



Community Futures is a non-profit entrepreneurial support organization for the residents of the Central Kootenay Region. Since inception in 1984, Community Futures has helped over 1,675 Central Kootenay businesses to create over 1,600 additional jobs.

We have a variety of programs and services available to assist both established businesses as well as new entrepreneurs. These services include:

- Commercial loans for new or existing entrepreneurs
- Self-Employment Program (training & basic income support) for individuals currently collecting EI or for individuals who are unemployed and have had an EI claim in the previous 3 years
- Business Plan Training, Business Management Seminars, Customized Training Programs for existing businesses
- Business Resource Library
- Free business counselling appointments available throughout the region
- Free internet access for business plan research

To access either Commercial Loans or the Self-Employment Program, applicants must develop a thorough business plan that includes comprehensive competitive analysis.

Community Futures requests that applicants to the Self-Employment Program approach their Central Kootenay competition to introduce themselves, discuss local market conditions etc., and to ask the competition to complete a Market Research form.

The overall mandate of the Self-Employment Program is employment creation through self-employment. Each applicant's business idea is assessed for viability using many criteria, one of which is "room in the market". It is not the Program's intent to approve a new business if there is strong evidence that the existing market will not support another business.

Community Futures values the opinion of existing businesses and all of the competitor's comments will be taken into consideration when decisions are being made about supporting a new entrepreneur. In cases where the competitors have opposing views on the market, we will rely on all of the information presented by the applicant and the competitors when deciding whether or not to approve support for the business. Philosophical opposition to the Self Employment Program will not be considered as rationale for assessing whether or not there is "room in the market."

Any comments you may have regarding this application, can be returned directly to the applicant, or if you prefer, you may send your comments in confidence to Barb Williams, Self-Employment Program Coordinator at:

Fax: (250) 352-5926 Email: bwilliams@futures.bc.ca
Mail: Attn: Barb Williams
Community Futures
201 – 514 Vernon Street
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Thank you for your input. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Community Futures at (250) 352-1933.