

Community Futures Performance Results	Results as of 2016-17
<i>Strong rural community strategic planning and implementation</i>	
1. Total number of community-based projects (new & on-going)	97
2. Total number of local and regionally-based community strategic plans developed and/or updated	3
<i>Rural access to business development services</i>	
3. Total number of business training session participants	382
4. Total number of business advisory services	275
<i>Rural access to capital and leveraged capital</i>	
5. Dollar value of loans	\$1,911,097
6. Total number of loans	27
7. Number of jobs created/maintained/expanded through lending ¹	203
2016-17 Highlights	
<p>Once again CFMW had a highly productive year, lending almost \$2.0 million, disbursed over 27 loans. We have also maintained good lending diversity across industry sectors, First Nations lending and some micro-loans. This is the 4th straight year that CFMW has approached the \$2.0 million dollar mark, which is remarkable given that our total catchment area population is less than 12,0000 people. We finished the year with under 10% cash on hand, and since March 31st have borrowed additional funds from the BC Futures Fund (loan pool) so that we can continue to service new and expanding entrepreneurs in our region.</p> <p>Tourism continues to be an area of steady growth for our region and CF. As an example, we invested in two projects which will see existing “wilderness resorts” redeveloped under new owners. Both resorts have already exceeded their sales targets for the upcoming season. We were very pleased to lead in one development and support the other as a syndication partner.</p> <p>Training was also a highlight of our year, with over 380 training participants. Our training is focussed on three area: Business Start-up workshops, business-related training, including: Excel, Bookkeeping and Simply Accounting and Junior Achievement, where we teach entrepreneurship to high school students.</p> <p>In addition to our business development and financing work, CFMW continues to be very involved in a number of community projects.</p> <p>Whale Heritage Site</p>	

¹ Estimated at the time of lending

CFMW is a partner in a project led by the North Island Marine Mammal Stewardship Association (NIMMSA) and the Regional District. NIMMSA is an organization largely composed of whale watching/kayaking companies operating between Campbell River and the Central Coast.

When they approached our region, through the Regional District, CFMW became a willing partner in their proposed project.

This group is now working with the World Cetacean Alliance, based in London England, to become the first region in the world to receive a “Whale Heritage Site” designation. This designation recognizes the excellent whale watching practices in the region and takes into consideration environmental, cultural and educational practices related to whales and marine life as well.

The designation will provide an enormous boost to the industry and to tourism in general within this region.

Over the coming year we will be working with our partners to develop an operational and governance model to sustain the designation over the coming years.

Forest Sector Attraction, Training and Retention Strategy

The North Island Forest Sector Attraction, Training and Retention Strategy is a comprehensive plan to position the forest industry and the forestry practices on Northern Vancouver Island to play a key role in sustaining the economic development and diversification of communities within the region.

The Strategy has two main components:

- A forest industry education, training and career development model that will offer pathways from high schools, to colleges and to a logging field school into a range of forestry sector careers;
- An attraction plan focussed on attracting workers and their families to the region, to the industry and to the many assets and benefits this region has to offer.

Funding for this project came from the Rural Dividend Fund and from the key partners and stakeholders of the strategy.