

**PRESS RELEASE**

**47% OF ALL SMALL TO MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES ARE ENTIRELY OR PARTLY OWNED BY WOMEN\***

*Staples Celebrates International Women's Day, March 7 – 8*

**TORONTO, (March 3, 2015)** – To mark International Women's Day, Staples locations across Canada invite female entrepreneurs to share their stories and showcase their businesses. The company will also host Twitter parties in English and French led by accomplished entrepreneurs, Leigh Mitchell and Mahée Paiement.

"Since 1991, Staples has been committed to supporting local entrepreneurs," said Craig Taylor, senior vice president of e-commerce and marketing, Staples Canada. "We appreciate the critical role that women play in our communities, economy and families, and are delighted to help women make more happen on International Women's Day but, more importantly, all year long."

**In-Store Events**

On March 7 and 8, participating Staples locations will showcase women entrepreneurs who have been invited to share their professional experiences. The events, which are open to the public, include short presentations by the entrepreneurs followed by opportunities for networking and a period of Qs and As among speakers and participants.

"We featured eight local businesses in 2014 and the feedback from participants and presenters as well as members of the community at large was outstanding," said Nicole Lacroix, manager of the Staples/Bureau en Gros store in Lévis, Quebec. "Opening up our doors to local businesses is a natural fit with our commitment to serving the community."

**Twitter Parties**

Staples also announced it is holding a Twitter party in English to be hosted by Leigh Mitchell, owner of Women in Business Network, and one in French with Mahée Paiement, the successful Quebec-based actress and entrepreneur. The accomplished businesswomen will field diverse questions on entrepreneurship and share some of their achievements and challenges in business.

The English Twitter party takes place on Wednesday, March 4, at 1 p.m. and the French Twitter party takes place on Thursday, March 5, at 7 p.m. and can be followed through the hashtags #MoreBizWomen and #plusdefemmesaffaires or the Twitter handles @StaplesCanada, @leighmitchell, @womeninbiznetwork or @maheepaiement.

"This is a great way to promote successful business leaders and engage with the local communities through social media," said Mitchell. "International Women's Day helps to educate Canadians, especially young girls, on the importance of entrepreneurship and the extent of support they can receive at Staples and through other groups as they establish their careers."

“Bureau en Gros has been there for me as a self-employed actress and now as a business owner,” said Mahée Paiement, who founded MAHÉE in 2009, a successful perfume and accessories company. “I’m delighted to participate in the company’s International Women’s Day campaign and its efforts to help women in business or those who are considering such a move.”

For more information on Staples’ International Women’s Day campaign, visit, [Staples.ca/business](http://Staples.ca/business).

### **About Staples Canada**

Staples makes more happen with more products and more ways to shop. Through its world-class retail, online and delivery capabilities, Staples lets customers shop however and whenever they want, whether it's in-store, online or on mobile devices. Staples offers more products than ever, such as technology, facilities and breakroom supplies, furniture, safety supplies, medical supplies, and Copy and Print services. Staples has been making it easy for businesses for 27 years with thousands of associates worldwide.

Headquartered outside of Boston in the United States with offices in Toronto in Canada, Staples operates throughout North and South America, Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. More information about Staples (Nasdaq: SPLS) is available at [www.staples.com](http://www.staples.com) and [www.staples.ca](http://www.staples.ca).

\* Source: Industry Canada, <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/061.nsf/eng/rd01309.html>

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