

Performance Results for 2024-2025 Community Futures Centre West

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		2024-25
<i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i>		
1. Total number of community-based projects (new & on-going)		11
2. Total number of local and regionally-based community strategic plans developed and/or updated		6
<i>Rural access to business development services</i>		
3. Total number of business training session participants		428
4. Total number of business advisory services		235
<i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i>		
5. Dollar value of loans		\$537,000
6. Total number of loans		7
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹		20
Provide additional Information (e.g. Success stories, Links to priorities, leveraging work, communication events, etc.)		
<p>Yummingz Catering, recognizing that the ethnic food market in Canada is enjoying significant growth, sought the support of CFCWest to purchase and develop a food truck for their signature Jamaican dishes. Through the promotional and distribution advantages of a food truck, along with the acquisition of MAP technology for increasing food shelf life and market expansion, Yummingz offered a strong business model and unique lending opportunity for CFCWest. Yummingz recently enjoyed their grand opening in Airdrie, and are regularly parked around the city, building clientele for their Jamaican cuisine. Yummingz owners invited CFCWest staff to their recent grand opening celebration, which our Business Advisor was proud to attend.</p> <p>Cycle Connect is a unique business model, wherein bicycles are imported internationally and sold in and around the Airdrie area, without the need of a traditional brick and mortar establishment. This model allows the owners to keep overhead low and maximize their business income. Through channels such as social media marketplaces, and distribution partnerships such as Amazon fulfillment, Cycle Connect offered CFCWest an innovative approach to small business. Cycle Connect demonstrated success in their business model before approaching CFCWest, and through our line of credit, the business is now able to expand operations with greater ordering capacity.</p>		

¹ Estimated at the time of lending

SMARTstart is CFCWest's signature entrepreneurship training program. SMARTstart operates with three pillars: Mentorship, Workshops, and Online Training, offered within an 8 month program creating a thriving and supportive entrepreneur community. CFCWest is continually developing SMARTstart to ensure we are creating value for communities and incorporating new and relevant entrepreneurship tools and resources. In 2024-2025, SMARTstart expanded to include Spruce Grove and Banff Pride. Our SMARTstart expansion strategy now includes seven active communities across Alberta, with an eighth community in early-stage discussions. SMARTstart is here to create founder connections, build early-stage small business success, and contribute to thriving entrepreneurial communities.