Job Vacancy:

Community Futures
Network of Canada

Executive Director – Community Futures Network of Canada (CFNC)

The Community Futures Network of Canada is seeking an Executive Director ready to take on a major national challenge. The CFNC is a national network comprising more than 267 Community Futures organisations across Canada and SADCs and CAEs in Quebec, which support rural and remote communities through funding and business support, as well as the implementation of local economic development initiatives.

This is a full-time, one-year appointment for a leader capable of managing complexity, building trust across diverse regions and delivering tangible results within a short timeframe. This stimulating and varied role offers a unique opportunity to play an active part in shaping the future and raising the profile of the Community Futures Network of Canada.

By strengthening the national voice of the pan-Canadian network, deepening relationships with federal departments and enhancing programmes, partnerships and funding opportunities, this role is set to evolve into a longer-term leadership position, with greater stability and impact.

Overview

The CFNC plays a national leadership role in strengthening the organisation, raising awareness of the programme and collaborating with federal decision-makers and partners.

Reporting to the Chair and governing bodies, the Executive Director acts as a national spokesperson and strategic leader. In this capacity, they lead advocacy and representation activities, develop strategic partnerships and position the network to foster its growth, influence and long-term sustainability.

Duration and employment status

This post is offered as a one-year full-time contract, with the possibility of a permanent appointment. This transition will be considered based on the results achieved and the Network's future needs. Renewal or conversion to a permanent post will be determined by the Board of Directors before the end of the initial term.

Place of work and travel

The Executive Director will work closely with federal partners and stakeholders. The post may be based in Ottawa or elsewhere in Canada, working remotely. Candidates based outside the National Capital Region must be willing to travel regularly for meetings with the government, as well as for in-person events organised by the Board of Directors and the Network.

Job summary

This is a senior leadership role focused on national advocacy, government relations, strategic growth and network alignment. The Executive Director will unite, energise and amplify the

Community Futures Network of Canada, raise its national profile and transform collective knowledge into influence, opportunities and impact.

Key Responsibilities

National Leadership and Strategic Direction

- Provide clear national leadership for the CFNC, promoting a unified direction for the network.
- Work with the Chair and decision-making bodies to establish and implement strategic priorities.
- Position the CFNC as a leading voice in rural economic development in Canada.
- Identify new opportunities and emerging risks and guide the network's response.

Leadership and engagement within the network

- Act as a unifying leader amongst provincial, territorial and regional associations.
- Build trust, foster alignment and generate momentum within a diverse national network.
- Facilitate meaningful national discussions and engagement that strengthen participation and a shared purpose.
- To promote the sharing of best practice and collective impact.

Government Relations and Advocacy

- Lead the CFNC's national advocacy efforts with federal ministries, agencies and senior decision-makers.
- Strengthen the CFNC's presence and influence through proactive engagement and relationship-building.
- Advance policy discussions relating to the Community Futures Programme and local economic development.
- Represent the CFNC at national forums, consultations and strategic discussions.

Partnership Development and National Positioning

- Establish and maintain relationships with key organisations, partners and stakeholders at national level.
- Identify and establish strategic partnerships that enhance the network's impact and visibility.
- Position the CFNC as a trusted national partner in the implementation of economic development programmes and initiatives.

Programme Development and Funding Sustainability

- Identify, develop and secure new programme opportunities aligned with the mandate of Community Futures, SADCs and CAEs.
- Lead efforts to secure funding to support the CFNC's activities and national initiatives.
- Explore and promote innovative funding models to support long-term sustainability.
- Align national opportunities with the needs and strengths of regional networks.

Organisational Oversight

- Provide strategic oversight of the CFNC's activities, ensuring that priorities, timelines and the budget are adhered to.
- Work with staff or contractors to ensure effective administrative and operational support.

- Support the board of directors in maintaining sound governance practices and organisational effectiveness.

Desired qualifications and experience

- Bilingual in English and French, with strong oral and written communication skills in both languages.
- Significant experience within the Community Futures network or in a closely related community economic development environment.
- Excellent understanding of the Community Futures programme and the role of Community Futures organisations in rural and remote communities.
- Proven experience in government relations, advocacy and political engagement at national or regional level.
- Proven success in programme development and securing funding, particularly from federal partners.
- Experience of working with boards of directors, representative bodies or member-led organisations.
- Strong leadership and facilitation skills, with the ability to foster collaboration among various stakeholders.

Essential qualities

- Values supporting and fostering the success of those around them.
- Leads through influence, credibility and the trust they inspire, rather than through formal authority.
- Brings people together, identifies shared priorities and transforms diverse perspectives into unified action.
- Communicates clearly and confidently with senior managers, government representatives and partners.
- Is at ease in complex and changing environments, and able to turn uncertainty into opportunities for action.
- Possesses an entrepreneurial spirit focused on growth, sustainability and impact.