

December 2024



Community
Futures Peace Country

Merry Christmas wishes from CFPC

As the year comes to a close, we'd like to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude to the many individuals, organizations, and partners who have supported us throughout the year. We have so many positives to reflect on thanks to the support of our amazing communities and partners. It's been a year of growth, and collaboration, and we are especially thankful for the support of PrairiesCan, Chambers of Commerce organizations in our coverage area, and our municipal and corporate sponsors who give generously to CFPC initiatives and events. Your contributions have played a significant role in helping us strengthen and support the local business community, and we couldn't have done it without you. We also want to extend our thanks to the individuals and organizations that helped make our key events successful, including our monthly Lunch and Learn training sessions, Small Business Week Celebrations, the Women in the North Conference, Lemonade Day, the SongRise Conference, and our Strategic Planning Sessions. These events and initiatives are designed to build knowledge, foster connections, and empower entrepreneurs, and your involvement has made all the difference. A special thank you goes to our Board of Directors for their continued dedication and volunteer service. They selflessly give their time to guide our efforts, and we are incredibly appreciative of their commitment. During the 2024 calendar year, we were pleased to welcome three new directors: Dalen Richardson, representing Fairview and area, and Sarah Turcotte and Melissa Visser, representing Valleyview and area. We also welcomed back Cheryl Anderson as a Director, and her experience and guidance are invaluable to our work. We wish a very fond farewell to long standing Board Director and Chair George Leger. His term ends December 31st, 2024 and we wish him all the best for his future endeavours. As we look ahead to the new year, we remain committed to supporting the growth and success of local businesses and the communities we serve. We couldn't do this important work without you, and for that, we thank you. From all of us at Community Futures Peace Country, we wish you a joyous and peaceful holiday season. We look forward to continuing our work together in the year ahead to build a brighter future for the region. Please note, our office will be closed from 12 pm on December 24th until 8:30 am January 2nd.

Strategic Planning with the Village of Berwyn



General Manager Sherry Crawford worked with the Village of Berwyn Town Council on Sunday, November 24th to develop their Strategic Plan. It was a great day of discussion, collaboration and visioning for the future of the Village.



Growing communities one idea at a time

LUNCH AND LEARN UPDATE



Stacey Messner, Chartered Human Resources Professional, provided a workshop titled "Conflict: When Things Go Sideways" for our November 20th Lunch and Learn Session. Thank you Stacey for sharing your expertise and time and thanks to all those that joined online and in person for the session. We will have Stacey back in February for another Human Resources session "Active Listening". There is no Lunch and Learn session in December. We are looking for feedback on what type of bookkeeping topics people would like to learn about at an upcoming Lunch and Learn session. Email your suggestions to events@albertacf.com and follow our Facebook page for updates on future Lunch and Learns.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP BURSARY



Do you know of a grade 12 student who dreams of starting their own business after graduation? Please share this information regarding our \$1000 bursary with them. This bursary is available to all grade 12 students living within the boundaries of Community Futures Peace Country (see the back page of this newsletter). To apply, applicants must submit a completed business plan (template available on the Peace Country CF website), a support letter from their principal or teacher, and a biography. Applicants should also demonstrate their commitment to applying their knowledge in a rural northern setting and provide any additional information that may help the selection committee and outline how they intend to use the funds. CFPC team members are hosting Business Plan/Entrepreneurship Workshops to schools in the CFPC boundaries in January and February of 2025.

Entrepreneurship Bursary

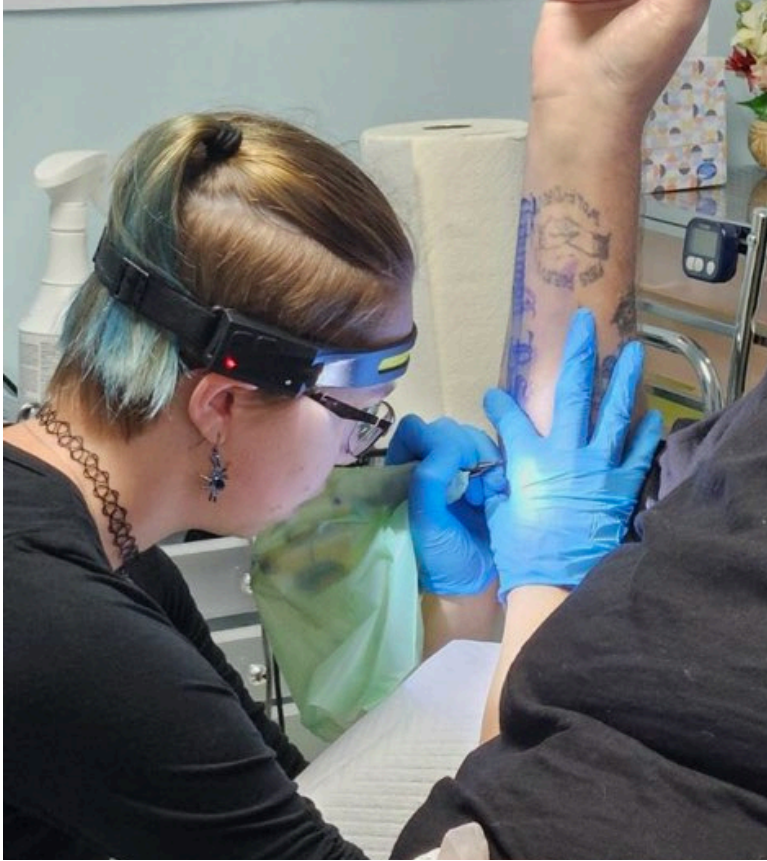


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CLIENT FEATURE

Timeless Tatts

Saydee Lorencz, owner of Timeless Tatts in Manning, is a 22-year-old Métis woman. She grew up in High Level, with family roots in Manning. Timeless Tatts is the first business she has owned, though she is a third-generation business owner in her family. Saydee has always been an artist, but says she never knew how to channel her talents into a career. It wasn't until a close family member suggested tattooing as a profession that she began to explore it as a potential career path.



Q: What have your biggest challenges and greatest successes so far been?

A: My greatest challenges so far have been starting up my business. It took a lot of time, patience, and effort to make everything work. Sourcing experienced people as references and using their advice helped me make my business work just as well. My greatest successes have been how smoothly I've started my business and how little I've had to advertise, as my community has been so encouraging and excellent in being a great advertisement for me.

Q: How has the support been so far?

A: The support thus far has been incredible! I hadn't even opened my studio yet, and people on the street already knew who I was and that I was opening a shop. I have people coming in all the time saying they heard from one of my previous clients how amazing I did on their tattoo and wanted to get one as well! I couldn't be more pleased with the support of my community and how welcomed I've been in my journey so far!

Q: Tell us about your business?

A: I opened my tattoo studio on September 30th, Truth and Reconciliation Day, and I am the first ever official tattoo studio in Manning, AB! I started my journey by completing my certificate for tattooing at The Alberta College of Body Art in Grande Prairie, AB. After that, I spent two more months at Cree8iv Ink Studios located in Grande Prairie as well. I then completed my Therapeutic Recreation Diploma, and after that, I went straight to work setting up my own studio! Besides tattooing services, I also sell knitted and beaded crafts that I make myself, local crafts from my community, and piercing jewelry.

Q: What made you decide to be an entrepreneur and what do you like about owning your own business?

A: I always knew I had to open my own studio if I wanted to live closer to my family, as there were no tattoo studios nearby. I also always planned to work in a studio due to the stigma involved with tattooing from home. What I love most about owning my own business is that I can work for myself. Everything I do is for my future and my business. I love having control of my hours, creating my own systems, and working with clients to meet both our needs.



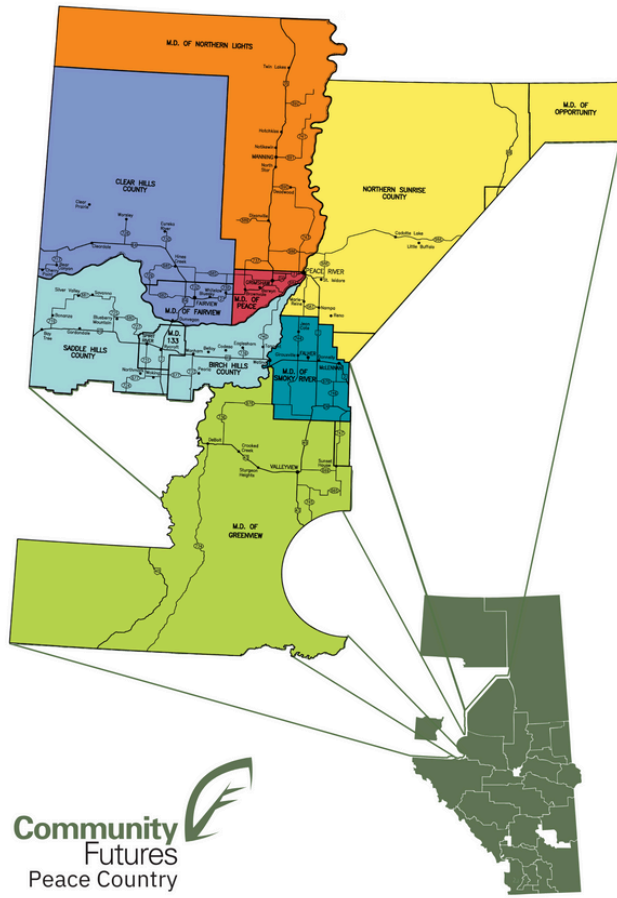
Q: Any advice you would give others looking to start a business?

A: My advice for others looking to start their own business is to find people who are successful business owners or people who have owned businesses in the past, and learn everything you can from them. Ask questions, use resources, and compare and contrast options. Lastly, always carry a notebook with you. You won't realize all the tidbits and information you'll come across, and writing them down makes it easier to search for and locate the information you find.

About Community Futures

Community Futures Peace Country is a community driven, non-profit organization staffed by business professionals and guided by a volunteer Board of Directors. We provide a wide range of small business services, developmental lending (up to \$150,000) and business management tools for people wanting to start, expand, franchise or sell a business. We also run a number of specialized business programs, organize exciting business events, and actively work with community and business leaders to foster rural economic growth.

OUR REGION



Community
Futures
Peace Country

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George Leger, Board Chair
Catherine Dezutter, 1st Vice-Chair
Carolyn Kolebaba, 2nd Vice-Chair
Frank Light, Director
Cheryl Anderson, Director
Dalen Richardson, Director
Sarah Turcotte, Director
Melissa Visser, Director

We help entrepreneurs and small business owners throughout the Peace region, including:

Bay Tree, Bear Canyon, Berwyn, Blueberry Mountain, Bluesky, Bonanza, Brownvale, Cadotte Lake, Calais, Carcajou, Cherry Point, Chinook Valley, Cleardale, Crooked Creek, Deadwood, DeBolt, Dixonville, Donnelly, Dunvegan, Eaglesham, Eureka River, Fairview, Falher, Girouxville, Gordondale, Grimshaw, Guy, Hines Creek, Hotchkiss, Jean Cote, Kathleen, Little Buffalo, Manning, Marie-Reine, McLennan, Nampa, North Star, Notikewin, Peace River, Reno, Rycroft, Silver Valley, Spirit River, St. Isidore, Tangent, Twin Lakes, Valleyview, Wanham, Watino, Whitelaw, Woking and Worsley

POPULATION: 50,000
50 COMMUNITIES
26 MUNICIPALITIES
4 FIRST NATIONS
122,000 SQUARE KMS



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