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COMMUNITY

# STUDENT, 15, OPENS PHONE REPAIR BUSINESS WITH ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAM

## SUMMERTIME IS BUSINESS TIME

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A participant of the Mississauga Summer Company Program, Shan Shakeel runs his own business fixing cellphones.

Shan Shakeel, 15, wakes up 7:30 a.m., showers and crosses the street from his home to the offices on Leanne Blvd., at the intersection of Erin Mills and the QEW to get there sharp at 8 a.m.

He isn't working a part-time job. A participant of Mississauga's Summer Company Program, Shakeel is running his own business, Shak Electronics - which specializes in phone repairs. Part of the Mississauga's Young Entrepreneur Program, the Summer Company allows students to submit their business plans for a chance to receive business training and mentoring to help run their own business and a potential grant of \$3,000 to launch it during the summer months.

Shakeel was one of the lucky few who had their business plans accepted. Earlier this summer, he met with mentors and trainers who helped him with the logistics of running his own business and creating his own website. Four weeks ago, Shak Electronics was open for business.

A certified electronic repairman, Shakeel has been tinkering with electronics



Sabrina Gamrot photo  
Shan Shakeel of Shak's Electronics.

since he was 13, often learning the basics from his father's friend who ran his own repair shop.

"I always liked repairing phones. I started messing with my parents' computer and they put me in a certification course," he said.

Although the phone repair business is very competitive, Shak Electronic has an edge. Besides being registered on Google, Shak Electronics offers walk-in services (at the office space Shakeel sublets), and on-the spot appointments. Meaning Shakeel will come to you, whether at home or at work. Talk about convenience.

Being an entrepreneur seems to work well for Shakeel. He sees himself owning his own business, probably within the construction management world, where he can "buy and own (his) own properties." As for now, it's back to school in September.

"My parents are super proud of me, but they still want me to study."

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