

Staff and Board of Directors

Inspiring Entrepreneurial Spirit....

Annual Addresses from the General Manager and Board Chair

This year marks 25 years of service to the Central Kootenay region, and I am so proud to be a part of such a dynamic force.

The ability to have such a positive influence in our community is what makes the staff and board so excited about what we do. It is this commitment and dedication that gives me confidence in the future of Community Futures and the communities we serve.

Bob Wright, Board Chair



This annual report represents an overview of our initiatives and achievements throughout the past year. All of these achievements were made possible with a dedicated team of staff and volunteer directors.

Our successes are only accomplished through our clients, who have the dreams and aspirations to make their business a success.

We would like to thank our many community partners in the region, including: Arrow & Slokan Lakes Community Services, Ashlands Training Centre, Kootenay Career Development Society, Kootenay Employment Services, Kootenay Association of Science & Technology, Kootenay Aboriginal Business Advocates Society, West Kootenay Chambers of Commerce, and all of the communities in our area.

Paul Wiest, General Manager

Mark Loran from Pacific Sprinklers receiving an award from Bob Wright at the Client Recognition Awards.

Staff

Paul Wiest, General Manager
Carmen Harrison, Manager of Operations & Finance
Barb Williams, Self-Employment Coordinator
Don McCulloch, Business Loans Manager
Val Radcliffe, Business Loans Analyst
Tammy Jackman, Bookkeeper
Pamela Clausen, Self-Employment Counsellor
Lisa Cannady, Project Coordinator
Lynn Lock, Administrative Assistant
Gord Jefferson, Systems Support
Joe Karthein, Self-Employment Counsellor
Janeen Mather, Administrative Liaison
Erika Woker, Creston Business Counsellor
Kay Ryan Schweitzer, Nakusp Business Counsellor
Wayne Schweitzer, Nakusp Business Counsellor

Board of Directors

Bob Wright, *Board Chair*
Rob Schwieger, *Vice Chair*
Doreen Smecher, *Past Chair*
Terry Bambrick
Alec Dergousoff
Susan DeSandoli
Larry Dzuris
Jim Holland
Bill Maslechko
Ron Ross

Canada



Funded in whole or part through the Canada-British Columbia Labour Market Development Agreement



Western Economic
Diversification Canada

Diversification de l'économie
de l'Ouest Canada

2009 - 2010 Annual Report

Community Futures 
Central Kootenay

Growing communities one idea at a time.

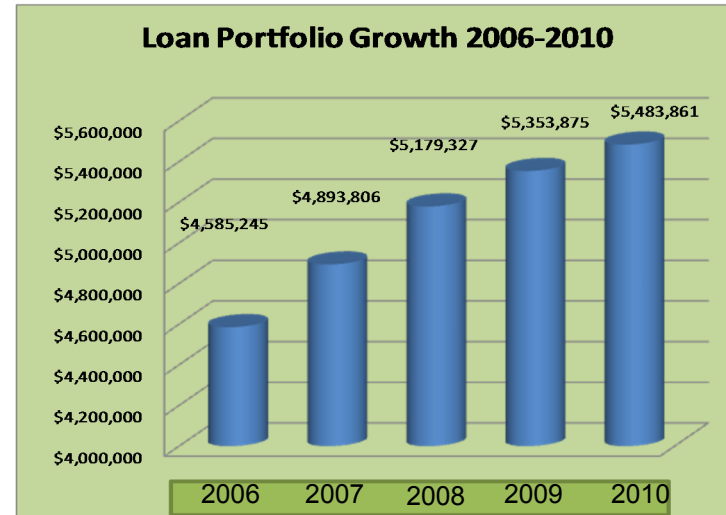


201 - 514 Vernon Street Nelson, BC V1L 4E7 T 250 352 1933 www.futures.bc.ca

Business Loans

The small business loan fund is a core service of Community Futures Central Kootenay. The purpose of the fund is to assist entrepreneurs within our service area in starting, expanding and, most importantly, succeeding in business.

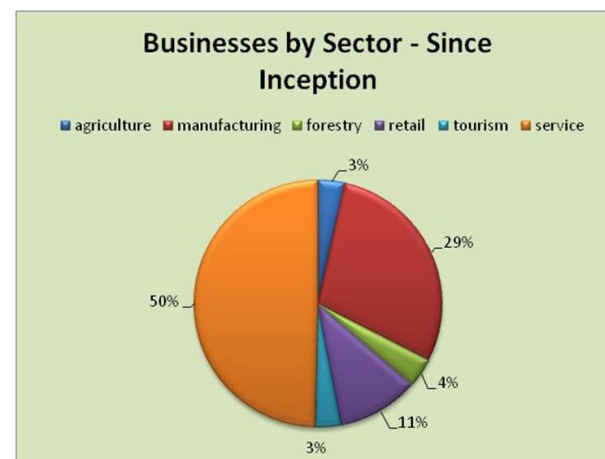
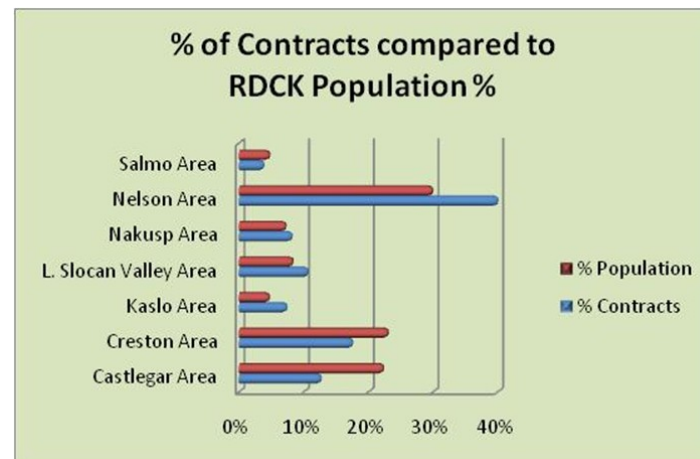
The loans staff reviews loans ranging up to a maximum of \$500,000. Throughout the past 25 years we have assisted 659 businesses with loans totaling \$25.5 million creating or maintaining 2,085 jobs throughout the Central Kootenay areas.



Self-Employment Program

The Self-Employment Program provides support to new entrepreneurs by providing a bi-weekly living allowance and access to business management training and counselling. Funding for the Self-Employment Program is provided in whole or in part through the **Canada-British Columbia Labour Market Development Agreement**.

Community Futures has been the delivery agent of the Self-Employment Program since its inception in 1988. Since inception to March 31, 2010, 1,376 entrepreneurs have been assisted in the Central Kootenay Region, creating or maintaining 2,073 jobs.



Community Economic Development

The Nelson and Area Economic Development Partnership

The development partnership is a partnership of the City of Nelson, Community Futures Central Kootenay, the Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce, and Regional Districts E & F. The partnership's goal is to take a unified approach in enhancing community economic development initiatives for Nelson in a way that most benefits the city and the region.

In 2009 - 2010 the economic development partnership and its partner organizations played key roles in numerous activities including Human Resource training workshops, a new destination marketing organization, business succession survey and seminars, peer mentorship programs for businesses, tourist way-finding signage, InvestKootenay.com, business forums including *Business Bootcamp*, *Leadership Tactics for Challenging Times*, the New Resident Survey and the new 'Business Welcome' program.

Invest Kootenay Partnership

The Invest Kootenay Partnership began in Nelson and Castlegar in 2004, and has since grown to include Boundary, Revelstoke, Creston Valley, Kaslo, Kootenay Lake, Radium Hot Springs and Fernie.

Invest Kootenay raises the profile of local businesses in the Kootenays, with the aim of attracting and retaining investment. If you are buying or selling a business, or looking to raise capital for business in the Kootenays, this is a high profile website to consult. Check it out at www.investkootenay.com.

Nelson Welcome Wagon

Volunteers for the Nelson Welcome Wagon have gathered statistics for our New Resident Survey since 1992. The results from the survey are analyzed by Community Futures. The survey gives us a sense of who is moving to the area, why they are choosing the Nelson area, and where they're moving from.

Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces Program— Knowledge Development and Exchange Report

A community needs assessment was conducted to identify challenges and weaknesses that may act as barriers to newcomers and immigrants. Through interviews, focus groups and a community survey, information was provided that will help local communities and stakeholders work towards more welcoming and inclusive communities.

Peer Mentorship—Castlegar and Nelson Business Exchange

The Business Exchange is a small business problem-solving initiative dedicated to bringing non-competing small business owners together in an informal atmosphere, with the goal of helping to solve each other's business problems.

Business Succession Planning

Workshops on succession planning were offered to business owners to help them understand the importance of advanced succession planning and its key role in identifying potential opportunities and options, finding solutions and providing a smooth transfer.

Business Retention and Expansion

Over 200 businesses were interviewed to take the pulse of the current climate. The data collected gives business owners the opportunity to have a say about what types of economic development programs and services will best suit businesses. The data will benefit business and economic growth in Nelson for years to come.