

Media Release

Community Futures British Columbia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Services for Rural BC Entrepreneurs through *myCommunityFutures*

Mission, BC, February 15th, 2023: Community Futures British Columbia (CFBC) has launched a new brand and website for rural BC to access services as part of CFBC's Disaster Response & Economic Adjustment Initiative (DREAL), which is being funded through a \$5.5M contribution from Pacific Economic Development Canada (PacificCan). Formerly *Taking Care of Business*, the newly branded *myCommunityFutures* (myCF) provides eligible businesses and not-for-profits access to free workshops, free peer masterminds, professional consulting services and the opportunity to apply for a Professional Development Reimbursement of up to \$5,000 per business.

DREAL is for entrepreneurs affected by economic challenges such as those resulting from natural disasters or closures of a community's mill or mine.

"The launch of *myCommunityFutures* (myCF) demonstrates Community Futures' commitment to supporting B.C.'s rural communities in the face of economic challenges, including those from climate-related disasters," said the Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada (PacificCan). "The businesses that call these communities home are driving our economy, supporting families and creating jobs. Through this initiative, PacificCan is partnering with CFBC to support a stronger, more resilient economy."

"We focus on capacity building and skill development so that businesses can quickly restore operations after a disaster, and continue to grow to meet the challenges of our competitive business environment" said Wendy McCulloch, Executive Director of Community Futures Development British Columbia.

Since its inception, 1,276 businesses have accessed DREAL services. As of Fall 2023, DREAL eligibility expanded to include businesses located in the Community Futures regions of North Okanagan, Central Okanagan, Shuswap, Alberni-Clayoquot and Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation.

Businesses located outside of eligible areas, such as Vancouver and Victoria, can access *myCommunityFutures* on a fee-for-service basis.

For more information visit www.communityfutures.ca and mycommunityfuturesbc.ca

DREAL services areas are:

Community Futures 16/37 – office in Terrace
Community Futures Alberni-Clayoquot - office in Port Alberni
Community Futures Cariboo Chilcotin – office in Williams Lake
Community Futures Central Interior First Nations – office in Kamloops
Community Futures Central Okanagan - office in Kelowna
Community Futures North Okanagan - office in Vernon
Community Futures Fraser Fort George – office in Prince George
Community Futures Haida Gwaii – office in Masset
Community Futures Nadina – office in Houston
Community Futures Nicola Valley – office in Merrit
Community Futures North Cariboo – office in Quesnel
Community Futures North Fraser – office in Mission
Community Futures Okanagan Similkameen – office in Penticton
Community Futures Pacific Northwest – office in Prince Rupert
Community Futures Peace Liard – office in Dawson Creek
Community Futures Shuswap - office in Salmon Arm
Community Futures South Fraser – office in Chilliwack
Community Futures Sto:lo – office in Chilliwack
Community Futures Stuart Nechako – office in Vanderhoof
Community Futures Sun Country – office in Ashcroft
Community Futures Thompson Country – office in Kamloops
Nuu-chah-Nulth Economic Development Corporation - office in Port Alberni

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