



## Community Futures Development Corporation of North Fraser

- Are you interested in Community Economic & Business Development?
- Are you interested in strengthening our North Fraser communities?
- Are you interested in helping to shape the future of North Fraser?

**BECOME INVOLVED!**

**BE A PART OF OUR TEAM!**

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### We are accepting **Expressions of Interest** for serving on the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Community Futures invites community members to join us in leading the North Fraser toward a healthy, sustainable future. Board Members act as 'champions' in economic and business development. This is a volunteer position, requiring a minimum time commitment of approximately 2 hours a month for a one-year term. Board meetings are held the fourth Tuesday morning of the month at 8:00 AM in January, February, March, April, May, September, October and November of every year. The June meeting is an evening Annual General Meeting and is open to the public.

**North Fraser** is defined as all communities north of the Fraser River, between Ruskin and Seabird Island, inclusive, with the main communities; Mission, Kent/Agassiz, Harrison Hot Springs, and Harrison Mills.

***PROFICIENCIES DESIRED*** - Three or more of the following qualities are the preferred attributes for the effective performance of a Community Futures North Fraser Director:

- Knowledge of Community Economic Development and North Fraser trade and commerce conditions.
- Receptive to innovative ideas combined with the ability to identify entrepreneurial and business opportunities in today's economy. Background in business and finance is an asset.
- Enthusiasm, willingness to learn and commitment to the objectives of Community Futures North Fraser.
- Familiarity with all levels of government and comfort in negotiation processes.

- Strong interest in local issues related to the forest sector, fisheries, unemployment, tourism, business training needs, and entrepreneurship.
- Understanding of not-for-profit Corporations, board development practices, staff and board relationships.
- Ability to communicate with and develop ongoing networks of groups and individuals from a broad cross section of society.
- Ability to commit to a minimum of one meeting a month plus, on occasion, attend a special meeting which may be called to discuss time constrained or sensitive issues, these special meetings are generally held by email. Time required is approximately one and a half (1½) to two (2) hours per meeting.

Expressions of Interest will be accepted at the office of Community Futures North Fraser by email or phone.

**MAILING ADDRESS:** Community Futures North Fraser  
33163 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
Mission BC V2V 6T8

**PHONE:** (604) 826-6252

**EMAIL:** [info@northfraser.org](mailto:info@northfraser.org)

## **Background**

### **COMMUNITY FUTURES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION of NORTH FRASER**

The Community Futures program is a federal government initiative established in 1986 to assist rural communities to develop strategies to deal with a changing economic environment. The program is based on a philosophy that local decision-making and local development are the most effective means for communities to shape their future. Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDC) are independent non-profit organizations located throughout Canada as part of a network of 269 offices. Community Futures North Fraser is part of the Community Futures Pan West group of 90 offices located in the four western provinces. All Community Futures Pan West offices are funded through Western Economic Diversification Canada. In BC, there are 34 offices.

Community Futures North Fraser is located in Mission, BC and serves the area north of the Fraser River from Mission to Seabird Island. The following is a list of our activities:

1. Community Economic Development
2. Business Loans for start-up and expanding businesses
3. Business Services – counselling, advisory and information services, training, events and partnerships.

This office manages a loan fund of \$2.7 million, and we currently have 48 loans in our portfolio. Over the past five years we have completed an average of 10 loans per year, and created or maintained an average of 50 jobs per year in the North Fraser through our lending activity. Through our client advisory services we have averaged about 250 clients per year. We develop community partnerships and participate in community planning, projects, committees, and activities.

At Community Futures North Fraser we believe it is important to work collaboratively with regional, provincial and federal partners to support all efforts that will strengthen and stimulate the local economy. It is important to take the necessary steps to plan for and participate in decisions regarding the future of our community.

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## **Questionnaire – Board of Directors**

The background information and the attached questionnaire will help you decide whether the objectives of Community Futures are aligned with your own vision of community involvement. Your answers will also help us determine how your skills and background will fit with our corporate mission, philosophy and community mandates. We appreciate your expression of interest in serving on the Board of Directors of Community Futures North Fraser.

Thank you for taking the time to respond.

### **MISSION**

*The Community Futures Development Corporation of North Fraser is an organization of committed volunteers and staff who provide leadership and act as catalysts, in order to improve the social and economic well-being of communities within the region.*

*We do this by facilitating planning and implementation of community economic development principles and providing training, counselling and financial assistance for existing and proposed small and medium-sized business ventures.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why would you like to be a Director of Community Futures Development Corporation of North Fraser?
2. Please describe what you see as your strong points and best assets to contribute to a corporation like Community Futures and to the position of Director specifically.
3. Briefly describe how your work experiences and education meet the proficiencies for the Director's position.
4. Community Futures is a not-for-profit corporation. Do you have an understanding of the differences between a not-for-profit and a for-profit corporation?
5. Community Futures implements programs and delivers services that are established on Community Economic Development principles. Please explain your understanding of Community Economic Development.
6. In relation to small business development, please describe three key challenges that you believe constrain the development and stimulation of the economy in the North Fraser.

7. North Fraser is considered a rural community region, even though it is within driving distance to Vancouver markets. Please describe what you believe are the key challenges facing new and existing businesses in this area.
8. Are you more interested in the small business lending aspect of Community Future's work, or in community initiatives such as projects that will help to stimulate the economy and provide employment opportunities for the communities within this region?
9. Community Futures clients come from many sectors in our society. If you have a business or finance background and wish to be involved, please explain your perspective on lending to Youth, people with disabilities, and others who have experienced loss through downsizing in their previous positions, or through changes in resource-based industries. (e.g. forestry and fishing, etc.)
10. Community Futures programs often require networking with community groups, associations and governments. Will you be comfortable communicating, participating, and sometimes taking a leadership position with other groups within the community, when working on a Community Initiative project?
11. Community Futures is a non-political corporation that works with and often for every level of government, from local, regional and provincial, to many key departments of the Federal Government. Are you able to align yourself to the mandate and philosophy of Community Futures, separate from your own personal political views?
12. From your knowledge of Community Futures at this time, what would you like to see Community Futures doing in this region? Please describe your perspective pertaining to clients personally and to the community at large.