

Performance Results for 2023-24 Stó:lō Community Futures

Community Futures (CF) is a program that supports community economic development and builds the capacity of communities to realize their full sustainable potential. The purpose of the CF Program is to help communities develop and implement *local solutions to local problems*.

Community Futures Performance Results	2023-24
<i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i>	
1. Total number of community-based projects (new & on-going)	26
2. Total number of local and regionally-based community strategic plans developed and/or updated	1
<i>Rural access to business development services</i>	
3. Total number of business training session participants	193
4. Total number of business advisory services	1,700
<i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i>	
5. Dollar value of loans	\$207,615.72
6. Total number of loans	7
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹	52
Provide additional information (e.g. Success stories, Links to priorities, leveraging work, communication events, etc...)	
<u>Provincial Award</u>	
<p>In February 2024, at the Community Futures Pan West Conference in Kelowna, BC, Stó:lō Community Futures (SCF) was awarded the Excellence and Innovation Award for BC for our CIRA Project called <i>Amplifying Voices with Digital Literacy</i>. This was a Project in collaboration with the Chilliwack Innovation Committee and Stó:lō Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training (SASET) led by SCF in digital literacy training for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members from youth to elders/seniors and Indigenous entrepreneurs. Part of this included a train-the-trainer component to build capacity. This also included holding a 24-hour Hackathon for Indigenous community members looking to solve a problem through the use of technology and a business plan to sell the product. There were 114 learners, plus 34 trainers dedicated to teaching them the digital literacy program for a total of 148 people trained!</p>	

¹ Estimated at the time of lending

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Partners



Our Regional CFs of North Fraser and South Fraser are excellent collaborators, colleagues and friends. We created a regional marketing for various events, including TedX at University of the Fraser Valley (UFV).

UFV has been excellent partner regarding Indigenous programming and supports around education and events. For example, SCF co-hosted Indigenous students visiting UFV from the University of Arizona. SCF toured the Cheam Fishing Village, which is a community-owned business funded by SCF, to experience Indigenous owned businesses and the positive impacts in the community, such as employment opportunities for community members.



Vancity is also strong partner who chose SCF as one of three organizations to be trained on a pilot program called *Indigenous Financial Resilience*, which was developed with Elders and Indigenous entrepreneurs. This includes a presentation to understand Indigenous cultural history of finance, as well budgeting and banking. This has been a very successful workshop for Indigenous youth, aspiring and new entrepreneurs in understanding the basics of finance. Our Program Facilitators also held the *Small Business Start-up* that has eight modules focused on various topics, such as business plans and cash flows. These training sessions were held in the following Communities: Leq'á:mel First Nation, Sts'a'íles, and Yeqwyeqwi:ws. We also held a few workshops at the Métis house on the Coqualeetza grounds with a total of 53 Indigenous community members trained. These workshops will continue this next fiscal year!

Events

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SCF continues to support and sponsor Indigenous artists/entrepreneurs at the Chilliwack Mural Festival.

SCF had the privilege to attend the following events and set up a booth to educate attendees about our services and programs: Sq'éwqel Island Band Career Fair, SASET Career Fair, Sq'éwqel Youth Conference, West Coast Women's Show, Sq'éwqel Festival, Sasquatch Days, Harrison Festival Artisan Market, and S.A.Y Open House.

Business Directory

SCF added a total of 14 businesses to the SBD and 16 other businesses in our data system are not added to the SBD yet!

We look forward to the next fiscal year!!