



# Annual Review 2013



**community futures**  
NETWORK OF CANADA



**réseau de développement**  
DES COLLECTIVITES DU CANADA

## President's Message

The Community Futures Program (CF) continues to contribute positive results toward the economic stability of the communities that we serve.

During 2012-2013, Community Futures Programs across Canada assisted 4,306 small- and medium-sized businesses for a total value of assistance in excess of \$208 million. Since the inception of the Community Futures Program, the CFs have helped 114,306 Canadian entrepreneurs and invested over \$3.9 billion directly into the rural economy.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the thousands of volunteer board members and staff from across the country for their tireless work and devotion towards the CF program. As Community Futures, we are very fortunate to have such a strong working relationship with the Government of Canada. I would like to thank the regional development agencies, the government of Canada as well as the territorial governments for ongoing support and assistance. As we look to the future, we look forward to working together as we assist the small business community in rural communities across western Canada.

As President of your Network, it gives me great pleasure to present to you the 2013 Community Futures Network of Canada Annual Report.

Sincerely,



Harry Prummel  
President, CFNC



## Message from the Minister

### A MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE MICHELLE REMPEL, MINISTER OF STATE (WESTERN ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION)



Our Government would like to take this opportunity to recognize the successes of Community Futures organizations (CFs) in Western Canada.

CFs have played an important role contributing to the economic development of their local communities, by supporting hundreds of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through loans and business services. Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) is pleased to support this track record of investment by continuing to invest in our CFs and the work they do.

Thanks to our Government's support for CFs, these organizations are helping to create jobs, growth and long-term prosperity. By partnering with them, we are showing the world that *Canada's West Means Business*.

Community Futures Organizations  
have helped  
114,306 Canadian entrepreneurs

## BRITISH COLUMBIA AT A GLANCE

NUMBER OF LOANS APPROVED .....	652
TOTAL VALUE OF ASSISTANCE .....	\$32,586,698
JOBS CREATED AND MAINTAINED .....	2,839
AMOUNT LEVERAGED .....	\$60,656,733



## BUILDING THE FUTURE TOMPKINS POST AND RAIL

Unlike many, James Tompkins can see the forest for the trees—and what he saw led him to a business opportunity that is more than just about making money.

While running a processor at his job in Beaverdell, he noticed that the treetops were just being burned. Seeing an opportunity, Tompkins began taking the tops to process himself, using them to make posts. Because the trees usually top off at three to four inches he can process and peel them to get good pine to make two to three inch, and three to four inch posts and railings, fencing, etc., some up to 16 feet long.

When his employer felt he was taking too much of his time/energy for his side business, Tompkins made the move to Houston, British Columbia and started processing and peeling while still working in the bush. He talked to forestry service and local logging companies about using the pine tops, and he borrowed a processor to use.

Tompkins approached Community Futures to borrow money for his own peeler, and the staff in the Houston office helped him work out his business plan.

“It was a real learning experience,” says Tompkins, who learned the risks and rewards of his own business.

He has since borrowed money for a truck and a processor, and he still talks to Community Futures staff regularly about the business.

Tompkins Post and Rail is in its fifth year of operation and Tompkins says he is currently building an inventory of posts so that when he gets calls for his product—and he has, from companies wanting it immediately—he can provide it.

➤ For more information on this story, check out:  
[www.communityfuturescanada.ca/successstories](http://www.communityfuturescanada.ca/successstories)



## ALBERTA AT A GLANCE

NUMBER OF LOANS APPROVED .....	506
TOTAL VALUE OF ASSISTANCE .....	\$25,898,750
JOBS CREATED AND MAINTAINED .....	1,593
AMOUNT LEVERAGED .....	\$24,883,013



## ALBERTA FLOOD REPORT

In June 2013, Alberta experienced its worst flood in history. Floods displaced more than 100,000 residents and countless businesses.

Following a disaster of this magnitude, the community spirit and resilience around southern Alberta remained strong and has shown strong determination to rebuild together.

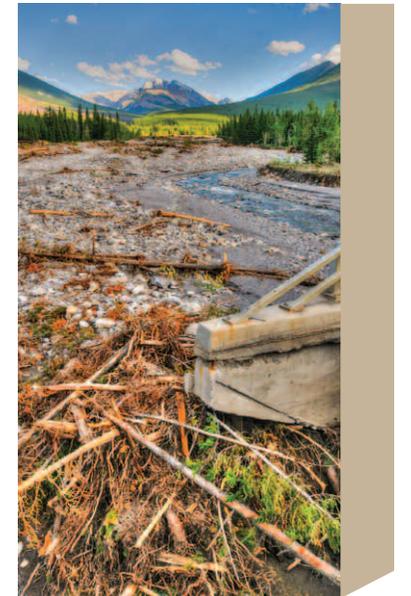
CF Centre West and CF Highwood have put tremendous efforts into their local communities and helped everyone to move forward from the devastating floods.

The CF Highwood team has worked hard on the ground in their local communities. The team worked with the government, local municipalities and town chambers on the Disaster Relief and Flood Recovery Programs, putting together community meetings, task forces, flood initiatives for businesses and residence, information distribution and future strategy teams.

The team at CF Centre West worked hard on the ground in their local communities by organizing meetings with their business clients, local chambers of commerce, economic development organizations and municipal government to work towards flood recovery and the future. CF Centre West used local media to get the information to their clients and other community members, but their most successful tool has been utilizing their website and social media. The CFNA office has asked companies who deliver CF discount group programs to extend these offers to all flood affected businesses. To date, Toshiba has confirmed that they will offer all flood affected businesses 65% off all their hardware.

We offer CFNA thanks to CF boards and staff who have put so much heart and hard work into their local communities at such a critical time.

➤ For more information on this story, check out:  
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# Regional Report – Pan West

## SASKATCHEWAN AT A GLANCE

NUMBER OF LOANS APPROVED .....	252
TOTAL VALUE OF ASSISTANCE .....	\$12,462,608
JOBS CREATED AND MAINTAINED .....	720
AMOUNT LEVERAGED .....	\$24,525,681



## YOUTHBIZ CONTEST!

School is back in session and registration for the 2013 YouthBiz contest is now open! YouthBiz is a business competition designed for grade six to twelve students in the Community Futures Sunrise area. The contest promotes entrepreneurship, financial literacy and makes a connection between young people and business. Since it was started by CF Sunrise in 2007, over 850 students from southeast Saskatchewan have competed for more than \$12,000 in prize money!

To enter YouthBiz, students simply come up with a fantastic business idea, write about it following questions in the YouthBiz Guide, and submit their entry to CF Sunrise. Students and teachers have already contacted CF Sunrise to arrange for school workshops and contest resource material. “The YouthBiz contest keeps gaining momentum every year. It’s great to see such tremendous enthusiasm for youth entrepreneurship in the southeast region. The students are really creative and continue to think up new and interesting business ideas,” says Verna O’Neill of CF Sunrise.

“Last year, approximately 250 students in southeast Saskatchewan competed for over \$2,000 in prize money. Our hats go off to the teachers in the region for encouraging student involvement, and to those students who submit their own entries without school involvement,” comments O’Neill.

➤ For more information on this story, check out:  
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# Regional Report – Pan West

## MANITOBA AT A GLANCE

NUMBER OF LOANS APPROVED .....	176
TOTAL VALUE OF ASSISTANCE .....	\$7,106,667
JOBS CREATED AND MAINTAINED .....	748
AMOUNT LEVERAGED .....	\$9,589,140



## WESTMAN ENTREPRENEURIAL CENTRE: COMMUNITY FUTURES WESTMAN

An entrepreneurial atmosphere and attitude is a necessary component of any economic development strategy and providing support to young, growing businesses can be a great way to help that spirit thrive.

It was with this goal in mind that Community Futures Westman developed the Westman Entrepreneurial Centre (WEC) in Brandon, Manitoba. The WEC is a business incubator with 12 offices designed to help entrepreneurs accelerate the successful development of their businesses through lower overhead costs.

Co-located with Community Futures Westman, Business Development Bank of Canada, and Career & Employment Youth Services in the downtown business area of Brandon, tenants in the 4,000 square foot WEC receive the added benefits of increased public awareness of their businesses and increased access to business support resources and services. Tenants in incubators like the WEC are also known to benefit from reduced barriers to market entry, enhanced networking opportunities, and collaboration among clients within the incubator.

Response to date has been excellent. Since its opening in 2011, the Centre has been consistently running at full occupancy; with local entrepreneur tenants joined by others from Winnipeg and even as far as Alberta.

The success of the venture garnered a visit from Industry Minister Tony Clement in 2012 and earned Community Futures Westman the Community Futures Award for Excellence and Innovation for Manitoba. However, the best indicator of the Centre’s success may be that several early clients have since “graduated” from the incubator into larger facilities or storefront operations; contributing to job creation and enhanced economic vitality for the Westman region.

➤ For more information on this story, check out:  
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■ **WESTERN CANADA**

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