

## Consulting Grants for Women Entrepreneurs

### **Program:**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on women entrepreneurs, Community Futures Fraser Fort George (CF FFG) is pleased to announce grants for businesses owned and led by women.

- A grant **up to \$5,000\*** will support women entrepreneurs in hiring a Consultant/Service Provider with the specialized expertise required to pivot their business and become resilient in the new normal.
- The grant may be used as a 'stand-alone' for consulting services OR used to leverage other resources (such as the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) consultant rebate program or lending from financial institutions)
- The grant will be used to support **professional services** and cannot be used for purchasing equipment or renovations

*\*Grant will be paid direct to Consultant*

### **Eligibility:**

The business must:

- be an eligible business\* woman owned and led
- be in operation for a minimum of 1 year
- be located in an area serviced by CF FFG
- have experienced a material adverse effect on business operations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

*\*An eligible business includes: sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, social enterprise, or other similar organization, including non-profits so long as they have a social enterprise aspect that benefits the community*

## **Ineligible Applicants:**

- any level of government, including and not limited to: Federal, Provincial, Municipalities, Regional Districts
- those requiring assistance with the cost of equipment or renovations
- retroactive projects are ineligible (applicants must apply and receive notification of approval prior to beginning the project)

## **Application and Program Requirements:**

- Completion of the “Creative Revenues” module of “Holy! Business Crisis! Now What?": <<https://cfdc.bc.ca/online-courses/>> (*free of charge and approximately 3-hour time commitment*).
- Completed Application Form
- A detailed quote outlining the proposed scope of work, fees and timeline from a qualified consultant/service provider
- Satisfactory Financial Statements, such as:
  - i. 12 Month Income Statement and Balance Sheet OR Statement of Business Activities (for Sole Proprietors)
  - ii. Year-to-date income statement and balance sheet
- 12 Month Cash Flow Projections with assumptions
- BC Business Registration
- Business License and Permits required to operate
- Government issued Photo Identification
- Other documents may be requested at the discretion of CF FFG

## **Deadline:**

**Application will be open until Thursday December 10, 2020 at 4.30pm.** Submissions will be reviewed by a review committee and a representative of CF FFG will respond to applicants upon receipt to ensure accuracy of submission.

*Given limited funds available, priority may be given to:*

- *Existing CF FFG clients*
- *Those businesses with the greatest female ownership*

## **For more information:**

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Growing communities one idea at a time.

## About the Funders:

For more than 30 years, **Western Economic Diversification Canada** has been working to diversify the western economy while improving the quality of life of western Canadians. We aim to be a leader in building a strong, competitive West by focusing on business development, innovation and community development.

**Community Futures** is a community-based economic renewal initiative, established by the Federal Government in 1985. Our main objectives are to help rural Canadians start or expand a business and to help sustain and improve communities and their local economies. Since 1985, CFs have collectively assisted more than 119,800 entrepreneurs, influenced over 495,800 jobs and injected over \$4.2 billion directly into the rural Canadian economy. Each of Community Futures' 268 offices are led by a local board of directors who volunteer their time, knowledge, and passion to guide a team of professional staff in providing a wide array of business and community economic development services.

Locally, **Community Futures Fraser Fort George** serves the communities of **Mackenzie, Prince George, McBride, Valemount and surrounding rural areas**. In the 2019-2020 fiscal year, we approved approximately \$1.1 million dollars in financing to small businesses across the region, representing 19 new or expanded businesses and over 68 jobs (full and part-time) being created or maintained. Since its inception, Community Futures Fraser Fort George has loaned over \$29 million to small businesses across our region. Community Futures offers workshops, business coaching and loan funds to entrepreneurs to start, expand, or purchase an existing business.

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