

Community Business Development Corporations (CBDCs) Investing in Rural Atlantic Canada

St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador – September 11th, 2014 – Patrice Finnigan, President of the Atlantic Association of CBDCs, shared today the impact that CBDC offices have had on the rural Atlantic Canadian economy throughout the past year. The results were shared this morning as President Finnigan addressed the delegation in attendance at the Association's 2014 AGM & Conference being held at the Delta St. John's, in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

“Our offices are instrumental in stimulating small business development in rural communities through the many programs and services we offer to assist rural Atlantic Canadian entrepreneurs,” said Finnigan. “During the past fiscal year, CBDCs in Atlantic Canada assisted 1,322 small- and medium-sized businesses throughout our region, injecting more than \$60.9 million into the Atlantic Canadian economy.”

“The assistance CBDCs provide would not be possible without the continued support of our partners in government, who so clearly comprehend the importance of nurturing the growth and development of small- and medium-sized businesses in all parts of our region,” added Finnigan.

“Creating jobs and securing economic growth remains our Government's top priority,” said the Honourable Rob Moore, Minister of State (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency). “That's why we are pleased to support key partners such as the Community Business Development Corporations and their associations in Atlantic Canada, as they help businesses in rural communities start up, innovate, adapt and compete. By working together, we are creating jobs, building strong local communities, and contributing to a vibrant national economy.”

As a result of CBDC interventions, CBDC-assisted firms in Atlantic Canada have been more successful at staying in business than the comparable group of firms. In fact, the five-year business survival rate for clients assisted by CBDCs (76%) is notably higher than the rate for comparable firms (51%) after the crucial fifth year following start-up. This represents a variation in the five-year business survival rate of over 20 percentage points between CBDC-assisted firms and the comparable group.

The CBDCs are non-profit corporations with a mandate to foster community-based business economic development by providing support and loans to small- and medium-sized enterprises in 41 regions throughout Atlantic Canada.

To find out more, call 1-888-303-2232 (CBDC) or visit www.cbdc.ca.

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