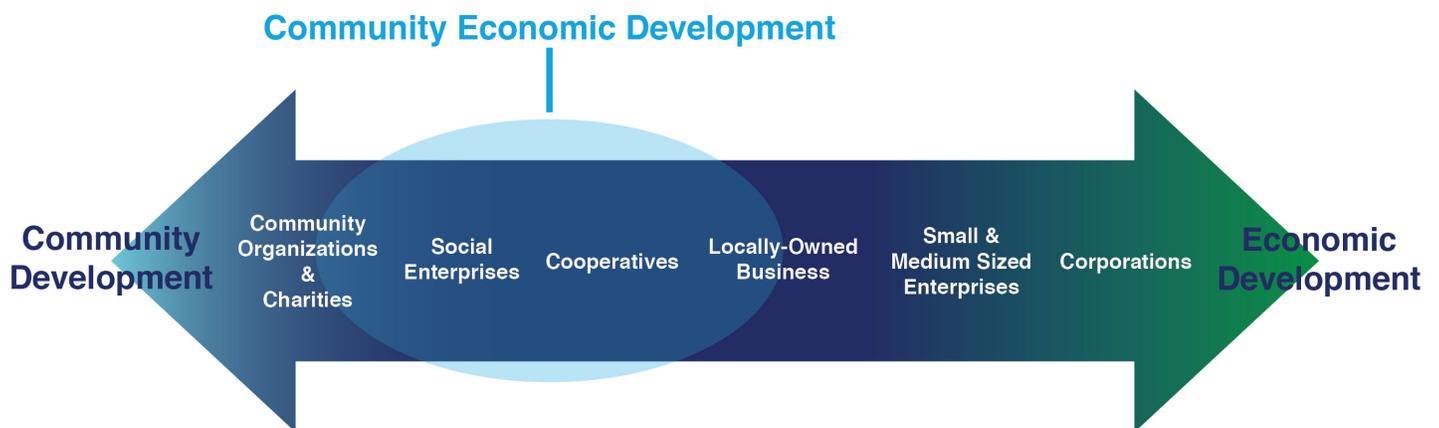


Community Economic Development (CED)

The difference is social and environmental impact



What is Community Economic Development?

CED is a model of economic development that achieves social, environmental, and economic outcomes. It blends best practices from the disciplines of community development, economic development, and sustainability.

CED Builds Community

CED is often championed by small businesses, cooperatives, communities, and not-for-profits. Importantly, CED organizations are locally owned and committed to the communities in which they operate. CED keeps profits in the community, and puts those profits back to work generating more jobs and opportunities, locally, where it counts.

CED Strengthens and Diversifies our Economy

CED's focus on local ownership and locally-led solutions to economic challenges diversifies local economies. CED's focus on local hiring, training, and good wages strengthens economies.

CED Delivers Social Impact

CED prioritizes social outcomes. CED organizations provide opportunities for training and work that regular enterprises won't or don't. CED gives a hand-up model to struggling or vulnerable people, resulting in good jobs with dignity that recognize and utilize the unique assets and attributes of each and every person.

CED Protects and Invests in Sustainability

CED initiatives recognize that the environment, economy, and society are interconnected. Environmental protection is not an afterthought; it is an integral part of the design. Investments in environmental innovation, such as renewable energy, are realized as opportunities to grow social and economic well-being.

**Think LOCAL.
Think SUSTAINABLE.
Think BOTTOM-UP.**

Examples of CED

CED takes many forms. Five examples in Alberta include:

- Opportunity Development Co-ops – Cooperative financing for launching and growing locally-owned businesses. Community members invest in enterprises in their community that they see as vital to their community's economic resiliency, vibrancy and well-being.
- Ethnicity Catering – A food services business run by the Centre for Newcomers in Calgary. It trains newcomers for careers in food services while returning profits to their larger non-profit mission.
- REAP Business Association (Respect for the Earth and All People) – A Network of 150 of Calgary's most sustainable, locally-owned businesses that collectively generate \$21 billion in revenue, create 8,300 Calgary area jobs, donate \$5M to local charities, divert 11,000 tonnes of CO² and 9.5M kgs of waste each year.
- E4C – An Edmonton community organization that works to grow community capacity through supporting people's participation within their community, grassroots community projects, and collaborative ventures with other community organizations. They operate the social enterprise, Kids in the Hall Bistro, providing on the job training, life skills, connection to school and outreach support for youth.
- Community Futures – A network of CED agencies across the province that lends approximately \$20M in 27 rural locations to local businesses for start-up or expansion.

The Value of a CED Network

Right across Alberta, hundreds of organizations are participating in important CED work. This growing, active network, with the support of government, will benefit from shared expertise, from shared ideas, and from shared best practices. In turn, this will improve social, environmental, and economic outcomes for Albertans in every corner of the province.

Government as a CED Partner

For the Alberta government, CED can be a powerful tool in building a more diverse, sustainable, and inclusive economy. Here are some recent examples of how the Alberta government can and is already supporting the advancement of CED:

- CARES (Community and Regional Economic Support) funding grants
- Naming CED Corporations as Alberta Investor Tax Credit eligible
- Supporting access to fair and affordable financial services and products via An Act to End Predatory Lending

Going forward, a firm commitment to CED from the Government of Alberta, including support for a coordinated network and continued investment in CED initiatives and organizations, will position CED for greater success.

Summary

CED is about thinking local, thinking sustainable, and thinking bottom-up. CED recognizes the interconnection between environmental, social, and economic development. While there is a thriving CED community in Alberta, we lag well behind most provinces in an organized network and CED investments. There is much more to do, and much benefit being left behind. The great news is that there's tremendous opportunity for growth and success in CED in Alberta. With the support of the government, we'll get there.

Learn More

Visit the **Canadian CED Network**
www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/en

Visit **Momentum**
www.momentum.org

