

## Performance Results for 2016-17 Community Futures Winnipeg River

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*.

<b>Community Futures Performance Results</b>	<b>Results as of 2016-17</b>
<b><i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i></b>	
1. Total number of community-based projects (new & on-going)	<b>30</b>
2. Total number of local and regionally-based community strategic plans developed and/or updated	<b>24</b>
<b><i>Rural access to business development services</i></b>	
3. Total number of business training session participants	<b>278</b>
4. Total number of business advisory services	<b>339</b>
<b><i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i></b>	
5. Dollar value of loans	<b>\$401,956</b>
6. Total number of loans	<b>10</b>
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending <sup>1</sup>	<b>19</b>
Provide additional Information (e.g. Success stories, Links to priorities, leveraging work, communication events, etc...)	
<p><b>Over the course of the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, CFWR has been involved with numerous projects throughout the North Eastman region. Project highlights from over the past year include...</b></p> <p><b>REGIONAL CONNECTIONS – A SUCCESSFUL MODEL</b></p> <p>Small rural communities do not always have the capacity to address larger issues and opportunities so for common goals it is strategic to move forward as a region. CFWR plays an active role in regional networking by facilitating various regional gatherings throughout the year and to help develop plans that address common issues and opportunities for growth. Since 2011, CFWR has initiated regular formal gatherings between various groups involved in local governments which include the North Eastern Municipal Forum, Chief Administrative Officer meetings, and Public Works Manager meetings. From these initiatives, the following ad hoc committees have been formed to conduct work in specific areas – a) North Eastman Lobby Committee; b) North Eastman Health Committee; c) Whiteshell Laboratories Partnership Committee; and most recently d) North Eastman Economic Development Committee. Successes from working together have come in the form of projects, lobbying activities, group training, resource/information sharing, regional feasibility studies, regional plans and group buying.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> Estimated at the time of lending

## TOWNFOLIO

**Townfolio** is a Saskatchewan based business working to build an online **Canadian Community Profile Network**. On the network site selectors and business owners can identify potential future business locations and communities can promote business needs for their area. Townfolio presented at the North Eastern Municipal Forum in September showing the customizable community profile website and explaining its benefits for community marketing and connecting with potential investors.

Townfolio would address four key needs identified in the **Regional Economic Development Strategy** – local data collection, community profiles, greater internet presence of our communities and lead generation for potential business attraction. CFWR facilitated regional pricing with Townfolio which resulted in a total cost saving of \$21,192. Nine local governments participated in the group buying project and now have internet presence to increase exposure of our communities to potential investors.

## NORTH FORGE EAST

**North Forge** is Manitoba's largest business incubator program and has existed in Winnipeg for four years working with technology and innovative based start-up businesses. North Forge has a Fabrication Lab for rapid prototyping; and ICT Lab for prototyping and commercialization; and an Event & Collision Space for networking and meet-up events. Mentorship is a big part of the member based program. Experts in specific subject matter are matched with participants to help in both product and company development in areas of business planning, market research, grant writing, finding investors and marketing.

In late 2016, North Forge announced a partnership with Pinawa Community Development Corporation, and in January 2017, **North Forge East** opened its doors to aspiring entrepreneurs in the W.B. Lewis Centre in Pinawa. CFWR is proud to work with North Forge East to promote their services and events; to make client referrals; to provide an expedited loan application review process; and to help new businesses find permanent homes in North Eastern Manitoba. To date, 4 entrepreneurs are participating in the North Forge East program and two open events have been hosted in Pinawa.

## SMALL BUSINESS WEEK EVENT

CFWR hosted a Small Business Week Wine & Cheese Networking Event on October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Beausejour Brokenhead Community Hall with 32 people in attendance. Sponsorship for the event was provided by Sunova Credit Union and Business Network International (BNI) Manitoba. Guest speaker, Dennis Hamel, Executive Director from BNI spoke about the importance of networking for your small business or nonprofit agency and the positive impacts it can have when done effectively. Accompanying Dennis was Orest Serwylo who shared his story of how being part of a BNI Chapter aided in his business success through making good connections and strategic networking.

## ELEVATE PROGRAM

CFWR administered the Elevate Program for clients in the North Eastman region. Elevate is a Community Futures pilot program designed to support adults and youth with a disability or health condition who wish to start a business. Elevate is offered in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba and is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities Program. During the past year 5 participants were approved for the Elevate program through CFWR and staff worked with the clients to assist with business start-up activities, business planning, training and monitoring.

## LAC DU BONNET COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

In July 2016, the RM of Lac du Bonnet and Town of Lac du Bonnet incorporated a local Community Development Corporation (CDC) to respond to opportunities and challenges related to local economic development. Five First Directors that represented stakeholders and economic development related agencies were appointed and worked with CFWR to develop and frame the governance and operations of the CDC. The group worked to develop corporate bylaws; gather local data and input; design a local economic development strategy; and develop an annual plan and budget for the CDC. In May, 2017 the first Annual Shareholders Meeting took place where a full slate of 10 Directors were elected to the Board to oversee and manage the activities of the CDC. With funding support from both the Town and RM, the CDC hopes to employ a part time Economic Development Officer by fall.

## WINNIPEG RIVER HERITAGE CENTRE

In 2015, CFWR conducted strategic planning with the St-Georges Historical Society Inc. in part to determine how to address the loss of the St. Georges Museum which was tragically lost to fire. In 2016, CFWR provided assistance with their Canada Cultural Spaces Fund grant application and supporting feasibility study and business plan. Our combined efforts were successful and resulted in an award of \$1.4 million in funding from the Government of Canada for the construction of the future Winnipeg River Heritage Museum (WRHM). With the federal government's substantial investment in the project secured, the St-Georges Historical Society Inc. has undertaken an important fundraising campaign to raise the remaining funds required. Phase 1 of the project started in the early spring with an expected completion date of spring/summer of 2018.