

Performance Results for 2024-25 Shuswap

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	2024-25
<i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i>	
1. Total number of community-based projects	8
2. Total number of local and regionally-based community strategic plans developed and/or updated	5
<i>Rural access to business development services</i>	
3. Total number of business training session participants	373
4. Total number of business advisory services	74
<i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i>	
5. Dollar value of loans	\$692,645
6. Total number of loans	12
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹	59
Provide additional information (e.g. Success stories, Links to priorities, leveraging work, communication events, etc...)	
<p>The following is a summary of the programs and projects that we were involved in throughout the year:</p> <p>Business Forum 2024 This is a shared partnership between CF Shuswap, Salmon Arm Economic Development Society, Shuswap Economic Development Society and Salmon Arm Chamber of Commerce. The event was held at Song Sparrow Hall on October 30th. The full day event included a variety of keynote speakers as well as breakout sessions where attendees could choose a topic of interest and participate in a conversation about the subject matter. Each breakout session provided a facilitator and a guest panel to provide insight and to provoke questions and response. The event was sold out again this year.</p> <p>Shuswap Economic Recovery Taskforce (SERT) SERT was created to support businesses and non-profits in the Shuswap that were impacted by the Bush Creek East wildfire in 2023. We are a partnership made up of local business and community leaders from throughout the Shuswap. Our purpose is to coordinate support services in wildfire affected areas, including funding, education and other economic recovery resources. We were able to disburse \$50k in funds to businesses within the North Shuswap region, to a maximum amount of \$5k each for qualifying businesses.</p>	

¹ Estimated at the time of lending

Sustainable Development Coordinator

The creation and deployment of this new position will assist CF Shuswap to develop additional long-term capacity by delivering more results in business development, lending, grant writing, business resource development and delivery and referrals. In addition, as a community catalyst resource, the intern will help develop new projects and programs to improve community economic capacity. Some funding for this one-year intern position was provided by the CFBC Sustainability Grant.

Rural Community Immigration Pilot (RCIP)

Working with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Community Futures North Okanagan and CF Shuswap is pleased to deliver the RCIP program in the North Okanagan and Shuswap region. This initiative aims to support economic development by strengthening the region’s capacity to attract, integrate and retain a skilled workforce. RCIP will play a vital role in addressing persistent and emerging labour market needs and assist with tackling demographic challenges in our communities.

CFBC Rural Resiliency Initiative (RRI)

Last year, our Executive Director was invited along with several other CF managers to join a CFBC “Economic Quick Response & Recovery Team”, whose mandate was to develop an economic response plan intended to assist businesses affected by natural disasters throughout the province, and to also help them prepare for future events. Because CF has 34 offices in rural communities throughout the province, and the fact that we have been called upon to assist business recovery following most natural disasters in the past, it was a natural step to better organize ourselves as a “go to” agency who has an established plan for assistance to entrepreneurs and businesses.

Salmon Arm 2024 55+ BC Games

Our office was pleased to sponsor and support the 55+ Games that were hosted by the City of Salmon Arm on September 10 – 14, 2024. Over 2600 participants registered for the various events at the Games and many were joined by family and friends who came to support and cheer for them. More than one thousand volunteers signed up to assist with the organizing and preparations for the Games. It was anticipated that the Games would result in an economic benefit to the region in the amount of \$3-4 million during the week of the Games.