

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

Growing communities one idea at a time.

Our mission is to assist the citizens of the North Okanagan to achieve significant improvements in permanent employment and sustainable development.

Our vision is to be an integral leader in creating opportunities for growth and success in our communities.



Community
Futures North Okanagan

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Community Futures North Okanagan (CFNO) seeks to contribute in ways that have meaningful impacts on the economy of the North Okanagan region



Since 1985, CFNO has focused activities on three specific areas of community economic development:

- Business Expansion and Retention – Achieved through business lending and supports for small business
- Workforce Development – Achieved through employment assistance programs and services
- Entrepreneurship Development – Achieved through the provision of programs and supports for new entrepreneurs



"I'm so grateful to have spent the last two years growing with these women"

Becky Martselos ~ Accentz' Dance Academy
(Momentum Women's Accelerator Program)

**Businesses engaged in
CFNO loans and programs
grow faster and have
better long-term success**

Business Services & Loans

In 2021-2022, Community Futures provided business services and supports in the North Okanagan including:

- Provided 28 business loans totaling \$1,639,754
- Business counselling provided to 1,187 entrepreneurs and small business owners
- 60 Businesses and not-for-profit organizations participated in peer-mentoring programs
- 121 business workshops delivered to nearly 600 participants
- Export Navigator Program assisted 40 businesses with entering new domestic and international markets
- 76 local employers were supported with wage subsidy services
- Self-employment services helped 17 clients in developing their business plans and 16 with implementing a business.
- CFNO assisted in the creation and maintenance of 321 jobs in the North Okanagan region

Employment Programs

Community Futures provided a variety of employment services for unemployed individuals:

- The **Employ Program** assists youth to become self-reliant and independent. 32 youth participated in the program and 30 successfully transitioned to work or school
- **WorkBC Employment Services** provide information, services, programs and supports to help unemployed job seekers find and maintain employment. The services are provided in the North Okanagan and include:
 - Virtual and one-to-one services
 - Workshops
 - Skills training
 - Self-employment services
 - Job-search and job-start supports
 - Placement services
 - Job postings
 - Labour market information
 - Knowledgeable staff



"The help of WorkBC in Vernon was invaluable. They helped with schooling and finding a direction.....and they keep you going along the way."

Diliah Quigley – WorkBC Client

Innovation and creativity in employment programming assist individuals to achieve permanent and sustainable employment.



Board of Directors

- Don Main
- Michele Hill
- Bryon Brandle
- Stacey Barber
- Penny McDonald
- Valeria Chiba
- Michael Tindall
- Tim Bieber
- Samantha Symons



Penny McDonald
Volunteer of the Year

Community Economic Development

FRESH TRAX

Fresh Trax is a youth entrepreneurship program designed to bring unique business ideas to life in the form of creating business plans. Participants learn about business basics such as target market, marketing, operations and financials through various trainings, workshops and online resources. Participants benefit from additional peer discussions, one-to-one business coaching, funding, and connections in the community.

The VIEW – VERNON INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEUR WORKSPACE

The VIEW is a centrally located innovation centre where entrepreneurs and businesses can connect, collaborate and commercialize their ideas and grow the North Okanagan's entrepreneur eco-system.

MOMENTUM

This business accelerator program helps women entrepreneurs gain unique skills, networks and opportunities to reach their business goals. The program assists women in evaluating their operations and improving productivity through coaching, peer-mentorship and access to professional services and training.

RURAL AND NORTHERN IMMIGRATION PILOT PROGRAM

RNIP is a community-led immigration program bringing skilled immigrants to rural communities. The goal is to spread the benefits of economic immigration to communities outside of the large metropolitan centres. In partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, the program prioritizes skilled immigrants who intend to make Vernon their home.



DIRECTIONS

Directions provides participants with the services and supports to prepare for and participate successfully in upgrading and/or occupational skills training. The program supports survivors of domestic or sexual violence to complete courses in essential skills for learning, computer skills, academic preparation, and on-line learning to establish readiness for entry into skills training.

REACH – AGRICULTURAL ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

REACH is a business accelerator program designed to help farmers and processors grow their operations, examine new markets, attract labour and pivot in order to find new opportunities in our new economic reality.

EXPORT NAVIGATOR

Export Navigator offers businesses access to community-based export specialists who provide a personalized, step-by-step approach to exporting. This program helps connect businesses to market expansion information, financial services and business development experts at every stage of the process.

VISION NORTH OKANAGAN

Vision North Okanagan works collectively and collaboratively in support of economic development activities within the North Okanagan region. This group of regional professionals has a passion for community economic development, and promotes initiatives that enhance our communities.

Community economic development initiatives are intended to build capacity within our economy and enhance the quality of life of the North Okanagan.