

Performance Results for 2023-24 Community Futures Grande Prairie & Region

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	2023-24
<i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i>	
1. Total number of community-based projects (new & on-going)	34
2. Total number of local and regionally based community strategic plans developed and/or updated	23
<i>Rural access to business development services</i>	
3. Total number of business training session participants	107
4. Total number of business advisory services	1037
<i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i>	
5. Dollar value of loans	\$1,290,471
6. Total number of loans	21
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹	34
Provide additional information (e.g. Success stories, Links to priorities, leveraging work, communication events, etc...)	
<p>The 2023 – 2024 was a robust year of activity. We saw a significant increase in the number of new clients seeking CF supports, especially those start ups that would normally have been considered bankable with their financial institutions but no longer fit their FI’s risk tolerance/rating. This demand put additional pressure on the Business Analysts in the organization to manage alongside their already large portfolios and work projects/programs they are responsible for leading.</p> <p>We were lucky enough to have 3 part time summer students in 2023 (one funded through a partnership with Northwestern Polytechnic and MITACS) that were able to work on projects like Lemonade Day, summer community barbecue, SmartSTART, etc. Shell Canada, our partner with the Shell LiveWIRE program, supported one final cohort of Indigenous entrepreneurial training and pitch event and have decided to refocus their energies elsewhere in Alberta. With that, we are actively seeking new partners to continue and grow the program to focus on a larger BIPOC clientele.</p> <p>We hosted an amazing Community Impact luncheon in January and had 100 stakeholders and clients in the room. We built the entire event around communicating the impact we have had on the local community since inception and showcased numerous clients who spoke about the impact CF staff has had for them. We hosted our second annual Hyperdrive Women in Business Summit in March and are looking to continue to support those participants in realizing their goals.</p>	

¹ Estimated at the time of lending.

Performance Results for 2013-14 Insert Name of CF Here

The board has struck 3 working committees: Advocacy, Marketing and Mentorship. This is a way of engaging our Board in a different day and to bring other subject matter experts to the those committee tables to assist in planning ways of advocating for CF at all government, community and client levels, enhancing our marketing message in a more prominent way and strengthening our spheres of influence in our region while growing our mentorship supports for all of our client and the specific programs we engage mentors for, specifically SmartSTART and the BIPOC program we are re-imagining.

CF Grande Prairie has served the region since 1986 and we are constantly refining and revising how we do what we do to ensure that we are meeting out clients where they are. To do this, we engage in regular organizational strategic planning. In 2024 2025, we are looking to be even more strategic in how we create our future. We have engaged a facilitator to come in to facilitate Sustainability Planning process for the board and staff with the goals of setting our course for success well into the future.