

Community Futures Howe Sound
Performance Results for 2024-25

Community Futures (CF) is a national program that fosters entrepreneurship and community economic development in rural Canada. There are 34 CF offices in British Columbia, mandated to deliver a variety of services ranging from strategic economic planning, technical and advisory services to businesses, loans to small and medium-sized businesses, self-employment assistance programs, and services targeted to youth and entrepreneurs with disabilities. CF offices are non-profit corporations run by salaried staff and guided by volunteer boards of directors.

Community Futures Performance Results		2024-25
<i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i>		
1. Number of community-based projects		8
2. Number of local and regionally based community strategic plans developed and/or updated		1
<i>Rural access to business development services</i>		
3. Number of business training session participants		113
4. Number of business advisory services		545
<i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i>		
5. Value of loans		\$677,094
6. Number of loans		11
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹		34
Provide additional Information (e.g. success stories, links to priorities, leveraging work, communication events, etc.)		
<p>This year marked a strong leap forward for Community Futures Howe Sound, with high-impact outcomes across all areas of our work. We deepened our impact by launching new tech-forward tools — including a CRM system and early AI adoption — and rewriting our governance policies to improve transparency, consistency, and long-term sustainability.</p> <p>We supported dozens of businesses with funding and personalized advisory services, helping launch new products, create jobs, and open doors to long-term growth. Success stories like <i>House of Lager</i>, <i>Rise Outdoor</i>, and <i>Deorum</i> show how early-stage financing and coaching can spark momentum and create lasting economic value in the Sea to Sky region. These businesses reflect our core mission: helping entrepreneurs of all backgrounds take bold next steps, whether they're just starting out or scaling into new markets.</p> <p>Our work aligned closely with PacifiCan's key priorities — from inclusive lending that supported youth and underrepresented founders, to job creation in emerging sectors like outdoor rec tech, to building regional cluster</p>		

¹ Estimated at the time of lending

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strength through innovation hubs and partnerships. We also remained active in local schools, chambers, and community events, helping build awareness and connection across our service area.

While there's still work to do — especially around Indigenous engagement and reaching rural communities — we've laid strong groundwork. With the right tools, relationships, and vision in place, we're well positioned to deepen our impact and grow our contribution to the region's economy in the year ahead.