

COMMUNITY FUTURES BRITISH COLUMBIA

First Responders in Business & Economic Crisis

The Community Futures Economic Disaster Response & Recovery model (EDRR) for businesses and entrepreneurs in rural, remote, Indigenous and non-metropolitan communities



RURAL RESILIENCY
INITIATIVE



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Photo: Darryl Dyck/The Canadian Press

When disaster strikes, who looks after entrepreneurs and businesses?

During emergencies businesses are at their most vulnerable. Their needs are different and a quick, business-centered response is essential to protect and revitalize your community's economy.

This is where Community Futures comes in.

Our organization has been leading high-profile, complex response and recovery processes for businesses in rural and remote BC since 1985. Our approach works because it integrates with existing 'best practices' recovery approaches and is led by a well-recognized entity that is located in your community already. Put simply, we can help drive a community-led economic recovery process that we know works.

During a disaster you will have enough on your hands to manage. With Community Futures involved, you can rest easy knowing that we are working with your recovery team, reaching out to small businesses and directing them to available resources in real-time. We will help to ensure your business community gets the help it needs in a way that makes sense.



What we do for small businesses during a crisis

Community Futures can activate its Crisis Response & Communications Centre at a moment's notice. Our actions will show your entrepreneurs that their community cares, and their government is aware, listening and taking action to support them.



Provide an Immediate Assessment of the Situation

Our Business Crisis Response Team will be deployed to connect with local businesses, find out how they are affected and what their needs are.



Begin Immediate Service Delivery for Affected Businesses

Our team will provide targeted outreach to businesses and facilitate connections to the supports that best address their needs. Our understanding of business means we can help navigate business-centered challenges and provide clarity on options and solutions.



Collaborate with you on Joint Advocacy Efforts for Continued Supports

We can work with local government to advocate for further supports from other levels of government.



Provide Follow-up Monitoring, Assessment & Support

Months later, we will still be there as a shoulder to lean on for entrepreneurs. We will help them work through the changes they've had to make, navigate insurance claims, and learn to become more resilient to build back better.



Simply: Appoint Community Futures as the Business Crisis Lead in your community

We will get right to work on your behalf.

Our goals are the same as yours:

- To get businesses back on their feet as soon as possible
- To reduce frustrations and disruptions when navigating a complex situation
- To make the best use of available resources

It does not have to be complicated. We will connect to the business community on your behalf to help entrepreneurs through crisis and renewal.



What about funding?

Our response can only go so far without dedicated funding. Community Futures does not have access to an emergency fund for businesses however, as an experienced lender we can provide access to loans for businesses.

Should funding become available through other sources during an emergency, we are already set up to manage fast, efficient, and responsible disbursement of government funding. We can also advise on the creation of a community contingency fund for future economic emergencies.

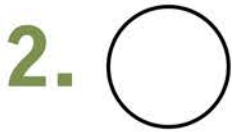
Community Futures is your contingency plan for businesses in crisis. Here's what to do next.

Small business is the foundation of our communities. Collectively they are responsible for 98% of the province's GDP. We cannot afford not to think about them when we consider community emergency response plans.

STEP BY STEP



Review this proposal.



Contact Community Futures British Columbia to arrange for a discussion about disaster response and recovery for the businesses in your community.



Before and/or during a crisis: Appoint Community Futures as Economic Recovery Lead so we can provide disaster response and recovery supports and direction for small business owners in your community.



Why Our Economic Disaster Response & Recovery Model Works



We know rural business.

We've been delivering rural business and economic development services since 1985. Helping entrepreneurs start, grow and weather the storms of business is our specialty.



We know how to work with government.

We are experienced government partners, entrusted by the Government of Canada to deliver our services since 1985. We excel at leveraging resources and establishing multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels.



We are connected & collaborative.

We can tap into the expertise of the Community Futures network, spanning all rural communities in BC including First Nations. Our organizational culture is one of sharing and collaboration.



We are already here.

We are governed by local volunteer Boards of Directors and staffed by professionals who live and work in the communities they serve. Together, we have intimate knowledge of our region's economy, history, resources, stakeholders, challenges and opportunities.



We've done it before and we can do it again.

We are experienced government partners with proven successes in disaster response and recovery. Our EDRR model is ready to be deployed in your community.

About Community Futures



Community Futures British Columbia is a provincial association representing 34 Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) in British Columbia.

Our not-for-profit was founded in 1985 and is the only not-for-profit in Canada mandated by the federal government to provide business and economic development services in rural and remote BC communities.

Community Futures British Columbia

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COMMUNITY FUTURES BRITISH COLUMBIA

Our Economic Crisis Response Portfolio



2021 Wildfire Disaster Lytton BC

Partners: 35 members of the Lytton Unmet Needs Committee

Insurance claims from the wildfire that consumed 90% of the township of Lytton totalled \$78 million. Shortly after the wildfire, Community Futures took the following actions:

- ✔ Interviewed entrepreneurs and generated a Needs Assessment report
- ✔ Set up a Business Incubator within the Resiliency Centre
- ✔ Secured funding for 1 Business Incubator employee + 2 Business Liaisons
- ✔ Met with businesses monthly in partnership with the Province of BC
- ✔ Worked with partners to provide incentives for new teachers to relocate
- ✔ Provided business plan and funding program assistance for businesses



2021 Atmospheric River Disaster Fraser Valley BC

Partners: The Abbotsford Foundation, University of the Fraser Valley, Tourism Abbotsford, Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce

The Insurance Bureau of Canada has estimated the cost of the disaster at \$675 million for damages that were insured. That figure was increased by \$160 million from business claims in areas where commercial insurance was more available.

➤➤➤ **\$650,000** Value of grants for businesses dispersed

➤➤➤ **200+** Business Relief Grant applications reviewed



Photo: BC Hydro

2020/21 COVID-19 Pandemic Province-wide

Partners: All levels of government

The federal government designated Community Futures British Columbia as the only organization to deliver its Regional Relief and Recovery Fund. All 34 BC offices provided repayable loans to businesses that were not otherwise eligible for federal assistance.



Funding disbursed



Jobs saved



Businesses assisted



2018 Flooding Disaster Grand Forks BC

Partners: The Province of British Columbia, Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, the City of Grand Forks, Red Cross, BC Economic Development Association

The total estimated economic impact of the immediate event has been estimated at \$26 million with a projected \$12 million moving forward. The event led to 188 employees being immediately laid off, resulting in \$2.4 million in lost wages. Within days of the crisis, Community Futures had mobilized a team of economic development practitioners around the province to assess impacts to businesses. From this work, \$3.5 million dollars was assigned by the province for revitalization projects, with an additional \$2.9 million assigned for direct-to-business supports.



\$2.9
million

Funding accessed by Community Futures and partners to provide direct support businesses and stabilize the region's economy



\$3.5
million

Funds leveraged by Community Futures



225

Businesses assisted



Photo: Darryl Dyck/The Canadian Press

2017 Wildfire Disasters BC Interior

Partners: Multiple municipal and regional governments, the Government of British Columbia, Red Cross, Western Development, Northern Development Economic Trust

Five of BC's worst 10 fire seasons have occurred since 2010. The 2017 fires burnt through 1.2 million hectares of land and caused \$649 million in damages.



Leveraged from
partners



Businesses assisted



Not having a plan only works until it doesn't.

Speak with us now so you don't have to worry tomorrow.



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