

Chairperson's Report for the 2014-15 year

The year ending in March 2015 was a year of stability and activity for the Community Futures Saskatchewan organization. We continued to contract association management services from Community Futures Manitoba and have Jason Denbow serve as the Executive Director for Saskatchewan to provide his experience to our organization. Jason and his staff took some great initial steps in rebuilding our association's reputation and towards demonstrating our value to our members.

One of the largest projects for Community Futures Saskatchewan is the provincial Marketing Campaign. This campaign is a jointly funded project between CFS and the majority of Saskatchewan CF organizations that focuses on utilizing social media to attract new clients for the CF program. Potential clients that downloaded our virtual products were identified directly to their CFs for assistance. We look forward to seeing some of these referrals become loan clients who open businesses in rural Saskatchewan communities in the coming years.

Another ongoing project we are very proud of is the Just Watch Me! Video Contest. An initiative of our Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program (EDP), in partnership with Manitoba, this contest is part of our ongoing commitment to support Saskatchewan CF organizations in their delivery of CF services to entrepreneurs with disabilities or health conditions. Unfortunately, our Saskatchewan winning streak was snapped in 2015, but Emmy Barr and her business, Queen of Caramel in Moose Jaw; and Darold and Corinne Biette of Pheasant Point Adventures in Mistatim still won 2nd and 4th place respectively.

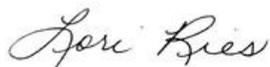
The third item I would like to touch on is our Loan Pool. This past year, the Community Futures Saskatchewan Investment Pool or CFSIP continued to operate effectively and efficiently in helping to address discrepancies in the availability of loan capital among our CFs and helping to reduce the risk to our program that's posed by uncommitted cash reserves. The Pool is a great tool to help get more capital out of bank accounts and into the hands of rural entrepreneurs to support growth in their businesses and in our communities.

CFS's involvement in our western and national networks continued to bring Saskatchewan CFs the benefit of strength in numbers and the ability to undertake large-scale projects that could not have been achieved at the provincial level. The CF Pan West network played a lead role in promoting CF Program renewal and continued the delivery and enhancement of the Community Futures Board Development Program and the staff professional development program. The CF Network of Canada continued to provide a national voice on issues of importance to the Program. I was happy to serve as Saskatchewan's Pan West and CFNC representative this past year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Western Economic Diversification for their ongoing support of this program. We look forward to our continued working relationship to assist clients and small business owners in Saskatchewan.

And finally, a huge Thank-You to our volunteer board members and our staff for your countless hours of hard work and dedication towards this great program.

Respectfully submitted,



Lori Ries