



Wildfire Business Transition Project

Community Futures North Cariboo

Community Futures Cariboo Chilcotin

Community Futures Sun Country



Community Futures is a full Service Business Development Centre that provides you with the tools to become a successful entrepreneur including:

- Business Loans
- Support for Clients that wish to start their own business
- Support for Community Economic/ Social Development
- How to Buy or Sell a business

Background on Community Futures

- 34 Community Futures in BC
- All have a service area in rural BC
- All are non-profit corporations
- All are run by a local Board of Directors
- Decisions made locally

Statistics Canada business number review showed Community Futures assisted firms outperformed a comparable group of Non-assisted firms.

	CF Assisted	Un-Assisted
Avg Employment Growth Rate	9.5%	4.2%
5 Year Survival Rate	76%	60%
Revenue Growth Rate	13.8%	6.1%

Wildfire Transition Partnership Programs

Multi-faceted broken down to 4 primary activities:

1. Business Ambassador Program
2. Planning a Successful Succession Program (PASS)
3. Training & Education
4. Opportunity Forums – to encourage innovations & opportunity awareness

Business Ambassador Program

- This program is currently being partially funded by generous grants from Northern Development Trust and Cariboo Beetle Action Coalition, Community Futures and Western Economic Diversification (WED).
- Business Ambassadors are meeting with business owners and not for profit organizations providing assistance as needed to aid business owner's effectively and efficiently accessing the applicable programs that are available.

From January to March 31st, 2018

	Williams Lake & Area	Ashcroft & Area	Quesnel & Area	100 Mile House & Area	Total
Application Assistance	209	81	110	202	602
Jobs Maintained	598	351	426	754	2129
Total Est. Amount Lost	\$ 5,778,326.62	\$ 1,836,949.44	\$ 1,447,581.71	\$ 5,343,800.00	\$ 14,406,657.77
Businesses reporting amount lost	114	65	47	133	359
Identifying as Indigenous	3	1	1	1	6
Identifying as Women	97	28	46	57	228
Red Cross Referrals	249	75	109	200	633
Other Referrals Total	42	33	42	66	183
CF/ Loans Referrals	17	8	14	15	54
Agricultural Referrals	7	2	5	0	14
NDIT Referrals (inc. Love)	5	20	18	49	92
Wellness Referrals	3	2	0	1	6
CCCTA Referrals	2	0	0	0	2
Jobs BC Referrals	1	0	0	0	1
Other Referrals	7	1	4	1	13
Red Cross Approvals	8	1	5	0	14

PASS (Planning a Successful Succession)

- The PASS component of the project is an expansion of a pilot project that is being funded in part by the Rural Dividend Program, Western Economic Diversification (WED) and partnering Community Futures offices.

- PASS is designed to assist business owners including those affected by the wildfires, to prepare for a successful business succession. This will include:
 - Mentoring
 - Planning Workbook
 - Financial incentive of up to \$3,000

Training & Education

- Training needs for impacted organizations are diverse.
- Major focus of the program will utilize an approach that allows organizations to identify their specific training needs, and obtain support in meeting those needs in the most effective manner.

Opportunity Forums

- Communities are reaching out and asking for direction to identify NEW economic opportunities in the region.
- Opportunities that are identified that support and/or create businesses as we rebuild our communities



Show the Cariboo communities our might and restore spirit, faith and generate revenue at the hundreds of businesses that continue to struggle after their 5 week closures last summer.

On the anniversary of the wildfires that devastated the region everyone is invited to join 1000's of Classic Car enthusiasts in the Wildfire Corridor between July 8 and 15, 2018. Gather your friends; stay a night or stay a few nights and support the businesses in the Wildfire Corridor.

<https://2018recoverycruise.wordpress.com/>

Businesses & Agencies - use this website to market your offerings or events.

Cruisers - check often to see deals and events.

The week begins: July 8; 10:00 - 2:00 Picnic at **Williams Lake Stampede Grounds**

The week ends: July 15; with Hot July Nights Car Show, **100 Mile House**



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