



**Growing
communities**
one idea
at a time.

Community
Futures 

The **Community Futures** program was established nationally in 1986 and is funded by the federal government.

Each Community Futures office is an independently-run, non-profit organization.



Western Economic
Diversification Canada

Diversification de l'économie
de l'Ouest Canada





The program was created in response to severe economic and labour market changes faced by **rural Canadian communities** in the early '80s.

Our focus is on **small- and medium-sized businesses** – key sources of economic growth:

- They can be more flexible and responsive than big business
- They can often create employment amidst layoffs
- If they are well managed, they can seize opportunities



Services to entrepreneurs include:

- Loans for entrepreneurs wishing to start, expand, relocate or purchase a small business
- Business Counselling (planning, financial analysis)
- Training and Workshops
- The Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program

Services to communities include:

- Strategic community planning and support for rural economies
- Building capacity within communities
- Facilitating partnerships
- Integrating resources
- Special initiatives

Community Economic Development Projects

- Alberta Open Farm Days Regional Collaboration
- Agritourism Strategy
- Agritourism Cluster Development Challenge



Connect and
collaboration with other
producers/operators to
develop on farm
experiences

Supply Chain Connection
in conjunction with
Economic Development

Develop the local food
story

Join advisory committee

Promote the region and
assist operators to
connect into resources

Grow the Open Farm
Days program and supply
chain

Agriculture advocate

Participate in the
business and product
development challenge to
develop and grow
Agritourism in the region

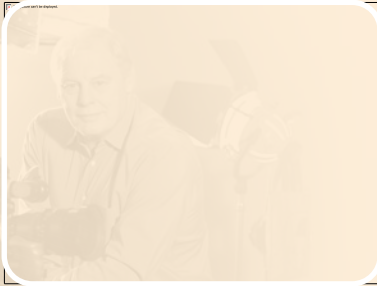
Develop shoulder season
product (spring, fall,
winter)

Increase visitation to
grow local, provincial and
federal economy

Connect the supply chain

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