

## **Community Futures - National**

Established in 1985, Community Futures Development Corporations (Community Futures) consist of a network of 269 independent, non-profit economic development organizations across rural Canada. Core funding for the Community Futures program is provided by the Federal Government.

Community Futures are locally autonomous, non-profit organizations governed by volunteer Boards of Directors who, together with their professional staff, are actively engaged in supporting business development and helping their communities develop and implement community-based economic development strategies.

### **Core Services**

Community Futures provide business loans to new and existing businesses as a means of stimulating the local economy and supporting job creation. We are entrepreneurial lenders, providing financing to new and expanding businesses that do not meet chartered bank lending criteria. We take a grassroots approach to lending; we understand the community and its needs, and how best to support local entrepreneurs.

Community Futures support skills development for entrepreneurs by providing information, advisory and training services. We offer free and confidential business assistance in a variety of areas, and can direct entrepreneurs and employers to other resources when necessary.

Compared with other traditional source financing options, the businesses of Community Futures clients grow faster and last longer. An independent Statistics Canada review showed that our clients outperformed a comparable group of businesses that did not receive Community Futures support. Community Futures clients showed higher employment growth and revenue growth – with 76% still in business five years after start-up compared to just 60% for other businesses.

Community Futures also support local community economic development initiatives. The nature and extent of these activities are based on community need and capacity.

### **Key Features**

As independent organizations, directed by local volunteer Boards, Community Futures are able to leverage the core program resources provided by the Federal Government to respond to community needs in a variety of ways. As a result, each organization is unique, delivering additional programs and services to their communities through service contracts and volunteer support.

Community Futures' ability to make local lending decisions enables the organizations to respond to community priorities, and to support new business development and growth by providing finance to businesses that would not qualify for traditional financing.

Community Futures free and confidential business advisory services help to ensure the success of our clients.

## CF Wildfire Related Programming

### Wildfire Recovery Business Support

- Business Ambassadors – 1.5 for Sun Country; 2 Cariboo-Chilcotin and 1 North Cariboo
- Ambassadors will support wildfire affected businesses and not-for-profits by providing one-on-one support to ensure that owners are able to effectively and efficiently access programs and services that will assist with their re-opening and ongoing sustainability.

### Northern Development Initiative Trust – Competitiveness Consulting Rebate Program

- 75% rebate to a maximum of \$15,000 for a consulting project to wildfire impacted businesses in the Cariboo region.
- Eligible businesses can be in any sector but must be incorporated.


### Community Futures North Cariboo, Cariboo-Chilcotin and Fraser Fort-George (rural) – Planning a Successful Succession (PASS)

- The program will support business owners to create a strategic exit plan through group workshops and one on one mentoring.
- Business would also be eligible for 50% reimbursement up to \$3K for preapproved professional services related to succession planning.

## Additional Information

<http://www.cfdccariboo.com/> <http://www.cfsun.ca/> <http://www.cfquesnel.com/>

## Contacts

<p><b>Karen Eden</b> CFDC of Cariboo-Chilcotin General Manager +1 (250) 392-3626 Work +1 (888) 879-5399 Work 1 250-267-4912 Mobile +1 (888) 879-5399 Other <a href="mailto:karen@cfdccariboo.com">karen@cfdccariboo.com</a> <a href="mailto:karen@cfdccariboo.com">karen@cfdccariboo.com</a></p>	<p><b>Debra Arnott</b> CFDC of Sun Country General Manager +1 (250) 453-9165 Work 2504577132 Mobile +1 (800) 567-9911 Home <a href="mailto:darnott@cfsun.ca">darnott@cfsun.ca</a> <a href="mailto:vision@cfsun.ca">vision@cfsun.ca</a></p>
 <p><b>Greg Lawrence</b> Community Futures North Ca... General Manager +1 (250) 992-2322 Work +1 (250) 255-7303 Mobile <a href="mailto:greg@cfquesnel.com">greg@cfquesnel.com</a> Canada 335A Vaughan Street Quesnel B.C. V2J 2T1 <a href="http://www.cfquesnel.com">www.cfquesnel.com</a></p>	