

Performance Results for 2021-22 Community Futures 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	2021-22
<i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i>	
1. Total number of community-based projects (new & on-going)	35
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	679
4. Total number of business advisory services	717
<i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i>	
5. Dollar value of loans	\$438,800
6. Total number of loans	16
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹	39
<p>The 2021-2022 fiscal year proved to be challenging as well as a time of growth and opportunity for our business community. The COVID-19 pandemic was still prevalent, and it was a slow process as businesses began to open back up and citizens became more comfortable going back into the community. CFL continued to provide support both financially and technically to assist businesses to pivot or to find resources to sustain during the shutdowns. We saw a shift around September of new businesses looking to start up, rather than existing businesses seeking support as a result of struggling through COVID-19. Then around December, we saw another change where the average business clients contacting CFL shifted from new start ups to existing businesses looking to grow and expand. This positive trend of businesses growing has continued through the new year.</p> <p>CFL has continued to pursue and build relationships amongst our regional stakeholders. We started a new Regional Economic Information Partnership (REIP) that brings together Chambers of Commerce, Municipalities, Cold Lake First Nations, and Government of Alberta. These regional partners meet every two months to discuss projects/programs each is working on. The purpose is to share information, eliminate duplication and partner wherever possible.</p> <p>Our second office in Cold Lake has been very busy offering support to local and surrounding businesses. We receive around half of our clients in the Cold Lake office and the other half in Bonnyville office. This has clearly been an effective transition for CFL to have a presence in the City of Cold Lake.</p> <p>Some of the projects that we worked on in this year included partnering with our Chambers of Commerce, municipalities, Province of AB and small businesses. We partnered with the Cold Lake Chamber to host Michael Kerr for Small Business Week in October, the Bonnyville Chamber for their Christmas Craft Show as well as many EARN</p>	

¹ Estimated at the time of lending

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events, The Glendon School for BizKids for their grade 5 class, all local banks and BDC for a Bankers Lunch, Regional Abilities Awareness Committee (RAAC) to promote entrepreneurs with disabilities, 5 NE Community Futures offices to host Connect For Food events (agrifood) as well as the Alberta iMarket and Digital Service Squad, Province of AB, regional stakeholders and local farms for Open Farm Days, 4 NE Community Futures offices for Power Up North event, the Town of Bonnyville and the MD of Bonnyville for the Beautification Loan Program, and many more.

Overall, we are happy to have built awareness in our communities about CFL and the programs and services we provide. This next year we will build on our stakeholder relationships to offer more programs and initiate economic development projects to build sustainability for our regions' small businesses.

