



2022-2023

ANNUAL REPORT

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.

We acknowledge that we work within the unceded territory of the Okanagan/Syilx Peoples. We extend gratitude, honour and respect to our hosts.

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ABOUT US

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

Employment



"I learned so many great skills throughout this course and they supported me every step of the way. I truly believe I wouldn't be where I am today, so happy and so fulfilled in life, if it weren't for them getting me started."

Hailey / Employ

The **Employ Program** assists youth to become self-reliant and independent. 54 youth participated in the program and 43 successfully transitioned to work or school.

The goal of the program is to find suitable work that continues beyond the Employ Program, to learn communication and critical-thinking skills that help with better decision-making and an improved overall sense of wellbeing.

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

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
- Employer support
- Placement services
- Job postings
- Labour market information
- Knowledgeable staff



"I went to WorkBC, and they were so welcoming. I was with them every day and they were always so sweet."

Cynthia / WorkBC

MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Chair



Michael Tindall
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A.M.P.L.I.F.Y

– the Skills Training Program was delivered in partnership with Douglas College and aimed to help individuals develop the skills they need to achieve their career goals. This program helped participants to identify the skills required for desired occupational goals and to develop a plan to achieve them. Training was delivered online by specialized facilitators through the WorkBC Centre in Vernon.

Business Services & Loans

In 2022–2023, Community Futures provided business services and supports in the North Okanagan including:

- Provided 24 business loans totaling \$992,628
- Business counselling services provided to 881 entrepreneurs and small business owners
- 172 Businesses and not-for-profit organizations participated in peer-mentoring programs
- 103 business workshops delivered to 667 participants
- Export Navigator Program assisted 18 businesses with entering new domestic and international markets
- 44 local employers were supported with wage subsidy services
- Self-employment services helped 11 clients in developing their business plans and with implementing a business.
- CFNO assisted in the creation and maintenance of 348 jobs in the North Okanagan region

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

Community Economic Development

RURAL AND NORTHERN IMMIGRATION PILOT

A community-led immigration program bringing skilled immigrants to rural communities. In partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, the program prioritizes skilled immigrants who intend to make Vernon their home.

SharED

Supports leaders from non-profit organizations to come together to learn and collaborate. The program provides professional development and discussion opportunities on a variety of topics supporting the development of the local non-profit sector and our community.

HOUSING AWARENESS

In partnership with the Regional District of the North Okanagan, this campaign is focused on bringing awareness to the need for more housing options to accommodate residents at all stages of life. When we have diversified housing we can welcome and retain people who are essential to our workforce and contribute to a healthy 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.

ENTERPRIZE CHALLENGE

This 'business bootcamp,' has participants attend workshops and receive one-to-one mentorship to support their business pitch. The challenge culminates in a night of live pitches before volunteer judges in a Dragon's Den-style competition. All participants gain valuable skills and insight into owning and operating a business. Winners take home start-up capital plus thousands of dollars in prize packages.



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.

BUSINESS EXCHANGE

Is a group of small-business owners navigating common problems and sharing ideas and strategies to make the most of opportunities. Through workshops hosted by guest experts, it's also a place to develop your skills as a well-rounded business owner.

MOMENTUM

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



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.