



Celebrating
20 years
 OF
EDP

The EDP Creates Opportunities for Business Success

www.communityfutures.ca/edp/

Unique to Western Canada, the Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program (EDP) is delivered in non-metropolitan areas of BC by Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs).

The EDP reduces barriers to entrepreneurship for persons with disabilities or ongoing health issues, and as the population ages, more small business owners are managing health issues.

EDP services, repayable loans and individualized assistance provides support to meet the diverse needs of entrepreneurs with disabilities, helping them contribute to their community's economic health.

The EDP champions inclusion and entrepreneurship as a viable option for persons with disabilities.

Economic Impact

Since 2006, entrepreneurs with disabilities – often considered high risk loan applicants by conventional lenders – have secured:

- \$13 million in business financing from BC CFDCs through the EDP loans program
- An additional \$7 million leveraged from other sources
- 447 businesses creating 1,058 full time stable jobs in rural BC
- < 3% loan write-off rate

Achievements

Nov 2006 to Mar 2017

	Goal	Achieved
# Businesses created /maintained/ expanded by EDP loans	305	447
# Jobs created/maintained by EDP loans	577	1058
# Persons with disabilities served by BC Community Futures	6,250	12,782
# Hours of direct client assistance	650	3,360

Supporting Business Start-Ups



Kevin Dufresne, Whistler Secured Storage, Whistler, British Columbia

Kevin Dufresne was an entrepreneur in his youth, but after ten years of chronic health problems he found himself on disability benefits and looking for support. Finally, he connected with Community Futures Howe Sound, where he received business planning support through the EDP client assistance program. Using an EDP loan, he developed a self-storage business on his property in Whistler, BC. As he puts it, “EDP poured a lot of resources into me.”

Three years later, Kevin has more than quadrupled his storage space and is finally independent. A respected employer, he has become an important part of Whistler’s local economy.

Custom Assistance



Sharon Lambert, Voiceover Artist, Chilliwack, BC

Sharon survived a catastrophic auto collision and set about creating a new career for herself. The challenge she faced was that the collision had left her with short-term memory loss from a brain injury and PTSD. Through the EDP Sharon was provided with a business coach who helped her map out a business plan including daily and monthly task lists. “From the beginning, EDP was great, recognizing that I could learn, but at a different pace,” she says. After 9 months of support Sharon launched her new business.

See her full story at: <http://www.communityfutures.ca/featured-businesses>

Business Expansion and Increased Productivity



Dave Bachmier, Neighbours Computers, Grand Forks

During the course of his battle with PTSD, Dave Bachmier found an ally in Community Futures Boundary and the EDP and set up his business to minimize triggers for his disability. The EDP loan and guidance helped Dave set up shop helping it grow from 900 square feet to over 3000 with increased products and services. As Dave says, “the EDP looked past the disability, and looked at this ability.” In 2015 Dave won his community’s retail excellence award.

See Dave’s video story at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uzzhzTHDrY>