



The CENetwork is a comprehensive website that promotes a "one-stop-shop" of training services available to individuals & business in Southeast Alberta. In one centralized location, users of the CENetwork can search, compare, and register for training courses, events and facilities.

New to the CENetwork is the development of a job profile database. This database provides employers, government agencies and communities with relevant and up-to-date information that can assist with the growing workforce needs in Southeast Alberta. Three job

profile types, identified and created by Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry, are detailed on the CENetwork website, as follows:

Occupational profiles include industry sectors within the region that have current demands for workers. Examples include Professional Truck Drivers, Welders and Carpenters. These occupation profiles include particulars such as nature of the work, what employers are looking for, what training opportunities are available, and how to apply for positions.

Employer profiles consist of specific employers within the region that have current demands for workers. Examples include IXL Industries Ltd., Flint Energy Services, and Cee Gee Earthmoving Ltd. Details of employer profiles on the CENetwork website list the company background, types and

nature of work available, company training opportunities, what the hours of work, pay, and benefits are, what the employers are looking for, and how to apply.

Community profiles relate to specific community employment requirements. At present, there are seven community profiles completed. The community profiles include a Community "Snapshot" or overview, what employment opportunities are available, where to search for jobs, what the current skill gaps and shortages are, where training is offered, future trends in the community, and what resources are in the community for residents.

CENetwork's job profile database will allow users to search by using keywords, national occupational codes, or browsing by profile type. Visitors to the CENetwork Web site can also print full color professionally-finished documents that can be handed out to potential job seekers.

Growing communities one idea at a time

FEATURE ARTICLE:

Farewell Les



Above: Les is presented with a farewell gift at a wine and cheese held June 12, 2007 in his honor.

accepted the position of General Manager. During his tenure with Community Futures, Les has seen countless individuals walk through the doors looking for assistance in starting their business. Les states, "The thing I have enjoyed most is watching the businesses I've worked with expand from start-up. Seeing the business owners grow and develop is really the biggest reward."

Over the past decade Les has been involved with many high profile projects in the community including The Southeast Alberta Workforce Development Strategy, Defense Industry Development, Corporate Education Network, and the Chinook Entrepreneur Challenge. One of Les's proudest accomplishments is the Alberta Youth Entrepreneurship Camp (AYEC) held at Eagles Nest Ranch each summer. Les was one of the originators of the camp and has been the managing Camp

Director for the past 10 years. Since the one-week camp was launched in 1997, over 560 youth have participated in the program and the popularity continues to grow.

As for what the futures holds, Les is extremely excited about his new opportunity with Canadian Western Bank. Les will be starting entirely from scratch in setting up the branch but welcomes the challenge and looks forward to utilizing his past banking experience.

Les has described the last 14 years with Entre-Corp as "phenomenal" noting that his co-workers, board members, community associates, and clients were the reason that his time at Entre-Corp was so enjoyable. Les will be sadly missed by his Community Futures partners and colleagues but we wish him every success in his new venture.

Good luck Buddy Ol' Pal!

After 14 years at Community Futures Entre-Corp, Les Erickson has chosen to hang up his hat, or rather switch hats and take on a fresh career challenge. Les will be opening up a new Medicine Hat branch for Canadian Western Bank.

Les started with Entre-Corp in 1994 as senior loans analyst and shortly thereafter



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A Salute to Our Volunteers, The People Behind The Scenes...

Community Futures Entre-Corp would not be where it is today without the dedication and support of its volunteer Board of Directors. These individuals provide exceptional guidance and leadership to our organization and we would like to recognize them for their continued commitment to Community Futures.

- Rick Derbyshire - Board Chairman
- Alan Hyland - Vice Chairman
- Brian Whitson - Secretary/Treasurer
- Keith Crush - Director
- Rob Hazelaar - Director
- Gordon Reynolds - Director
- Kimberley Sharkey - Director
- Gord Shaw - Director
- Blaine O'Donnell - Director
- Harley Lehr - Director
- Vic Lutz - Director
- Greg Mckee - Director
- Anne Marie Shields - Director

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New Day Home Operators Program

Community Futures Entre-Corp Business Development, in partnership with Alberta Employment, Immigration & Industry, is excited to announce the development of a new Day Home Operators Program for the Medicine Hat Region. This program addresses one of the 13 priority actions identified by the South East Alberta Workforce Development Strategy; to remove barriers that are facing today's unemployed such as a lack of access to subsidized day care. There is a definite need in our community for successful day homes as wait lists for child care are long, creating additional barriers for those returning to the workforce.

The objective of this program is to train potential day home providers in the operation of

their small business with an emphasis on skills that will directly benefit them in day home provision. Ultimately the graduates of this program will become accredited day home operators, and create long term, sustainable self employment outcomes.

This pilot project is seeking to train 10 eligible participants the essential skills necessary for child care. Highlights of the program include Self Employment Business Skills Training, Job Search Skills, Soft Skills including communication and dealing with difficult people, First Aid and CPR, Nutritional Training, Step Ahead Day Home Operator Training, and Day Care Training including the Level 1 Child Care Orientation from the Medicine Hat College.

Clients may be eligible to receive up to 26 weeks of EI/Learner

Benefit support during the program to assist them during business start-up. Interested clients will undergo thorough checks for safety and eligibility prior to acceptance into the program.

Training begins on September 10, 2007 and consists of 11 weeks of formal classroom training, followed by post-training support through to September 05, 2008.

Community Futures Entre-Corp Business Development is pleased to welcome Rosetta Sanders as the Day Home Program Coordinator. Rosetta has extensive day home and day care experience and has obtained her diploma in Early Childhood Development. For further information on this program please contact Rosetta at (403)528-2824 or rsanders@entre-corp.com.

Goodbye to a Friend



Grace Vela, who has worked for Community Futures Entre-Corp for the past year, has accepted a position with the Bank of Nova Scotia. Grace has been overseeing a variety of projects at Entre-Corp including the Rural Business Experience Program, Student Business Services, The Alberta Youth Entrepreneurship Camp, and the Chinook Entrepreneur Challenge. Those who have worked with Grace over the past year know her as a creative and innovative individual with excellent project management skills. Grace's talents are sure to take her far in all that she does and we are confident that Grace will excel in her new position.

Good Luck Grace!

New Common Brand!

After 19 years of service to the communities of Southeast Alberta, the local Community Futures office has a new name and a new look. Community Futures Entre-Corp Business Development, formally Entre-Corp Business Development Centre, has joined Western Canada's Community Futures organizations in launching a new common brand to use in all publications and communications. The new brand is made up of a distinctive leaf that creates the letterforms "C" and "F" and the tagline "Growing Communities One Idea at a Time".

This new brand evokes the growth and vitality that Community Futures encourages and supports in the 90 community-based offices across rural Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Community Futures organizations are independent, locally-run and guided by volunteer boards. They actively support community-based economic development with a range of products and services aimed at creating diverse, sustainable rural Western communities. Locally, Community Futures Entre-Corp Business Development provides Business Loans and Counseling, Youth Business Services, Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Programs, and Business Training and Resources.

The goal of the Community Futures common brand is to create a unified profile for all members and to build awareness about the vital community economic development work that these organizations do in rural communities across Western Canada.

"Our common brand speaks to the value we place in locally driven solutions, the work we do to support diversified economic growth and the creative spirit of small business entrepreneurship," says Rick Derbyshire, Board Chair for Community Futures Entre-Corp Business Development.

With the strength of their new common brand, Community Futures Entre-Corp Business Development will continue to support the Economic Development of Southeast Alberta through Entrepreneurial Initiatives, Services, Resources and Leadership.

The Community Futures common brand was developed with the support of Western Economic Diversification Canada.



City Centre Investment Opportunities Program (CCIOP)

Community Futures Entre-Corp Business Development and City Centre Development Agency have created an alliance to help new and existing businesses located in Medicine Hat's city centre.

The City Centre Investment Opportunities Program (CCIOP) assists renovation projects, to a maximum of \$5,000.00. Community Futures Entre-Corp will provide loans to approved

CCDA ratepayers to a maximum of \$4,000.00. The CCDA will pay the interest, on the approved Entre-Corp loan, and provide a grant of up to 20 per cent of the approved project, to a maximum of \$1,000.00.

The funds provided to the downtown businesses are for the purpose of upgrading their business interior, through improvements such as painting, light fixtures, shelving and flooring, as

well as exterior signage. The loan and grant are for all CCDA ratepayers, whether the business is brand new or 30 years old.

To date, 6 businesses are taking advantage of the program, some developing and some well established.

For further information on CCIOP, please contact:

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