

**For Immediate Release**

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**Press Release**

**April 30, 2010**

**Community Futures East Interlake Announcement:  
Celebrating 25 Year of Building Businesses & Communities**

**Riverton, Manitoba** - On April 30, Community Futures East Interlake (CFEI) will celebrate 25 successful years of providing innovative business & community economic development support to the East Interlake region. The milestone will be marked by a public reception at the Lakeview Resort and Conference Centre in Gimli.

Community Futures East Interlake Inc. has undergone a number of name changes throughout its twenty-five years and may be best known under its former name NEICOM Developments.

Well known by its former name, NEICOM, CFEI has worked with numerous communities and entrepreneurs resulting in loans of over \$6.8 million to more than 250 businesses in the region. The non-profit organization has also provided well over 5,000 technical assistance sessions to entrepreneurs in the region.

"It is through the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and staff that our organization has accomplished so much," says Steve Lupky, Chair of Community Futures East Interlake Inc.

CFEI has also worked on numerous community projects and assisted with the development of such projects as the Westshore Broadband Network, the Gimli Waterfront Centre, Stonewall and District Innovative Crops Committee, Interlake Natural Gas Co-Op, the Interlake Pioneer Trail and the joint partnership with the Interlake Development Corporation - East Interlake Community Development Project Support Initiative.

"CFEI is proud to be celebrating twenty-five years of working with rural entrepreneurs and communities on a grass roots level," said General Manager Tammy Hudyma. "Strong partnerships and dedicated community volunteers have made the Interlake region a great place to live."

It is fitting that CFEI has chosen to host the 25th anniversary event at the Lakeview Resort and Conference Centre in Gimli as it was one of the first regional projects undertaken. CFEI was instrumental in the creation of a Regional Tourism Development Strategy which led to the development of the Gimli Waterfront Project and the Lakeview Resort.

The goal of Community Futures East Interlake is to assist the communities in our region to develop their economic potential. CFEI provides business development services, including financial and non-financial assistance and community development services. Community Futures supports the local economic development process by assisting communities and area entrepreneurs.

Community Futures East Interlake works with communities, local and provincial government agencies and organizations to assist with community planning and facilitation to develop long term strategic planning.

There are 16 community Futures organizations in the Province of Manitoba and 90 across the West. Coincidentally, the program is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year as well.

**For more information, please contact Tammy Hudyma, General Manager at Community Futures East Interlake, Phone 204-378-5106 or email [thudyma@eastinterlake.com](mailto:thudyma@eastinterlake.com)**

Background information on CFEI can be found at: [www.eastinterlake.com](http://www.eastinterlake.com)

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