

Community Futures BizStream Project – Press Release

October 6, 2015



Community Futures West Yellowhead is pleased to announce the BizStream Small Business Program, which is a partnership between Talisman Energy, a part of Repsol and Community Futures. This program has been developed specifically to assist rural Alberta businesses who are keen to find new markets for their products and services.

Rural communities rely on the economic success of their local businesses to increase job opportunities, purchase local products and services and bring new money into their communities. When rural businesses are not able to meet the requirements of big business, external businesses must be contracted and little of the economic benefits remain within rural Alberta. When local businesses are able to meet the contract requirements, local businesses grow, local people gain employment, local suppliers gain sales, local communities gain increased economic benefits and new economic opportunities develop.

Every year in Alberta, a large amount of money is invested in the energy, mining and forestry industries, meaning that businesses in related industries can potentially compete for work to share in the earnings. There is a catch – in order to compete for work, there are certain competencies that must first be demonstrated. The energy industry favours local businesses, but many local businesses lack the competencies required to establish a contracting relationship.

What if your business could engage in a program to build the competencies required and in turn you become an approved vendor?

As a local company, you may be able to provide a product or service, but standardized health, safety and business management requirements may prevent you from being eligible to bid on the contracts you want. The objective of the BizStream Small Business Program is to increase the potential for local businesses to secure big business or government contracts as a process for strengthening our rural communities.

The BizStream program will help businesses complete the safety training and develop the safety manuals required for **ISNetworld membership**. ISNetworld membership is one of the requirements to be eligible for contracts with big business. BizStream also offers business access to management training and connects you to mentors with knowledge and expertise you may need.

If you are a business that is trying to diversify your market in this tight economy, you may be looking at other markets like forestry, mining, construction and even government. These markets all have qualification criteria; criteria that you may not be able to meet which means you can't get your foot in the door to become an approved supplier.

The BizStream Small Business Program involves an assessment process that identifies required training. The training prepares your business to meet the industry qualifications so that you can compete for contracts and get in the game.

If you operate a business but never thought you'd be able to reap the benefits of new markets, think again! The BizStream Small Business program may be the answer you have been looking for.

For more information please contact Nancy Robbins at 780-865-1224 or by email at nrobbins@albertacf.com. Our website also has additional information at www.cfwestyellowhead.com