



Chairperson Report 2022

Welcome!

Just like that we are here to celebrate another successful year at Community Futures (CF) Revelstoke. The world is opening back up, meetings are once again held in person, travel is allowed, extended families are re-connecting, doors are open, and masks are now optional in most situations. We can see and feel the light at the end of the tunnel. While these are all positive steps, the fact of the matter is that the pandemic has left many businesses and community members reeling from the last two years. I am proud to say that our team of staff and volunteers have continued to work to provide a much-needed seamless experience for our clients and community.

Our loans portfolio continues to thrive, and it reflects the hardy business community we have here in Revelstoke. Loans Analyst Cindy Maloney worked closely with our local businesses to administer 53 loans totaling \$1,733,860 in the last year. These loans helped to create and maintain 46 full time jobs, 31 part time jobs, and 83 seasonal jobs.

Cindy continued to delegate our Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) which has ensured that small businesses were provided with the capital that they needed to see them through the challenges of Covid 19. There were 48 businesses who accessed this program which quickly injected \$2,182,136.41 into our community.

The Self Employment program remains an integral part of our loans department. The objective of this important program is to aid individuals through the process of starting a business. I am very happy to report that 6 individuals have accessed this program over the last year both in Revelstoke and Golden.

When you add them all up these numbers are all truly remarkable. I would like to extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to Cindy for her dedicated work with all these programs.

Here at Community Futures Revelstoke, we like to keep busy! We have our hands in many community projects. Brooke Burke our Executive Assistant oversaw and assisted many of these projects that are highlighted below:

- Startup Revelstoke. Carolyn Gibson our Start up Coach continues to deliver a solid early intervention program for entrepreneurs seeking guidance and direction when starting a business. Startup Revelstoke fosters a smooth transition for entrepreneurs in our community when they decide to make the leap to becoming a business owner. Brooke and Carolyn collaborated on a sleek new website design that went online this year. Then, they also took charge to plan and organize the many (now in person) Entrepreneur meet ups. Keep up the great work!
- Revelstoke Ready. This project was developed in partnership with the Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce. With the help of the Business Outreach Coordinator Carolyn Gibson, Brooke Burke took the reins to promote and deliver this Emergency Preparedness course and designation. Brooke and Carolyn educated our business community about the value of being ready in case of

emergency. Business owners were given kits to follow and create their own plans and information packages.

- Community Kitchen. We are pleased to announce the Community Kitchen has now opened in the Community Connections building! CF Revelstoke was an early advocate and donor to this project, and I would like to extend a congratulations to those who put in the hard work to achieve this community milestone.
- Housing project. Our General Manager Kevin Dorrius, along with key, like-minded community members, led the charge on this project. CF Revelstoke has now assisted with the creation of the brand-new Employee Housing Society. The goal of the society is to seek out and secure affordable housing that local businesses and organizations can use to retain and attract employees. Many businesses are forced to close during the week or shorten their hours due to lack of staff and this issue has become ever more pressing. This will be a project to watch as it unfolds!

While all of this has been happening, at the staff level, CF Revelstoke has also needed to rely on the hard work of our volunteers. While dealing with their own journey through this pandemic our volunteers continue to show up for the greater good for Community Futures Revelstoke. Our discussions, commitment, and time are what makes the organization operate at the high level that it does. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated board members individually:

Jim Maitre Vice Chair	Veronika Stevenson Treasurer	Nathan Bertram Member at large
Angus Woodman Director	Melissa Hemphill Director	Nathan Weston Director
Dylan Hardy Director	Amy Clarke Director	Christina Chong Chamber appointee
Adam Croxall Director	Ingrid Bron CED appointee	Rob Elliot City Council appointee

The future is looking bright. The annual BC Community Futures Conference is once again scheduled to be hosted this year in Revelstoke this September 2022. This will be the third attempt since 2020 to gather everyone together for a few days of collaboration, networking, and learning. We are ready for you CF world!

Brooke Burke has taken a new position with BC Community Futures! She will gradually be leaving us as she transitions into her new chapter. Brooke has been with our office for 8 years and has been a key organizer, motivator, and advocate for our organization. We are proud that she will remain in the CF family, and we are thankful for her dedication and hard work over the years. We wish you the best and will miss you in the office!

As I round out my report it is imperative to recognize and celebrate our General Manager Kevin Dorrius. It has been made clear through my years on the board, and now as Chair, that Kevin continues to be a leader and a key driving factor in the success of Community Futures Revelstoke. This year Kevin celebrates a monumental 25 years with our organization, and I would like to congratulate him on his dedication and commitment. He has watched the community change, thrive and struggle all with the one goal of supporting local businesses. He has been continually commended for being an innovative and forward thinker as well as a key community partner with other organizations. On behalf of the board, I offer a sincere acknowledgment of this service and a humble thank you.

Revelstoke is a small but strong community. Our businesses have faced another challenging year. Hard decisions had to be and continue to be made. Here at Community Futures Revelstoke, we will remain shouldering some of the burden Covid 19 has left us, while navigating a brighter path forward. Our vision has not waivered that 'Revelstoke becomes the best place to live and work.'

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon van Goor', written in a cursive style.

Shannon van Goor - Chair