

Growing communities one idea at a time.



COMMUNITY FUTURES NORTH CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS STORIES

Chicken Chef in Thompson has new ownership

In February 2009 Roy and Evalett Dobchuk approached Community Futures North Central Development (CFNCD) as they were interested in purchasing Chicken Chef in Thompson. Roy and Evalett, with assistance from staff pursued this acquisition by working for several weeks on completing a detailed business plan.

It was decided in the early stages of business plan preparations that upon successful acquisition, changes would be made to the business operations in order to meet their objectives. Some of the changes included: to be open for dine-in, take-out and delivery on a full time basis, expand on the catering services offered through marketing initiatives, increase menu options, to focus on staff recruitment and retention and to continue to offer great food and service in a welcoming environment.

In June 2009 financing was approved and in September 2009 Evalett and Roy were the new owners of Chicken Chef Family Restaurant in Thompson.

Evalett and Roy have been successful at implementing a few of their short term objectives. They are now open full time for dine-in, take-out and delivery, they continue to market the catering services available and have implemented some new menu options. They have also invested in new computer systems for efficiency and have acquired a portable debit machine that accommodates customers who opt for delivery.



Roy and Evalett Dobchuk

Community Futures North Central Development would like to congratulate Evalett and Roy Dobchuk and wish them nothing but success in their future.

William & Myrtle Fourre - Fourre Transportation

For the last 14 years William Fourre had a dream to own and operate a School Bus business in Wabowden. The Fourre's wanted to expand their business with a purchase of a second school bus. They came to Community Futures North Central Development in Thompson, where staff gave them assistance

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with their business plan, which led to financing from CFNCD and a contribution from ABC. This new venture has created an employment opportunity for a second driver in Wabowden.

Cheryl Martin - Turtle Tots Daycare

Cheryl Martin lives in Leaf Rapids where she saw the need for a daycare facility. She knew that not only could she provide a service, but that she could provide a fulfilling job for herself. The Self Employment Assistance program provided Cheryl with the support she needed to get started. Turtle Tots Daycare officially opened its doors on September 8th, 2008, and is full. Cheryl is optimistic that in 5 years she will expand into Day Care Center.

Timothy Sweeny Creeway Aviation

Creeway Aviation purchased a Piper Navajo aircraft to expand their services to include Aircraft Charters. The expansion of Creeway Aviation was supported by Community Futures North Central Development, Aboriginal Business Canada, and First Peoples Economical Growth Fund. Creeway Aviation proposes several initiatives aimed at providing Aboriginal youth with an opportunity for training and employment in the aviation industry (Maintenance Engineer Program & Aviation Sponsorship). By partnering with surrounding communities, Creeway Aviation will be able to sponsor several students in the field of aviation as pilots, this will

give students the opportunity for the on-the-job experience and the necessary flight hours required to complete their licensing. In turn, Creeway Aviation will have a pool of home-grown pilots to staff their aircraft.

Gilbert Forbister -

Forbister's Reno's & Repairs

Gilbert Forbister is a participant of the Self Employment Assistance Program, coordinated by Community Futures North Central Development. He attended Vision Quest 2009 where he was presented with an award and a \$5000 cheque from the Aboriginal Business Service Network (ABSN) for his submission to their Business Plan Competition. With the support of CFNCD's SEA coordinator, Gilbert's Kitchen & Bathroom Renovations business was successfully launched in January 2009.

Cory Grant -

All Terrain Bear Hunts

Cory Grant has operated All Terrain Bear Hunts, an Outfitting business in Northern Manitoba for several years. Recently wanting to expand services, he came to Community Futures North Central Development, where he received guidance and support that led to a contribution from ABC and financing from CFNCD. CFNCD recently nominated All Terrain Bear Hunts for a Manitoba Tourism award for the business' efforts to promote Northern Manitoba as a priority tourist destination.

York Landing Entrepreneurship Training Program

Four York Landing residents have been participating in the Entrepreneurship Training Program, which is funded by the York Landing Learning Institute, and has been delivered by Community Futures North Central Development. Students have learned about what it takes to start a business and have examined their own potential for entrepreneurship. Participants have gone through the steps of preparing a business plan and by the end of this 12 week program, will have the knowledge needed to start or expand their own businesses. Pictured from left to right are Freda Wastasicoot, George Wastasicoot, Instructor Michelle Pruder, Gail Landers, and Nancy Williams.



Growing Communities Program launches in 2010/2011

Community Futures North Central Development is getting set to launch the *Growing Communities Program* on April 1, 2010. This pilot project is currently being considered by CFNCD's board of directors and consists of a fund set up to assist communities in the north central region to "grow" com-

munity economic development initiatives. CFNCD will contribute up to \$2,500 per community for project start-up or expansion. Eligible projects are those that add to the general well-being of a community stimulating economic growth. Examples could be a community dock, walking path, commu-

nity event, tourism initiative, recycling program, youth camp or workshop, community website, etc.

Applications will be received on an ongoing basis throughout the year. Contact CFNCD for more information, 1-888-847-7878 or 204-677-1490.

North Central Region connects to the world wide web

Community Futures North Central Development will soon launch a new and improved website. The goal of the new website is to become more accessible to the region. CFNCD received funding from the Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program through Community Futures Manitoba to work on the website's accessibility. The Literacy Partners of Manitoba were contracted to

provide plain language training to staff and provide reviews and rewrites of our current website. CFNCD then contracted a web designer to revamp the design and functionality of the site. The site is expected to go live by March 2010.

Other communities in the North Central region are getting involved as well. Funding was awarded to CFNCD from Manitoba Science, Technology,

Energy and Mines to assist the communities of Thicket Portage, Wabowden, Cross Lake and Churchill to create new websites and update existing ones. These community websites are expected to go live in April 2010.

If your community is interested in creating or improving it's website, contact CFNCD today to discuss your options!

TUAS Home Daycare Project creates 26 new childcare spots

Thompson Urban Aboriginal Strategy (TUAS) in Partnership with Community Futures North Central Development (CFNCD) has been working on the development and implementation of the TUAS Home Daycare Project. This project consists of creating 50 new home childcare spaces to remedy the shortage of childcare in Thompson. Participants in this program are provided assistance in obtaining necessary licenses and access to financial guidance.

At the end of Phase Two, 26 new childcare spaces and a new Handbook of Childcare was created. On February 25, 26, and 27, 2010, the second "Family Learning FUNdamental" workshop happened in partnership with TUAS and the Burntwood Parent Child Centered Coalition at Meridian Hotel with 16 participants regis-



Laura's Littles is one of the new home daycares supported by TUAS and CFNCD with 7 spaces for children of the ages of 2 to 12 years. The owner, Laura Beardy combines her many years of experience and education with her congenial and cheerful disposition to provide a fun and safe environment for the children she cares for.

tered from daycare centres and pre-school programs. The workshop will introduce the partici-

pants to the Family Literacy and Learning begins.

Self Employment Assistance Program helps entrepreneurs

The Self-Employment Assistance Program, which is funded by The Government of Canada Employment Insurance Account and The Province of Manitoba has helped several entrepreneurs start their own businesses this past year. The program is designed to give EI recipients (or past-recipients) the extra supports needed to be able to start their own business.

Once approved for the program, participants work closely with a Business Development Officer at Community Futures North Central Development, who assists them in developing and writing a formal business plan over a 10 week period. Once the business plan is completed and approved, participants then go on to launch their businesses. During 2010, the following

businesses were successfully started by SEA participants:

- Thumper Auto Service
- Tamarack Red Seal Carpentry
- Keira's Convenience Store
- Bountiful Baskets
- Where'd You Get That!!!!

Congratulations to these new businesses! For more information on the SEA program, contact Community Futures at 677-1490.

**HAVE YOU EVER
WANTED TO BE YOUR
OWN BOSS?**

Community Futures North Central Development has loans available for business start up and expansion. Contact our loans officer today for more information - 677-1490 or 1-888-847-7878

Tourism North markets the north as a priority tourist destination

Tourism North Manitoba, currently in its 10th year, is a regional tourism association (RTA) established with the goal in mind to increase tourism sustainability North of the 53rd parallel. Community Futures North Central Development is one of several partner organizations across the north and provides a coordinator to carry out tasks as directed by the board of directors.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Tourism North partnered with Design North to print a **Northern Manitoba Adventure Map** in 2007. This map includes information on all Northern Manitoba regions as well as snowmobile trails, canoe routes, campsites, RV sites, parks, ferry service, airports, winter roads and downhill & cross country ski information.

Tourism North launched a website (www.visitnorthernmanitoba.ca) in 2008 that has become a database of outfitters & lodges, campgrounds, attractions, events, etc in Northern Manitoba. The website is used as a

tool to reach out across the globe to attract visitors. Enquiries for information on the north come from all over the world.

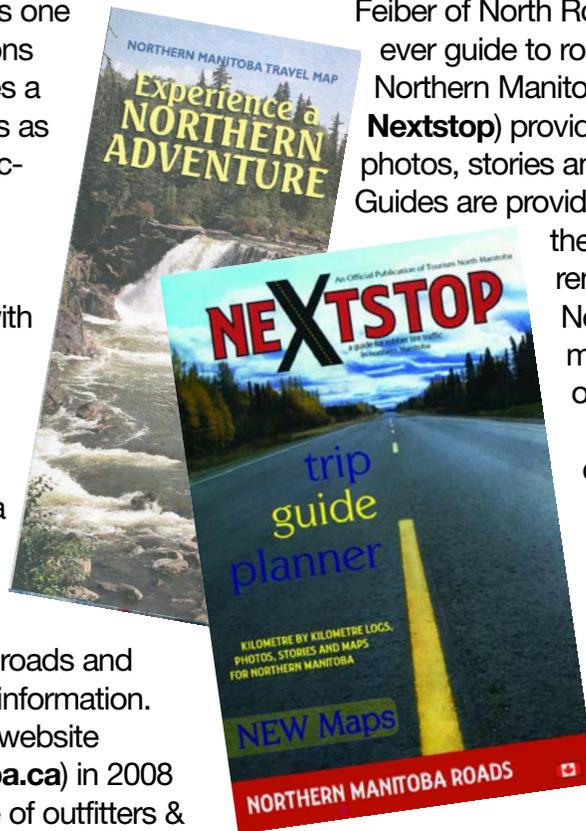
More recently, Tourism North partnered with Frank Feiber of North Roots Magazine to publish the first ever guide to road-accessible communities in Northern Manitoba. This travel guide (titled **Nextstop**) provides kilometer by kilometer logs, photos, stories and maps for Northern Manitoba. Guides are provided when enquiries come in from

the website. Tourism North is currently planning the 2nd edition of Nextstop which will include all communities in Northern Manitoba, not only those that are road-accessible.

Tourism North is also working to create a "Manitoba Display" that can be used at trade shows and events and will showcase Manitoba museums, golf, arts & culture, food & festivals, hunting & fishing and parks & recreation.

This is a partnership with several other RTA's across the province.

For more information on any Tourism North initiatives or the organization itself, contact CFNCD today at 1-888-847-7878 or 204-677-1490.



Aboriginal Business Canada Program

Community Futures North Central Development continues to deliver the Aboriginal Business Canada Program (ABDP) to all of northern Manitoba. Under the ABDP, funding is available for business start-ups, acquisitions, expansions and modernizations. Eligible applicants include individuals, partnerships, corporations and community-owned enterprises.

Beginning in 2009, Aboriginal Business Canada has implemented a program entitled Major Resource Economic Development Projects. The intent of the program is to assist First Nation and Aboriginal communities in participating in the ownership and development of economic development projects that are based on the development of natural resources. Projects involving energy production are of particular interest to this program.

Also beginning in 2009 Aboriginal Business Canada,

partnering with Community Futures North Central, has implemented a Business Support Officer initiative. The intent of this initiative is to provide business and management advice to existing, aboriginal-owned businesses who wish to improve their business performance. This could involve providing advice, assessment, and analysis of financial information and bookkeeping systems used by a business, evaluating and or establishing inventory and cost control procedures, providing advice on possible changes to management practices, and assisting in plans for business expansions.

For information on any of the above programs, call Peter Rosenfeld, External Development Officer at the Community Futures North Central office (204-677-1490), on cellular (204-981-2357), or via email at prosenfeld@mts.net

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ABORIGINAL BUSINESS
CANADA

Vision Quest Conference to take place May 18 - 20, 2010

Community Futures North Central Development is proud to be among the planning partners of the 14th annual Vision Quest Conference. This year's conference will take place at the Winnipeg Convention Centre May 18 - 20, 2010. Each year the conference partners strive to promote business and community economic development among Aboriginal people and communities through a variety of keynote presentations, interactive workshops, youth programs, exhibits, networking events and a gala banquet.

ALL Aboriginal business owners & operators, Aboriginal Youth, Community Leaders, Economic Development Officers, Investors and



Financial Institutions, Government and Corporate Representatives, Businesses and Community Service Providers and Organizations wishing to do business with the Aboriginal Community are encouraged to attend. Register online at www.vqconference.com or call 1-800-557-8242.

Farewell Liz!

Liz Sousa worked with Community Futures North Central Development for over nine years in both Community and Business Development.

Liz recently accepted a term position with the Province of Manitoba in the childcare field, which she is endlessly passionate about. Her enthusiasm and passion for the projects she worked on during her time with



CFNCD will be missed in the office. Farewell and Good Luck in all your future endeavors Liz!