

## COMMUNITY FUTURES RECEIVES GRANT FROM COMMUNITY and REGIONAL ECONOMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM

Cochrane, AB. (MARCH 24, 2017) – The Community Futures Network of Alberta is pleased to announce the receipt of a Community and Regional Economic Support (CARES) program grant. The funds will support entrepreneur training development and small business capacity building across Alberta.

Over the next year, Community Futures will engage in the development of new training programs, marketing tools and networking and partnership opportunities - Inspiring a new wave of entrepreneurs. This community-focused project will also increase loan and business services support in priority areas of economic diversification. Community Futures is a leader in rural economic development, and the CARES program grant will enable the organization to increase advocacy and leadership initiatives for businesses and partners in rural communities.

CFNA was one of 60 successful applicants to the CARES program last year, and over \$350,000 has been dispersed to stimulate economic growth. The Community Futures' CARES project is also receiving support from all 27 local Community Futures development offices across Alberta.

“This is an exciting opportunity for us,” said CFNA Executive Director, Tony Stolz. “Interest in small business ownership and entrepreneurial investment is on the rise, and as a network of developmental lenders we are ready to keep pace by growing our value in rural communities.”

As part of the Alberta Jobs Plan, the Alberta government has allocated \$30 million over 2 years to promote long-term economic growth and prosperity in Alberta's communities and regions through the new Community and Regional Economic Support (CARES) program.

“We understand jobs and economic growth starts in small communities,” said Alberta minister of Economic Development and Trade, Deron Bilous, while presenting the cheque in Cochrane.



Left: Ivan Brooker (Mayor of Cochrane), Deron Bilous (Minister), Tony Stolz (CFNA Executive Director)

---

### **About Community Futures**

Community Futures organizations are independent, locally-run and guided by volunteer boards. They actively support community-based economic development with a range of products and services aimed at creating diverse, sustainable rural communities.