



## Celebrating International Women's Day with the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual **Ignite.Empower.Innovate** on March 7

Guelph, ON February 15, 2019 – Innovation Guelph with the partners for International Women's Day present their seventh annual **Ignite.Empower.Innovate** event held in collaboration with other Guelph-based business and women's organizations and presented by title sponsor Miller Thomson at the Hanlon Convention Centre.

Feature Keynote: renowned author, speaker and frequent guest expert on CTV's The Social, Professor Maja - **Screw the Apologies: Learn to lead with confidence!** Professor Maja runs a leadership organization that trains women to improve their confidence, communication, and mindset. She will have copies of her books; "Hey Ladies, Stop Apologizing...and other career mistakes women make" and "Hey Ladies, Stop Apologizing, THE WORKBOOK" available after her keynote for purchase and signing.

***"I'm looking forward to speaking at the Ignite.Empower.Innovate Women's Day celebration in Guelph, said Professor Maja. "It's wonderful that the vendor marketplace will feature women who are owning their accomplishments! The occasion is so appropriate to reach women who are tired of letting 'I'm sorry' whittle away at their confidence."***

A vendor marketplace featuring local female entrepreneurs with a variety of unique and innovative products and services begins at 4 p.m.

***"Innovation Guelph is proud to continue the tradition of presenting an impactful event that celebrates International Women's Day and local women entrepreneurs," said Anne Toner Fung, Executive Director, Innovation Guelph. "Our team, and the many partners who share in making it happen, are committed to delivering an evening of excellence that celebrates women entrepreneurs and reflects the values of the Rhyze Award it supports."***

### Agenda

- 4 pm Doors open & Vendor Marketplace open
- 6 pm Dinner & Announcements
- 7:30 pm Keynote Speaker
- 8:45 pm Closing Remarks & Vendor Marketplace

***"The planning for this year's International Women's Day celebration has included incredible local partnership and community collaboration – truly a reflection of the movements happening around the world to advance women's wellbeing and prosperity," said Kristel Manes, Executive Director, Business Centre Guelph Wellington and Chair, Partners for International Women's Day collective. "Over the past seven years, this event has continued to evolve, and we're so proud that it has grown to become the premier event in our region to celebrate International Women's Day."***

For more information contact Diana Train, Front of House Coordinator, Innovation Guelph 519-265-4495 ext. 101 [Diana.Train@innovationguelph.ca](mailto:Diana.Train@innovationguelph.ca).



## About Professor Maja

Professor Maja is available for press interviews via Skype or phone, contact Innovation Guelph at 519.265.4495 to arrange. She is a sociologist, professor, author, writer, apology-hater, confidence-builder and recovering make-up addict. She currently teaches at McMaster University and Mohawk College, and is the CEO of “ALL IN” Inc., a women’s leadership organization that gives women the communication tools to speak up with confidence at work and get what they want in life. <http://professormaja.com/>

## About Innovation Guelph

Innovation Guelph is building prosperity for community well-being by providing mentorship and business support programs and services to help innovative enterprises start, grow and thrive. Innovation Guelph’s business acceleration programs – including Speedway, the Rhyze Project and BCorp Bootcamp – are designed for high-potential start-ups and small- and medium-sized enterprises across southern Ontario that are ready to grow. Innovation Guelph also serves as a one-stop point of access to Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs (ONE) programs and resources. [www.innovationguelph.ca](http://www.innovationguelph.ca)

## About Rhyze™

Rhyze is an initiative led by Innovation Guelph that cultivates women’s entrepreneurial spirit in Guelph and Wellington County. Since March 2014, The initial Rhyze Project helped grow the local dialogue on women’s entrepreneurship, economic empowerment, and institutionalized and systemic barriers to women’s career success. A variety of programs have emerged from the project, including the Rhyze Award, which provides funding and mentorship for women entrepreneurs to build and grow businesses, and the Rhyze Academy, a unique educational program developed to support women entrepreneurs as they connect the dots between business skills, financial know-how and work-life integration. To learn more about Rhyze visit [InnovationGuelph.ca/The-Rhyze-Project](http://InnovationGuelph.ca/The-Rhyze-Project).

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