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Community Futures Launches ExitNavigator, a New Pathway for Alberta Rural Business Owners to Buy and Sell

Funded by PrairiesCan through the 2.0 Rural Opportunities Fund, Community Futures Yellowhead East in partnership with other Community Futures offices across Alberta, are proud to announce the launch of ExitNavigator, a new initiative designed to support rural Alberta business owners seeking to sell or transition their company. With seven out of 10 Canadian entrepreneurs expected to transition the ownership or leadership of their company in the next three to five years, the time is now to provide critical support to business owners.

ExitNavigator is a collaborative effort between Alberta Community Futures organizations and the social enterprise VentureConnect. Additionally, it will also serve Alberta entrepreneurs who would like to purchase an existing business. Services include business consultations, valuations, mediation, business loans, and other transition-related support for companies located outside the major metropolitan areas of Calgary and Edmonton.

"With the growing number of business owners looking to retire, the time is right for Community Futures to provide a service supporting both current business owners and prospective buyers," said Michelle Jones, Executive Director, Community Futures Yellowhead East

"Adding ExitNavigator to our current suite of services will position Community Futures as a lead resource in regional business transitioning through purchase and sale. The continued viability of these businesses will add significant value to business economies and provide a sustainable quality of life to both the entrepreneur and the region which it operates."

"Many business owners and entrepreneurs have spent decades focusing on growth and profitability, and haven't planned for their exit - what do they do with their business when it's time for them to take a step back?" Jones continued. "ExitNavigator provides guidance to ensure viable businesses can continue operating and serving their community, while also taking the needs of the outgoing business owners into account."

For rural Albertans looking to sell, transition or purchase a business, Alberta Community Futures associations are ready to help. From entrepreneur to happily retired, or business-savvy to business owner, the ExitNavigator service can help along the way.



Current or prospective business owners interested in exploring ExitNavigator's services can visit exitnavigator.ca, or contact the ExitNavigator Project Coordinator, Ardis, at the Community Futures Highwood office at 403-995-4151 ext. 5 for more information.

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