

Comox Valley Business Support and Development Agencies

In collaboration with the Comox Valley and Cumberland Chamber of Commerce, Community Futures Strathcona, and Comox Valley Economic Development, the following outlines the roles, mandates and focus areas of these interconnected agencies that support new and existing businesses and the delivery of economic development activities in the region.

Comox Valley Economic Development Society

About CVEDS:

Incorporated in 1988 following an extensive strategic planning process, CVEDS is a partnership of four local governments and local First Nation to deliver the services of Economic Development for the Comox Valley.

The Society's Board of Directors consists of appointees from the City of Courtenay, the Town of Comox, the Village of Cumberland, the Comox Valley Regional District, K'omoks First Nation and six (6) elected representatives from private sector and community organizations.

Mission:

Encourage responsible expansion of the economic base of the Comox Valley with the intent of enhancing wealth and employment opportunities.

Goals and Objectives:

- To promote, market and generally facilitate economic development in the Comox Valley;
- To develop and implement economic strategies for the Comox Valley;
- To develop and assist in the development of properties and facilities for the purposes of creating new economic activities and expanding existing activities in the Comox Valley;
- To provide business information services;
- To develop information on the economic activity in the Comox Valley.

CVEDS delivers economic development services and programs for the Comox Valley under three primary focus areas that include:

- Business Retention and Enhancement (50%)
- Investment Attraction and Promotion (30%)
- Economic Development Facilitation (20%)

Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce

About the Chamber:

The Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce is a voice of businesses in the local community and beyond. Their membership is made up of businesses whose aim it is to promote the commercial well being of the Comox Valley.

Mission:

Building relationships through leadership, advocacy and member services in a positive business environment.

Goals & Objectives:

- To create and sustain programs designed to help member businesses build relationships and create strategic alliances that will promote economic growth;
- To strengthen the organization by building membership, providing quality membership services and fostering community involvement;
- To provide high levels of information services for the traveling public, local residents and business concerns;
- To effectively be the voice of business in the Comox Valley and effectively advocate to all levels of government on issues that are relevant to the local business environment;
- To be at the leading edge in fostering co-operation between business groups, celebrating business excellence and promoting private enterprise.

Cumberland Chamber of Commerce:

About the Chamber: Established 1929, the Cumberland Chamber of Commerce is a voice of businesses in the local community and beyond. Their 80 business membership is made up of businesses whose aim it is to promote the commercial well being of the Village of Cumberland.

Mission: The Cumberland Chamber of Commerce strives to be the voice of business in the Village of Cumberland and to monitor local government on issues that relate to the success of their business community.

Goals and Objectives:

- To provide comprehensive visitor services at their location in the Cumberland Museum
- To provide business information for residents, potential residents and investors.
- Respond to out of town inquiries through forwarding of information and Visitor Guides
- To disseminate information to members regarding important local issues and events

Community Futures Strathcona

About Community Futures:

Community Futures provide their communities with a variety of services including business development loans, technical support, training and information. In addition to the business development component, Community Futures involve themselves in a wide array of community initiatives, including strategic planning processes, research and feasibility studies, and the implementation of a diverse range of community economic development (CED) projects.

Goals & Objectives:

- Recognition of the uniqueness, diversity, equality and commonality of purpose and interests that exist amongst the members;
- To create, promote and encourage better understanding, unity, harmony and cooperation amongst the members;
- To seek, obtain and encourage on behalf of the members the support, recognition and understanding of the public and all levels of government and government agencies or bodies regarding community economic development in British Columbia;
- To promote, coordinate and facilitate on behalf of the members, community economic development initiatives;
- To act as liaison for the members to facilitate constructive communication and to coordinate effort amongst the members and with other sympathetic or interested organizations and agencies of a similar or allied nature;
- To provide a framework and a forum for the discussion of issues and concerns affecting the members and the distinct regions in which they operate;
- To lead the development of the members toward their common vision, through the provision of a system strategic planning, facilities, services and advocacy support; and
- To do all such things as are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of the aforementioned objectives.