

Introducing Sherree Walter, New Co-Chair for EDG

Nanaimo News Bulletin EDG Column Thursday, Feb 14

The Economic Development Group continues to attract bright minds, positive attitudes and highly regarded go-getters in the community. Sherree Walter, Executive Director of Community Futures Central Island (CF-CI) has been a member of EDG for the past year and was recently appointed co-chair with Pat Ahern. As a founding member, Community Futures has a long history with EDG. When Sherree chose to move to Nanaimo, she determined that maintaining a strong relationship with EDG would be a significant part of CF-CI's continuing community outreach.

CF-CI plays a vital role in Nanaimo by partnering with other organizations to undertake local economic development initiatives throughout the central Vancouver Island region. They continue to deliver core services; start up and expansion loans to small and medium sized businesses and training on how to build a business plan. In addition to these core services, Community Futures has many innovative projects set out for 2008. The development of a human resources guide targeting the needs of small to medium employers will be a key focus. Sherree and her team are excited to be a part of the range of projects initiated by EDG.

The Challenge of Change Forum, Mid-Island Transportation Task Force, Leading EDG Awards and MATCH Forum are all scheduled for 2008. Constructive projects are identified when EDG members work together to address the needs of the community. The opportunity to meet and work with a broad spectrum of individuals and groups, strengthen existing partnerships and expand Community Futures of Central Vancouver Island's program platform are what Sherree identified as the personal benefits she will gain from being a member of EDG.

When asked what she hopes to achieve through EDG, Sherree Walter replied "To help strengthen the Nanaimo and region's economic health through EDG's mandate directly and the partnerships formed within the group." Community Futures of Central Island offers business assistance and training and they can be reached at 250.753.6414. Be sure to read future EDG articles for more information on the direction of EDG and the positive results of its 2008 projects. If you are interested in joining EDG, contact Katie Ferland at the Economic Development Office 250.755.4465. It is because of dedicated people such as Sherree Walter and her team at CF-CI that Nanaimo continues to be one of the most desirable, livable small cities in North America.