tech entrepreneur in Silicon Valley. 12 year old Samaira is the CEO and founder of Yes, One Billion Kids Can Code and creator of CoderBunnyz, a board game company which teach the basics of coding. Samaira will discuss her journey and how a coding mindset will help you succeed with anything.
- **March 23: Making Failure your BFF with Vanessa Vakharia**, the owner of The Math Guru, a boutique math and science tutoring studio in Toronto. She is passionate about math and entrepreneurship, and educating others on the importance of learning from failures.
- **March 30: Your Advantage in a Changing World with Nicole Verkindt**, founder of OMX and named Canada's Woman Entrepreneur of the Year" by StartUp Canada in 2017. Nicole will show entrepreneurs how to turn ideas into success, and how to be entrepreneurial in any role – whether you are a farmer, an owner of a manufacturing facility, a tech expert, or anything in between.

The Tuesday Night Spotlight Virtual Speaker Series is funded by Perth Community Futures through the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund, supported by the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

For more details on the series and to reserve your free tickets, visit the [splibrary/spotlight](http://splibrary/spotlight).



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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact  
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