

Performance Results for 2022-23 Community Futures Okanagan Similkameen

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
<b><i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i></b>		
1. Total number of community-based projects (new & on-going)		13
2. Total number of local and regionally-based community strategic plans developed and/or updated		1
<b><i>Rural access to business development services</i></b>		
3. Total number of business training session participants		1,553
4. Total number of business advisory services		697
<b><i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i></b>		
5. Dollar value of loans		1,358,037
6. Total number of loans		14
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending <sup>1</sup>		61
Number of unique clients served	584	
# Persons with disabilities served	79	
Number of Indigenous clients served	10	
Number of Social Enterprise clients served	10	
Number of Female clients served	223	
Number of Youth clients served (ages 29 years or younger)	21	
<p>Our headline story of the year was the achievement of \$800,000 in funding for the Okanagan Innovation Food Hub project from the Province of BC. It is the culmination of almost 10 years of effort, a big win for CF and our partners. PacifiCan has been supportive along the way and invited the project to access their REGI funding pool - to complete the \$3MM total project.</p> <p>We are also proud of the support and assistance provided working with members of the Lower Similkameen Indian Band to develop agricultural plans for 35 acres. We supported the projects with advisory services, business &amp; agricultural planning, and grant writing that achieved over \$350K in funding.</p> <p>Our training department performed very well in terms of number of entrepreneurs trained (1,553) &amp; new training contracts (4), but also in terms of revenue generation resulting in a surplus for the year. . All of the training falls within our mission, and we expanded into offering strategic planning sessions for directors &amp;</p>		

employees of non-profits this year with community group strategic planning sessions held & strategic plans developed.

The number of approved loans was below our typical with 14 loans disbursed in the period. The total dollar value for the period was \$1,875,465 committed, and \$1,303,466 advanced. A coming challenge in our loan department is RRRF client support & loan administration – with our plan to hire a new position to assist with the anticipated volume.

Other CED projects of note were

1. Providing a dedicated Food Processing Business Advisor who also developed our processing ecosystem by establishing a local non-profit Food Hub Society (eventual operator of the Food Hub)
2. Working to establish a community-lead health clinic in Summerland in partnership with the District of Summerland, 10 Physicians, the SOS Medical Foundation, the Division of Family Practice & the Community Foundation. A model to attract physicians with management of the facility handled by 3<sup>rd</sup> parties.
3. Sponsored & hosted Juniorpreneur program – with 5 youth trained on business skills and 2 new youth summer businesses created.
4. Princeton flood support continued in 2022, with our CF receiving an extended contract with ETSI-BC for our dedicated Similkameen Business Advisor position to Dec 2022.
5. New “Disaster Recovery Economic Adjustment Initiative” DREAI Program launched with 2 Program ambassadors with specific Princeton support targets. Meetings with Chamber, EDO, Skills centre and more for awareness of our available programming.
6. Sponsored the JCI Regional Convention, training over 30 young leaders in bookkeeping basics
7. Continued with Provincial Nominee Program (entrepreneur immigration program) with 3 new immigrants supported to relocate and start businesses.
8. We assisted Apex Freestyle to achieve \$22,500 in funding to host an international competition, with skiers teams, family etc. staying for a week on average and supporting the local economy & youth sport.