



COMMUNITY FUTURES SUN COUNTRY
ANNUAL REPORT

**2017
2018**

CELEBRATING



MISSION STATEMENT

To plan and initiate development of our area through promotion and facilitation of cooperative activities dedicated to the social, environmental and economic well-being of our citizens.

Community Futures Sun Country



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Our Service Area

Community Futures Sun Country covers a large geographical area in the interior of BC that stretches from Hope in the south to 70 Mile House in the north, and from Gold Bridge in the west to Logan Lake in the east. The service area covers approximately 35,000 square km and the region's population is approximately 23,000 people.

Location

Community Futures Sun Country office is headquartered in downtown Ashcroft. To accommodate our large service area, the General Manager and staff are available to meet our clients in any of our communities at their request when possible.

Incorporated Communities

District of Logan Lake (pop. 2,073)

Village of Ashcroft (1,558)

Village of Cache Creek (pop. 963)

Village of Lytton (pop. 249)

Village of Clinton (pop. 641)

District of Lillooet (pop. 2,275)

District of Hope (pop. 6,181)

Thompson-Nicola Regional District

70 Mile House

Savona

Spences Bridge

Walhachin

Electoral Areas E, I and J

Fraser Valley Regional District

Boston Bar

Hell's Gate

North Bend

Spuzzum

Yale

Electoral Areas A and B

Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

Bralorne

Fountain

Goldbridge

Pavilion Lake

Seton Portage

Shalalth

Electoral Areas A and B

First Nations Communities

Ashcroft Indian Band

Bonaparte Indian Band

Boothroyd Band

Boston Bar Band

Bridge River Indian Band

Canoe Creek Indian Band

Chehalis Band

Cooks Ferry Indian Band

Coyoose Creek Indian Band

High Bar Indian Band

Kanaka Bar Indian Band

Lytton First Nations

Nicomen Indian Band

Oregon Jack Indian Band

Pavillion Indian Band

Seabird Island Band

Seton Lake Indian Band

Shxw'pw'hamel First Nation

Siska Indian Band

Skawahalook First Nation

Skeetchestn Indian Band

Skuppah Indian Band

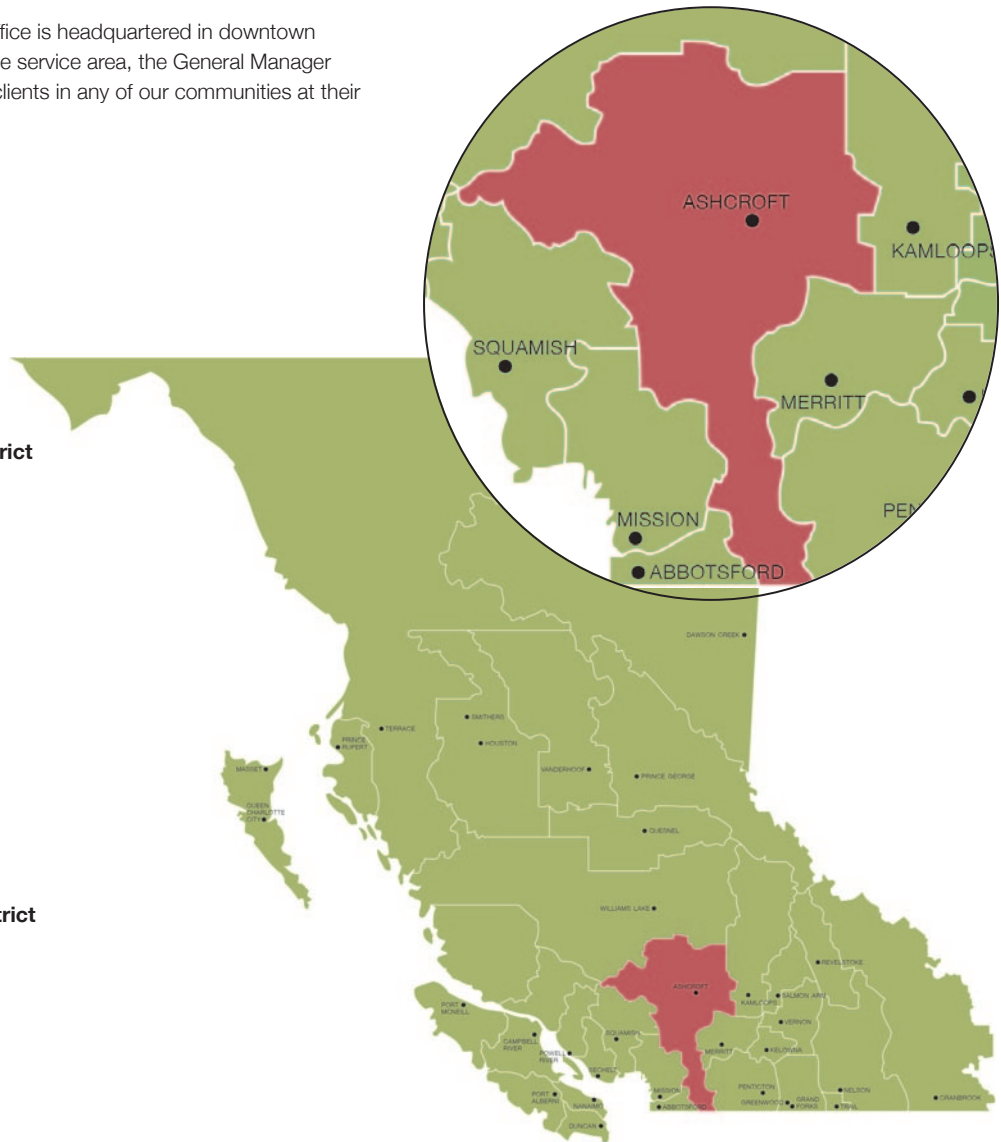
Spuzzum First Nation

Sto'lo Chawathil Band

T'it'q'et Indian Band

Xax'ip Indian Band

Yale First Nation





CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Message from the Board Chair and General Manager

The past year has certainly been an interesting journey.

As an organization, it had never been on our radar that we would be in a position of providing services for natural disasters, but that's where we found ourselves last year.

Community Futures Sun Country stepped into a leadership role immediately, even though our General Manager, Deb Arnott, was still evacuated from her home. Many meetings were held with stakeholders, sharing the impacts to the small businesses and non-profits in the region following the 2017 wildfire and flooding.

There were no holds barred. Calls were made locally, provincially and federally advising they had a responsibility to support rural BC.....it eventually paid off.

The strength of Community Futures is the ability to adjust to situations as needed. We have a strong network through the Community Futures organizations. We also have incredible board members that volunteer their time and resources because of their passion supporting community development.

This past year has resulted in strong partnerships with a multitude of organizations and government while working with communities as we transition from the wildfire and floods.

We do not know what the next few years will bring us.

We do know that our region is strong and resilient and has the tenacity to face each challenge when presented.

Chairperson

General Manager



ABOUT US



COMMUNITY FUTURES SUN COUNTRY

Community Futures is a grassroots economic development program that helps rural communities build sustainable economies across Canada. Established in 1985 by the federal government, Community Futures organizations offer a variety of business advisory services and access to financing designed to help entrepreneurs and small business owners start and grow successful businesses.

The Community Futures model was originally comprised of two organizations, each with its own Board of Directors and mandate. One was the Business Development Centre, which provided business support and financing for entrepreneurs interested in starting or growing a business. The second group was a Community Futures Committee, also governed by a volunteer, community-based board of directors who worked closely with the Business Development arm. Community Futures Committees were established to assess the community's economic potential and areas of opportunity for job creation and business development.

In 1995, Community Futures Committees merged with their local BDCs and were incorporated as Community Futures Development Corporations, since renamed Community Futures. At the same time, responsibility for the Community Futures program in western Canada was transferred from Human Resources Development Canada to Western Economic Diversification. There are currently 90 Community Futures organizations across western Canada, and 268 across Canada.



Community Futures Sun Country Board and staff. Picture from left: Scott Medlock; Andrew May (Chair); Courtney Dash; Debra Arnott (General Manager); Karma Kubbernus; Margaret Hohner; Dona Radomsky; Victor Smith; Tracy Kubik; and Linsie Lachapelle. Not pictured: Willow Anderson.



MEET OUR TEAM

COMMUNITY FUTURES SUN COUNTRY

Community Futures Sun Country began operations in 1988 as an autonomous, non-profit corporation. Over the past 30 years, Community Futures Sun Country has disbursed more than \$11.3 million in loans, created and maintained more than 1,100 jobs and leveraged more than \$12 million in investment money to strengthen and diversify the economies of communities across the Sun Country region. Our services fall under three main categories:

- Small business financing
- Business development, training and counseling
- Community economic development

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017/18

Community Futures Sun Country is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors who are dedicated to community economic development in the region. The role of the Board is to establish our organization's priorities, monitor our business loans, oversee our general performance, and be accountable to key stakeholders. The role of an individual board member is to help establish the governing structure with the broad policies and results to be achieved, and to guide the organization to success.

Board members are accountable to key stakeholders and committed to furthering the objectives of the organization. They have dedicated their time and expertise to establishing and maintaining Community Futures as the region's leading economic development agency. Community Futures Sun Country held its Annual General Meeting on June 28, 2018.



Andrew May, Chair

Resident of Clinton

Andrew May is a resident of Clinton and an active member in the community. He is currently on the Board of the South Cariboo Museum Society and is an Executive Member of the Clinton and District Economic Development Society. He has served on the boards of several community groups, including Economic Development and Historical Societies in the Okanagan and South Cariboo. Andrew has been an instructor at Okanagan College, owner/operator of an auto repair shop and Founder/President of Procurement and Inventory Management Consultancy.

MEET OUR TEAM



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017/18



Scott Medlock, Vice-chair

Resident of Hope

Scott Medlock is a resident of Hope where he manages an auto parts store. Scott is an active community member. He currently serves as a Councilor for the District of Hope and acts as the council liaison for the Advantage Hope Committee. He is president of the Hope Lions Club and a member of the volunteer Fire Department. He has served as a director for the Hope and District Chamber of Commerce. He enjoys the Sun Country area and is committed to promoting economic development in the area. He served as Chair of Community Futures Sun Country from 2010 to 2015.



Karma Kubbernus, Honourary Secretary/Treasurer

Resident of Cache Creek

Karma is a resident of Cache Creek and Branch Manager of Interior Savings Credit Union. Karma is the past President of the local Rotary Club and has been a representative at the National Young Leaders Conference. Karma seeks to have meaningful impacts in her community by way of professionalism, volunteer activities and working with charitable organizations. She likes to work in an environment that encourages leadership and lifelong learning.



Willow Anderson, Director

Resident of Ashcroft

Willow was raised in the region and works in the retail sector. She is presently co-managing the Ashcroft Home Building Centre. She is very involved with youth groups, which support her focus regarding family. Willow has a keen interest working with the local businesses and understands the importance of providing entrepreneurs support and has been involved with the Chamber of Commerce.



MEET OUR TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017/18



Margaret Hohner, Director

Resident of Lillooet

Margaret is the coordinator for the Lillooet/Lytton regional campus of Thompson Rivers University. She has more than 25 years of coordination experience in post-secondary education and spent 12 years in television programming with the Knowledge Network. Margaret is an active community member in Lillooet responsible for providing leadership to various public stakeholders. "I strive to support a collaborative and cooperative environment," she says.



Victor Smith, Director

Resident of Hope

Victor Smith is a long term and active resident of Hope. His background is in the Mining and Construction Industry. He supports and encourages entrepreneurship, recognizing how instrumental businesses are in rural communities. The list of organizations Victor has participated in is endless and includes eight years as president of the Hope and District Chamber of Commerce and 12 years as the coordinator for Hope Communities in Bloom. He is also a past-president of Community Futures Sun Country. Victor was recently awarded the Provincial Champion for Volunteer of the Year. His tireless dedication to his community is inspiring to those around him.



Dona Radomsky, Director

Resident of Logan Lake

Dona Radomsky became a resident of Logan Lake in 2004 as the community's Pharmacist Manager for the Logan Lake Pharmacy. She was instrumental in the formation of the Logan Lake Business Association and took the lead as chairperson in 2004. She is actively involved in her community, and currently serves as a director on the Board of the Logan Lake Wellness, Health and Youth Society (WHY), which was established in 2000.



Hoodoos along the Nicola River near Spences Bridge
photo courtesy of the Thompson Nicola Regional District



MEET OUR TEAM

COMMUNITY FUTURES VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Congratulations to Victor Smith, Community Futures Volunteer of the Year

Community Futures Sun Country has recognized our Board Member, Victor Smith of Hope, as our volunteer of the year! Victor joined the team in 2015 and we haven't looked back since. He is someone who becomes engaged IMMEDIATELY with whatever he is participating in, and his energy is contagious.

By the end of his first year with Community Futures, he was elected Chairperson. We discovered very quickly that his mind does not rest and he has a positive energy that fills the room. He has a reputation in the region for being energetic and always puts community first. There are too many organizations that he has been involved in to list and they are grateful to work beside him as projects are moved forward for the good of everyone.

If there are initiatives that are being worked on, you can guarantee Victor is involved in some capacity. We often hear the words, "someone should..." Victor is that someone.

ANDREW AND YVETTE MAY, CITIZENS OF THE YEAR AWARD



Congratulations to Andrew and Yvette May, Citizens of the Year

Congratulations to our Chairperson, Andrew May, and his wife Yvette, for receiving Clinton's Citizens of the Year Award for 2017 in recognition of their volunteer work on behalf of Clinton.

Since arriving in Clinton in July 2010 Andrew and Yvette have become involved in Clinton in a variety of ways, volunteering countless hours and wearing many hats.

Andrew has been a member of the Board of Directors for Community Futures Sun Country since May 2015.

MEET OUR TEAM



Debra Arnott, General Manager

Celebrating 26 years with Community Futures Sun Country, Debra joined the organization on February 1, 1992 just four years after it was formed and has served as the organization's General Manager ever since. She is responsible for the overall operations of Community Futures Sun Country, including negotiating programs for the area. She has a passion for community economic development, and works diligently to ensure that programs remain in the rural communities that are serviced by Community Futures. She is also a Certified Aboriginal Economic Developer.

"I feel privileged to have the opportunity to work with community members and empower entrepreneurs. Thank you!" - Debra Arnott

Community Futures Sun Country staff (bottom photo). From left to right: Linsie Lachapelle (Office Manager); Tracy Kubik (Business Development Officer); Courtney Dash (Accounting Clerk); and Debra Arnott (General Manager).



MEET OUR TEAM



MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE



Tracy Kubik, Business Development Officer

Tracy is responsible for the planning, marketing and coordination of the lending program; the research and identification of community needs; and the training, counseling and monitoring of clients. She also provides support and recommendations to the Loans Committee. Tracy joined the Community Futures Sun Country team in 2016. She has more than 20 years financial experience at Telus, TD Financial, and the RBC.



Linsie Lachapelle, Office Manager

Linsie is the Office Manager for Community Futures Sun Country. She assists the General Manager with administrative support for the Loans program and Projects, as well as provides technical support for all software and computers. She also provides general support and mentorship to the Community Futures office.



Courtney Dash, Accounting Clerk

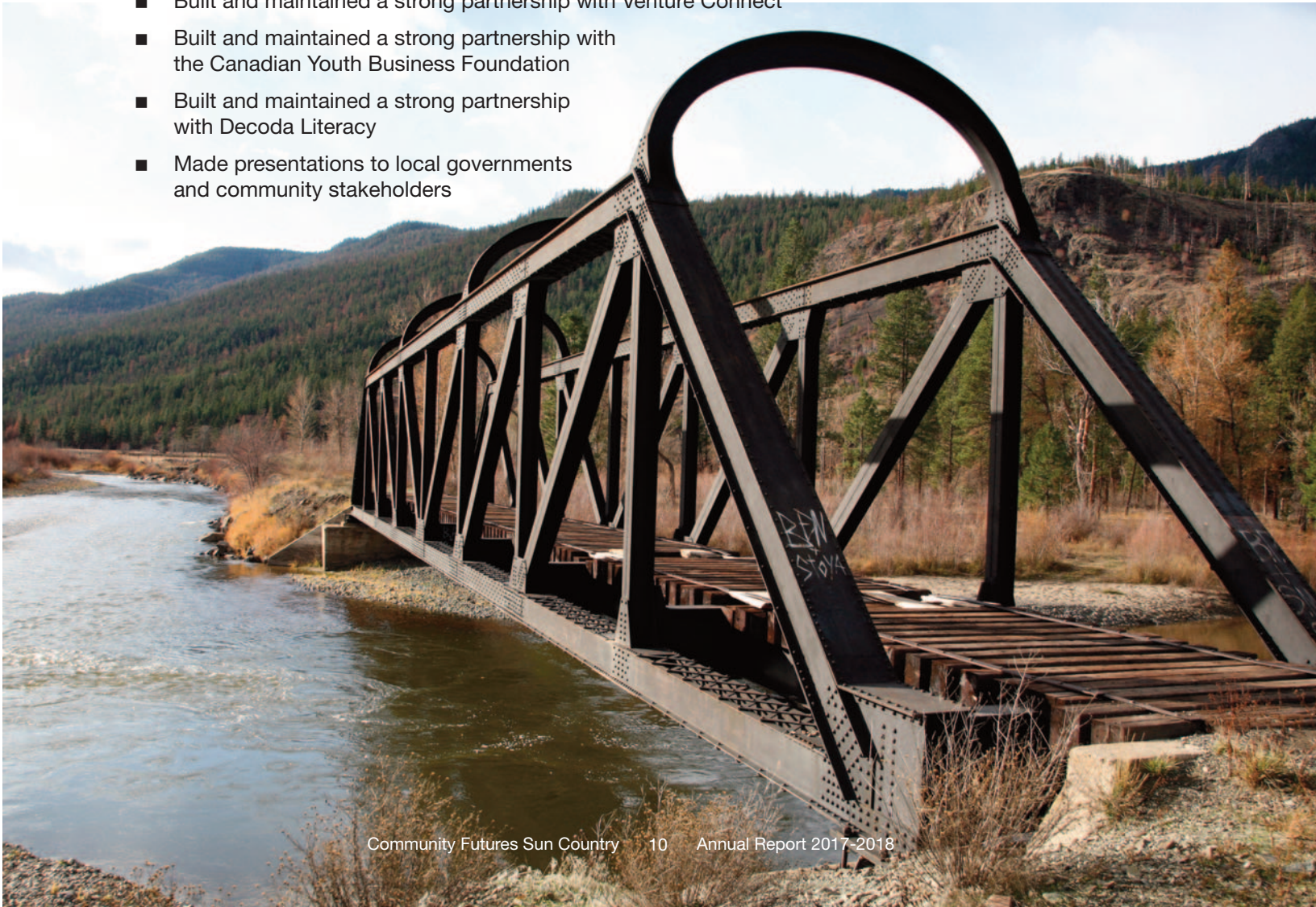
Courtney is the Accounting Clerk for Community Futures Sun Country. She provides secretarial, administrative and reception support to the office and assists the General Manager with Accounting. Courtney also provides research, support and information services to existing and future clients.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Our accomplishments for 2017-2018

- Disbursed more than \$500,000 in loan funds
- Provided 22+ entrepreneurs with financing in our region
- Established a Wildfire Response and Recovery Loans fund and provided 12 small businesses with emergency loans to help them recover from the impact of the 2017 wildfires
- Partnered with Community Futures North Cariboo and Community Futures Cariboo Chilcotin to access \$200,000 in funding from Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) and \$185,000 from Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition (CCBAC) to hire Business Ambassadors as part of the initial response to the wildfires
- Built and maintained a partnership with the Canadian Red Cross to provide support to eligible small businesses and non-profits affected by the 2017 wildfires
- Partnered with Community Futures Cariboo Chilcotin, Community Futures North Cariboo and Community Futures British Columbia to access \$1.3 million in funding from Western Economic Diversification for the Wildfire Business Transition Project to help our communities rebuild from the effects of the 2017 wildfires
- Partnered with the Bonaparte Indian Band and the Province of BC to develop the McAbee Fossil Beds Heritage Site.
- Built and maintained a strong partnership with Venture Connect
- Built and maintained a strong partnership with the Canadian Youth Business Foundation
- Built and maintained a strong partnership with Decoda Literacy
- Made presentations to local governments and community stakeholders





STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Strategic Priorities for 2017-2018

- Recruiting and training new Board Members
- Providing regular community visits by the General Manager and Business Development Officer
- Enhancing partnerships
- Lending more dollars in the region/province
- Working with Community Futures British Columbia on the provincial marketing campaign
- Continuing to provide support to businesses impacted by the 2017 wildfires
- Developing an organizational succession plan
- Raising the profile of Community Futures Sun Country as leaders in business development
- Building entrepreneurial capacity to encourage youth to consider starting a small business
- Preparing business owners for succession planning
- Raising awareness of Community Futures Sun Country and the role of Community Economic Development in building strong economies

Strategic Priorities for 2018-2019

- Strengthen relationships with communities through regular visits by the General Manager and the Business Development Officer
- Enhance partnership with the Canadian Youth Business Foundation
- Maintain partnership with Venture Connect by providing support and counseling
- Take the lead in organizing local Business Walks in each community
- Continue the development of an organizational succession plan
- Partner with Thompson Rivers University to provide free Business Planning workshops in communities throughout the region
- Continue to provide support to communities impacted by the 2017 wildfires through the Wildfire Business Transition Project
- Collaborate with CF Cariboo Chilcotin (Williams Lake), CF North Cariboo (Quesnel), and CF Thompson Country (Kamloops) to access additional resources for communities impacted by the 2017 wildfires
- Continue building relationships with Indigenous organizations
- Support participation of Indigenous peoples in economic development
- Continue developing the McAbee Fossil Beds Heritage Site
- Support the promotion of skills training opportunities
- Support businesses and initiatives that can bring new technologies to Canadian and global markets
- Support businesses to take advantage of federal procurement opportunities

You do so much for small businesses and for the community, that I wish for 30 more years. Well done!

Lene Madeiros, Owner
Ashcroft Barber Shop, Ashcroft, BC



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS



You have supported small businesses and helped make realities out of our dreams. Best wishes on many more years!

Deva Fournier, Owner
Natures Gifts
Ashcroft, BC



It is great to have Community Futures in such a small town where we get great support and help for the small businesses in the community. I am looking forward to working with our community.

Ogesh Chand, Owner/Chef
Riverside Restaurant in the historic
Grand Central Hotel, built in 1895.
Ashcroft, BC

A BIG thank you to Community Futures for helping to make Abundance Artisan Bakery and Cafe a reality. It has been a pleasure to work with such a caring and people centered organization.

Dana & Craig Sibley, Owners
Abundance Artisan Bakery, Lillooet, BC



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS



Congratulations Community Futures! The Lillooet business community is lucky to have you.

Marianne Benoit Gagnon
Lillooet, BC



As a new business in the area it has been fantastic to work with Community Futures and I appreciate all they do for business development.

Debra Neufeld, CPA
Lillooet, BC

Congratulations on 30 years,
Community Futures!

Sam Hassam, Owner
True Value Hardware
Lillooet, BC

IF WE DON'T HAVE IT!
YOU DON'T NEED IT!

WE ALSO
DO SPECIAL
ORDERS

castle
LILLOOET



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS



Congratulations on 30 years of excellent community support! We appreciate your business.

Pam Aie, Owner
Revelations Hair Salon
Ashcroft, BC



Congrats on 30 years! All of you ladies are the best, and a great help for business.

Debra Krokos, Owner
Manies Pizza & Grill
Cache Creek, BC



Congrats Community Futures on 30 years!
Thanks for the investment on a dream, thanks
for your amazing encouragement, great ideas
and keeping me on task. My success has
always been YOUR success.

Nadine Davenport, Owner
Unitea, Ashcroft, BC

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS



Congratulations Community Futures Sun Country on 30 years of inspiring, educating and supporting small businesses and the communities they serve. Your commitment to rural British Columbia is greatly appreciated!

Charlene Vandean,
Community Development Officer
District of Logan Lake



Community Futures Rocks! Through comprehensive mentoring and sincere encouragements, thank you for providing roadmaps for growth and prosperity for people like me.

Mariko Kage
Lillooet, BC

As a small business, we're really grateful for all the support and encouragement we receive from Community Futures.

Meghan and Jason, Owners
Klowa Art Cafe
Lytton, BC





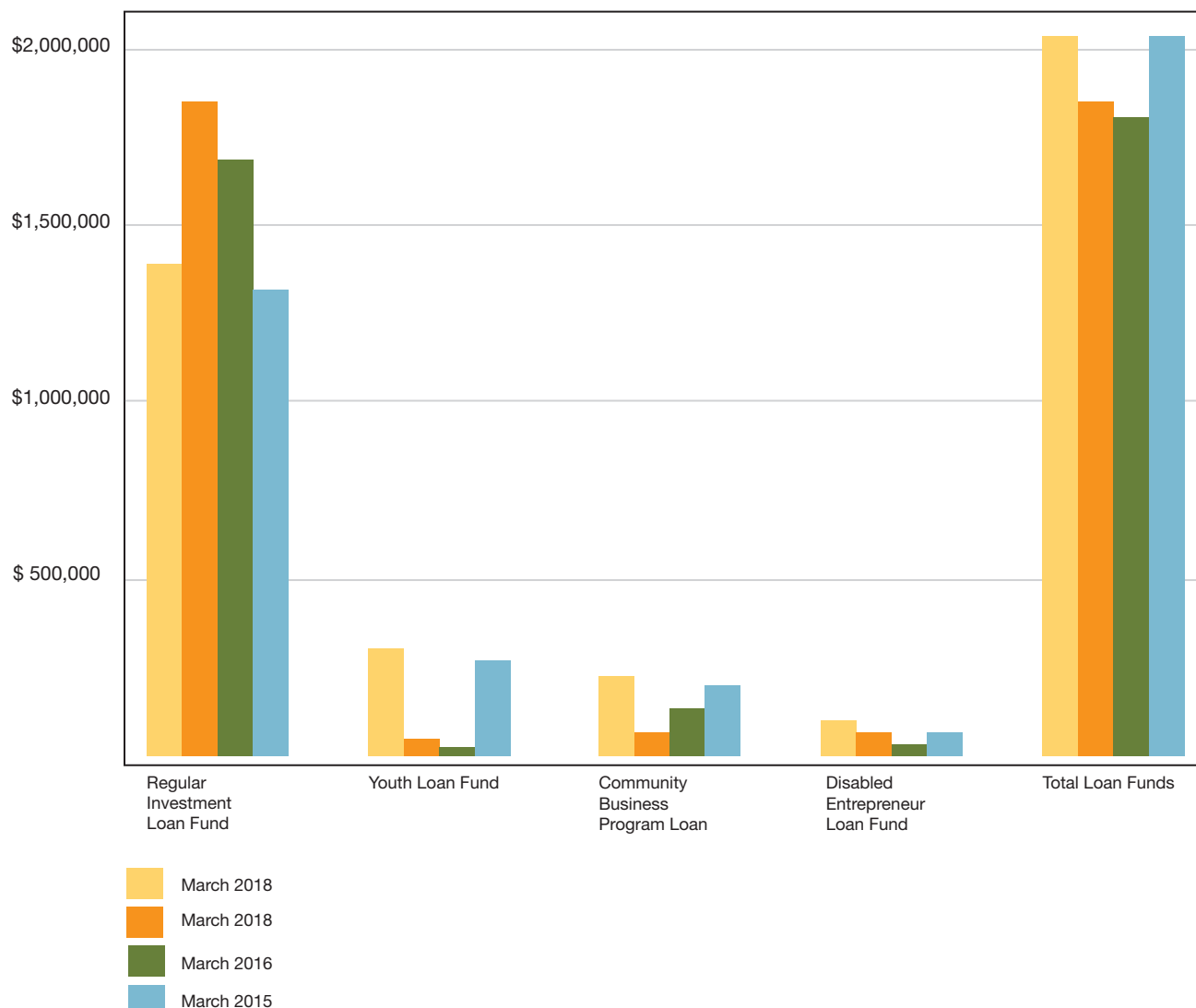
LOANS PROGRAM

LOANS

From 1988 to 2018, Community Futures Sun Country has disbursed more than \$11.3 million and assisted in creating and maintaining over 1,100 jobs.

In the 2016-2017 fiscal year (April 1 – March 31), over \$800,000 was loaned to 21+ entrepreneurs, leveraging an additional \$2.7 million dollars and assisting in creating and maintaining 73 jobs. We provide loans to small to medium sized enterprises as well as providing business advice and counseling to guide them through their business ventures.

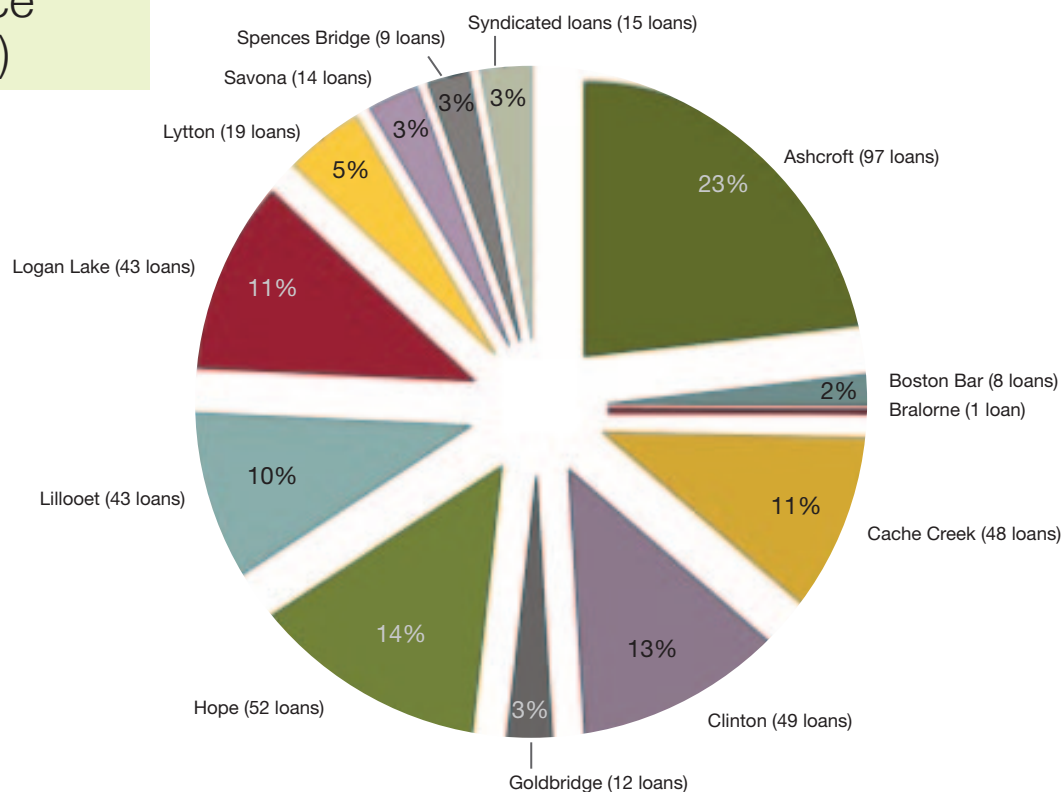
Loan Fund Assets as at March 2018
from 2015 to 2018



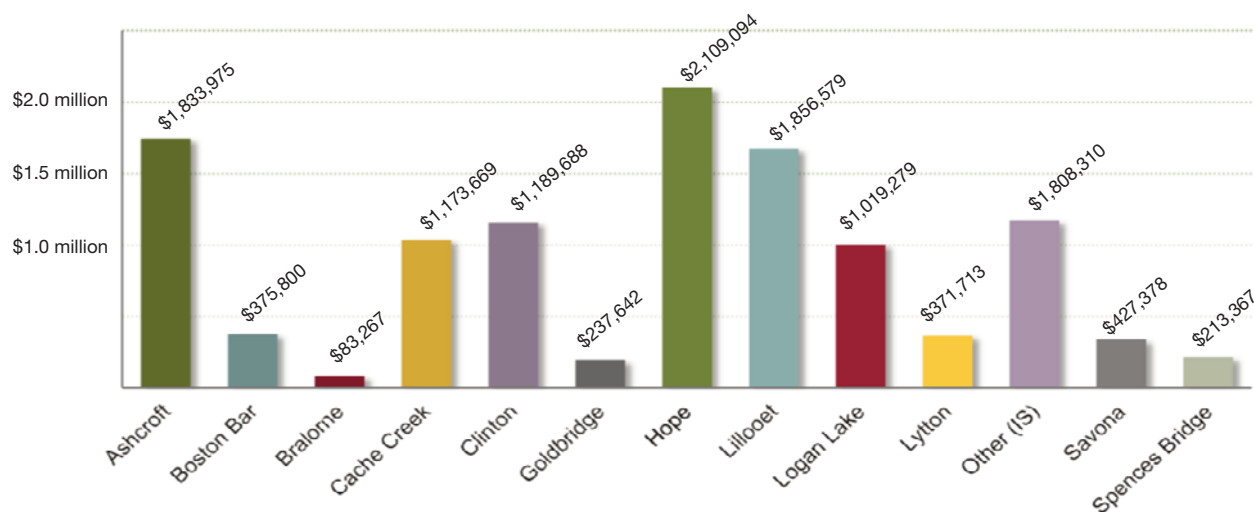


LOANS PROGRAM

Number of
Loans since
1988 (411)



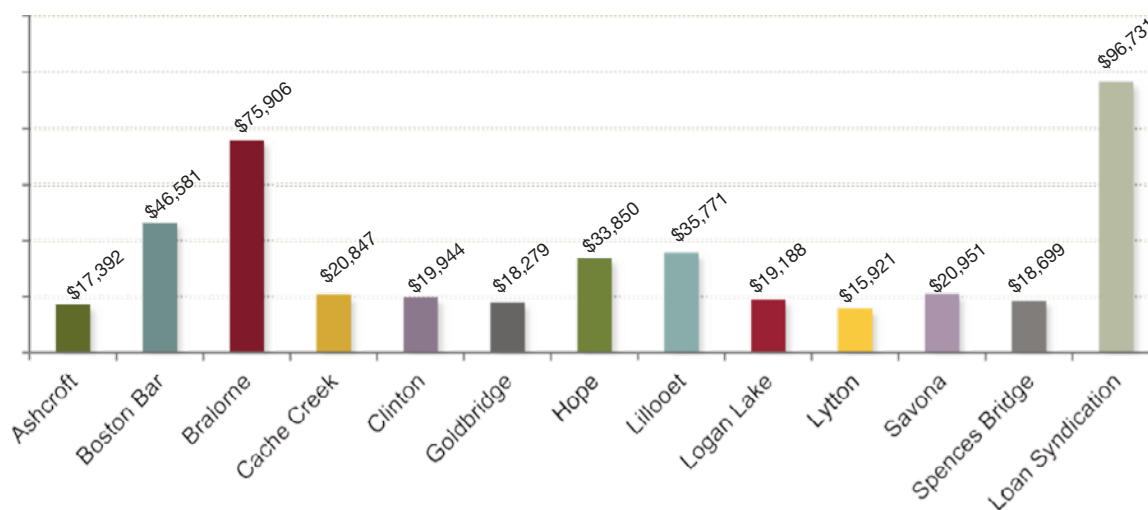
Value of Loans
since 1988
\$12,010,772





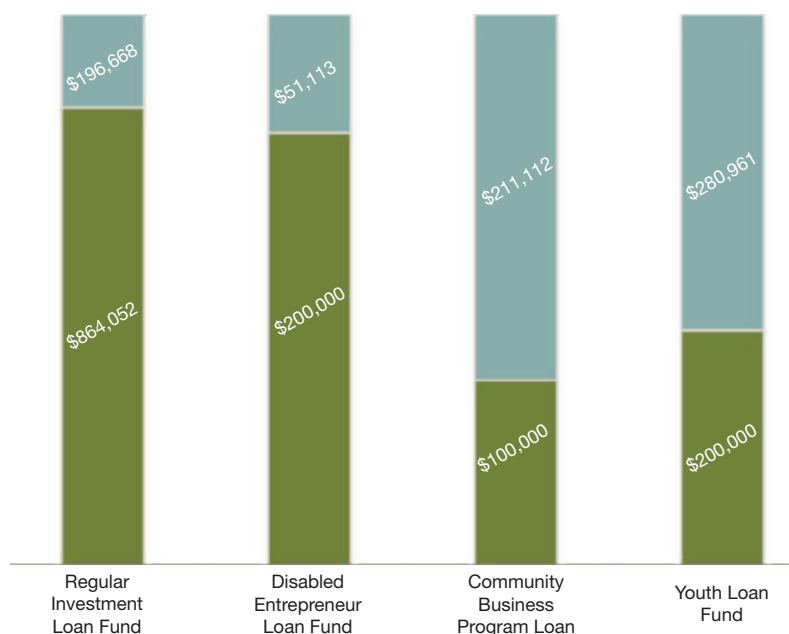
LOANS PROGRAM

Average Loan per Community



Available Loan Dollars as at March 31, 2018

- Available loan dollars as of March 31, 2018
- Original federal government contribution





LOANS PROGRAM

OUR LOAN PRODUCTS

Flexible, affordable Community Futures loan products are specifically designed to help entrepreneurs grow their businesses. Community Futures Sun Country offers a variety of loan products tailored to meet a range of different business needs. All loan decisions are made locally and quickly.



Opportunity Loan: Fast access to capital so you can take advantage of opportunities quickly. In business, there are times when you just need a bit of cash to be able to react to a great opportunity. And during an economic downturn, the businesses that survive are often the ones that continue to pursue opportunities and keep moving forward. If you see an opportunity that could help your established business, come see us at Community Futures.



TechBlazer Loan: Financing for key investments in technology to help stay competitive in our fast-changing world. During these tough economic times, investing in innovation can be more important than ever for businesses wanting to stay competitive and cater to a shrinking clientele. Developing new products and markets, adding value to your existing line-up, or training staff to use new technologies, could give you the edge you need.



GlobalReach Loan: Access to funds to reach into new markets – nowadays, every business has the potential to go global. An economic downturn can mean opportunity for those who are focused, persistent and creative. Maybe your competition is pulling back, making more space for you and creating the perfect opening for expansion into new markets. This loan is ideal for entrepreneurs looking for new markets to grow their business.



BizBuyout Loan: Financing to buy an established business. Sometimes, buying a successful business is the best way to go. Great little businesses can be great little investments. And in times like these, with unemployment rates climbing, buying an established business can make a lot of sense. If you have the dedication, commitment and creativity to be your own boss, self-employment could be exactly what you're looking for.



LOANS PROGRAM



FranchiseRoute: Funding to franchise your business. At Community Futures Sun Country, we can help with professional franchising advice and financing. If you've got the right kind of business, franchising is a proven way to achieve success. And in uncertain economic times, it can make sense to get support from an established corporation.



NextGen Loan: Financing for young people who want to be entrepreneurs. We're here to see that you get your first chance to try. If you think you have what it takes, maybe you can channel your ideas, energy and drive into becoming your own boss. An economic downturn is the perfect environment for fresh thinking, out-of-the-box solutions – and youthful perspectives.



NewBiz Loan: Funds for starting up a new business. If you've got what it takes to be an entrepreneur, we can help you get up and running. You'd be amazed how many successful businesses were started during a recession. If you plan carefully and work hard, this could be the perfect time to launch your dream. Supplies may be cheaper, good people more available and customers could be looking for change.



BizAble Loan: If you're a person with a disability, self-employment can be a great option. In good times or bad, self-employment provides you with the opportunity to create a work situation adapted to your particular needs. If you've got the right commitment and attitude, starting a business could be the perfect way to get into the workforce.



4H Loan: Community Futures Sun Country introduced a loan program specifically designed for current 4H members. It allows youth to borrow funds for the purchase of a 4H project with a low interest rate and customized repayment terms. We could not be happier to support such a great organization, one that teaches youth about respect, hard work and caring for others.



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Leaders in Community Economic Development

In addition to loans and business development, Community Futures Sun Country is committed to providing Community Economic Development (CED) services to create local economic opportunities and improve the quality of life in our communities. By using local knowledge and resources, we are able to identify and capitalize on opportunities to stimulate economic growth and employment.

Presentations are made to village councils, chambers of commerce, community organizations and interested groups throughout our region on a regular basis in order to establish, foster and maintain community partnerships with other agencies, stakeholders and service providers. Community Futures Sun Country is also a member of the local chambers of commerce.

Community Futures Sun Country also assists not-for-profit organizations with accessing funding from a variety of sources. Over the past year, Community Futures has been successful in acquiring and/or leveraging CED program funding for several initiatives in the Sun Country region, including:

Venture Connect

Over the next few years, nearly 25 per cent of all BC businesses will end up on the market for sale. As more and more baby boomers retire, the current population growth and demographics will no longer support the number of businesses that will be for sale, resulting in the potential closure of large numbers of small businesses across British Columbia. This shortage is expected to last for a couple of decades and will put many rural communities at risk.

Venture Connect was created in 2007 by a group of six Community Futures organizations on Vancouver Island to help business owners prepare their businesses for sale. Working with the Province of B.C. Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation, B.C.'s Small Business Roundtable, and the Island Coastal Economic Trust, the Island Coastal group of Community Futures developed a unique program that provides resources, technical support and tools dedicated to helping business owners prepare their businesses for sale.

Community Futures has partnered with Venture Connect to assist business owners in preparing for the successful sale and continuity of businesses in their communities.

This partnership will improve communications and create new linkages to potential buyers in groups most likely to buy B.C. businesses, including immigrants, young people and vacationers aged 50 and over. This program has created an electronic publication that highlights businesses for sale in B.C., matching sellers to buyers. Generally it can take one to three years to complete a good exit and 83 per cent of small business owners don't plan their exit until they are ready to leave. To help entrepreneurs become aware of the succession planning workshops that are offered throughout our region, visit the Venture Connect website at <http://www.ventureconnect.ca>. These seminars provided business owners with the tools to be prepared and help plan for a good exit.





COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Literacy

Since 2009, Community Futures Sun Country has partnered with Decoda Literacy Solutions Society to deliver the literacy program in Ashcroft, Cache Creek, Spences Bridge, Bonaparte Indian Band, Ashcroft Indian Band and Cooks Ferry Indian Band. A non-profit organization, Decoda Literacy Solutions is the only province-wide literacy organization in British Columbia

We recognize that literacy enriches lives and communities. This program supports individuals and families and opens doors to career opportunities, stable employment, and self-employment.

Jessica Clement, Literacy Outreach Coordinator
Spences Bridge/Ashcroft/Cache Creek, BC



Legacy Signage Unveiling in Lillooet

In recognition of the 75th anniversary of the Japanese Canadian Internment (1942-2017), a Highway Legacy Sign was unveiled to commemorate the self-supporting internment sites of East Lillooet, Bridge River, Minto, and McGillvray Falls by the Province of British Columbia and the Japanese Canadian Legacy Project Committee.

Approximately 300 Japanese Canadians lived in the camp during the Second World War and after, and many survivors and their families returned to Lillooet on May 11, 2018 to share memories, tears, laughter and reflections.

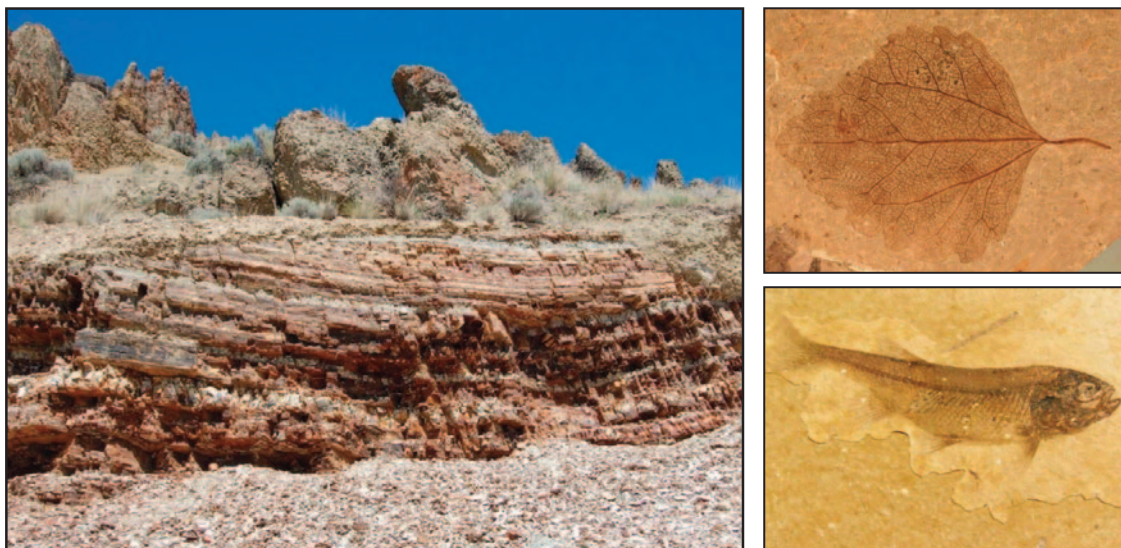
Located on Highway 12 and Sumner Road, beside the Airport Gardens, the East Lillooet sign is one of eight that have been erected along BC highways to tell the stories of the Japanese-Canadian internment camp victims who were forced to build the roads 75 years ago.

Community Futures Sun Country was proud to donate to this project.





COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



The McAbee Fossil Beds Project

The McAbee Fossil Beds Heritage Site is a 548-hectare site located 13 km east of Cache Creek, adjacent to Highway 1, on land belonging to the Bonaparte Indian Band. The site is part of an ancient lake bed, which was deposited about 50 million years ago. It is internationally recognized for its diverse range of well-preserved plant, insect and fish fossils of the Eocene Epoch, lasting from 56 to 39.9 million years ago.

The McAbee Fossil Beds received official heritage designation on July 19, 2012.

In early 2016, Community Futures Sun Country partnered with several community stakeholders, including the communities of Cache Creek, Ashcroft, local First Nations, Walhachin, Gold Country Communities Society, TNRD Area I, Thompson Rivers University, Tourism Kamloops, the Royal B.C. Museum, and the Heritage Branch, to develop a business case for developing the site's heritage potential and opening it up to the public.

In April 2017, Community Futures Sun Country was successful in accessing \$48,000 in funding through the Canada 150 program to begin preliminary work at the site, including site mapping and the development and construction of washroom facilities, a temporary shelter, design for interpretive trails, and drilling a well for water. Community Futures leveraged additional funding for a total project cost of \$61,406.00.

Community Futures will continue to work with the Heritage Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operation and the Bonaparte Indian Band to continue to develop the site.



WILDFIRE BUSINESS TRANSITION PROJECT

Wildfire Business Transition Project

The 2017 wildfire season was the worst in BC's history at the time. Thousands of people were displaced and the fires had devastating economic impacts on rural communities across much of the province, affecting thousands of businesses. Among those hardest hit were those in the regions served by Community Futures Cariboo-Chilcotin, Sun Country and North Cariboo.

Recognizing the severity of the situation, Community Futures Sun Country joined Community Futures Cariboo Chilcotin and Community Futures North Cariboo to access resources that would help with the recovery and rebuilding effort.

Initial funding of \$200,000 from Northern Development Initiative Trust and \$140,000 from the Cariboo Beetle Action Coalition was critical for getting a Business Ambassadors program up and running so quickly. Business Ambassadors were hired to meet with business owners and not-for-profit organizations to provide "on-the-ground" support, help them assess the impact of the wildfires on their operations, and provide assistance in accessing appropriate recovery programs. In particular, the Business Ambassadors were able to help people access the emergency financial support that was available for small business through Red Cross and other provincial government agencies.

In addition to the support from NDIT and CBAC, the Community Futures Sun Country, Cariboo Chilcotin and North Cariboo worked closely with Community Futures British Columbia to access an additional \$1.3 million in funding from Western Economic Diversification to help businesses with the longer-term process of rebuilding. The program was expanded to include Community Futures Central Interior First Nations and Community Futures Thompson Country, and to provide additional services, including employer and employee training, business coaching, and workshops.

Community Futures Sun Country continues to provide support with the help of the Business Ambassadors to the wildfire effected businesses and organizations.



Business Ambassadors (left to right): Wendy Coomber, Angela Bissat, and Andre Kuerbis.



TRIBUTE TO OUR PAST BOARD DIRECTORS

1986

Bachinski, Ron	October 1986 to September 1987	
Berkey, Chris	October 1986 to January 1988	Ashcroft
Dorer, Art	October 1986 to September 1990	Savona
Friesen, Ron	October 1986 to March 1988	Savona
Gieselman, Bob	October 1986 to December 1994	Ashcroft
Hinton, Betty	October 1986 to May 1987	
Littlewood, Norman	October 1986 to April 1987	Ashcroft
Morgan, Terry	October 1986 to January 1987	
Petty, A.P.	October 1986 to August 1987	Clinton
Ross, Don	October 1986 to January 1988	Logan Lake
Urquhart, Ross	October 1986 to December 1992	Lytton

1987

Billy, Verna	January 1987 to March 1988	
Christensen, Ove	May 1987 to March 1989	Ashcroft
Grimshire, Stan	October 1987 to March 1988	Clinton
Weir, Stan	October 1987 to April 1989	Ashcroft

1988

Hardy, Brenda	September 1988 to November 1993	Logan Lake
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1989

Chute, Joe	January 1989 to December 1999	Lytton
Edwards, Vivien	February 1989 to February 1993	Ashcroft
Ettinger, Jim	February 1989 to April 1991	
Van Leest, Tony	May 1989 to February 1992	Ashcroft
Wiggins, Joyce	January 1989 to November 1997	Logan Lake

1990

Allen, Doug	November 1990 to October 1993	Savona
Coxon, Ron	November 1990 to April 1995	Logan Lake
Hobbs, Ted	November 1990 to October 1994	Spences Bridge

1991

Fehr, Glen	September 1991 to March 1993	Ashcroft
L'Heureux, Al	November 1991 to April 1995	Clinton

1992

McIvor, Clarence	December 1992 to June 1994	Lillooet
Otting, Karl	June 1992 to October 1993	Lillooet

1993

Monford, Paul	January 1993 to October 1994	Ashcroft
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1994

Brown, Don	April 1994 to February 1998	Savona
Dick, Anita	April 1994 to June 2004	Ashcroft
French, Laurie	December 1994 to June 2014	Hope
Hadford, Isabelle	June 1994 to January 1995	Lillooet
James, Susan	October 1994 to April 2003	Lillooet
Larochelle, Yvonne	June 1994 to unknown	Lillooet





TRIBUTE TO OUR PAST BOARD DIRECTORS

O'Connor, Chris	June 1994 to April 1995	Lytton
Ortis, Larry	December 1994 to June 2003	Hope
Pellett, David	December 1994 to April 1997	Savona
Pololos, Dina	April 1994 to March 1995	Ashcroft
Poulsen, Ken	April 1994 to December 1999	Clinton
Stuart, Helen	March 1994 to June 1997	Ashcroft
1995		
Bulmer, Gar	November 1995 to March 1999	Spences Bridge
Cobbe, Michael	March 1995 to February 1999	Spences Bridge
Rice, Lollie	January 1995 to September 1995	Spences Bridge
Samaha, Lloyd	January 1995 to December 1994	Spences Bridge
1996		
Murray, Noel	June 1996 to November 1999	Ashcroft
1997		
White, John	February 1997 to March 2016	Clinton
1998		
Boyd, Lorraine	June 1998 to October 2002	Logan Lake
McKinney, Debbie	May 1998 to May 1999	Boston Bar
1999		
Cobbe, Michael	February 1999 to March 2014	Ashcroft
Poole, Hugh	November 1999 to February 2004	Lytton
Tegart, Jackie	September 1989 to March 1992	Ashcroft
2000		
Spooner, Barb	October 2000 to March 2008	Savona
2001		
Taylor, Kevin	January 2001 to December 2007	Lillooet
2003		
Bryson, Jane	June 2003 to June 2015	Lillooet
Ryan, Jim	June 2003 to March 2016	Spences Bridge
2004		
Kemp, Al	January 2004 to October 2009	Logan Lake
2005		
Gaspard, Sandra	November 2005 to June 2013	Ashcroft
2010		
Radomsky, Dona	April 2010 to Present	Logan Lake
2013		
Fandrich, Braden	June 2013 to May 2014	Lytton
2014		
Anderson, Willow	June 2014 to September 2018	Ashcroft
Couture, Damian	June 2014 to January 2015	Cache Creek
Campbell, John	Dates unknown	Spences Bridge



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