

Progress

North East

Growing communities one idea at a time



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Senior Business Officer

Community Futures St Paul – Smoky Lake Region is happy to announce that Eveline Luce has been promoted to the position of Senior Business Officer. Eveline joined the St Paul – Smoky Lake team in July 2006, bringing positive energy and enthusiasm to coworkers, partners and clients.

As Senior Business Officer, Eveline is directly responsible for the office's loan/equity portfolios and for response to client requests for financial and/or technical assistance. Eveline looks forward to continuing to work with current clients and welcomes new entrepreneurs to join the exciting world of business.



Eveline can be reached by telephone at the St Paul office and via email: eveline@communityfuturespsl.ca.

From the Manager's Desk...

The Board of Directors have been busy working on our operations plans for the coming year. They have identified some key areas that they feel would improve the economies of the region.

Some of the key items are:

- Marketing the services of the CF office in a more effective manner
- Presenting more entrepreneurship training opportunities throughout the region
- Working to facilitate foreign worker recruitment efforts in the region
- Provide more capital for small business start-ups and expansions

Our CF has undergone some staff changes in the last few months. Eveline Luce has been promoted to Senior Business Officer. Janey Blair has been employed as the Executive Assistant in the St Paul office.

Management and staff are committed to bringing you the best possible service available. Our aim is to counsel, train, mentor and coach our clients so that they may achieve success in their commercial ventures, creating employment opportunities and strengthening our communities.

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Regional Success



Rajaro Skye Esthetics

It was a desire to give something back to her community that brought 20-year-old Randal Paziuk back to St. Paul. After completing esthetics training at the European Institute of Esthetics in Edmonton, Randal toyed with the idea of starting her own business. With her mother's encouragement and counseling from Community Futures, Randal is now living her dream.

Rajaro Skye, whose title derived from a combination of family names, is a full service esthetics shop on 48th Street in St. Paul. Presently, the shop offers a variety of treatments such as manicures, pedicures, tinting, permalash, makeup application, facials, body wraps, mini massage, as well as nose and ear piercing. Randal manages the business on her own and plans to hire additional employees as her client-base grows, eventually opening a second Rajaro Skye location in Sylvan Lake.

Operating your own business holds many rewards and is also not without its challenges. "I get a great sense of accomplishment from being my own boss and meeting all kinds of new people," Randal says. This accomplishment comes with great responsibility and staying on top of all aspects of business operations has been a challenge.

"There are a lot of hidden things that come up when you are starting a business," explains Randal. She suggests really having a good grasp on what you want, doing the research, getting advice from people you trust before taking the leap and opening the doors. She continues, saying, "Doing the research builds right into starting your business."

For Randall, meeting with Community Futures helped to put things in perspective. "I learned about the importance of having a business plan and that made me feel comfortable in what I was doing."

Rajaro Skye is open Monday and Wednesday, 12 – 9pm; Tuesday and Thursday, 9am – 6pm; Friday 9am – 5pm; and, Saturdays by appointment only. Telephone 780.645.8422 or email rajaroskye@hotmail.com to book your session!

Randal is excited about the future of her business. "If you have a passion for something and you know you can do it, just go for it," she encourages, "If you want something, put your all into it and you'll get where you want to be." The sky is the limit for this young entrepreneur.



Working Together...

Interested in starting your own business but don't know where to start? Have a great business idea but have no idea what to do with it? We provide business development counseling and loan assistance for entrepreneurs. Whether you require help with a business plan or are having trouble figuring out that next step, contact a member of the St Paul – Smoky Lake team to find out how you can grow with Community Futures.

Eye on Progress

Junior Achievement and Community Futures – Growing Young Business Minds

Did you know that Junior Achievement of Northern Alberta (JA) reaches approximately **10,000** students throughout the province each year? Thanks to funding secured through the Rural Alberta Development Fund, JA is teaming up with Community Futures St Paul – Smoky Lake to bring the benefits of JA to youth in our communities, at no cost to the schools. Approximately 500 students will benefit from programs such as:



Dollars with Sense, which introduces students to basic financial literacy. Participants will learn everything from how money came to be to how to choose a bank, how to budget and how to invest money long-term.

The Economics of Staying in School shows students the consequences of dropping out. The focus of this program is on helping students figure out what success means to them and how to set life goals. How would these life goals change if they left school early?

The JA Company Program allows students to start their own company and make their own money. This program helps students learn by doing, with the students working as a team to successfully build their own company. Community business volunteers provide guidance but all decisions are left to the students themselves.



Junior Achievement offers curriculum based programming designed to provide students with a real life, hands on learning experience. Students learn about the real world through discussion, games and support from JA volunteers.

We are seeking volunteers in your community. When you volunteer with JA, you are a part of a team of 400 volunteers in Northern Alberta who have committed their time to helping youth in their communities. Junior Achievement provides the training, materials, and support necessary for program and student success.

Contact our offices to learn more about this exciting partnership and to volunteer!

One idea at a time...

Community involvement and partnerships throughout the region include:

- Regional food processing strategy
- Junior Achievement of Northern Alberta
- Doctor Recruitment Initiatives
- Northern Alberta Youth Entrepreneurship Camp 2008



Entrepreneur Training

Small Business Seminars: Spring 2008

Don't miss out on these informative sessions offered by our partners, The Business Link! Coming soon...

Preparing a Business Plan

- February 14, 2008

Attend this seminar and begin the process that will lead to you developing your own business plan. A basic overview and understanding of:

- The purpose & components of a plan
- Marketing, operations & finance
- Importance of further information for your plan

Vending at Farmers' Markets – Things to Consider

- March 5, 2008

Do you make, bake, or grow your own product? Consider vending at a Farmers' Market. Learn the first steps to becoming a vendor:

- Food Safety 101
- Insurance: why you need it & how to get it
- Selling at a market

These sessions, and **MORE**, are available now!

Free Brown Bag Presentations are also offered on Tuesdays & Thursdays between noon & 1pm & cover a broad range of business topics.

Visit www.communityfuturesspsl.ca for more information. Click on the ELC Entrepreneurship Learning Centre logo for full program listings.



Contact us for more information & REGISTER now!

Apeetogosan Métis Development Inc.

Apeetogosan provides profitable, sustainable financial services and support to Métis clients who seek the means to attain economic self-sufficiency.

The organization provides repayable loans in amounts up to \$325,000, interim bridge financing, revolving lines of credit, shared loans with other financial institutions, and interest rates variable on assessed risk.

In partnership with Apeetogosan, Pinnacle Business Services Ltd. provides Métis clients with business plan assistance, business valuation, marketing plans, feasibility studies, accounting set-up, bookkeeping services, management support services, and a variety of business workshops and seminars.

Work one-on-one with a business development officer and discover how you can turn your ideas into action.



<http://www.apeetogosan.ab.ca>

Don't be too timid and squeamish about your actions. All life is an experiment.

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson