

Performance Results for 2019-20



Community Futures (CF) is a program that supports community economic development and builds the capacity of communities to realize their full sustainable potential. The purpose of the CF Program is to help communities develop and implement *local solutions to local problems*.

Community Futures Performance Results	Results as of 2019-20
<i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i>	
1. Total number of community-based projects (new & on-going)	56
2. Total number of local and regionally-based community strategic plans developed and/or updated	Nil
<i>Rural access to business development services</i>	
3. Total number of business training session participants	263
4. Total number of business advisory services	163
<i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i>	
5. Dollar value of loans	\$772,170
6. Total number of loans	11
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹	122
<p>Community Futures Wood Buffalo continues to forge new relationships within the local community and strives to be the catalyst for change in the visitation and delivery of programs to under-served communities within our region. Specifically, our staff and board visited Fort Chipewyan to partner in programming that would foster economic resiliency through learning circles for our Indigenous community members.</p> <p>Another success story would be the delivery of the “2019 Lemonade Day”, training to the Community of Anzac. Within this local community, we had almost twenty children sign up to participate in this program which teaches children the fundamentals of money management and starting a small business. Not only did we impact the learning of the local children but had the opportunity to also engage with parents. It was a fantastic way to bring entrepreneurship to this primarily indigenous community south of Fort McMurray.</p> <p>Locally, Community Futures Wood Buffalo participated as a Committee Member in the development of a pilot Business Visitation Program, which was being championed by the Business Support Network. The pilot program’s goal was to engage with local businesses. The BSN Group visited over 325 businesses to share information, make</p>	

¹ Estimated at the time of lending

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connections, and learn about common business concerns. A total of 115 surveys were completed with the respondents primarily representing businesses with 0-9 employees in the service/retail sector.

We also learned that respondents wanted to see more mentorship, networking opportunities and online resources. Their feedback enables us to try to create relevant programming which will meet their needs going forward.

In partnership with YMCA Northern Alberta, Community Futures Wood Buffalo also delivered an all-day Customer Service workshop to over 25 participants. This workshop was well received with exceptional results. The participants primarily women, were extremely engaged, and wanted to learn more. We will be sure to delivery more programming soon - post COVID.