

Performance Results for 2022-23: **Community Futures Wood Buffalo**

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	2022-23
<i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i>	
1. Total number of community-based projects (new & on-going)	35
2. Total number of local and regionally based community strategic plans developed and/or updated	1
<i>Rural access to business development services</i>	
3. Total number of business training session participants	165
4. Total number of business advisory services	259
<i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i>	
5. Dollar value of loans	\$792,000
6. Total number of loans	11
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹	73
<p>Community Futures Wood Buffalo continues to shine through the clouds of the COVID-19 Pandemic.</p> <p>In some way, it is impossible to not reflect on the current economic environment, increased interest rates, increased inflation, and ever-changing environment we operate within. Our local area businesses have had to weather these economic storms and for the most part, have been successful in keeping their doors open. Community Futures Wood Buffalo has been instrumental in providing business training and advisory services to over 424 clients in the past year alone.</p> <p>In leading through change, all staff and management participated in a one-day Indigenous Training program designed to give us a greater understanding of the historical complexities our local Indigenous community members so that we can have better engagement. We have developed partnerships in Fort McKay Youth Drop-in Centre where we are now delivering Entrepreneurship Training. In addition, we have extended our reach to the Conklin community where we are also delivering Entrepreneurship Training.</p> <p>Our Youth Programs have been ongoing, and with financial support from the RMWB, we continue to educate and inspire youth to consider self-employment as a viable career option for them. In August, we welcomed 26 children to, "A Playdate with Business", 2-day event where they were provided with Entrepreneurship training, and an afternoon of Bowling and Pizza.</p> <p>CFWB also welcomed, "Inspire the Aspiring", Women Entrepreneurs during Small Business Week. In</p>	

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partnership with Startup YMM, and NAABA, Community Futures hosted an all-women's forum, with over 70 persons registered for this successful luncheon and speaker's engagement.

By establishing partnerships with like-minded organizations, we are leading and taking action to enlarge the footprint of Community Futures in the Wood Buffalo Region.

With COVID-19 in our rear-view mirror, our foot is pressed firmly on the gas to explore other opportunities for Community Futures Wood Buffalo which includes Renewable Energy training initiatives.

With a dedicated Board of Directors, staff, and family, I am thankful for the success Community Futures Wood Buffalo has had over the past year, and look forward to new and exciting initiatives in the coming year.

Community Futures Wood Buffalo

Pamela Ramrup

Pamela Ramrup
Executive Director