



Boundary Youth Success Program

KARLYN OLSEN

The Boundary Youth Success Program is designed to assist youth facing employment barriers gain life and employment skills that will help enable them to enter the workforce, return to work or return to school. Focus is put on developing employability skills such as resume writing, presentation skills, communication skills, stress management and team-building. In addition, youth have the opportunity to gain certifications such as Standard First Aid, WHMIS, Foodsafe Level 1, H2S Alive, Worldhost and more. A work experience component during the second half of the program will place the youth in a job setting related to their personal and professional interests for three days a week.

Ten unemployed youth (ages 15 - 30) from the Boundary area are selected to be part of each cycle of the program. Participants attend classes 30 hours (5 days) per week. The program runs for 14 weeks and is subject to funding from Service Canada.



Targeted Initiative for Older Workers

ANNA LACTIN

The Targeted Initiative for Older Workers (TIOW) employability program is funded through Ministry of Regional Economic and Skills Development and Labor Market Development Branch. The program is designed to bridge unemployed individuals with new skills and current certificates to better equip them in securing future employment.

Participants attend a variety of employment workshops including: Coping with Change; Marketing Oneself to Employers; Internet Job Search; Resume & Cover Letters; Portfolios; Exploring Self-Employment; Discovering the Hidden Job Market; Interview Techniques and Stress Management. In addition, participants receive certificate training including OFA III, Transportation of Dangerous Goods, WHMIS, Foodsafe, and Boat Operator's Card and more.

Message from the Board Chair and General Manager



Dave Marshall
Board Chair



Wendy McCulloch
General Manager

Community Futures celebrates 25 years!

Times change. Industries change. Communities change. Thanks to the Community Futures Program, rural communities in the Boundary and British Columbia have been changing too!

Built on the key principles of local decision making, planning and assessment, technical support and business investment, Community Futures adds an increased emphasis on participation from a broad cross section of the communities it serves. This represents a diverse range of interests, including social, environmental and educational, as well as business. As a result of the Community Futures initiative, many local businesses have received financial and technical support and thousands of dollars have been placed in our rural communities in support of economic development initiatives.

Community Futures Boundary continues to offer support and loans to new and existing businesses. As a catalyst in our communities, we are always looking for ways to assist in strengthening local skills and entrepreneurship and providing opportunities to enhance community capacity and regional prosperity.

Community Futures Board and Staff work tirelessly to support the communities we serve. We want to thank our Board and Staff for their hard work and commitment and know they will continue to make a difference in our region.

As the economy recovers, the time is ripe for entrepreneurs and communities to gear up and seize new opportunities - and Community Futures will be there to help!

Dave Marshall

Wendy McCulloch

Financial Statements are available at www.boundarycf.com

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All photos courtesy of Kerri Lea Plotnikoff and Laura Wilby.

This initiative is sponsored by Western Diversification.



Growing communities one idea at a time.

ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011



Western Economic
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(left to right) SANDY ELZINGA, JAMES WILSON, CAROLINE TODORUK, HOLLY HUME, DENNIS THOME, ANDREA ZIBIN, DYLAN ZORN

Employment Services

The Employment Services team provide professional assistance and guidance to individuals seeking employment, considering a career change, or exploring training options. Employment counselors work closely with the client in a supportive, confidential setting to develop an individualized plan to achieve employment goals. The team provides referrals to Job Search Workshops, the Boundary Wage Incentive Program, Self Employment Benefits Program, Training Assistance, Youth Programs, Casual Job Referrals, Older Workers Program, and Opportunities Funding for Individuals with Disabilities. Resource Centres in Grand Forks and Greenwood offer self-serve access to a variety of resources to assist individuals in their job search.

During this fiscal year:

- 4200 clients access our self-serve services through the Resource Centres in Grand Forks and Greenwood
- 78 free job search workshops were offered on topics such as resume writing, career decision making, internet job search and employment portfolios
- 348 unemployed individuals gained employment
- 10 youth at risk participated in the Boundary Youth Success Program, resulting in 90% employment or training outcomes
- 3 – nine week training sessions for Older Workers were delivered, resulting in 34 participants gaining new employability skills and certificates
- 50+ casual jobs were filled



Community Economic Development

JENNIFER WETMORE

The BEDC continues to move towards a more diversified and vibrant Boundary Regional economy in 2010 and beyond. The economic development partnership between the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary and Community Futures Boundary is one of a shared interest in bolstering the regional economy and growing, from the ground up, a more diverse regional community. 2010/2011 was a year spent closing off some larger projects and moving forward in the areas of tourism, agriculture and business attraction.

The BEDC remains at the forefront of regional economic development partnerships provincially and this is a great source of pride for Community Futures Boundary. But a partnership is nothing without the right players at the table. With representation from all the Regional District Areas and Municipalities in the Boundary Region, this partnership is able to discuss issues, make decisions, and move projects forward effectively and efficiently.



SARAH WINTON

Community Futures Boundary determined the need and identified sufficient support to establish the Boundary Country Regional Chamber of Commerce. The regional chamber will build on the strengths of existing community groups in the region, enhancing the ability of the region's business community to influence and play a more active role in the growth and development of the area.

A business plan was developed in the fall of 2010 and a Board of Directors comprised of representatives from across the region was assembled in January 2011. Currently the regional chamber is working through the incorporation process and in its first year will focus on Organizational development, membership and communications.

The regional chamber will strengthen the capacity of businesses in the region through the fostering of a strong business climate, quality of life, community development and tourism.



Self-Employment Benefit Program

TREASA NORTON

Community Futures has continuously administered the Program under contract originally to Service Canada and since February 2009 on behalf of the British Columbia Ministry of Social Development. During the period December 1, 2009 through November 30, 2010, 25 new participants were approved for participation in the SEB Program, creating 28 jobs (26 full time and 2 casual). The Self Employment Benefits Program continues to support Boundary residents through business counselling, workshops, video conferencing, and one/one support.



Quote: ...Thank you for being great mentors and helpers, it has been a great 1st year of business and you have all contributed to my success." Tammy Battersby – The Sorted Solution



Quote:...”Thank you all at Community Futures for all of your assistance which has been truly invaluable for us. The Program definitely helped us off to a good start and we often say how difficult those first 6 months would have been with the support ... from Community Futures.” John Carlson – J & S Multi-Services.



Boundary Wage Incentive Program

MARGARET MAXIMENKO

The Boundary Wage Incentive Program assists unemployed individuals facing labour market & other barriers to employment. A short term wage incentive is provided to employers participating in the program in exchange for providing an opportunity for long term employment.

This fiscal year saw only sixteen employer contracts negotiated. This is the lowest number negotiated in ten years. The total value of these contracts equaled \$79,964.50, down \$100,000.00 over last year.

This year, job titles in the Program include: Kitchen Manager/Cook, Fabricator/Carpenter, Assistant Mgr, Production Supervisor, Cook, Legal Secretary, Electrical Helper, Exec. Assistant, Veterinary Assistant, Contract/Retail Sales & Installer, Personal Assistant/Webmaster, Bookkeeper/Clerk, Renovation Centre Clerk, Travel Agent, Flooring & Home Décor Clerk.



Business Development Services

SUSAN GREEN

The small business loan fund is a core service of Community Futures Boundary. The purpose of the fund is to assist local entrepreneurs in starting, expanding, and most importantly, succeeding in business. Together with the financing, Community Futures Boundary provides counseling on preparing business plans, cash flow forecasts and financial and business management strategies. Susan Green, our APEC and PAN-WEST Certified Business Counsellor, reviews loans up to \$150,000 and/or micro loans from \$200 to \$5000. We are proud of the support we've provided to the businesses in the Boundary. This past fiscal year was the busiest year to date for Community Futures Boundary as we advanced over a million dollars in business development loans. Assisting 25 businesses in the Boundary resulting in the creation of 45 new jobs and maintaining another 11 jobs in the community.



Quote:...”We have worked with Susan Green, Business Analyst, on a few projects to start and maintain our garlic farm for well over 8 years. We would simply not be afloat if it was not for her efforts.”

Kelly and Michael Fenwick-Wilson - Kettle Valley Organics, Rock Creek, BC.

