Community Futures Performance Results	2024-25
Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation	
1. Number of community-based projects	**27**
2. Number of local and regionally based community strategic plans developed and/or updated	**0**
Rural access to business development services	
3. Number of business training session participants	**821**
4. Number of business advisory services	**514**
Rural access to capital and leveraged capital	
5. Value of loans	**150,415**
6. Number of loans	**4**
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending1	**4**

Provide additional Information (e.g. success stories, links to priorities, leveraging work, communication events, etc.)

Over the past fiscal year, Community Futures South Fraser has continued to provide strong support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across our region. We delivered over 1,300 business advisory and training sessions, helping entrepreneurs reach new customers through targeted marketing strategies, refine their business plans, and—through a key municipal partnership—equip trades-based businesses with climate adaptation training.

A notable highlight was the launch of our Startup Challenge, which guided 15 emerging entrepreneurs through an 8-week business development program, culminating in complete business plans and increased confidence to launch.

Our Board of Directors demonstrated ongoing commitment to good governance, contributing 136 volunteer hours and actively participating in PanWest Board Development training to strengthen oversight and strategic direction.

Despite these successes, we continue to face economic headwinds. Many entrepreneurs are hesitant to take on debt due to financial uncertainty or are operating businesses that are no longer viable. This has contributed to a significant number of closures, particularly in the downtown core areas of Chilliwack and Abbotsford. We remain committed to supporting our local business community through these challenges and adapting our services to meet their evolving needs.

[1] Estimated at the time of lending

Check out one of our success stories:

Tallow&Honey is a handcrafted & organic skincare brand based in Chilliwack, B.C., rooted in tradition and transparency. We create nourishing, small-batch products using grass-fed tallow, raw honey, and botanical ingredients—designed to restore balance and radiance to skin, naturally. Our mission is to offer simple, effective alternatives to synthetic-laden skincare while fostering connection to land, self, and community.

Community Futures provided essential support through one-on-one business coaching, access to startup capital, and strategic growth guidance. The mentorship helped refine my business plan, improve my financial literacy, and navigate early-stage challenges with confidence. They also offered access to valuable networking opportunities within our local entrepreneurial ecosystem.

With Community Futures' support, I was able to take Tallow&Honey from a kitchen-table concept to a thriving, revenue-generating business with a growing customer base. I now participate in multiple farmers markets, collaborate with local retailers, and serve a loyal online clientele. This has allowed me to reinvest into the local economy, support sustainable ingredient sourcing, and create opportunities for future employment as we scale.

Tallow&Honey has also become a space of education and empowerment—encouraging others to explore clean, ancestral skincare alternatives that are kind to their bodies and the planet.

Through CF, I've also discovered my inner entrepreneurial dragon and the confidence to dream even bigger. I'm now laying the foundation for an entirely new business venture—one I would never have had the courage or clarity to pursue without their unwavering support. I can truly say I wouldn't be where I am today without Community Futures—and neither would Tallow&Honey.