

Progress

North East

Growing communities one idea at a time



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Corporate Head Office

P.O. Box 1484
4802-50 Avenue
St. Paul, AB
T0A 3A0
T. 780.645.5782
F. 780.645.1811

Satellite Office

P.O. Box 1030
35 White Earth Street
Smoky Lake, AB
T0A 3C0
T. 780.656.2110
F. 780.656.2106

admin@cfpspl.ca
www.cfpspl.ca

"SMOKY LAKE COMMUNITY LEADERS MEETING"



On April 24th at the Red Chimney Restaurant in Smoky Lake the first Community Leaders Meeting was held. The leadership of the group consists of Nathan Taylor, Wayne Taylor, Randileigh Vaugeois, David Mutabazi and Desarie Stahl. In a small community like Smoky Lake with a population of 1,200 every single person is vital. It is truly the volunteers that keep our community going. The purpose of this meeting was to identify the needs of the non-profit groups and pair them with solutions. The biggest issue was the lack of volunteers; the reasonable conclusion for why the lack exists is awareness and the inability to make large time commitments.

Often when a person is new to a community, volunteering is a great way to get out and make friends. However, if you don't know anyone and there is no such 'volunteer bank' how would you know what group needs volunteers and what it entails? So after much debate, the idea of a website with a volunteer bank on it, along with mail stuffers featuring the needs of the non-profit groups, and quarterly meetings was birthed.

The second issue, was the inability to make large time commitments. Also the sense that once you volunteer for a group that they 'own' you. This issue was also addressed by the 'time bank.' If one wants to volunteer a couple hours they can go on the time bank and peruse through the needs of the volunteer groups and pick and choose what they would like to volunteer for without having to become a member.

A de-briefing was held on April 29th to put the plan into action. We're excited for the future and the excellent results that are expected to come out of these meetings.

Regional Success

Pelican Float Studios

Kelly Shmyrko

“**Entrepreneur:** a person who has the ability to recognise opportunities of benefit to an enterprise, and the will and capacity to undertake appropriate innovative action while accepting the associated risks.”

Kelly Shmyrko really does embody the definition of what it is to be an entrepreneur; she’s innovative, hard working, and determined.

The idea to go into business with a laser engraver was first envisioned in November 2008. Kelly was doing air brush tatoos at the time and was looking for custom stencils. Her search brought her to Marshawells in Smoky Lake where they told her that you needed a laser engraver to make custom stencils. Kelly’s desire to diversify started her on her journey towards self employment.



Kelly researched laser engraving - suppliers, options and possible funding. After unsuccessfully approaching several commercial lenders she heard word of Community Futures. Kelly immediately made an appointment, and began work on her business plan. Her proposal was taken to the board and approved. Kelly then purchased her laser engraver and went to work.

Kelly works out of her home near Wasketnau, Alberta and is currently developing her skills and looking for new and innovative ways to serve the community with her laser engraving skills. Kelly is a pleasant person and always looking to talk business, consider Pelican Float Studios for your laser engraving needs!

Save the Date...

On Wednesday, June 24th at 7:00 P.M. we will be having our Annual General Meeting at the Vilna Seniors Citizen Center. Everyone is invited to attend, meet the staff, and learn about this year’s accomplishments and future plans and projects.



Eye on Progress

From the Manager's Desk...

Having just completed another successful year developing our business community in this region we are reporting our progress to all of you.

We are pleased to inform you that we have provided 11 new loans last year for a total capital investment of \$496,360 for regional business ventures. These investments created or maintained 27.5 full time employment positions.

In addition to this we also leveraged another \$1,200,000.00 in capital investments in the region. This was a new business start up that is creating good economic stimulus to one of the communities in the region.

We were also successful at leveraging another \$22,000 in Community Economic Development projects with various partners in Alberta.

We worked with 14 partners across northern Alberta to study the feasibility of establishing a Rural Destination Marketing Fund. The primary source of funding came from the Northern Alberta Development Council and the partners involved. We had a total of eight community futures offices involved in this research project.

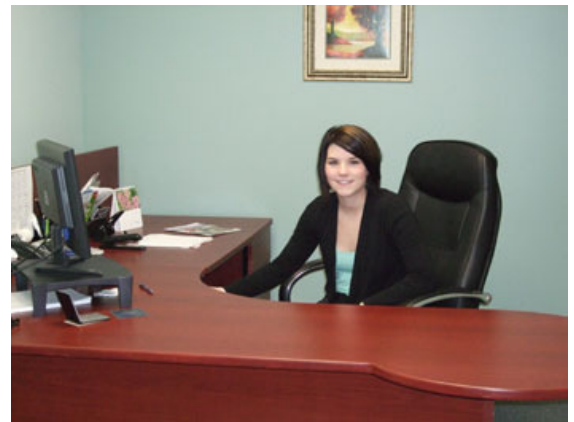


"THE THREE GREAT ESSENTIALS TO ACHIEVE ANYTHING WORTH WHILE ARE, FIRST, HARD WORK; SECOND, STICK-TO-ITIVENESS; THIRD, COMMON SENSE."

-THOMAS EDISON

Community Futures St. Paul – Smoky Lake welcomes the following employee:

BUSINESS ANALYST
KELLI HIBBS



Kelli is a great new addition to our Community Futures Staff. She brings with her a positive attitude, a willingness to learn, and the desire to see her clients succeed. Kelli has always been interested in business and finds entrepreneurship vital in every region. Prior coming to the CF, she spent 2 years at the CIBC as a financial service associate. Welcome Kelli!

"HERE AT WORK, OBVIOUSLY, I MAKE THE MOST MONEY OF ANYONE ON THE SHOW, SO I TRY TO BE THE FIRST ONE HERE AND THE LAST ONE TO LEAVE. I HAVE THE CRUMMIEST OFFICE. I TRY TO BALANCE THINGS OUT, SPREAD IT AROUND."

-JAY LENO

What's New

NAYEC:



With the coming of summer things have been busy. Desarie Stahl, our CED Officer has been out at the following schools to give presentations on NAYEC:

- Ashmont Secondary School
- Ecole Mallaig Community School
- F.G. Miller Jr/Sr High School
- Glen Avon School
- Heinsburg Community School
- Racette Junior High School
- Vilna School
- Ecole Du Sommet
- Elk Point Jr/Sr High School

WHAT THE HECK IS NAYEC??

NAYEC -The Northern Alberta Youth Entrepreneur Camp, is for kids in gr. 7- 9, aged 13-15. It is fully funded by Western Economic Diversification Canada and other various local groups. This year it will be held at Moose Lake Gospel Camp from August 16-22. This camp is geared towards developing entrepreneurial skills in our youth. Pick up your application today at your local Community Futures Office, or apply online at www.nayec.ca.

2009 LIVE, LAUGH, LEARN:

This year's Women's Conference was held on March 7th, at the Smoky Lake Complex. There were approximately 130 Women in attendance who were treated to day of learning, laughter, and good food. This year's theme was "Seeking Balance," and boasted presentations by:

- ❖ Laughing with Sharon Widdup
- ❖ Elaine Breadon-Peiche promoting Canola
- ❖ Maureen Henkel speaks about STARS
- ❖ Helen (aka Sharon Widdup) as the mixed up farmer
- ❖ Tai Chi Chih with Leslie Keith
- ❖ Marty Chan telling his story

Desarie Stahl, was on the Planning Committee, along with Chris Hominiuk, Barb Rose, Shirley Lorimer, Donna Cherniwchan, Beryl Lavasseur, Melody Kaban and Lydia Cielin.

Stay tuned as plans for next years Women's Conference are already under way!

