

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SPRING

What better time for Beers and Robots

SUMMER

Revenue based financing and a world class Airshow

FALL

Celebrating our diverse work force and Let's get political

WINTER

A time for junior achievers & a video production studio.

“This was the highlight of our summer. Way to go Vanderhoof” an excited airshow fan from Florida



Looking Back 2018

From Robotics to Brewing Workshops, All Candidates Forums to one of the most spectacular airshows in the province, in all seasons, Community Futures Stuart Nechako (CFSN) is involved and assisting each communities it serves in moving forward. Community Economic Development leads us all to Buy Local, Make Local and Invest Local. We have held this mantra for sometime and believe that all groups (for profit, not for profit, businesses, clubs and individuals) contribute to a healthy, vibrant, living community. Here are some of the things we have been up to. Outside of the office.



Looking Back 2018



Canada

“Local Matters”

This has always been the philosophy of CFSN. With funding provided by Western Economic Diversification (WD) we assist our communities to develop and implement local solutions to challenges and opportunities. We turn business ideas into reality, we have worked to strengthen our local economies and build strong rural communities. This is accomplished not only by helping entrepreneurs and small and medium sized business owners achieve their goals but also being intrinsically involved in various organizations and engaged in events through out the region. Community Economic Development (CED) includes working with the nonprofit sector, an integral part of a community’s economic landscape infusing it with vigor and energy. With this in mind we head into our communities. Have a look at some of the fun and amazing things we have been involved with, in just this past year!

Spring



From the growing of hops to the growing of an entire brewery CFSN held workshops in both Vanderhoof and Fort St. James with a panel of specialists to discuss “The Craft of Brewing.” Our team featured: **Brian Smith** the CEO of [Persephone Brewing Company](#), **Alix B. Cormack** founder of [Venture Law Corporation](#) and **Debbie Evans** the Agriculture Coordinator for the [Regional District of Bulkley Nechako](#). We have since had inquiries and considering this is an agriculture area, the interest seems to be mainly in the growing of hops.



STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics is core to the values of CFSN’s belief in creativity and innovation, so the spring was also a fine time for robots. We originally got involved funding the Lego Robotics kits and also supplied the announcer for the first ever Vanderhoof Robotics Competition – the [LEGO League Skirmish](#) in School District 91. Year two (2019) saw an increase in involvement including participants from outside SD91. This is a program that will keep growing and foster application, creation and ingenuity in our local schools.

Summer



Think it. Make it. Sell it. The concept of “[Ideas to Market](#)” (ItM) has been a vision of CFSN for some time and in the summer we began to build the project with the view of launching in April 2019. The ItM program is a self financing community development tool to bring local ideas to an online market. Our team created a [video](#), power point and .pdf to explain the program and we put boots on the ground gathering support. With ItM the next BIG thing could be in your backyard.



Aviation enthusiasts flocked to Vanderhoof from around the world! The [2018 VIA](#) was one of the most colourful spectacles in BC this past summer, featuring the Canadian Forces Snowbirds, CF18 demo team, and our military parachute demonstration team the SkyHawks, along with world class civilian aerobatic pilots. This event is staged biannually and CFSN donated a large amount of man power to seeing this aerial demonstration to a successful conclusion. And successful it was with the show receiving rave reviews through out North America, from spectators and performers alike!

Fall

Our fall election was hotly contested this past year. Two candidates running for the Mayor position and eight for the six available councilor seats. CFSN in conjunction with the Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce ran all candidates forums and used this opportunity to jump into and learn more about [“live streaming.”](#) Yes, it was a learning experience but at the same time a tremendous success as we garnered close to 1000 views during each of the streaming sessions. This experimentation led to an important addition to our office. You will read about that in our “Winter” section. 😊



Once again in 2018 CFSN was honoured to join with WorkBC and Nechako Valley Community Social Services to present an evening with our STARS. [This gathering](#) brought together employees, employers and those who assist to celebrate an engaging and diverse workforce. Thank you to all the sponsors, participating businesses and especially to our STARS. It truly was a very special and tremendous evening.



Winter

In partnership with educators and dedicated volunteers, CFDC teamed up with Junior Achievement BC to bring important educational experiences to students in SD91. Many young people aren't fully aware of all that is required to take control of their future and the “A Business of Our Own” program enlightened them in the ways of the entrepreneur. It all culminated in [“Sale Day”](#) at NVSS. Our young entrepreneurs truly enjoyed the experience.



For a while now CFSN has been considering various ways and means of getting our message out there. Many of our experiences in 2018 led us to the conclusion that “broadcasting” is the way to go. Not the way we used to – radio, newspaper etc. but through social media and video clips. The “Studio” took up residence in a small office in our building just before Christmas and we have been creating videos for our [YouTube Channel](#). We will be exploring this much, much more in the future.

