



Dec 2022

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Happy Holidays!



A Message from the GM

"It's beginning to look a lot like well you get it."



Here we are once again heading into the Happiest season of all. But when I turn on CNN, I think that the rest of the world didn't quite get the memo. That's when I turn off CNN and focus on my family and small circle of friends and let the spirit of the season come into my life. It's hard to worry about much when you are playing hide and seek with your great-grand kids. My hope for all is that you can find that kind of joy this Christmas.

As I reflect on 2022, I am reminded of the hardships that some of our clients continue to face, but mostly, I am pumped by some of the great things that 2022 brought. This has been an amazing turn around year for most as we inch ever closer to normality. I am proud to say that Community Futures Peace Country stands ready to provide the support our clients need as they move their businesses into the future.

To all our clients, partners, stakeholders and friends, I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and I look forward to working with you in the new year!"

Randy Hodgkinson,
General Manager

Please note our office will be CLOSED from December 23rd to January 3rd.

Client Highlight

Simard Butcher Co.

simardbutchers@gmail.com

(780) 837-5020

004 Railway Ave NE Falher, AB T0H 1M0

Local. Diverse. Delicious.

Your choice of cuts from local producers.

Custom Cut + Wrap Available



Stephane Simard is the owner/operator of Simard Butcher Co. retail meat store in Falher, Alberta. Stephane has always had a passion for hunting, growing up outdoors and testing his hunter skills with friends and family. He grew up around McLennan and deep family roots make the Peace Region home. Stephane is a loving husband to his wife, Nichole, and adoring father to their two young boys. Stephane graduated with Honors from the Meat Processing course at Olds College in 2021. Now he brings his skill, creativity, and industry-leading technique to you. The retail location boasts a variety of fresh, smoked, cured, and other beef and pork options. The Simards are proud to make these available

locally! The business also further supports their local producers by offering Custom Cutting of farm direct animals. Stephane and his family give back to the community through support of local 4H Beef programs and donations of edibles to local Animal Shelters.



Visit them in person or online at:

[Simard Butcher Co. Ltd. \(simardbutchers.com\)](https://simardbutchers.com)

Upcoming Events



Lunch & Learns

How to Exit Your Business Your Way!

Wednesday, January 25th via ZOOM

**Facilitated by Neil Gerritsen
Commercial Ventures**

- ⇒ A few topics that will be explored include:
- ⇒ What is exit planning and why it's important
- ⇒ The top 10 benchmarks for a sellable business
- ⇒ Who to sell to, Family vs Market & the pros and cons of each
- ⇒ Your team of professionals—who you need working for you
- ⇒ Are you ready for life post-exit?



Testing, Testing 123

Wednesday, February 15th via ZOOM

**Facilitated by Wendy Muise
Women Entrepreneurs-in-STEM Program**

Have you ever wondered if there was a more straightforward, less costly way to develop your idea with validation? This workshop will cover some of the most common testing methods and where you might use them. No lab coats are needed; these tests will be simple, like observing someone's behaviour and taking notes. In the end, you will better understand how you might test some of your ideas.

Please watch your email and social media early in the New Year for more information and links to register for these FREE sessions!



It's happening! WIN 2023 will be hitting the road in April and May and coming to a town near you! Dates and locations have been set and we are working hard on securing some fantastic speakers, talk show guests and MORE!

www.womeninthenorth.com

Registrations open in January!

About Us!



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Visit us ONLINE

www.cfpeacecountry.com

Like us on facebook & instagram



Community Futures Peace Country is a community driven, non-profit organization staffed by business professionals and guided by a volunteer Board of Directors.

We provide a wide range of small business services and business management tools for people wanting to start, expand, franchise or sell a business. We also run a number of specialized business programs, organize exciting business events, and actively work with community and business leaders to foster rural economic growth.



Supported in Alberta by Prairies Economic Development Canada, Community Futures has been supporting small business and rural economic diversification since 1986. Community Futures has established 90 Community Futures organizations throughout rural Western Canada, including 27 offices in Alberta.

Given the importance of small business to Canada's changing economy, one of the primary focuses of the CFs is to foster entrepreneurial development by providing both financial and technical support to new and existing small businesses.

Board of Directors Opportunity

*Growing communities
one idea at a time.*



Meet our Current Board Members

Catherine DeZutter, George Leger, Frank Light
Rene George, Cheryl Anderson, Marie Dyck

If you are a forward-thinking, value-oriented and have a passion for leadership, community development, and entrepreneurship, a Board of Director position with Community Futures Peace Country is for you. Board Directors have diverse skills and backgrounds and are made up of community champions and professionals from within the communities they live. Board Directors are responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organization and act as a resource for staff.



Vacant Positions:

Sub Region 3 - Rycroft / Spirit River

Sub Region 5 - Fairview

Sub Region 7 - Valleyview

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas & all the best for the New Year!