



PROCLAMATION
"COMMUNITY FUTURES DAY" - SEPTEMBER 17/2015

- WHEREAS: Small businesses are the backbone of the economy, representing 98% of all businesses in the Province of BC, employing half of our Province's private sector workforce and creating nearly two of every three new jobs. Representing the classic Canadian ideals of hard work and ingenuity, small businesses – from startups to mom-and-pop shops – are crucial to the prosperity and economic vibrancy of our region. During National Small Business Week, we recommit ourselves to the advancement of these vital enterprises, and celebrate their contributions to our collective story; and
- WHEREAS: Community Futures is committed to ensuring small businesses have the tools, resources, and expertise entrepreneurs need to succeed. They are also focused on injecting capital into emerging, entrepreneurial communities; supporting ventures operated by men and women, youth, and underserved populations and continue to work to open doors to new opportunities; and
- WHEREAS: Community Futures, a valuable asset to the entrepreneurial community works collaboratively with partner agencies to support the needs of entrepreneurs in their region; and
- WHEREAS: in 2008, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) called Community Futures "one of the most innovative and successful rural oriented policies anywhere in the world." The OECD went on to say that the program's success is due in no small part to the fact that it is locally run and suited to local conditions; and
- WHEREAS: in 2015, OECD states that "Across all developed countries that having a suitable business idea and securing necessary financing are the most important considerations for starting up or taking over a business"; Community Futures, by investing in local communities, expanding access to credit, and assisting entrepreneurs, continues to bolster the region's micro and small business community across Canada; and
- WHEREAS: in support of micro and small business, our local Community Futures, Community Futures Central Island, since its inception, has lent \$30 million dollars in the region, created and maintained 5035 jobs and leveraged 44 million dollars into our local regional economy.

NOW THEREFORE I, Bill McKay, Mayor of the City of Nanaimo, do hereby proclaim September 17th, 2015 as "COMMUNITY FUTURES DAY" in the City of Nanaimo and call upon our citizens to recognize the contributions of small businesses to our economy with appropriate programs and activities such as Community Futures.



Mayor Bill McKay

DATED THIS 12TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2015.