

News Release

Community Futures to disburse another \$100k in Small Business Internship Program (SBIP) Funding

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For Immediate Release

Community Futures British Columbia will receive an additional \$100,000 in additional funding from Industry Canada's Small Business Internship Program (SBIP) to be dispersed in rural BC. The new funds will be directed to SBIP's Career Focus Stream of the Youth Employment Strategy. The new funding is to welcome recent graduates to a business ready to develop e-business opportunities.

"We are glad to be able to expand the program to include the recent graduates," says Marie Gallant, Executive Director. "From our success funding internships with the original SBIP for students returning to school, we know that there was a desire to seek opportunities with grads as well. The rural businesses will benefit from the incredible skill bank and the Career Focused graduates will gain filed work experience and mentoring which can help build their career."

Through SBIP, eligible businesses can receive financial support to hire a recent post-secondary graduate intern to work on e-business projects. The program will reimburse 75% of the eligible wages and related expenses, such as statutory employee benefits, up to a total of 420 hours of full-time work. With this support, small and medium sized business can implement or improve leading edge e-commerce aspects of their business. Social media improvements alone will improve local and international competitiveness and many features can be added to stream-line day-to-day operations.

Community Futures offices are located in 34 communities across BC, with a reach into virtually the entire province. Introduced in 1985, the Program's main goals are to diversify rural economies, champion Community Economic Development, support entrepreneurship and can provide up to \$500,000 in small business loans.

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