

Progress

North East

Growing communities one idea at a time



Our New Look

Community Futures St. Paul – Smoky Lake Region

As part of a common branding strategy in western Canada, all 90 Community Futures offices have adopted a new name and logo. This ensures that people moving to and from the four western provinces will readily recognize the program and the services offered.

Within our business services, our office is contracted to manage a loans portfolio designed to assist people who have been refused assistance from traditional lenders. We have been working hard to provide our clients with the best support mechanisms possible. The most obvious is a new loans management software, *The Exceptional Assistant (TEA)*. This technology allows us to monitor & respond to the needs of our clients in a timelier manner. Over the past few months, the Board of Directors has suspended new loans activities until the existing loan files have been entered into the new database.

Please visit our website for more information on our programs & services.

St Paul Head Office



Smoky Lake Office



From the Manager's Desk...

On behalf of the Community Futures Board and Staff, it gives me great pleasure to make this newsletter available to our many community partners within the region.

Your CF has undergone many changes in the past year and we look forward to improved services in the future.

Improved partnerships are providing us with access to more services for a larger segment of our population.

Management and staff of the CF are here for you. Please feel free to drop in or contact us to discuss your entrepreneurial needs.

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Western Economic
Diversification Canada

Diversification de l'économie
de l'Ouest Canada



Regional Success



River's Edge Computers

When Craig Lukinuk opened the doors of River's Edge Computers in 2002, he did more than open a business; he opened the computer age to an entire community. River's Edge provides computer sales and service for residents and businesses throughout Smoky Lake and Lamont counties. "There is no other service like this offered in the area." says Lukinuk. "We are helping to keep business local and helped move Smoky Lake into the computer era and evolve with the changing times." And, they are doing a great job!

Lukinuk credits Community Futures St. Paul – Smoky Lake Region, then The REACH Corporation, for helping him get his business up and running. He was referred to Community Futures after being turned down by the traditional lending institutions. With business plan in hand, Lukinuk began working with the organization to ensure he presented the best business case possible and was able to secure his first business start-up loan. He would later obtain a business expansion loan that allowed him to purchase the current business location in the core of Smoky Lake's business community. The 2000 square foot location has provided Lukinuk with the space needed to expand the computer sales and service facet of the business as well as to explore additional ventures.

Lukinuk values the freedom that comes with being an entrepreneur; a freedom that allows him to constantly evaluate the market and look for new opportunities for growth in the community. Watching his business grow and evolve is a definite highlight but Lukinuk says, "The greatest reward is the confidence and respect that people show towards you due to the services and work that we do for them. It's a benefit to the community."



Working Together...

Community Futures St. Paul – Smoky Lake Region is at work in your community. We provide business development counselling and loan assistance, facilitate strategic planning sessions with municipalities and community service groups and seek out opportunities that will result in sustainable economic growth throughout our region. Contact a member of the St. Paul – Smoky Lake team today to find out how you can grow with Community Futures.

Eye on Progress

One idea at a time...

We are very proud of our community involvement throughout the region and the lasting partnerships that have developed. Snippets of our special projects & partnerships include:

- Beef Processing & Adventure Recreation - Chongqing China
- Municipal strategic planning exercises
- Community Capacity Trainer (RCED)
- Regional Arts & Leisure Centre
- Doctor Recruitment Committee
- Employment, Education & Training Committee
- Northern Alberta Youth Entrepreneurship Camp
- Regional Opportunities and Development Study



Northern Alberta Youth Entrepreneurship Camp

Plan. Produce. Promote.

The Northern Alberta Youth Entrepreneurship Camp (NAYEC) is a weeklong summer camp for youth ages 13-15. This year's camp will be held at Camp Warwa, about 80km west of Edmonton, on beautiful Lac Ste. Anne.

Campers will work in teams developing a business plan and taking their businesses from idea to the marketplace. Campers will also enjoy traditional camp activities including archery, canoeing, swimming, ziplines and climbing walls.

NAYEC is held in cooperation with 13 Community Futures offices throughout Northern Alberta, along with corporate sponsors:

- Alberta Employment, Immigration, and Industry
- Northern Alberta Development Council
- ATB Financial
- The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology



Regional Opportunities and Development Study

Community Futures St. Paul – Smoky Lake Region partnered with Community Futures Lakeland to complete a Regional Opportunities and Development Study throughout Alberta's Iron Horse Trail Corridor. Léger Marketing was contracted to complete the three phase project. The main objectives of the project were to assess regional economic development opportunities and employment opportunities that exist within the region.

The project evaluated the market readiness of existing tourism operators, along with businesses and residential needs of communities throughout the region.

The final report of the ROADS Project is now available at our offices and on our website under publications.

Entrepreneur Training

Small Business Brown Bag Presentations

FREE!
Tuesdays & Thursdays
12 noon – 1pm

Training sessions include:

- Business Start-Up
- Marketing & Sales
- Taxation & Money Matters
- E-Business
- International Business
- Legal Issues
- Human Resources



Training sessions can be accessed via Video Conference at our St. Paul location.

www.communityfuturespsl.ca

Click on the ELC Entrepreneurship Learning Centre logo for a full program listing.

Contact us to register today!

Canadian Youth Business Foundation

Community Futures St. Paul - Smoky Lake Region is proud to be the official community partner for this tremendous organization.

The Canadian Youth Business Foundation is a national charitable organization that empowers aspiring young Canadian entrepreneurs, age 18-34, to start up their own business.

CYBF's three core services: start-up financing, mentoring, and business resources are delivered in local communities across Canada through volunteer community partner organizations.



All YOU need is a great idea, a viable business plan, knowledge about your market, an incredible work ethic, and a lot of passion and perseverance...CYBF and our partners will help you with the rest!

"An entrepreneur assumes the risk and is dedicated and committed to the success of whatever he or she undertakes."

Victor Kiam