

Meet the Staff

With all of the staffing changes occurring within our office over the past few months, we felt it was a good time to introduce the new staff members on board as well as re acquaint you with our long time employees.



Sean Blewett **GENERAL MANAGER**

Sean was appointed General Manager of Community Futures Entre-Corp in September 2007. Sean was born and raised in Australia and moved to Canada in 2003. Following two years working for Community Futures Network of Alberta in Cochrane, he and his wife moved to Medicine Hat where he continued his work for the CF network and a variety of other Community Economic Development Projects. Sean is looking forward to working with the excellent board and staff of Community Futures Entre-Corp.



Lynne Graff
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



Greg Scott
SENIOR LOANS ANALYST



Chris Deering
MANAGER CLIENT SERVICES



Jenn Bader
BUSINESS COORDINATOR



Chelsey Lybbert
BUSINESS COORDINATOR



Dan Quinn
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



Debbie Hepfner
ACCOUNTING CLERK



Dayna Gobin
STUDENT BUSINESS SERVICES

Contracted Employees:

Mickey Todd- Loans Analyst, **Cathy Meier**- Facilitator, **Corrie Stolz**- Facilitator, **Rosetta Sanders**- Day Home Program Coordinator, **Melanie Friesen**- Workforce Development Strategy Coordinator



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COMMUNITY FUTURES

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Entre-Corp

REPORT

Growing communities one idea at a time

FEATURE ARTICLE:

Entre-Corp Recognized at Alberta Community Futures Symposium



Pictured from left to right, Sean Blewett; General Manager CF Entre-Corp, Rick Derbyshire; Board Chair CF Entre-Corp, Louise Connolly; Board Chair Community Futures Alberta, Lee Richardson; MP Calgary- Center.

Community Futures Entre-Corp Business Development walked away with multiple honors at this year's Community Futures of Alberta Symposium in Calgary.

Community Futures Entre-Corp was honored three times for Western Economic Diversification's Minister's Awards for Excellence in Innovation. The Defense Industry Development project was awarded bronze for its role in matching local suppliers with CFB Suffield. Taking the silver was Community Futures Entre-Corp's City Centre Business Investment Program – a loan program that has successfully leveraged an additional \$36,000 for downtown Medicine Hat businesses to accomplish necessary upgrades to their buildings.

While each of these projects was recognized for their economic development achievements, it was the unique partnership between Community Futures Entre-Corp, Human Resources and Social Development Canada, Alberta Employment Immigration and Industry, Palliser Economic Partnership and the Medicine Hat College that topped the list. The Corporate Education Network project won the gold as a workforce development project designed by these partners to provide easy access and a “one-stop-shop” to skills training in the region.



The training is showcased through a website – www.cenetwork.ca, using technology to promote business and industry training that is available to South East Alberta's workforce. On behalf of Western Economic Diversification Canada, the prestigious gold award was presented by MP Lee Richardson, Calgary-Center.

In addition to being recognized for successful projects, Community Futures Entre-Corp walked away with the Common Branding Award - an award received for excellence in marketing through the re-branding and incorporation of the new Community Futures logo. Former long-time General Manager Les Erickson was also honored with the Pioneers Award for his fourteen year record of professional excellence and community contribution. With this award, Erickson was credited with building one of the strongest staff compliments from Community Futures Alberta.

“All of our projects showcase the success of effective partnerships and a committed Board and Staff. We are proud of how Community Futures Entre-Corp Business Development has made an impact on the communities in our region” said Sean Blewett, General Manager of Community Futures Entre-Corp.

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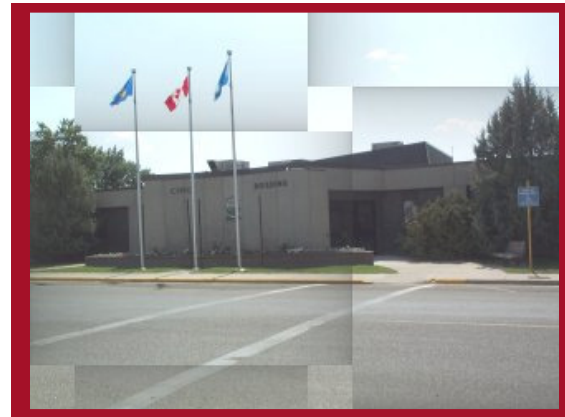
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NEW BROOKS LOCATION

Building on a relationship of 20 years, Community-Futures and the City of Brooks teamed up to create a full-time post in Brooks. On May 14th, 2007, Dan Quinn assumed the role of Business Development Officer taking on the responsibilities of city economic development for three days of the week while directly delivering the services of Entre-Corp for the remaining two. The unique partnership offers Brooks its first Economic Development Officer in fifteen years and is the first of its kind for Community Futures Entre-Corp in Brooks. As an employee of Entre-Corp, the Business Development Officer is better equipped to understand and positively impact small business with the additional resources of self-employment training and commercial credit. Over the past four months, the Business Development Officer has been working to build the foundations of an economic development program that include a Community Futures office. Some of the achievements to date have included:

- The full adoption of a bylaw to formally establish an Economic Development Committee and bolster a long-term strategy for growth with community input;
- Loans and Self-Employment Program assessment and counseling offered full-time at City Hall in Brooks;
- Promoting Entre-Corp through an outreach initiative to residents, bankers, accountant and lawyers through creative advertising via utility billings and traditional on-site visits;
- The City is in the process of completely over-hauling its website to a business and visitor-friendly service, including a



business section and a profile of Entre-Corp;

- The completion of the Newell Regional Partnership of Opportunities Project, an RCED contract that has produced an extensive catalogue of local businesses and investment opportunities;

The Community Futures Brooks office is located at #201 1st Avenue West. Dan Quinn, Business Development Officer can be reached at 403-362-3333 or dquinn@entre-corp.com.

The Business First Technology Incubator has recently taken a lead role in a new technology development project: The South East Alberta Technology Development Strategy (SEATDS). SEATDS is a collaboration of technology sector partners, business and economic development organizations and the Medicine Hat College. Together these partners are working toward addressing the growing demand of workers in the technology sector and leveraging current opportunities in this sector. The goal is to develop a community strategy that will increase capacity in the technology industry in South East Alberta.

Chelsey Lybbert, Business Coordinator at Community Futures Entre-Corp, has recently taken over managing the Business First project and is very excited to further develop SEATDS: "I look forward to working with the members of this local technology council to further develop South East Alberta's technology sector. There are many viable technology-based businesses and entrepreneurs in our area which diversify our region. It is great to see local people working together for the betterment of our community".

Key beneficiaries of the SEATDS project will be post-secondary students in South East Alberta and businesses and entrepreneurs in the Information Technology fields. These groups will gain access to the tools, knowledge and facilities that will help them economically and intellectually move forward in their education and/or their business. The SEATDS committee has met twice in recent months to develop goals and strategies for improving South East Alberta's reputation as a viable technology region. They have formed an action plan through group strategic-planning sessions which will be put into place in the coming months.

The next SEATDS Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 11, 2007. For more information on South East Alberta Technology Development Strategy project or Business First please contact: Chelsey Lybbert, Business Coordinator, at (403) 528-2824 or clybbert@entre-corp.com.



SMALL BUSINESS WEEK IN MEDICINE HAT

Small Business Week is an annual week-long event, celebrating small businesses and their contribution to our local communities. This year's festivities will run from Oct. 15th -18th, 2007. Community Futures Entre-Corp is pleased to be involved with several local events.

Entre-Corp employees Jenn Bader and Chris Deering volunteer for Women in Business; an organization that hosts a variety of yearly business related events targeting female entrepreneurs. In conjunction with Small Business Week, Women in Business will be hosting a Wine and Cheese Wednesday Oct. 15th from 5-7 pm at the Cypress Club downtown. It is a great networking opportunity for women business owners and business professionals. Entry is free to those who register by calling 528-2824.

The highlight of Small Business Week in Medicine Hat is the annual Small Business Awards Banquet hosted by the Medicine Hat & District Chamber of Commerce and Community Futures Entre-Corp. This year's awards banquet will be held Thursday October 18, 2007 at the Callaghan Inn. In total there are 8 awards categories recognizing businesses for various accomplishments such as excellence in customer service,

The Southeast Alberta Workforce Development Strategy



A strong, responsive, highly skilled workforce is critical for keeping pace with the demands of an economy experiencing rapid growth. It takes the collaboration of industry, employers, individuals, governments, training providers and other stakeholders to respond to a shortage of labour. The **South East Alberta Workforce Development Strategy** is a collaborative effort to create innovative solutions to the region's workforce needs.

One of the Strategy's priorities is to provide information to business and industry on labour force issues, human resources best practices, market opportunities, and program supports. Please take note of the following opportunity:

The 2008 Alberta Business Awards of Distinction

This is YOUR opportunity to nominate a South East Alberta employer to be recognized provincially for the following awards sponsored by Alberta Employment, Immigration, and Industry:

Employer of Youth Award of Distinction
for hiring youth and providing them with career oriented-opportunities,
or the

Employer of Persons with Disabilities Award of Distinction
for creative, leading-edge practice in hiring, training, and developing employees with disabilities.

Entry deadline is **November 16th, 2007**. For more information on these and other award categories, visit: www.abbusinessawards.ab.ca

Also, mark your calendars for a special upcoming Luncheon on **Understanding Generational Gaps** to launch the Workforce Development Strategy on **Friday, November 2nd at the Cypress Centre, Medicine Hat**. (In conjunction with the *Growing in South East Alberta Symposium*.) And...watch for more details on the unveiling of the **South East Alberta Easy-Move Toolkit!**

For more information on the Strategy, please contact Melanie Friesen, Coordinator, South East Alberta Workforce Development Strategy at 403-529-2494 or melanie@entre-corp.com

community involvement, exporting and marketing. Community Futures Entre-Corp proudly sponsors the New Business of the Year award. The 2007 nominee's in this category include: Hair Envy, Soap'n'Sudz, TeaZones, Big Horn Construction, HR Solutions, Quest Concrete, and Simplean.

Small Business week is an excellent way to acknowledge those individuals and organizations that create and sustain economic growth within our communities. Congratulations to all awards nominees!