

## **News Release**

For immediate release

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## **Business Support Hotline coming to help Quesnel business**

The City of Quesnel is partnering with Community Futures North Cariboo to assist local businesses to access all available business support opportunities during the Covid-19 crisis.

A hotline is being set up, allowing businesses to call in for assistance during regular business hours. The Business Support Team, made up of representatives from the City of Quesnel, Community Futures North Cariboo, Quesnel & District Chamber of Commerce and Quesnel's Business Improvement Associations are becoming well-versed in all available programs and will be able to help business owners to identify which programs are applicable. Using technology, they can even meet "face to face" to help walk the business through the application process.

While several funding programs have been announced, most do not open until April 6, and the hotline will go live that week. In the meantime, the Business Support Team is gathering information, and developing procedures to make the process as efficient and pain-free for the business community as possible, under the circumstances.

"Following the 2017 wildfires, we found businesses were most successful in accessing funding opportunities when they had the help of one of our business ambassadors," says Greg Lawrence, Community Futures North Cariboo General Manager. "This program is the closest we can come to physically visiting every business in the community to make sure nobody is falling through the cracks."

"We want to ensure every penny of funding available to our business community gets into their hands," says Quesnel Mayor, Bob Simpson. "If businesses need support to access those dollars, we want to make sure they are getting it."

Watch <u>www.quesnel.ca</u> and <u>www.cfquesnel.com</u> for more information on the Business Support Hotline as it becomes available.

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