



Happy New Year!

As we look forward to a bright year ahead supporting our rural regional businesses, we would like to provide a bit of information on who we are and what we do!

You may already know that we offer small business loans of up to \$150,000, but we also offer many other services including business coaching, training workshops and strategic planning facilitation.

Please feel free to distribute the enclosed pamphlets to individuals who may be looking for business assistance! We would also be happy to offer a short presentation at any one of your upcoming Council, Board or staff meetings.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions by calling our office at 780-624-1161.

Sherry Crawford

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Small Business Specialists Offering:



Small Business Loans
Business Services
Business Training

Community Futures (CF) organizations began in 1986 and are dedicated to encouraging business development and rural diversification. There are 27 CF offices throughout rural Alberta, and we proudly work in partnership with Prairies Economic Development Canada. Each Community Futures organization is community led and governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Business Development and/or Diversification support services provided by Community Futures offices include:

Small Business Loans

All Community Futures offices have access to loan funding for start-up, maintenance or expansion of small businesses in rural Alberta. Our maximum loan is \$150,000. As developmental lenders, our goal is to help our clients succeed and that can include working in partnership with traditional banks.

Business Services

- > Access to business information and related support services
- > Small business counseling
- > Business planning support for start-up, maintenance and expansion of small business in rural Alberta

Business Training

Community Futures Peace Country offers regular training sessions on business-related topics through our Lunch & Learn program, annual conferences as well as web-based learning. One on one support is available by meeting with a CF Business Analyst.

For more information, contact your local CF office.

Community Futures Peace Country

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Growing communities one idea at a time.



MORE ABOUT OUR SERVICES:

1. **Business Financing:** We offer financial assistance to help small businesses start, expand, or stabilize their operations. These funds can be used for various purposes, including purchasing equipment, working capital, or business development. Intake form and application packages are available online or at our office.
2. **Business Coaching and Development:** Assist with business planning and development, helping entrepreneurs create solid business plans, set goals, and navigate the challenges of starting or expanding a business.
3. **Market Research and Economic Analysis:** Help with marketing strategies, advise clients on ways to research and analyze the market to help entrepreneurs better understand trends, competition, and opportunities, enabling more informed business decisions in an advisory capacity.
4. **Business Training and Workshops:** We offer workshops, seminars, and training programs to help individuals and entrepreneurs gain the knowledge and skills needed to start or grow a successful business. Topics include business planning, marketing, financial management, social media, HR, etc. Lunch & Learns are held once a month, at no cost to attend and available online or in person. Online learning portals will be available on our website soon so clients can learn at their own pace online.
5. **Networking and Community Support:** Connections within the local business community, Chambers of Commerce, and Economic Development, encouraging individuals to network with other entrepreneurs and access resources and support from a broader community.
6. **Rural and Community Development:** In addition to supporting businesses, we also work and partner on community development initiatives, helping to strengthen local economies and improve the overall quality of life in their regions. Lemonade Day, Women in the North, SongRise Music Conference and Hug an Entrepreneur are some of our key initiatives.