



2022-2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Message From the Chair

Community Futures Pan West Network's 2022-2023 Annual Report is here to showcase the inspiring dedication of our volunteers and staff. Together we tackled challenges, created opportunities, and drove impact for rural communities across Western Canada through the Community Futures offices. As a collective, we are proud of what has been achieved!

In the 2022-2023 operating year, Community Futures Pan West Network hosted the Virtual Showcase Rural Opportunities Fund. This showcased 36 Community Futures innovative projects from across the west. Building upon the success of the Rural Opportunity Fund (ROF), PrairiesCan partnered with us to develop ROF 2.0. This project was recently approved in the amount of \$3.85 million for three years, ending on March 31, 2026.

PrairiesCan also funded the "Building Capacity and Responding to Growing Regional Business Demands" project, allowing Community Futures offices across the Prairies access to invaluable resources in helping them fully utilize their capacity within their office and local community. The project was administered by the Community Futures Pan West Network with great success!



The CFLI Board Development Program reached a remarkable milestone by delivering an unprecedented 86 Board Development sessions in the 2022-2023 operating year. We are continuously moving forward with our Visioning Towards the Future 2030 initiative by completing several strategies that align with Vision 2030. Plus, we are pleased to be hosting the Community Futures Pan West Conference in February 2024. Join us in shaping the future of our communities.

As the Chair of the Community Futures Pan West Network, I am proud to say this has been a very impactful and accomplished year!

Troy Dungate

About

Community Futures Pan West Network



Purpose

Community Futures Pan West Network Inc. exists because Western Community Futures organizations benefit from proactive leadership, shared actions and advocacy in their efforts to grow resilient, vibrant, rural communities.

Vision

Leading Rural Entrepreneurship.

Mission

Community Futures Pan West Network Inc. is a proactive network that undertakes collaborative activities designed to support and strengthen the efforts of Community Futures organizations in Western Canada.

Values

Community Futures Pan West Network has the following values.

- Teamwork
- Perseverance
- Innovative

Board of Directors

Thank you to the Community Futures Pan West Network Board of Directors for their continued leadership and commitment to strengthening the efforts of Community Futures organizations in Western Canada.



Troy Dungate

Community Futures British Columbia
Chair



Steve Lupky

Community Futures Manitoba
Vice Chair



Russell Crook

Community Futures Alberta
Board Member



Patty Hughes

Community Futures Saskatchewan
Secretary/Treasurer



Jim MacMillan

Community Futures Manitoba
Past Chair

Executive Directors

The Executive Directors of each member western Community Futures Association serve in an advisory capacity as non-voting members of the Board. The Community Futures Pan West Network's Executive Director is a non-voting member of the Board.



Colette Close

Community Futures Pan West Network



Jason Denbow

Community Futures Manitoba
and Saskatchewan



Phyllis Maki

Community Futures Alberta

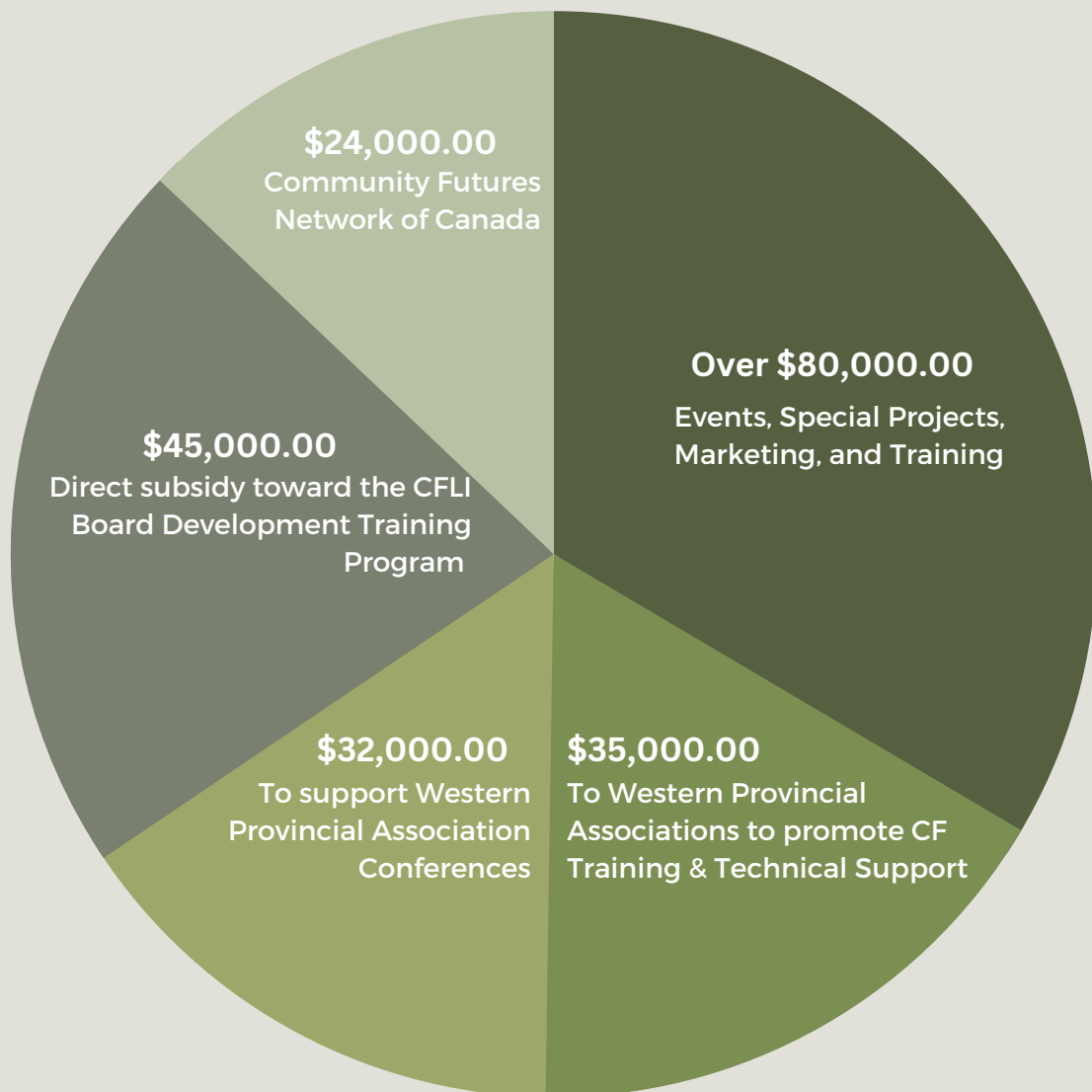


Wendy McCulloch

Community Futures British Columbia

Regional Funding & Support

Community Futures Pan West Network distribution of funds to support the following initiatives:



Virtual Showcase ROF Event

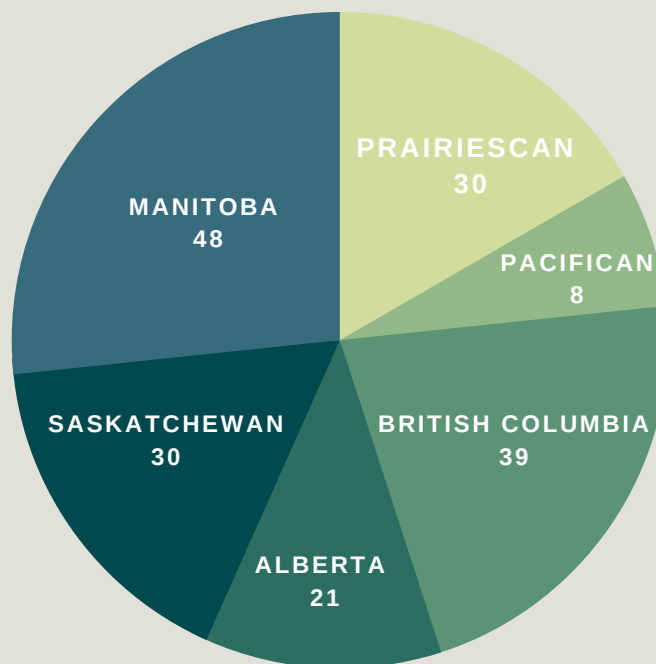
36 approved projects showcased.

On May 17 - 20, 2022, Community Futures Pan West Network (CFPWN) hosted the ROF Virtual Showcase event. This event highlighted the 36 projects approved through the ROF program.

Projects covered tourism, succession planning, business start-up programs, e-commerce, immigration pilots, as well as training, coaching, and pivoting business. Community Futures Pan West Network also dedicated an area on their website to the ROF legacy. Community Futures members can find the 36 projects, the amount they were approved for, project descriptions, showcase videos, and additional supporting documents in this area. This showcase provides valuable information for anyone interested in learning more about the ROF program and its impact.

Number of Attendees at the ROF Showcase Event

Total Registered: 176



Funding for Prairies Community Futures Organizations

Building Capacity and Responding to Growing Regional Business Demands.

At the beginning of February 2023, Community Futures Pan West Network board (CFPWN) announced the administration of a one-time injection of project funding up to \$50,000.00. Funded by Prairies Economic Development Canada, this project focused on "Building Capacity and Responding to Growing Regional Business Demands".

The project based funding enabled Community Futures organizations access to resources needed to successfully build capacity within their organizations and communities. Funding was allocated to an array of projects from updating office procedures, equipping staff and volunteers with valuable training to revamping work-spaces, and more. The funding has enhanced efficiency and has provided an improved environment for both the Community Futures organizations and the communities they serve.

Project Funding

PrairiesCan Funding: \$2,900,000.00

Project Applications Submitted: \$2,644,198.25

Project Funds Allocated

91%

	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Manitoba
CF Office (55)	27	12	16
CF Association (3)	1	1	1
Total CFs (58)	28	13	17
CFs Applied (55)	27	13	15

Prairies Rural Opportunities Fund (ROF) 2.0

Community Futures Pan West Network announced the approval of Prairies Rural Opportunities Fund 2.0 in the amount of \$3.85 million.

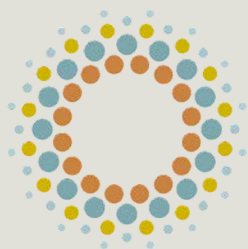
The goal of the Prairies Rural Opportunities Fund (ROF 2.0) is to support Prairies Economic Development Canada's (PrairiesCan) Community Futures organizations to:

- Assist with the development of innovative business strategies
- Build business and community capacity through partnerships
- Devise solutions to assist rural communities face the challenges posed by an aging population and the closure of major local employers
- Promote and assist with the development and adoption of advanced technologies
- Offer specialized training that will enable businesses to reach their goals, and
- Facilitate the transition of rural small businesses
- Community based projects.

Funded initiatives are expected to promote, support and/or facilitate sector development and the building of greater capacity in rural communities and small businesses, including startups, existing businesses, young entrepreneurs, women entrepreneurs, Indigenous entrepreneurs, new Canadians, and co-operatives. It is also anticipated that ROF 2.0 funded initiatives will help generate new business opportunities, and include the engagement of other community partners.

Community Futures Pan West Network hosted two informational webinars on February 27th to provide an overview of the program and answer any questions Prairies Community Futures organizations had.

The application process for the Rural Opportunities Fund 2.0 is officially open, with the first ROF 2.0 Adjudication Committee meeting scheduled for May 5, 2023.



**PRAIRIES
RURAL
OPPORTUNITIES
FUND 2.0**

STRENGTHENING
OUR COMMUNITIES

Visioning Towards the Future: Towards 2030

The Community Futures Pan West Network would like to acknowledge and thank the 2022-2023 Visioning Towards the Future: 2030 committees. Their passion and commitment were integral in allowing us to support the scope of the Visioning Towards the Future.

During October of 2022, Community Futures Pan West Network established three Vision 2030 committees:

- Staff Curriculum Committee
- Staff Committee
- Loans Committee.

The committees are comprised of one representative from each western province. The committees were tasked with roles and responsibilities that supported the five strategies aligned to Vision 2030.

The members of the Vision 2030 committees played a key role in accomplishing the following tasks:

Staff Curriculum Committee:

- Completed the Orientation Kit for New Managers

Staff Committee:

- Provided input with the creation of the best practices, local projects, and event website pages.

Loans Committee:

- Discussed and reviewed modern client offerings – ie. Online RRRF portal.
- Assessed the value of creating a two-tier loan assessment based on score cards to speed up approval time.
- The loan committee was instrumental in gathering a risk assessment template a loan summary report template which has been uploaded on the Community Futures Pan West Network website.

A part of the strategies aligned to Vision 2030 was to continue the discussion and engagement with PrairiesCan towards funding for the Rural Opportunities Fund 2.0. We have successfully secured funding of 3.85 million starting April 1, 2023 for 3 years.

Additionally, the Community Futures Pan West Network board has approved hosting a CF Pan West Network conference in Kelowna, British Columbia. Conference dates are February 25 - 27, 2024. We hope to see you there!

ApplyNow Application Portal Demonstration Webinar

Thank you to Community Futures Grande Prairie's General Manager Holly Sorgen, and CommonGoals software John Meredith for their presentations.

During the 2022-2023 operating year, CommonGoals software presented three informational webinars on the ApplyNow Application Portal to Community Futures organizations across the west. These presentations provided information on the functionality and capability for the portal to manage regular lending program applications.

To demonstrate application of the portal, Community Futures Grande Prairie's General Manager Holly Sorgen, presented on March 7, 2023. Over 57 Community Futures members attended the sessions.



ApplyNow Application Portal Demonstration Webinar

The purpose of this demonstration is to provide current information on the functionality and capacity for the portal to manage regular lending program applications. Session delivered by CommonGoals Software.

[Check This Out!](#)

If you were unable to attend the sessions, you can view the recordings on the CFLI Training Site.

JANUARY SESSION

33

ATTENDEES

MARCH SESSION

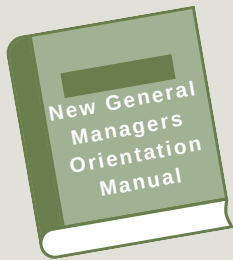
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ATTENDEES

Staff Development

Join us in beautiful Kelowna, BC as we host the 2024 Community Futures Pan West Network conference.

New General Managers Orientation Manual



In our pursuit of Vision 2030, a collaborative effort by the Staff Curriculum Committee resulted in the creation of the New General Managers Orientation Manual. This manual is conveniently accessible on the Community Futures Pan West Network website. This manual will assist in providing quality training materials and tools to empower new general managers to more quickly perform at optimal levels.

Community Futures Pan West Network Conference February 25-27, 2024

Community Futures Pan West Network is thrilled to invite Community Futures organizations across the West to join us in beautiful Kelowna, BC as we host the 2024 Community Futures Pan West Network conference.

Conference Agenda and Registration to be released May 2023.



South Shore Opportunities CBDC Adopts Western Community Futures Logo

The South Shore Opportunities CBDC located in Bridgewater Nova Scotia requested permission to use the Community Futures Western logo.

In response to an anticipated increase in CBDC offices transitioning to the Community Futures Western logo, the Community Futures Pan West Network has created an Atlantic Canada CBDC Branding Portal for easy access.



Staff Development

Did you miss one of our webinars? No problem! You can easily catch up on the CFLI online training platform.

Government Relations & Advocacy Training

Community Futures Pan West Network assisted the Community Futures Network of Canada in hosting a national training event titled Government Relations and Advocacy Training. Sessions were hosted in both official languages. A total of 177 participants registered for the training. The training included topics such as:

- Why Government Relations Matter
- Federal Priorities & Issues
- "Government Relations" 101
- Meeting Tips
- Your Tools
- Questions

ENGLISH
SESSION

167

REGISTERED

FRENCH
SESSION

10

REGISTERED

CFLI Online Training Platform

More training can be found on the CFLI Online Training Website. Topics include: Cyber Security, Working with Growth Oriented Business, Staff Sales Training, Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) Process, and 5 Ways to Grow Your Mailing List This Year.

Access training by following these steps:

- Visit the Staff Development page, on the CFPWN Website
- Once logged in, select "Staff Training & Resources"
- Scroll down and select "Visit the CFLI Training Website"



**Cyber Security
Training**



**Working with Growth
Oriented Business**



**Access to Information and
Privacy (ATIP) Process**

Staff Development

Congratulations to Jeanette Calderone and Joe Nemeth Jr. on their staff certification.

The CFLI Learning Centre Remains Active

The CFLI Learning Centre has 100 users actively pursuing training that fit the 18 core and shared competencies that fall under the CFLI staff certification program.

Did you know the Community Futures staff certification program is based on the competencies required to do a job effectively? These competencies are built around skills, knowledge, and values.

The Community Futures Staff Certification Program is voluntary and flexible. The program takes into account the staff person's experience and education. Staff members can attain certification in the following positions: General Manager, Business Analyst, Community Economic Development Coordinator, and Administrative Coordinator.

Staff Certification Program

Over the course of the 2022-2023 fiscal year we are pleased to announce the following staff certifications:

Jeanette Calderone

Congratulations to Jeanette Calderone, from Community Futures North Fraser in Mission, British Columbia, for attaining her Basic Certification in the role of Administrative Coordinator.

Joe Nemeth Jr.

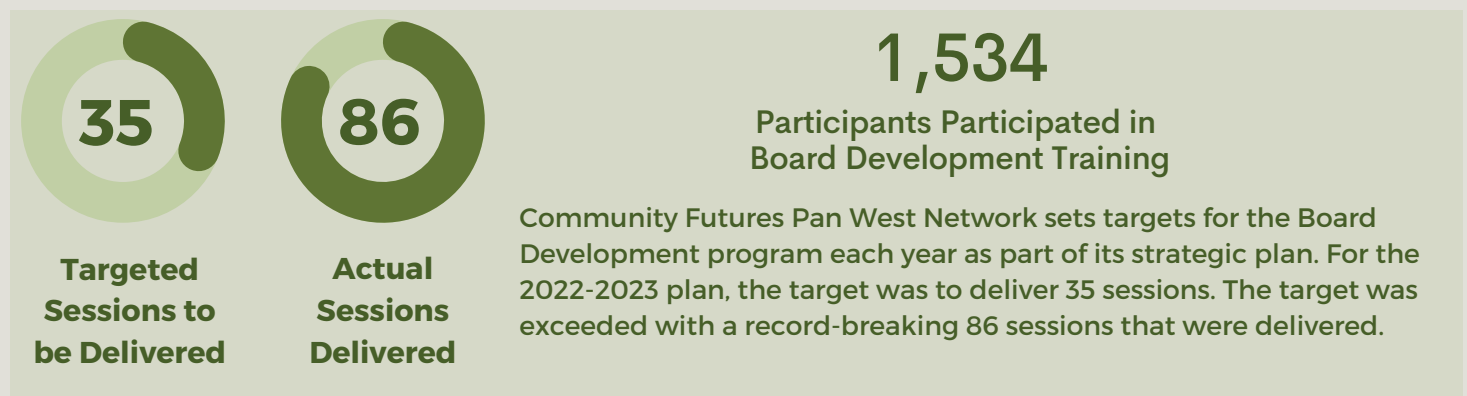
Congratulations to Joe Nemeth Jr. from Community Futures Nicola Valley in Merritt British Columbia, for attaining his Basic Certification in the role of Business Analyst.



Board Development Program

For the first time in the CFLI program history, there were volunteers from all across western Canada represented in various Board Development training sessions held virtually.

The CFLI Board Development Program has achieved an impressive milestone by delivering a record-breaking 86 sessions during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. This noteworthy accomplishment demonstrates Community Futures organization's dedication to providing their board members with important knowledge and skills required to lead their organizations.



Total Board Development Sessions Delivered Per Province

BRITISH COLUMBIA	34
ALBERTA	18
SASKATCHEWAN	6
MANITOBA	18
ONTARIO	10
ATLANTIC	0

CFLI Board Development Program 2-For-1 Promotion

Community Futures Pan West Network offered a Board Development two-for-one module promotion for Community Futures offices across western Canada. The promotion was a success. It sold out within one week.

New Board Development Facilitators

Over the course of the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the Community Futures Leadership Institute certified three new facilitators.

Verna O'Neill

Over the past 25 years Verna O'Neill has worked in the Community Futures world, most recently for nine years as General Manager of Community Futures Sunrise in southeast Saskatchewan. Now living in Kimberley, British Columbia with her family, Verna is continuing to follow her passion for small business development and the Community Futures program, founding her own company VLO Business Solutions. She is eager to assist small business and the non-profit sector, sharing her knowledge, skills and innovative perspectives.



Gail Moorhouse

Gail Moorhouse has been involved with Community Futures for close to 8 years. Gail served first on the Board of Directors and spent 5 years as the Executive Director of Community Futures Peterborough. In June of 2022, Gail received her Professional Directors certification and has a passion for building boards and governance.



Deb Arnott

Deb has been a Community Futures General Manager for 30 years, including the Chair of the Disaster Recovery Committee with CFBC. On a personal front, Deb was affected in the 2017 wildfire, when she was evacuated for the months of July and August and inevitably closed their logging business that she partnered with her husband that summer.



Board Development Program

Community Futures offices across the West have regularly accessed the free online training vignettes on the Community Futures Leadership Institute's website as a means to foster discussion at their board meetings.

Module 15: Volunteer Attraction, Retention, and Succession

We are excited to announce Module 15: Volunteer Attraction, Retention, and Succession has been added to the video vignette online board development library.

These training vignettes are not meant to replace the full three-hour board development training modules, but rather provide a brief overview of content that is covered in the more comprehensive program.

Each module contains a three to five-minute training video and corresponding downloadable exercises. The videos are intended to be played at board meetings, with board members working through the exercise after watching the video. This allows board members to sample this CFLI course content, helping them determine the areas where they would like to receive the more comprehensive three-hour training associated with each module.

Module 10: Advances in the Social Economy

Module 10 has been revised and is now available for FREE to Community Futures offices who are encouraged to download and use as a facilitation tool with Community Futures boards and/or communities.

DID YOU KNOW?

The CFLI Board Development Orientation Manual has recently been updated. To download the manual, [click here](#).

Board Development Streaming Certificates

Streaming Certificates are awarded to participants who complete the required modules pertaining to each stream.

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Streaming Certificates
Awarded

Leadership Stream

Modules 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, or 10 and 12

- Brooke Burke, CF British Columbia
- Carrie Schafer, CF East Kootenay
- Joan Muffly, CF Greater Trail
- Marie Gray, CF Shuswap
- Michelle Hawkins, CF Sun Country
- Tracey Whiting, CF East Kootenay
- Tyler King, CF Heartland
- Meghan Larson, CF British Columbia
- Yoriko Susanj, CF Greater Trail
- Charlotte Datchko, CF British Columbia
- Danielle Peet, CF British Columbia
- Ellen Miller, CF British Columbia

Executive Governance Stream

Modules 2, 3, 7 and 11

- Kendra Busch, CF Ventures
- Meghan Larson, CF South Fraser
- Michael Tindall, CF North Okanagan
- Michelle Hawkins, CF Sun Country
- Tyler King, CF Heartland
- Victor Smith, CF Sun Country
- Trevor Kehrner, CF Parkland
- Wayne Kelly, CF Westman
- Lori Antony, CF British Columbia
- Nicole Read, CF South Fraser
- Bob Wright, CF British Columbia
- Charlotte Datchko, CF British Columbia
- Curtis Dawyduik, CF Triple R
- Danielle Peet, CF British Columbia
- Ellen Miller, CF British Columbia
- Joan Muffly, CF Greater Trail
- Joe Nemeth, CF British Columbia
- Laurie Renton, CF British Columbia
- Lenora Fletcher, CF British Columbia

Financial and Lending Leadership Stream

Modules 4, 6 and 13

- Fran Delaney, CF Nicola Valley
- Joe Nemeth, CF Nicola Valley
- Kendra Busch, CF Ventures
- Brooke Burke, CF British Columbia
- Carrie Schafer, CF East Kootenay
- Tracey Whiting, CF East Kootenay
- Ellen Miller, CF Nicola Valley
- Gerry Woodhouse, CF Greater Trail
- Lenora Fletcher, CF British Columbia
- Trevor Kehrner, CF British Columbia
- Jean Perog, CF Nicola Valley
- Michelle Hill, CF North Okanagan
- Penny McDonald, CF North Okanagan
- Angus Woodman, CF British Columbia
- Charlotte Datchko, CF British Columbia
- Dan Salekin, CF East Kootenay
- Danielle Peet, CF British Columbia
- Wendy Booth, CF British Columbia
- Tina Rasmussen, CF British Columbia

CFLI Board Development Hall of Fame Award

The Hall of Fame award is given to those who complete the 3 training streams comprised of 13 training modules offered through the CFLI Board Development Program.

14

Community Futures Pan West Network is pleased to celebrate 14 Hall of Fame inductees this fiscal year. Congratulations to the recipients listed below:

Hall of Fame Award

Modules 1 - 13

- Tracey Whiting, CF East Kootenay
- Carrie Schafer, CF East Kootenay
- Brooke Burke, CF British Columbia
- Michael Tindall, CF North Okanagan
- Michele Hill, CF North Okanagan
- Michelle Hawkins, CF Sun Country
- Victor Smith, CF Sun Country
- Ellen Miller, CF Nicola Valley
- Meghan Larson, CF South Fraser



Tyler King, CF Heartland



Fran Delaney, CF Nicola Valley



Danielle Peet, CF Greater Trail



Joan Muffly, CF Greater Trail



Charlotte Datchko, CF Ventures

Thank you to the Community Futures organizations that provided photos of the recipients.