

## **City of Revelstoke**

P.O. Box 170, Revelstoke, British Columbia V0E 2S0 revelstoke.ca

January 29, 2021

Dear Ms. Slater,

We at the Revelstoke's Department of Community Economic Development would like to nominate the City of Revelstoke and specifically The Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) of Revelstoke for the SILGA Community Excellence award, for their support of new and existing Revelstoke entrepreneurs through the REVY: Open for Business Facebook page.

CDFC has recognized the challenges many of our local Revelstoke businesses are facing due to the pandemic and acted to create an online platform to help them showcase their offerings. By developing an online platform through Facebook that is free for any business or consumer to join, CDFC has been able to creatively meet the shifting demands of the marketplace to support local businesses. This project provided a communication tool for local businesses to share information with their customers about their COVID-19 status, delivery/curbside pickup options, daily specials, and other promotions. The idea helped to create and maintain an online buzz to support local shopping over the holiday season.

Only businesses located in Revelstoke and area, with products and services available to locals and visitors in the community, were able to participate. Members of the public could join the Facebook Group and see in one place all the businesses that were open and what they were offering on any given day. Community Futures paid moderators to keep the page positive and on point through coordination of a set of guidelines to adhere to. This project started as a holiday shopping initiative but has remained current and relevant with businesses posting their sales, restaurants posting lunch specials, and offerings being posted regularly.

## **Outcomes:**

- 66 businesses participating
- 10 new posts per day on average
- 245 posts by businesses in the month of January, far outlasting the holiday season
- 1,371 total members a significant portion of our local population

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	PUBLIC WORKS	FINANCE	FIRE RESCUE SERVICES	PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE	CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION	COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
(250) 837-3637 development@revelstoke.ca	(250) 837-2001 works@revelstoke.ca	(250) 837-2161 finance@revelstoke.ca	(250) 837-2884 fire@revelstoke.ca	(250) 837-9351 prc@revelstoke.ca	(250) 837-2911 admin@revelstoke.ca	(250) 837-5345 ced@revelstoke.ca

Questions about the project should be directed to Community Futures General Manager, Kevin Dorrius.

Email: kdorrius@revelstokecf.com Phone: 250 837-5345 ext. 304

These efforts were vital to sustaining small business owners through the difficult downturn in tourism during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we hope you will consider them for a Community Excellence Award.

Sincerely,

Aqui B

Ingrid Bron Director of Community Economic Development, Revelstoke and Area <u>ibron@revelstoke.ca</u>