THANK-YOU LETTER TO MPs: SUGGESTED TEMPLATE ON CFDC LETTERHEAD

[DATE]

[NAME OF MP]
[RIDING]
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear [NAME OF MP],

On behalf of the Board of Directors of [NAME OF CF/CBDC], I’m writing to personally thank you for taking the time to meet with us for the *Rural and Remote Opportunities* reception as part of the Community Futures National Event on May 9th, 2022 at The Westin Ottawa.

Your presence demonstrated how important it is to the federal government to support and celebrate the tremendous efforts of strengthening and diversifying the economies of rural and remote communities across our nation.

As you know, the 267 Community Futures Organizations across Canada are community-based, not-for-profit organizations staffed by 1,363 professionals and governed by 3,119 local volunteer directors, familiar with their communities' needs, concerns and future development priorities, who offer programs and services supporting community economic development and small business growth in rural Canada.

Since 2000, Community Futures has helped nearly 120,000 entrepreneurs, created and maintained over 700,000 jobs, and invested more than $5 billion directly into our rural economy, leveraging more than $9 billion in additional investment. During the pandemic, Community Futures Organizations additionally deployed over $400 million, maintaining over 40,000 jobs across Canada.

As we emerge from the pandemic and forge a new path forward, our rural and federal partnership is more important than ever to secure the future viability, competitiveness, and prosperity of our rural communities and position the Canadian economy for success. We herald the words of the Honourable Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development: “For Canada to succeed, we need our rural and remote communities to thrive.” We look forward to working with you to achieve this goal.

Both personally and on behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you again for joining us.

Regards,

[SIGNED BY THE BOARD CHAIR OR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR]

Cc: [LOCAL CONSTITUENCY OFFICE]