
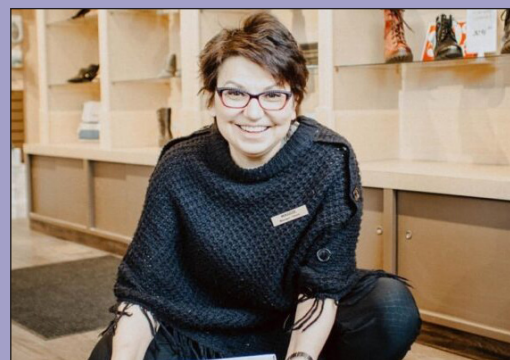


# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



Our mission is to  
assist the citizens of the  
North Okanagan  
to achieve significant  
improvements  
in permanent employment  
and sustainable  
development.

**Community**  
**Futures** North Okanagan



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**Community Futures North Okanagan (CFNO)** seeks to contribute in ways that have meaningful impacts on the economy of the North Okanagan region.

*Community Futures continued support has made all the difference to me and my business.*



Mike Babott –  
Rhythm  
Productions



Since 1985, CFNO has focused activities on three specific areas of community economic development:

- **Business Expansion and Retention** – Achieved through business lending and supports for small business
- **Workforce Development** – Achieved through employment assistance programs and services
- **Entrepreneurship Development** – Achieved through the provision of programs and supports for new entrepreneurs

## BUSINESS SERVICES AND LOANS

In 2020-2021, Community Futures provided business services and supports in the North Okanagan including:

- Provided 65 business loans totaling \$2,380,950, creating or maintaining 130 jobs
- Business counselling provided to 924 entrepreneurs and small business owners
- 18 Businesses participated in peer-mentoring program Business Exchange
- 194 business workshops delivered to 895 participants
- Export Navigator Program assisted 40 businesses with entering new domestic and international markets
- 25 local employers were supported with wage subsidy services
- Self-employment services helped 19 clients in developing their business plans and 22 with implementing a business.

**Innovation and creativity in employment programming assists individuals to achieve permanent and sustainable employment.**

## EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

Community Futures provided a variety of employment services for unemployed individuals:

- WorkBC Employment Services provides information, services, programs and supports to help unemployed job seekers find and maintain employment. CFNO works in partnership with NexusBC, Vernon and District Immigrant and Community Services Society, Turning Points Collaborative Society, Canadian Mental Health Association and Kindale Developmental Association.
  - o Workshops
  - o Skills training
  - o Self-employment services
  - o Job-search and job-start supports
  - o Placement services
  - o Job postings
  - o Labour market information
  - o Knowledgeable staff
- The Employ Program assists youth to become self-reliant and independent. 32 youth participated in the program and 30 successfully transitioned to work or school
  - o Virtual and one-to-one services

**Community economic development initiatives are intended to build capacity within our economy and enhance the quality of life of the North Okanagan.**



# Community Futures North Okanagan



## COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### THE VIEW – VERNON INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEUR WORKSPACE

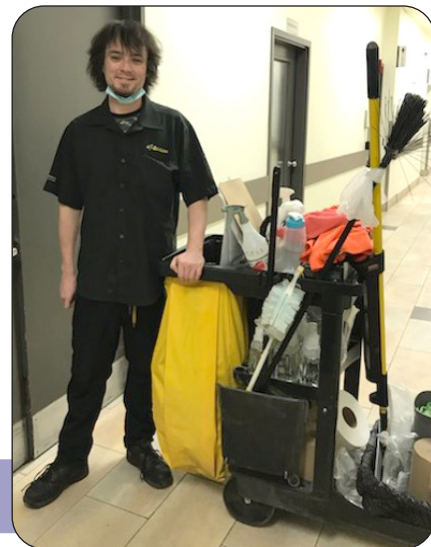
The VIEW is a centrally located innovation centre where entrepreneurs and businesses can connect, collaborate and commercialize their ideas and grow the North Okanagan's entrepreneur eco-system.

### REACH – AGRICULTURAL ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

REACH is a business accelerator program designed to help farmers and processors grow their operations, examine new markets, attract labour and pivot in order to find new opportunities in our new economic reality.

### MOMENTUM

This business accelerator program helps women entrepreneurs gain unique skills, networks and opportunities to reach their business goals. The program assists women in evaluating their operations and improving productivity through coaching, peer-mentorship and access to professional services and training.



### RURAL AND NORTHERN IMMIGRATION PILOT PROGRAM

RNIP is a community-led immigration program bringing skilled immigrants to rural communities. The goal is to spread the benefits of economic immigration to communities outside of the large metropolitan centres. In partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, CFNO has developed a program that works best for our community by prioritizing skilled immigrants who intend to make Vernon their home.

### LAND TO TABLE

In collaboration with several partners this program works toward the goal of developing a food system network to take action toward enhancing food sustainability in the region. Land to Table hosts community forums that explore themes like water, waste, and land, in relation to the local food system and economy. The Forums help to develop collaborative relationships amongst stakeholders, including supportive researchers, government and non-profits.

### EXPORT NAVIGATOR

Export Navigator offers businesses access to community-based export specialists who provide a personalized, step-by-step approach to exporting. This program helps connect businesses to market expansion information, financial services and business development experts at every stage of the process.

### VISION NORTH OKANAGAN

Vision North Okanagan works collectively and collaboratively in support of economic development activities within the North Okanagan region. This group of regional professionals has a passion for community economic development, and promotes initiatives that enhance our communities.

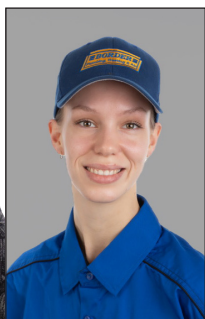
*Community Futures and Employ helped me find employment with me in mind and showed me jobs that I felt secure with and that I'm interested in.*

Jareth Leo - Employ Program Participant



## Board of Directors

Don Main  
Michele Hill  
Bryon Brandle  
Stacey Barber  
Penny McDonald  
Dave Fletcher  
Valerie Chiba  
Michael Tindall  
Tim Bieber  
Samantha Symons



## Community Futures Mission Statement

To assist the citizens of the North Okanagan to achieve significant improvements in permanent employment and sustainable development

## Community Futures Vision Statement

To be an integral leader in creating opportunities for growth and success in our communities

## Community Futures Core Guiding Principles

Community Futures North Okanagan has five core principles which guide all activities and organizational development

### These principles are:

1. To promote and contribute to the development of a sustainable and diversified regional economy
2. To encourage and facilitate the cooperation and participation of stakeholders and government for the creation and maintenance of a positive economic climate for business and community
3. To provide direction and/or improve the skills and abilities of the local labour force so that it may compete in a complex and changing economy
4. To maintain a quality system that ensures a standard of excellence in all services and products
5. To encourage new approaches in delivering quality services by supporting staff and board professional development.

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