

# West Kootenay Business Resources

## Business Advice

### Services

### Eligibility

#### Basin Business Advisors

Alison Bjorkman, BBA  
Program Manager  
1-855-510-2227  
[info@bbaprogram.ca](mailto:info@bbaprogram.ca)

Skilled Advisors provide one-to-one advisement and assessment services to revenue generating businesses and social enterprises in the Columbia Basin Region. Services also include technology assessment and advisement, connection to technology consultants and workshops. This service is free and confidential.

Eligible businesses are headquartered and operating in the Columbia Basin with revenue producing for more than one year. Businesses with employees have access to more Advisor time. Businesses in operation for less than one year, or are not full time endeavors will receive only one hour of support.

<https://bbaprogram.ca/>

#### Basin Business Advisors

Agriculture Program  
Nyree Marsh, Agriculture  
Advisor  
1-855-510-2227  
[info@bbaprogram.ca](mailto:info@bbaprogram.ca)

Dedicated Agriculture Specialist for one-to-one advisement for primary producers and processors in the Columbia Basin Region. Services also include connection to specialized consultants, including technology and workshops. This service is free and confidential.

Eligible agriculture businesses are headquartered and operating in the Columbia Basin with revenue producing for year or more. Businesses with employees will have access to more Advisor time. Non-profits operating a social enterprise agriculture business that has been revenue generating for more than one year are also eligible.

<https://bbaprogram.ca/>

#### Community Futures Business Counselling

Central Kootenay: 250-352-  
1933 Ext 100  
[info@futures.bc.ca](mailto:info@futures.bc.ca)  
[futures.bc.ca](http://futures.bc.ca)

Community Futures offers free start up advice, referrals, workshops, and loans.

Greater Trail: 250-364-2595  
[info@communityfutures.com](mailto:info@communityfutures.com)  
[communityfutures.com](http://communityfutures.com)

Boundary: 250-442-2722  
[info@boundarycf.com](mailto:info@boundarycf.com)  
[boundarycf.com](http://boundarycf.com)

#### Basin RevUp

Wade Sather, Program Lead  
250-551-7195  
[basinrevuplead@ourtrust.org](mailto:basinrevuplead@ourtrust.org)

Provides coaching, training, and networking for businesses positioned for growth. Over the course of 6-12 months, eligible businesses work with a team of coaches to design a growth plan that addresses the challenges unique to their business. Companies pay a fee of \$500-\$1,500 a month, based on their annual revenue.

Eligible businesses are based in the Columbia Basin Trust region, are positioned to grow, have been operating for a minimum of two years, have a minimum annual revenue of \$500,000, and can commit necessary time and financial contribution.

<https://ourtrust.org/grants-and-programs-directory/basin-revup/>

<b>KCDS Virtual Hiring Supports</b>	<p>KCDS offers a variety of services to help companies with online hiring. Services include meeting with an expert and customizing and implementing a virtual recruitment support plan.</p>	<p>Supports are available for Kootenay businesses.</p>
<p>Savina Kelly, Employer Outreach &amp; Communications Manage 250-352-6200 <a href="mailto:savina.kelly@kcds.ca">savina.kelly@kcds.ca</a></p>	<p><a href="https://kcds.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/KCDS-Virtual-Hiring-Supports.pdf">https://kcds.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/KCDS-Virtual-Hiring-Supports.pdf</a></p>	
<b>Export Navigator Program</b>	<p>Offers export advice from community-based export specialists. Services include connecting businesses to market information, export programs, financial services, and business development experts for all stages of the export process.</p>	<p>Services are available to small and medium-sized businesses operating in British Columbia.</p>
<p>Michael Hoher, Export Advisor 250-354-7857 <a href="mailto:michael@exportnavigator.ca">michael@exportnavigator.ca</a></p>	<p><a href="https://exportnavigator.ca/">https://exportnavigator.ca/</a></p>	
<b>Kootenay Aboriginal Business Development Agency</b>	<p>KABDA offers business services to Aboriginal entrepreneurs through one-to-one business coaching, business plan development and research, information about funding, business seminars and workshops, and more.</p>	<p>KABDA services the West Kootenay as far as Christina Lake, as well as the East Kootenay.</p>
<p>Janice Alpine 250-420-2762 <a href="mailto:jalpine@kabda.org">jalpine@kabda.org</a></p>	<p><a href="https://www.kabda.org/">https://www.kabda.org/</a></p>	
<p>Shane Stewart 250-420-2761 <a href="mailto:shane.stewart@kabda.org">shane.stewart@kabda.org</a></p>		
<b>Kootenay Outdoor Recreation Enterprises (KORE)</b>	<p>Promotes Kootenay makers and creators in the outdoor manufacturing sector.</p>	<p>KORE features Kootenay-based entrepreneurs, designers, innovators, and creatives of outdoor recreation gear.</p>
<p>Alex Ibbotson 250-427-6436 <a href="mailto:alex@koreoutdoors.org">alex@koreoutdoors.org</a></p>	<p><a href="https://koreoutdoors.org/">https://koreoutdoors.org/</a></p>	
<p>Kevin Pennock 250-908-7899 <a href="mailto:kevin@koreoutdoors.org">kevin@koreoutdoors.org</a></p>		
<b>West Kootenay Rural &amp; Northern Immigration Pilot</b>	<p>Employers can attract/retain workers by recommending them for permanent residency in Canada.</p>	<p>Employers located in Nelson, Castlegar, Trail, Rossland &amp; surrounding area. See map for specifics.</p>
<p>Erin Rooney, RNIP Coordinator 250-551-5923 <a href="mailto:erooney@futures.bc.ca">erooney@futures.bc.ca</a></p>	<p><a href="https://wk-rnip.ca/">https://wk-rnip.ca/</a></p>	

## National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program

Bruce Hardy  
250-304-9690  
[bruce.hardy@nrc.ca](mailto:bruce.hardy@nrc.ca)

NRC IRAP provides advice, connections, and funding to help Canadian small and medium-sized businesses increase their innovation capacity. Advisory services include access to industrial technology advisors and an extensive network of regional, national, and international partners.

<https://nrc.canada.ca/en/support-technology-innovation>

Canadian small and medium-sized businesses are eligible for advisory services.

## Business Training

### Services

### Eligibility

#### Community Futures Small Business Training

Workshops teach beginner business plan writing, bookkeeping, marketing, social media, branding, web design, and more. Most workshops have a fee, some are free.

Courses are open to the public.

Central Kootenay: 250-352-1933 Ext 100  
[info@futures.bc.ca](mailto:info@futures.bc.ca)  
[futures.bc.ca](http://futures.bc.ca)

Greater Trail: 250-364-2595  
[info@communityfutures.com](mailto:info@communityfutures.com)  
[communityfutures.com](http://communityfutures.com)

Boundary: 250-442-2722  
[info@boundarycf.com](mailto:info@boundarycf.com)  
[boundarycf.com](http://boundarycf.com)

#### Small Business BC Webinars

[askus@smallbusinessbc.ca](mailto:askus@smallbusinessbc.ca)

Live webinars and on-demand E-Learning provides practical business education for B.C. small businesses. Topics focus on starting your business, hiring employees, managing operations, and much more.

Services are open to the public.

<https://smallbusinessbc.ca/education/>

## Start-Up Support

### Services

### Eligibility

#### KAST BC Venture Acceleration Program

[info@kast.com](mailto:info@kast.com)

Six-to-12-month program for early-stage technology entrepreneurs to grow their companies. One-on-one coaching with experienced mentors to help define a business model, discover product and market fit, and grow the business.

Eligible businesses include incorporated, profit-oriented small or medium sized businesses in Canada with 500 or fewer full-time employees.

<https://kast.com/programs/venture-acceleration/>

## Technology support

	Services	Eligibility
<b>Covid Rapid Response Team</b>  Jonathan Doyle 1-888-953-1133 Ext.21510 <a href="mailto:jdoyle@selkirk.ca">jdoyle@selkirk.ca</a>	Free support to improve a business' digital footprint. The service includes assistance with establishing a strong social media and online presence, integration with online marketplaces, website and search engine optimization, online software training, and more.  <a href="https://futures.bc.ca/crrt-digital-support/">https://futures.bc.ca/crrt-digital-support/</a>	The service is available for any business in the Nelson and area needing help improving their digital footprint.
<b>Small Business BC - BC Marketplace</b>  <a href="mailto:askus@smallbusinessbc.ca">askus@smallbusinessbc.ca</a>	A free online platform for businesses to reach BC consumers by creating their own business profile and improve their online presence. Connects BC consumers with BC businesses.  <a href="https://marketplacebc.ca/">https://marketplacebc.ca/</a>	Available for BC small businesses.
<b>Support Local BC E-Gift Card</b>  <a href="http://supportlocalbc.com">supportlocalbc.com</a>	Sells gift certificates valued at \$10, \$25, \$50, and \$100 for future use at participating local businesses.	Available for independently owned, privately held registered businesses located in BC that sell products or services at storefront locations.

## Loan Services

	Support	Eligibility
<b>Community Futures Business Loans</b>  Central Kootenay: Don McCulloch 250-352-1933 Ext. 117 <a href="mailto:dmcculloch@futures.bc.ca">dmcculloch@futures.bc.ca</a>	Community Futures throughout BC offer financing to small and medium sized enterprises. The delivery of financing in each office is unique, depending on local business needs.  Greater Trail: Tamara Rotach 250-364-2595 Ext. 26 <a href="mailto:tamara@communityfutures.com">tamara@communityfutures.com</a>	Small and medium sized BC enterprises. Financing criteria differs according to region.  Boundary: Susan Green 250-442-2722 Ext. 222 <a href="mailto:susan@boundarycf.com">susan@boundarycf.com</a>
<b>West Kootenay Boundary Community Investment Cooperative</b>  <a href="mailto:info@wkbinvestmentcoop.com">info@wkbinvestmentcoop.com</a>	The West Kootenay Boundary Investment Co-op is a member-owned association that provides loans to local businesses with the purpose of promoting economic, social, environmental, and community impacts.  <a href="https://www.wkbinvestmentcoop.com/">https://www.wkbinvestmentcoop.com/</a>	Local West Kootenay-Boundary businesses or organization that promote positive economic, social, environmental and community impacts are encouraged to apply for financing.