

## Performance Results for 2014-15 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*.

| <b>Community Futures Performance Results</b>  | <b>Results as of March 31, 2015</b> |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b><i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i></b>  |                                     |
| 1. Total number of community based projects:  | <b>33</b>                           |
| <b><i>Rural access to business development services</i></b>   |                                     |
| 2. Number of jobs created/ maintained/ expanded through business services   | <b>55</b>                           |
| 3. Number of business training session participants   | <b>137</b>                          |
| 4. Number of business advisory services   | <b>235</b>                          |
| <b><i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i></b>   |                                     |
| 5. Dollar value of loans  | <b>\$1,745,387</b>                  |
| 6. Number of loans  | <b>21</b>                           |
| Provide additional Information (e.g. Success stories, Links to priorities, leveraging work, communication events, etc...)   |                                     |
| <p><b><u>The Bear's Cave:</u></b></p> <p>As part of Community Futures mandate to develop and support youth entrepreneurs, we partnered with the Peace Country Regional Science Fair, Belle Petroleum Center, Center for Research &amp; Development and Northern Sunrise County to host a "Dragon's Den" type event for students. It was held on the afternoon of March 27th, in conjunction with the Regional Science Fair. Students who were participants of the Science Fair could apply to the organizing committee to enter the Bear Cave competition..</p> <p>A panel of prominent business people in the community was put together to act as our "Dragons", or in this case "Bears", which included Janet Plante of GPRC Centre for Research and Innovation, Carolyn Kolebaba of Northern Sunrise County, Theresa Seitz of Scotiabank, Toni Antonietti of the Belle Centre and our own Deb Kalyn of Community Futures Peace Country.</p> <p>Students presented their ideas before the panel and an audience of their peers. After deliberation, the Bears announced the grand prize winner; Michael Fyfe, with his plastic building brick which he calls the Brickin' Awesome Eco Brick. Michael went on to showcase his idea at the TEC Edmonton Awards in April 2015. The other participants received various cash prizes, an invitation to the mentor dinner and a pewter bear claw pin as a memento of their experience.</p> <p><b><u>Women in the North Conference:</u></b></p> <p>Community Futures Peace Country, along with their project partners; Community Futures Grande Prairie and Region, Alberta Women Entrepreneurs, and Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, and in conjunction with project sponsors: Alberta</p> |                                     |

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Human Services, Town of Peace River, County of Northern Lights, Northern Sunrise County, MD of Peace, Clear Hills County, Saddle Hills County and the Village of Berwyn were pleased to present the seventh annual Women in the North event geared towards encouraging entrepreneurship, business diversification, marketing, value added opportunities and focusing on motivation and inspiration.

The purpose of Community Futures Peace Country (CFPC) is to support community economic development, encourage rural diversification and innovation, stimulating employment and diversifying the regional economy. Recognizing the successful delivery of the conference in the past and understanding the importance of providing a specific focus for women in business, CFPC decided to run the project for a seventh consecutive year; with the purpose of the project remaining the same, we aim to provide the necessary skills, tools, and resources to continue building their business and/or to better their already existing businesses.

Keynote speakers for 2014 included award winning TV & Radio personality Dini Petty from Toronto and CCMA award winning artist Tenille from Grande Prairie. There was a presentation on the crowd-funding platform Alberta BoostR by Chett Machett from Calgary and a talk show format conversation with four local business women, Barb Kilkenny of The Bodhi Tree in Peace River, Laura McLean of OMG Cupcakes in Grande Prairie, Dayna Nelson of D.Luxe Style in Grande Prairie and Rachel Watson of the Hedgerow in Hotchkiss.

The event was held at the Belle Petroleum Centre in Peace River, Alberta and ran from 9am until 4pm. Delegates were provided with a gourmet lunch, networking opportunities, health & wellness breaks, door prizes and small gift packages. A local youth volleyball team was brought in to serve the luncheon and mini hand massages were offered in the lobby at no cost. Sponsors were prominently displayed on two screens located on the stage, as well as listed in the agenda package. Greetings were offered by the Deputy Mayor of Peace River and Community Liaison from Alberta Human Resources

**Referral Partner Mixer:** Our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Referral Partner mixer was held in February with a regional Business Trivial Pursuit theme. Over 40 partners attended to partake of the fabulous food and try their hand at the business trivia. 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 \$3 million
- Total dollars loaned since CFPC inception topped \$15.5 Million as of March 31, 2015
- Total Loan loss averages around 4%
- Over 75% of businesses supported by CFPC since 1995 are still operating today