

Performance Results for 2022-23 CF Lakeland

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)	28
2. Total number of local and regionally-based community strategic plans developed and/or updated	4
<i>Rural access to business development services</i>	
3. Total number of business training session participants	502
4. Total number of business advisory services	480
<i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i>	
5. Dollar value of loans	\$708,000
6. Total number of loans	18
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹	43
<p>The 2022-2023 fiscal year saw an exciting buzz in our region as businesses began to start back up and begin to grow. This was a time for recovery and expansion. The Lakeland economic trends were towards retail, service industries, construction and transportation. We are home to 4 Wing Cold Lake Base which is revving up construction and production for the incoming F-35A fighter jets. This region will continue to grow as new military and carbon capture projects are being planned and completed. We worked hard at building awareness for our CF in the Lakeland and it is showing results as we have seen an increase in clients looking to CFL for business advisory services and resources.</p> <p>This year we took on a new program, the SMARTstart Entrepreneur Program. SMARTstart is an excellent, 8 month entrepreneur training program that provides three main elements: online business training through GoForth, 11 in-person workshops dealing with every aspect of running a business – accounting, marketing, bookkeeping, business planning, insurance, etc. and the best part, mentorship – where the new entrepreneur is matched with a local established business owner who walks them through a business plan, feasibility study or strategic plan. Our SMARTstart program was sponsored and supported by all 3 of our municipalities, ECARIN, 7 participating entrepreneurs, 10 local business mentors, with another 15 local businesses being involved throughout. This is a business community building program, and we are excited to run for another session in the fall.</p> <p>Some of the other projects that we worked on in this year included; BDC and local banks – Business Bankers Lunch, Economic development strategy planning through the Regional Economic Information Partnership (REIP), Chamber of Commerce events including - EARN, Business of the Year Awards, Christmas Craft Show, Feast at The Beach, Level Up Lakeland, Municipality Partnerships through – the Beautification Loan Program, SMARTstart, Lemonade Day,</p>	

¹ Estimated at the time of lending

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Rural Renewal Stream, Cold Lake Economic Development Activity Committee (EDAC), Open Farm Days, Regional Abilities Awareness Committee (RAAC), Procurement Training, through our **Northeast Alberta Community Futures partnerships** – Project GAZELLE, Connect For Food, Power Up North and many training workshops. We partner and collaborate with everyone who is willing to build business capacity in the Lakeland. We have worked hard to be a good partner and have established excellent relationships locally through our business community, Chambers of Commerce, Municipalities, as well as regionally through our NE Alberta Community Futures, GOA provincial partners, Portage College, Alberta HUB, East Central Regional Innovation Network (ECARIN) and Indigenous partnerships. We look forward to a new year of providing business services and economic development in the Lakeland.