

Community Futures Centre West Boosts Financial Relief for Local Businesses

(Cochrane, Alberta) – (May 25, 2020) Small businesses in our region impacted by COVID-19 pandemic can now access additional financial relief and recovery support. Community Futures Centre West will begin offering tailored small business loans as part of the Government of Canada's Regional Relief and Recovery Fund. These partially forgivable loans ensure that rural businesses, that do not qualify for other federal business support programs, receive help and support as a result of this crisis.

"As the impacts of COVID-19 continue to mount, more and more regional businesses are falling through the cracks of the federal relief programs," stated Patti-Jay Powell, Executive Director of Community Futures Centre West. "These urgent calls for support have reached across the province and our Western network, and we are pleased that the voices of local businesses have been heard."

The funding is part of an announced \$95.7 million for the Community Futures Pan West Network, for rural and remote businesses in Western Canada that do not qualify for other federal business support programs such as the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) or Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP).

Small- and medium-sized businesses can apply for loans of up to \$40,000 with terms that include:

- No interest accrual or principal payments through December 31, 2022.
- If 75% of the loan is repaid by December 31, 2022, the remainder of the loan is forgiven.
- Blended principal and interest payments beginning January 1, 2023 and loans must be repaid by December 31, 2025
- No prepayment penalties.

For more information and to apply for rural funding visit: <http://centrewest.albertacf.com/>

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About Community Futures in Alberta

Alberta's 27 Community Futures organizations are independent, locally run, and are guided by community volunteers serving on CF boards. Each Community Futures office provides flexible and affordable small business loans, business coaching/training services and business management tools for people wanting to start, expand, franchise, or sell a rural business. Community Futures is funded by the Government of Canada through Western Economic Diversification Canada and has been supporting rural entrepreneurs for over 30 years.