



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

LEAP Is Rolling Out In The Oceanside Region.

Nanaimo, BC: Community Futures Central Island is excited to announce that the Local Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program (LEAP) is rolling out in the Oceanside region. Think of it as a boot camp for early-stage ventures. Using a lean start-up model, LEAP prepares small groups of entrepreneurs to launch new local businesses in their communities, through a curriculum focused on creating a viable business model. The curriculum is delivered in partnership with community-based organizations and relies on Simon Fraser University CED's instructor, who provides a proven program delivery model, with live online instruction and support.

This eight-week accelerator program is for aspiring business owners in the Oceanside area who are willing to commit to eight 3-hour sessions (plus business development time). Registration cost is only \$100 per participant as the funding partners (Regional District of Nanaimo – Northern Community Economic Development program, Coastal Community Credit Union – Corporate Sponsorship Program, Community Futures Central Island, and Simon Fraser University) and the community partners (Vancouver Island Lighthouse Country, the Parksville and District Chamber of Commerce and the Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce) have underwritten the costs of this program for 12 promising entrepreneurial leaders (A \$2,000 value).

A successful applicant is not someone with the perfect business idea, but rather someone who is aware of a meaningful problem in their community and has an idea for a business which could solve the problem. This program is for people who are passionate, action-oriented and committed to seeing their idea through. You do not have to have experience; you just need an entrepreneurial spirit. What's that? Some comfort with risk, a dollop of creativity and a whole lot of tenacity!

The application deadline is January 30, 2019, with the program to start mid-February. To apply, email a brief description of your business or start-up idea along with an explanation of what social, environmental or economic issues your business may address, your resume or bio and your contact information to admin@cfnanaimo.org

Community Futures is a non-profit, small business development organization based in the community and for the community. We provide business loans to small and medium sized business in rural communities where access to credit is a challenge to start or grow a business. Our wide variety of business loans and tools are designed to help entrepreneurs and small business owners achieve their goals.

For more information go to cfnanaimo.org or contact *Jolynn Green at 250-591.7499 or jolynn@cfnanaimo.org*