

ANNUAL REPORT

2018/19

COMMUNITY FUTURES
NETWORK OF ALBERTA





When
**OPPORTUNITY
KNOCKS**
will you
**OPEN
THE DOOR?**

Community Futures Network of Alberta

We provide advocacy, leadership, stewardship, and operational support for the network of 27 Alberta Community Futures organizations. We support local solutions to challenges and opportunities in the areas of economic stability, growth, diversification and job creation. In addition, CFNA manages a pool of funds called the Community Futures Lending & Investment Pool (CFLIP) for the purpose of providing a strong loan fund for Alberta entrepreneurs.

CFNA Board 2018/19

- Chair, Lloyd Kearn (Volunteer South Region)
- Vice-Chair, John Husch (Volunteer South Region)
- Treasurer, Vanessa Simonin (Volunteer North West Region)
- Secretary, Kevin Spahich (Volunteer North East Region)
- Director, Matthew Creighton (Volunteer North East Region)
- Director, Chris Turnmire (North West Volunteer)
- Director, Sean Blewett (Manager South Region)
- Director, Kelly Kierluk (Manager South Region)
- Director, Phyllis Maki (Manager North East Region)
- Director, Nancy Robbins (Manager North West Region)

A special thanks to Board members whose terms ended during 2018/2019:

- Maggie Armstrong
- Brad Gara
- Brock Harrington
- Randy Hodgkinson
- Lynn MacWilliam
- Chris Turnmire

The CFNA Board is representative of the 27 Alberta Community Futures organizations. The role of the Board of Directors is to provide strategic direction for the organization.

Community Futures is supported by:



Western Economic
Diversification Canada

Diversification de l'économie
de l'Ouest Canada

Canada

NETWORK IMPACT

Community Futures is a federally funded 'rural grassroots' program that provides business loans, training & coaching, and supports community economic development projects.

The Alberta network is made up of developmental lenders that support businesses that banks cannot serve. The mandate of the program is to help rural communities implement local solutions for economic stability, growth and job creation.



CLIENTS SERVED IN ALBERTA

7381

\$23M VALUE OF CLIENT LOANS

**NUMBER OF NEW COMMUNITY-BASED
PROJECTS**

539

966

**NUMBER OF BUSINESSES CREATED / MAINTAINED /
EXPANDED THROUGH BUSINESS SERVICES**

**NUMBER OF HOURS COMMITTED BY
BOARD MEMBERS**

10,050



Message from the CFNA Chair

I would like to thank my fellow Directors on the Community Futures Network of Alberta (CFNA) for supporting me in the role of Board Chair. It has been my honour to serve this organization and all its members.

As a board this year, we have continued to support new projects across the Alberta network that empower our members to be leaders in economic development and local communities. As you will read in this report, we have renewed our focus on connecting with new people, partners and each other as together we support a diverse and strong rural economy.

During this past year, the CFNA has continued our work with Pan West and the Community Futures Network of Canada to develop a more sustainable CF program model. Significant progress has been achieved. On February 12, 2019, the Regional Development Associations (RDA) and CFNC representatives reached an agreement on the RDA agreed-upon approaches.

Highlights from this agreement include WD'S recognition of the important role western Canadian CFs play in rural community economic development, and an appreciation of how the implementation of this national program has evolved over the years, we are pleased to announce WD will look to implement new five-year agreements when the current three-year agreements expire in March 2021. I am exceedingly proud that we have been able to be a part of this process and thank the entire network of CF's for the great work that they have accomplished to receive this recognition and support.

As key indicators in regional and global markets undergo continued adjustments, the CFNA undertook a third-party risk analysis and strategic review of the Community Futures Investment and Lending Pool portfolio. This investment mechanism plays an important role in the Alberta network's long-term financial stability, and we are confident that prudent management practices and investment oversight are ensuring a solid future of growth.

I am also sincerely grateful for the efforts of several of our board members who concluded their volunteer commitment with us this year. Thank you to Directors Maggie Armstrong, Lynn MacWilliam and Chris Turnmire for your dedication and vision over the years, and to Directors/Managers Brad Gara, Brock Harrington and Randy Hodgkinson for your guidance and expertise.

I am pleased to present this report as is a snapshot of the CFNA's efforts this year, as they work to deliver industry-leading stewardship, advocacy and development to members in rural Alberta.

Lloyd Kearn
Board Chair – Community Futures Network of Alberta



Inspiring a new wave of Entrepreneurs

As a network supporting local communities, our strength is in understanding the passion and purpose of small business and keeping pace with an economic landscape that is quickly shifting.

Make a Profit. Make a Difference.

In 2018, we updated our network's presence and visibility across Alberta and helped launch a suite of business training and literacy programs aimed at helping rural entrepreneurs to start, grow or buy a business.

\$2M

INCREASE IN TOTAL VALUE OF LOANS ACROSS ALBERTA NETWORK

79%

GROWTH IN WEBSITE VISITS TO ALBERTACF.COM

2100+

NUMBER OF RURAL STAKEHOLDERS / CLIENTS REACHED BY LOCAL CAMPAIGN TOOLS

764

CLIENT INQUIRIES REFERRED TO LOCAL OFFICES

1,135

NEW PARTICIPANTS IN THE COMMUNITY FUTURES TRAINING PROGRAM

32

ALBERTA NETWORK STAFF TRAINED IN THE DELIVERY OF THE COMMUNITY FUTURES TRAINING PROGRAM

CFNA was a successful applicant in the 2016 Alberta Community and Regional Economic Support (CARES) grant program; promoting long-term economic growth and prosperity in Alberta's rural communities and regions. This initiative also received support from all Community Futures Development Offices across Alberta.

People & Places

Network Support

109

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FUTURES EMPLOYEES IN ALBERTA

75%

2018/19 PERFORMANCE SURVEY OF MEMBERS / BOARD LEADERSHIP RATING CFNA AS EITHER GOOD OR OUTSTANDING IN ALL AREAS.

2018 Awards

- Ev Arlidge Unsung Hero – **Mary Bailly**, CF East Parkland
- Knight-Swan – **Nancy Robbins**, CF West Yellowhead
- Excellence & Innovation – **CF West Yellowhead & CF Yellowhead East** for 'Building Health and Safety Capacity Project'
- Volunteer of the Year – **Lloyd Kearl**, CF Alberta Southwest
- Pioneer award – **Jon Close**, CF Wood Buffalo and **Ron Cox**, CF Wildrose
- Judy McMillan-Evans award for EDP Advocacy – **Kelsey Krieger**, CF Central Alberta

Members Services

Cyber liability Insurance was added to our continued offering of shared services.

Group Benefits
Group RSP program
D/O Liability Insurance
Travel Insurance

IBIS World Canada
Microsoft Office 365
Bulletproof Support &
Exchange Server



Gathering Momentum

CF Alberta saw record attendance at yearly events.

'Think Big' Spring Training 2018

41 DELEGATES FROM 23 ALBERTA OFFICES ATTENDED SETTING THE HIGHEST ATTENDANCE RATE IN THE LAST 5 YEARS.

2018 Symposium & AGM - Drumheller, AB

TICKET SALES SET ANOTHER RECORD WITH 105 DELEGATES, PLUS AN ADDITIONAL 27 GUEST AT THE AWARDS GALA.



Programs & Projects

Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program

This business-building program is designed to support entrepreneurs with a self-disclosed disability or health condition through training and coaching. With a network of 13 strategically located EDP Coaches, who each have entrepreneurial and/or Community Futures experience, the program participants have access to a wealth of knowledge and capacity building opportunity. EDP also offers support dollars for marketing and special projects to the Alberta CF offices.

EDP engaged 51 clients in training and/or coaching and funded 8 special projects.

Digital Workplace

Microsoft Office 365 was implemented in the provincial office and as a shared service to members in Alberta. Usage has grown to over 120 accounts, with many offices reporting increased operational efficiencies and savings from access to cloud-services and the opportunities provided for remote collaboration.

Supporting Business Anywhere

In 2018, CFNA made the decision to become a fully virtual office reducing monthly overhead costs and giving employees greater flexibility in their work environment.

92

Registered CFNA Hub website users. This online resource & networking space offers Alberta members and volunteers quick access to a growing library of shared policies, templates and news.

18

Community Futures Leadership Institute training sessions delivered across 8 Alberta offices. This CFNA supported project enabled continued knowledge-building in governance and community economic development capacity for the over 250 volunteer board members in Alberta.



OWN your
FUTURE

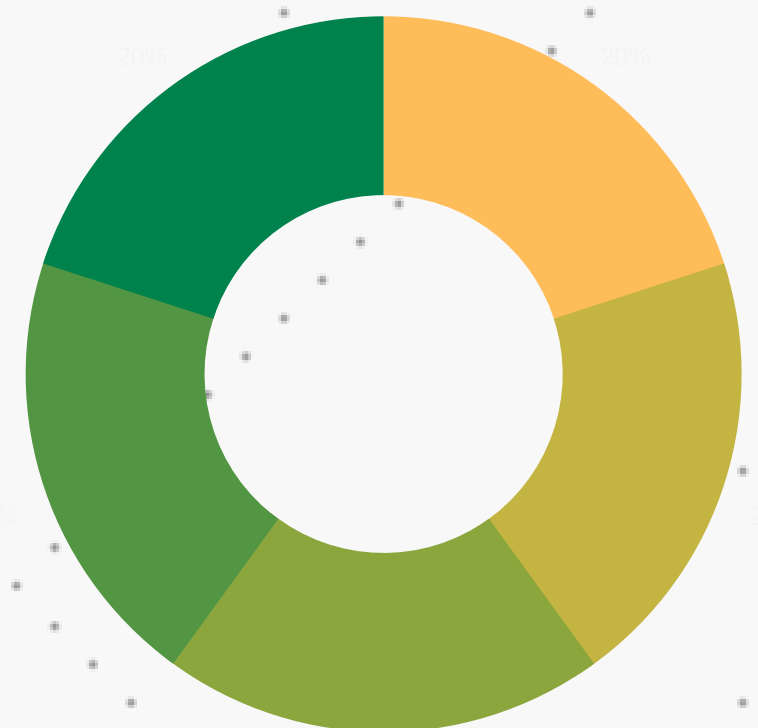
Community Futures Lending and Investment Pool (CFLIP)

2.75%

2018/19 ANNUAL RATE OF RETURN
FUND 3-YEAR AVERAGE IS 3.6%

Managed by the Community Futures Network of Alberta, Community Futures shareholders can deposit cash into the pool when they have a surplus or withdraw cash from the pool for the purpose of business loans.

Audited Financial Statements



View here
2017/18 AGM Minutes

View here