

Performance Results for 2013-14 Community Futures Peace Country

Community Futures (CF) is a program that supports community economic development and builds the capacity of communities to realize their full sustainable potential. The purpose of the CF Program is to help communities develop and implement *local solutions to local problems*.

| Community Futures Performance Results | Results as of March 31, 2014 |
|--|------------------------------|
| <i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i> | |
| 1. Total number of community based projects: | 16 |
| <i>Rural access to business development services</i> | |
| 2. Number of jobs created/ maintained/ expanded through business services | 56 |
| 3. Number of business training session participants | 181 |
| 4. Number of business advisory services | 180 |
| <i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i> | |
| 5. Dollar value of loans | \$826,500 |
| 6. Number of loans | 16 |
| Provide additional Information (e.g. Success stories, Links to priorities, leveraging work, communication events, etc...) | |
| <p>Business Support Network: Community Futures Peace Country and Alberta Works have come together to collaborate on the Peace River Business Support Network. The network was formed to support local business around labour market recruitment and retention issues. Initially, roundtable meetings were held to identify the issues and begin to develop a plan of action to address the identified needs. The network has now entered its second year and counts several successes over that time including the formation of a splinter group focused specifically on the labour market needs of financial institutions and the insurance industry; facilitated discussions between local business and educational institutions to help identify gaps and expanded training opportunities as well as information sessions around Generational Workplace issues.</p> <p>Many thanks to Johanna Downing, Business and Industry Liaison, Alberta Works, Peace River Area Office for her continued support and work on this project. The need for this support network will only grow as the local economy heats up around the anticipated expansions in the Peace Oil Sands.</p> <p>Move Up Magazine: After successfully launching the inaugural issue in the spring/summer of 2013, Plato's Cave Publishing, a Community Futures client from Peace River, followed up with volumes II and III and is currently working on volume number IV of the Move Up Magazine. This magazine is a project of the Regional Economic Development Officers Network that highlights the Peace Region as a place to live, work and do business. The direction and support of the regional municipalities, through the EDO Network, combined with the creative talents and publishing expertise of Plato's Cave Publishing have come together to create a truly professional and relevant publication that continues to attract attention. Current distribution stands at 12,000 copies and many of the regions larger employers have recognized the significant role that this magazine can play in their staff recruitment/retention programs and are showing their support through advertising.</p> | |

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Chalk this one up as yet another successful initiative from the Community Futures Peace Country facilitated Regional Economic Development Officers Network.

Referral Partner Mixer: Our 5th annual Referral Partner mixers was held in February with a Las Vegas theme. Over 40 partners attended to partake of the fabulous food and try their hand at some casino games. Fun was had by all and the relationships that drive our success were, once again, reinforced.

Some interesting stats form the lending department for 2013/14:

- CFPC Lending & Business Development activity leverage \$1.5 million
- Total dollars loaned since CFPC inception topped \$14 Million as of March 31, 2014
- Total Loan loss averages around 4%
- Over 75% of businesses supported by CFPC since 1995 are still operating today