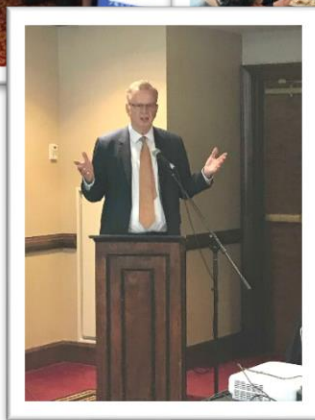


Activities Update

March 20, 2018 – August 1, 2018

All Party All Caucus Luncheon

On April 11th Community futures held an “all party”, “all caucus” luncheon at the Marriott in Victoria. The event was to showcase Community Futures and what we do in support of entrepreneurs and small business. There were over 40 Ministers and MLA’s in attendance from across all parties in BC and seated among them were Community Futures staff and Board members from a number of offices. Bruce Ralston Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology opened the luncheon with a few words, followed by a CF overview presentation by Mike Guarnerly (CFBC Vice Chair). The luncheon was a great opportunity to have strategic conversations with key Provincial government officials.



Minister Ralston

From left: MLA Jackie Tegart, MLA Greg Kylo, Cathy Robertson (CF), MLA Ben Stewart, Troy Dungate (CF), MLA Donna Barnett, MLA Doug Clovechok, MLA Shirley Bond, MLA Coralee Oakes, Cheryl Johnson (CFBC), Debra Arnott (CF), Mike Guarnerly (CF), Kevin Dorrius (CF), MLA Marvin Hunt, MLA Jane Thornthwaite

Upcoming events

CFBC BOARD MEETING

August 13 - 14, 2018

Kelowna

AGM & Conference

September 13 – 15, 2018

Merritt

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CFBC Board Meeting

April 16 was the most recent in person board meeting, held in Revelstoke. After a successful morning meeting, the members were able to tour around the community and visit some of the businesses and clients that CF Revelstoke have assisted. The team visited The Revelstoke Railway Museum, Begbie Brewing Company, Cronometer, Take to Heart Specialty Wood Products and Monashee Spirits Craft Distillery

CFBC Board Meeting



Revelstoke Railway Museum



Begbie Brewing Company



CED Training Session



On April 17th Members of the CFBC board were joined by Revelstoke CF Board Members, Chamber of Commerce, Startup Revelstoke, Economic Development Association and other local stakeholder representatives for training on Community Economic Development. A big thank you to Kevin Dorrius General Manager of CF Revelstoke and his staff and board for being such fabulous hosts.

Central Interior First Nations Agriculture Wildfire Transition Workshop

On April 24th & 25th Community Futures Central Interior First Nations hosted a Workshop, at the Rosie Skuki Weaving Centre, Lytton First Nations, Lytton, BC. The event was facilitated by the centres Executive Director and focussed on business recovery for the First Nations people impacted by the wildfires in the Lytton area.



Trevor Kempthorne (centre), Agriculture Business Development Manager for Community Futures Central Interior First Nations, with Paula Cranmer-Underhill (right), Executive Director for the Rosie Skuki Weaving Centre, Lytton First Nations, and Erin Coghlan (left), owner of Stein Mountain Farm

There were a number of speakers at the event, Erin Coghlan kicked off the workshop with a presentation on organic farming and bringing products to market. Fred Fortier from Simpcw First Nations spoke about the opportunities for greenhouse gardening and composting. CF staff Tina Malkie and Flora Joe were on hand to help fill out Red Cross applications



Tina Malkie (left) and Flora Joe (right) from Community Futures Central Interior First Nations



Presenter Fred Fortier from Simpcw First Nations.

Small Business Task Force

On May 2nd CFBC joined Minister Ralston (Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology), who made an announcement about the launch of the Small Business Taskforce.



“The new Small Business Task Force will listen to entrepreneurs and business owners throughout the province, so we can continue to improve B.C.’s small business climate,” said Ralston. “Small businesses are the backbone of our economy”.

The Small Business Task Force will make recommendations compiled from consultations held throughout BC in June, to build on this sector’s strong growth, and enhance job creation for people in every corner of B.C”. Consultations we held in seven communities across BC in June as follows: • June 6 – Surrey, June 8 – Nanaimo, June 13 – Terrace, June 14 – Prince

George, June 18 – Richmond, June 26 – Cranbrook, June 28 – Kelowna. A preliminary report of the recommendations is now available from the Task Force and can be found at engage.gov.bc.ca/smallbusiness/engagement-summary-report/. The Task Force invited comments and feedback on the report until August 7th, 2018.

BC Chamber of Commerce AGM

On May 24th – 26th CFBC attended the BC Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting, held in Kamloops. The weekend started with a welcome event that featured Val Litwin, President and CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce. In addition to the AGM, the weekend featured key note speakers such as Carol James, Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, Andrew Weaver, Leader, BC Greens and MLA, Oak Bay-Gordon Head and Andrew Wilkinson, Leader, Official Opposition and MLA, Vancouver-Quilchena. While in Kamloops, CFBC also met with staff and management from CF Central Interior First Nations and CF Thompson Country to discuss current projects and initiatives including the Wildfire Business Transition Project



Cheryl Johnson and Mike Guarneri with Val Litwin



Cheryl Johnson and Mike Guarneri with Steve Thomson

WD Tour

CFNC Chair Wendy Smitka and Barbara Motzny WD Assistant Deputy Minister-Policy and Strategic Direction spent the day touring CF clients in Vernon and Kelowna on Monday June 25th. In Kelowna they visited Perfit Dental Solutions, syndicated loan client, Natures Formulae and Mazu, former loan client and CFDCCO equity investment. In Vernon the businesses visited were LEAP Art Supplies and Studio, Jolly Good Spudz and Okanagan Valley School of Massage Therapy



Barbara Motzney, Assistant Deputy Minister-Policy and Strategic Direction, Western Economic Diversification Canada
Janice Taylor, CEO, Mazu
Wendy Smitka, Chair, CFNC

Chairs and Managers Roundtable Meeting

On June 14th a Chairs and Managers Roundtable meeting took place via Zoom. Susan Schooley updated the team on the latest Western Economic Diversification news including an announcement that The Wildfire Business Transition Project was awarded the Deputy Ministers award.

Wendy Smitka provided an update on The Network or Canada who released their Annual Report. The stats for BC showed CF lent \$4MM less last fiscal than the year before. Lending was down all across the west. Overall, across the country, lending was up with a strong showing in Québec and regions of Ontario where they continue to have access to CED dollars.

Cheryl Johnson provided an update on Pan West discussions, including the importance of Staff Development training and highlighted the need for Cyber risk awareness amongst the CF office network.

Other topics discussed; the review currently taking place into the BC Futures Fund restructuring, CFBC is looking to possibly adopt a similar model to the Alberta one in BC, advertising for a candidate for the Rural EDP Coordinator was underway, with the aim to fill the position by September 2018, the CF conference dates for 2019 were announced, the event will take place on October 1-3, 2019 at the Delta Grand in Kelowna and updates on outreach, partner and stakeholder relations.

Community Futures Network of Canada National Event

June 5th marked the start of the CF National Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba. CFBC was in attendance along with a number of staff and volunteers from across the network. The conference kicked off with a fabulous pre-event tour to Churchill, followed by an evening opening reception at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The remainder of the event was filled with great speakers on a number of relevant topics, along with tours to the local and regional innovative and leading-edge businesses.

CFBC in Churchill



Hanging out with Olympic medalist John Montgomery



This Ain't old MacDonald Farm Tour



BC Economic Development Association (BCEDA) Summit

On June 10th – 12th the BCEDA hosted an Economic Summit, in Kelowna, which was attended by CFBC. The event was a chance to network with business contacts from across BC. Sue Kenny, CF Manager of CF Peace Liard and BCEDA Chair, was a Keynote speaker at the opening reception, along with Dale Wheeldon, President, BCEDA. CFBC sponsored the Monday luncheon at the summit and provided a partnership focused presentation to the 200 plus delegates in attendance. CF's were also featured in the Pre-Summit session, "First Comes the Disaster, Then Comes The Recovery" which highlighted the impact of the 2017 wildfires and the extensive recovery efforts in support of rural small businesses in the affected communities. CFBC's Wildfire Business Transition Project was a highlight of the panel, that included Debra Arnott, General Manager of CF Sun Country and Karen Eden, General Manager of CF Cariboo-Chilcotin. CFBC also participated in the Wavemakers Workshops which was a great opportunity to showcase CF's as a "go to" agency for Economic Development practitioners from around the province.



The CFBC Wavemakers Group with Minister Ralston

Meeting with WD



On June 13th, while in Kelowna for the BCEDA Summit, CFBC Executive Director Cheryl Johnson had the opportunity to “do lunch” with Larry Widmor, General Manager, CF Central Okanagan, Laurel Douglas, CEO Women’s Enterprise Centre, Cheryl Farmer, Business Adviser, Women’s Enterprise Centre. Susan Schooley, Manager for Western Economic Diversification, Michael Burrridge, New Programme Officer, Western Economic Diversification and Mike Guarnery, CFBC Vice Chair to discuss opportunities for project collaboration in support of rural small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Meeting with Brian Smith – Rhiza Capital

While in Kelowna to attend the Small Business Taskforce Consultation, CFBC Executive Director Cheryl Johnson met with Brian Smith from Rhiza Capital on June 27th. This was a great opportunity to explore, expand and enhance impact investment opportunities through rural BC. A follow up meeting is under development.

Small Business Engagement Taskforce



On June 28th CFBC attended the Small Business Taskforce Engagement Session at the Best Western in Kelowna. This was the final of seven sessions held across the province to seek ideas from entrepreneurs and business owners throughout the province on how to maintain and strengthen a healthy small business sector in BC.

Meeting with Dan Ruimy MP

On July 5th CFBC met with Dan Ruimy MP, the chair of the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, to discuss the role of the committee and engagement with CF offices in BC and across Canada relative to the needs of small business. There was also a discussion about the lack of broadband internet connectivity across rural Canada and how it is negatively affecting small rural businesses and the need to overcome the digital divide. A follow up meeting is under development.

Wildfire Recovery Cruise



On July 6th CFBC attended the Wildfire Recovery Cruise in Williams Lake. Our Network Support Assistant Keely Critchley was on hand along with the team from CF Alberni Clayoquot, advising the public about how they can help by joining the recovery cruise. They also provided information on Community Futures programs and initiatives, and handed out some great swag prize giveaways

BC Digital Supercluster Meeting

On July 24th and 25th, CFBC Executive Director Cheryl Johnson, had the opportunity to participate in a couple of information sessions hosted by the Digital Technology Supercluster consortium, the first held at CF North Cariboo and the second held at the Northern Development Initiative Trust office in Prince George. The Digital Technology Supercluster is a consortium of some of the world's biggest names in healthcare, telecommunications, natural resources and computing, along with start-ups, SMEs, researchers and post-secondary institutions - all working together to solve some of the most pressing productivity, health and sustainability challenges facing Canada and the world today. The purpose of the visit was to share an update on the status of this new Digital Technology Supercluster initiative and organization, and forthcoming opportunities for communities throughout British Columbia.



From left: Ryan Adams, Elizabeth Ross, Cheryl Johnson, Greg Lawrence, Dean Prelazzi at CF North Cariboo



Dean Prelazzi leads discussion at NDIT office

CF Fraser Fort George Visit



On July 25th, CFBC visited CF Fraser Fort George and had the opportunity to preview some new and exciting client testimonials. The videos will be released shortly and will be available to view on CF Fraser Fort George's website.

From left: Krystin St Jean, Emily Columbo FLNRO, Susan Stearns, Cheryl Johnsons, Sherri Flavel

CF North Cariboo Visit

In addition to the Supercluster meeting on July 24th CFBC Executive Director Cheryl Johnson also visited with CF North Cariboo to discuss the Wildfire Transition Project progress, specifically in relation to the resoundingly successful training opportunities that the CF office is offering businesses affected by the Wildfires.

Communications

Are you receiving?

The weekly BC CF Network e-blast? The quarterly CFBC Futurescape Newsletter?

If you haven't received these communications and would like to, please contact Tracy Francis to have your email address added to the distribution lists.

Do you have an account to access the CFBC Website Members' Area?

To access the resources available to staff and volunteers in the Members' Area you must create an account. To do so, visit <http://www.communityfutures.ca/user/register> to be guided through registration. Once you have done so you will receive an email with a one-time login link, which will then prompt you to create a password.

An account provides access to reports, committee minutes, board minutes, activity updates, links and access information to other resources available in the Network, including the Pan West Leadership Institute, the Branding Portal and much more.

Member account requests are processed during regular business hours. If you have registered your account, but are unable to remember your user name, please contact Tracy Francis for assistance.

Have you liked CFBC on Facebook?

CFBC shares information and client stories on both [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). When posting to your social media channels, use #communityfutures to make it easier for others to find your posts.