

Because it's not always  
apples to apples.



2014/15

**Annual Review Highlights**



At CF Shuswap, our focus remains firmly on personalized client service delivery and meaningful partnerships with regional and community organizations sharing common goals and objectives. We have spent considerable time building strong relations and providing positive results for our clients. Our client base is diverse and their needs are far ranging. We pride ourselves on the trust we gain from our clients and the continued relations we have with them long after their businesses have started. Their success is our success.

One of the highlights of these partnerships is Launch-a-Preneur, a local entrepreneurial competition that resulted in 24 teams registering for the 3 month educational business program with 12 teams proceeding to the final "Dragon's Den" competition at the conclusion of the program.

Over \$37,000 in cash and prizes were handed out to the winners, but the greatest story is the number of new businesses that will now be launched in the Shuswap as a result of the competition.

We are pleased to have been approved by our funder, Western Economic Diversification, to receive a 3 year Contribution Agreement, rather than a single year agreement that had been the practice in recent years. The 3 year funding agreement gives continuity and stability to our ongoing role in Shuswap economic development.

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.

2014/15 Highlights

1 Office

3 Staff Members

10 Board Members

315 Board Volunteer Hours

594 Clients Served

20 Loans

81 Partnerships

\$320,200 Funds Leveraged.

22 Community Projects

28 Training Sessions

\$1,113,300 Loans Approved.

193 Training Participants

the power of **IMAGINATION** makes us infinite. ~ JOHN MUIR

## MISSION STATEMENT

Facilitating the on-going development of a sustainable and diversified economy by providing current business guidance and supports in communities across our region.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dorothy Argent, **CHAIR**  
Eugene Casavant, **VICE CHAIR**  
Marilyn Harford, **TREASURER**  
Barb Munro, **SECRETARY**  
Chad Eliason, **CITY OF SALMON ARM**  
Terry Rysz, **DISTRICT OF SICAMOUS**

Charlie Burt  
Jeff Tarry  
Bonnie Thomas  
Ron Langridge





# partnerships AND PROGRAMS

## MENTORSHIP & CONSULTANTS NETWORK

In an effort to provide our clients and overall business community with access to timely and well regarded access to qualified business consultants and mentors, Community Futures Shuswap has established a Mentors and Consultants Network of local and regional specialists who are skilled in an array of business areas. From marketing to sales and on to general operations and strategic planning the network of vetted consultants and mentors continues to grow and respond to local business needs.

## MICRO BUSINESS LENDING PROGRAM

The ability to respond to micro business lending needs in a short time frame prompted the development and launch of a micro lending program that allows for loans of up to \$10,000 to be approved without the requirement of a full-on business plan and lengthy application process. The Micro Lending Program supports the launch of owner-operated, typically home-based businesses and provides support for expansion of existing businesses.

## FUTUREPRENEUR

Formerly Canadian Youth Business Foundation – a natural partnership with Futurepreneur was formalized with an eye to increase Community Futures Shuswap's ability to respond to the business and lending needs of youth (ages 18-39) in our region. As a full, active partner of Futurepreneur, Community Futures can coordinate loan application processes and support.

## 4H YOUTH LOANS PROGRAM

Building on the success of the 4H beef lending program, the CF Board of Directors expanded the youth lending program to also include swine as a viable product to take to market.

## ATTRACTION VIDEOS

In partnership with six other community-based organizations, Community Futures Shuswap is pleased to present a five part video series that showcases and highlights the many competitive advantages our region has to offer both would-be residents and relocating businesses. The complete video series can be found online @

[www.livinginsalmonarm.com](http://www.livinginsalmonarm.com)

## LAUNCH-A-PRENEUR

In partnership with Salmon Arm Economic Development Society, Okanagan College and Enactus, Community Futures participated in the successful delivery of a successful third Shuswap Launch-a-Preneur, a bi-annual local entrepreneurial competition. This year Shawn Greek of Apollo Auto Centre took home the grand prize while Shuswap Wood Fired Pizza Co. took second place in the competition.

## MARKETING & AWARENESS

In an effort to create greater ease of access to information and resources, the Community Futures Shuswap website has undergone a refresh at [www.beyourfuture.ca](http://www.beyourfuture.ca). As well, we have invested in new marketing materials to raise our profile at supported community events such as Salmon Arm Roots & Blues, Salmon Arm Fall Fair, regional job fairs and trade shows.

## VENTURE CONNECT

Community Futures Shuswap has partnered with another CF office who has initiated a program that addresses the growing needs concerning succession planning for businesses throughout BC. Venture Connect showcases current business opportunities that are available for sale across BC and also works with businesses that are looking at succession planning and valuations for their businesses. In Summer 2015, the Shuswap region was featured in the inter-provincial Business Buyer's Guide.



“With no assets but a great idea and the passion to follow through, Community Futures was willing to take a chance on me. They were my first and greatest source of funding and I wouldn't be here otherwise. Participation in the Launch-a-preneur program in 2013 was a great kick-start, giving me the community resources and networks I needed to build confidence and my business plan. Even when I experienced a lull in my business, Community Futures was there to help me through and continues to this day in providing ongoing advice and resources to keep me feeling supported and my doors open.”

**ALTHEA MONGERSON**  
Intwined Fibre Arts  
[www.intwinedfibrearts.ca](http://www.intwinedfibrearts.ca)



“Thanks to Community Futures, our future goals and aspirations of making a living and creating a long, lasting successful business that will serve this community are closer than they ever were before. They came to play when no one else would.”

**STEW BIRD**  
**TRAVIS JOHNSTON**  
The Wood Shop Millwork & Joinery Inc.  
[www.thewoodshop.co](http://www.thewoodshop.co)

## message from the chair

### DOROTHY ARGENT

This AGM marks my first anniversary as Chair of CF Board of Directors. I would like to acknowledge and thank all board members for their support throughout the year. Community Futures is well served by this dedicated group of volunteers who provide significant leadership to our organization.

Part of our mandate is to assist, promote and contribute to the development of a healthy, sustainable, stable and diversified economy.

We participate on several committees and share the challenges and opportunities that come our way. We are willing and capable partners to find solutions and build capacity.

Since 1986 our local CF office has granted over 600 loans with a value in excess of \$20 million dollars, helping to create or sustain over 3100 jobs in the region.

Currently, our loan portfolio exceeds \$4 million dollars. We are proud of our track record and we look forward to continue delivering quality business services and loan products to our clients throughout the region, for as long as the need is there.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge Rob, Tanja and Darlene, our dedicated team at the Community Futures office who work hard each day to provide a valued service benefitting the Shuswap.



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When I chose to postpone retirement and enter another venture, Community Futures was ready and willing to help. There is no bank that would have financed inventory to expand my Olive Oils & Vinegars specialty store - borrowing and restructuring the monetary arrangements was the only way I could make it happen. The best service that Community Futures provides besides financing is their Business Plan program. This program allows an entrepreneur to provide some insight and potential pitfalls facing small business ownership. Thank you Community Futures.

#### DONNA HARMS

Sapori Oils & Vinegars  
[www.saporioilsandvinegars.com](http://www.saporioilsandvinegars.com)

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## partnerships AND ALLIANCES

City of Salmon Arm  
District of Sicamous  
District of Sicamous Chamber of Commerce  
Downtown Salmon Arm  
Enactus  
Futurepreneur Canada

Okanagan College – Salmon Arm Campus  
Plan B:E  
SASCU

North Shuswap Chamber of Commerce  
Salmon Arm and District Chamber of Commerce  
Salmon Arm Economic Development Society

Salmon Arm Visioning Committee  
Shuswap Community Foundation  
Shuswap Construction Industry Professionals (SCIP)  
Shuswap Economic Development and Tourism  
Shuswap Food Action Cooperative  
Shuswap Hospital Foundation  
Shuswap Settlement Services  
South Shuswap Chamber of Commerce  
Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition  
Venture Connect BC  
Work BC



**Community**  
**Futures** Shuswap

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F 250.803.0157

**BeYourFuture.ca**



“

A perfect opportunity presented itself for my family and I to purchase a local restaurant and secure our future in Salmon Arm and Canada. This would not have been possible without the financial support and encouragement from Community Futures.

#### IVAN GARCIA RIVERA

Ivan's Cabana Vallarta  
Mexican Restaurant

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