



## **Makerspace North returns to its roots as an incubator for Ottawa’s emerging startups**

*Three dozen new dedicated rental workspaces for creative businesses are unveiled at the mixed-use space*

**Ottawa, ON** (January 1, 2020) - Today, [Makerspace North](#), announced its new direction as a business incubator and go-to space for Ottawa entrepreneurs to get ideas up and running. Construction began in 2019 on 36 new rentable workshop spaces for industrious projects and initiatives in a warehouse environment. Also part of the launch are a shared co-working space and private office rentals for teams to work alongside entrepreneurs, creators, and makers in a community environment.

“It’s tough getting going as an entrepreneur. As a maker. As an artist. As a creative. To put it all on the line because it’s something you believe in,” says Makerspace North Director Adam Wilk. “To make something for yourself and to grow an idea into something real. To risk everything—because you know you have to try or you’ll explode.

Unlike a traditional makerspace, which provides equipment and tools for members to use, every business within Makerspace North operates independently, offering services, products, or workshops, to enhance the space and grow the community. They create alongside one another sharing tools, equipment, resources, and knowledge. Today, the leadership team is focused on finding the right talent, and developing inventive ways to better support local businesses through innovative programming and partnerships.

“Our tenants are our soul,” continued Wilk. “Ottawa Tool Library opened its doors and has become a staple in the how-to and DIY community. CNC Ottawa has grown to support a full staff and has become a key partner for government projects and amazing installations. Dozens of other businesses and artists have gotten to work in our space over the past five years, and for a lot of them, their story is still being written.”

Makerspace North was founded in August 2015 by John Criswick, a serial entrepreneur with a unique background in electrical engineering and quantum mechanics. Criswick’s original vision for the organization was to offer up 19,000 sq.ft. of mixed-use space at Ottawa’s City Centre complex—a warehouse with adjoining offices—to local creators.

From 2016-2019, Makerspace North operated predominantly as an event and experiential gathering space. During this time, tenants and visitors shared knowledge and engaged in a vast array of workshops, classes, presentations, competitions, maker meetups, craft fairs, school field trips, concerts, garage sales, and even indoor drone flights.

Today, Makerspace North works to develop a community of makers, advance ambitious pursuits, and inspire opportunities for creative collisions to happen. Tenants are carefully selected from diverse industries. At the time of writing, tenants span consumer-facing, B2B and non-profit sectors in the fields of robotics, woodworking, metalworking, leatherworking, charity work, visual arts, beauty, gaming, liquor and spirits, agri-tech, solar, 3D printing and more.

Membership perks include access to high-speed wired and wireless internet, free admission to particular events held in the space, kitchen access, monthly lunches, regular meetups, board room booking access and event space booking access. Warehouse space starts at \$5/sq.ft, office space starts at \$7/sq.ft., and month-to-month co-working ranges from \$99 to \$199/month depending on access.

“Whatever your dreams, ideas, or projects, Makerspace North is the spot for you,” continued Wilk. “We’ve reimaged our space to fit with what you need. If you are just starting out and trying to make it work, we’re here for you with open arms. If you have been around for a while but are looking to grow, we’re here for you, too. If you read this and you are thinking, “Hey, I just want to learn how to make some cool shit,” we’re here for you, too.”

Media wishing to interview Makerspace North personnel, or get a tour of the reimaged space should contact Adam Wilk at [adam@makerspacenorth.com](mailto:adam@makerspacenorth.com).