

Performance Results for 2022-23 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	2022-23
<i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i>	
1. Total number of community-based projects (new & on-going)	19
2. Total number of local and regionally-based community strategic plans developed and/or updated	1
<i>Rural access to business development services</i>	
3. Total number of business training session participants	434
4. Total number of business advisory services	96
<i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i>	
5. Dollar value of loans	644,500
6. Total number of loans	7
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹	7
Provide additional Information (e.g. Success stories, Links to priorities, leveraging work, communication events, etc...)	
<p>Highlight and Achievements from 2022/23</p> <p>Community Futures Shuswap continues to work collaboratively with our regional partners to leverage economic development programs and resources for the benefit of residents throughout the Shuswap. We have strong and valued relations with other economic development agencies within our service area and we share in several Community Economic Development projects through these partnerships. As well, we continue to access and share best practice resources throughout our CFBC network. All of our staff attended CFBC Spring Training in Vancouver in March and made valuable connections with other CF offices and programs that will be of benefit to us and our clients going forward, particularly access to online training and educational workshops.</p> <p>Our office successfully concluded a Labour Market Partnership (LMP) with the Province of British Columbia. The purpose of the LMP was to support a research initiative that identified the gaps, challenges, and opportunities for Indigenous employment within the Secwepemc Tourism industry. There is strong desire within the four local Secwepemc communities to develop a strong tourism industry that focusses on the cultural and historical significance of the Secwepemc Peoples. The knowledge gained from this LMP project will supplement to work that has already been done since 2018 to develop Indigenous tourism opportunities in the region, our Indigenous Tourism Development Initiative.</p>	

¹ Estimated at the time of lending

Performance Results for 2022-23 Shuswap

Much of the focus throughout the year was to work with community partners and find solutions to fill skilled labour market gaps experienced by local employers from all business sectors. We have heard of many productivity/workflow challenges due to labour shortages and this is a key priority for us. Unfortunately, it is not an easy problem to solve but there are several initiatives that can make a difference towards a positive outcome. In May 2022, we formed a committee called the Shuswap Workforce Council that is comprised of several economic development agencies, college, school district, health authority, local government, and representative employers. The mandate of the Shuswap Workforce Council is to respond to an extremely tight labour market which has created significant hiring challenges for local employers. In some cases, these challenges have been so extreme that they have resulted in temporary business closures and/or reduced hours of operation.

In September 2022, we were informed that the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP) program was approved for the Shuswap region by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). This program had been operating as a pilot in North Okanagan for three years and had now been extended until 2024, including the Shuswap region. This program serves to connect foreign skilled labour with local unfilled skilled labour positions. With funding received, we were able to hire a RNIP Coordinator under a two-year contract to serve our Shuswap employers who have enrolled in the program. This very successful pilot has proven to be a great tool to help with the local labour shortages noted above.

Launch-a-Preneur, Season 6 was big success in 2022 with a record number of diverse teams participating in the multi-week business training event and competition. This bi-annual event is a great example of community organizations working well together to provide meaningful training opportunities for our residents along with a lot of fun and friendly competition.

None of this work could be achieved without much effort and recognition must be given to our dedicated staff and board members. They provide diverse knowledge, skills and professionalism to their position at CF and they represent our organization proudly throughout the Shuswap, and beyond.