

community futures
NETWORK OF CANADA



réseau de développement
DES COLLECTIVITES DU CANADA

COMMUNITY FUTURES:

**Fuelling Canada's
Entrepreneurial Development**

Creation of the Community Futures Program

- Program was established in 1985
- Part of Employment and Immigration Canada's Canadian Jobs Strategy
- Intent was to address needs in rural Canada
- Resources to support a bottom-up and participatory approach to CED

Goals of the Community Futures Program

- Support CED and build self-reliance and capacity of Canada's rural communities

Program objectives:

1. Foster economic stability, growth and job creation
2. Help create diversified and competitive local rural economies, and
3. Help build economically sustainable communities

Program Target and Services Provided

- Support to existing and new SMEs
- Support for organizations involved in community capacity building
- Alliances with a broad range of community stakeholders and partners

Program Funding and Delivery Structure

- Funded through the Government of Canada's Regional Development Agencies
- 269 Community Futures Organizations across Canada
- CFOs are incorporated, not-for-profit organizations with volunteer boards and professional staff

Community Futures Program Achievements

Since 1985, CFOs have:

- Financed more than 120,000 Canadian entrepreneurs
- Assisted in the creation of over 495,800 jobs, and
- Invested in excess of \$4.2 billion directly into the rural Canadian economy

Community Futures Program Achievements

CFOs have:

- Spearheaded thousands of successful CED initiatives
- Established strong and effective partnerships with other stakeholders
- Helped to strengthen and diversify local rural economies across Canada

The Valuable Role of Volunteers

- CFOs are guided by volunteers who bring their insights and local knowledge

Local volunteers are:

- Knowledgeable and passionate
- Committed to finding solutions to challenges
- Optimistic about the future of their communities
- Willing to take a calculated risk
- Keen supporters of local businesses