



Community
Futures Sagehill



Growing communities one idea at a time.

Annual Report
2022-2023

Message from the Chair



We had another busy year. Sagehill's Lending Program invested \$572,300 into our region. Through our lending and business services, we were able to create, maintain and expand 176 businesses, provide 1,019 business advisory services and provide training to 727 participants.

Through Board round table discussions, it was determined that a challenge our small business owners faced was recruiting and retaining employees. To address this issue within our region, we held a one-day, in person, conference in which we brought in specialists from within Saskatchewan to provide strategies to employers on this topic. Upon review of the evaluations received from the conference, the Board determined that this conference will be held annually for the next three years.

This past fiscal year, we created and implemented a series of Community Economic Development virtual workshops for not for profits, community organizations and municipalities. This series of workshops have been a great success. For example, we held a grant writing workshop in which we had 60 participants register. Upon review of the series and evaluations received, we have determined that this is something our region desperately needed and will continue to provide these virtual workshops in the upcoming year.

We continue to provide a series of business workshops that are specific to the needs of small businesses. Sagehill uses an entrepreneurial mindset when determining the series of workshops. This has proven to be a successful strategy as it shows in our numbers of trained participants.

Our marketing strategy continues to be aggressive. This is demonstrated by the increase in the number of social media followers, inquiries and advisory services. Sagehill is very committed to promoting the Community Futures Program throughout our region.

We continue to seek partnerships with other organizations, including other Community Futures offices, to offer organizations, small businesses, and communities, valuable resources throughout our region and province.

We were also able to successfully secure another Self Employment Contract with the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training. This program provides assistance to entrepreneurs who are interested in starting their own business.

We continue to deliver the provincial Indigenous Business Development Services Program (IBDS). This program assists Indigenous entrepreneurs to start, maintain and expand their businesses.

The Board was very active in increasing their knowledge by attending conferences as well as inhouse learning opportunities. Our Corporation continues to benefit from solid leadership and our volunteers give unselfishly their time and expertise in which they have dedicated 1,072 volunteer hours this year.

The impact we have in our region is significant. The support we provide to small businesses, the financing we do, the learning opportunities we create, and the community initiatives we support, all contribute to the positive economic climate in our region.

Floyd Lueke, Chairperson



Meet the Members of our Board:



Floyd Lueke

Floyd was appointed to the Board in November 2013 and was elected to his first term with the board in June 2014. In June 2019 Floyd was elected to the position of Chair. In September 2023, Floyd's 3rd term expires.

Floyd and his wife, Elaine, own and operate Midland Glass in Humboldt.



Patrice Boychuk - Kidd

Patrice was elected to the Board in June 2014. In September 2023, Patrice's 3rd term expires.

Patrice and her husband, Ed, own and operate the Rosthem Dairy Queen.



Paul Kneeshaw

Paul was elected to the Board in June 2014. In September 2023, Paul's 3rd term expires.

Paul and his wife, Diana, own and operate Misty Garden Greenhouse & Gift Shop in Humboldt.



Denis Boyenko

Denis was elected to the Board in June 2017. In October 2023, Denis will be starting his 3rd term.

Denis and his wife, Shelley, just recently sold their business Gido's Comer in Aberdeen.

Denis owns and operates a pest control business in Aberdeen.

Meet the Members of our Board Con't:



Adam Ritthaler

Adam was elected to the Board in June 2019. In December 2021, Adam was elected to the position of Vice-Chair. In October 2023, Adam will be starting his 2nd term.

Adam owns and operates Watrous Electronics in Watrous.



Sherry Pilon

Sherry was appointed to the Board in October 2019. In October 2023, Sherry will be starting her 2nd term.

Sherry owns and operates Impression Salon in Rosthern.



Loa Titman

Loa was elected to the Board in June 2022. Loa is currently serving her 1st term.

Loa and her husband, Dave, own and operate Concrete Elements in Viscount.

Created in 1985, Community Futures is the largest, most well-established national community economic development network in the country. Nationally, Sagehill has 267 sister Community Futures Development Corporations. They can be found in every province and territory. Community Futures is a Government of Canada initiative designed to help communities develop and implement strategies for dealing with a changing economic environment.

Sagehill is also a proud member of the Western Canada Business Service Network. With a network of over 100 points of service across the West, small and medium-sized businesses in most rural and urban centers can easily access a range of business services through Western Economic Diversification's (WED) Business Service Network. In 2021, Western Economic Diversification (WED) changed its name to Prairie's Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan).

The Western Canada Business Service Network consists of several integrated organizations that help businesses start up or grow, and help communities create the environment in which diverse businesses can thrive in Saskatchewan. The network includes Community Futures Development Corporations, Women's Enterprise Initiatives, Francophone Economic Development Organizations, Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Programs, Indigenous Business Development Services Programs, and regional PrairiesCan offices in Western Canada.



With the support of:
Prairies Economic
Development Canada





The
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