

Our Community's Future



Your community business
finance corporation



Brilliant by Design

Walking into **Relish Interiors**, the first thing you see is a modern chandelier lighting up the store with a charming brilliance. This brilliance is reflected in award winning interior designer and business owner Leah Rourke.

Leah has been working in the industry since 2003. She studied interior design at Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo and then worked in a design firm there for several years before moving to Victoria.

Relish Interiors was born in 2011 after Leah moved back to Powell River. Relish is a full service interior design firm specializing in window coverings. Leah customizes every project, making her clients' dreams a reality by balancing their artistic vision with a need for practicality.

"I picked the name because it is all about pleasurable appreciation of one's home, to "relish" a home's interior spaces," says Leah.

Leah fell in love with the mix of creative and analytical thinking that interior design

requires. "I enjoy the entrepreneurship. I love being able to live the type of lifestyle that being a business owner offers. I feed off of the constant challenges that come along with it, too!"

For Leah, moving back to Powell River and discovering that there is a real need for her services here was a real turning point. At first it was 100% referrals, and then she started marketing herself via print advertising, signage, social media, community involvement, networking groups, donations to charity



Community Futures Powell River

auctions, a booth at the Home Show and other fairs – anything to get her brand out there.

"Once I realized that it's less about WHAT we offer, and more about HOW we offer it that is important to our customers, that's when things really started to take off," she says.

"Community Futures was instrumental in helping me with my recent expansion. I was able to secure a loan that allowed me to increase my showroom space by adding a mezzanine for an office and storage. I purchased new and upgraded equipment and hired a sales person, office manager and an installer."

Relish has gone from a one-person operation to a four-person team. Leah has an ever-evolving business plan that she updates every year or so and refers to often to make sure that she is on track with her goals.

"I think that a business plan is even more valuable to the business owner than to potential lenders. Every business owner should write one, whether they are looking for investors or not," explains Leah.

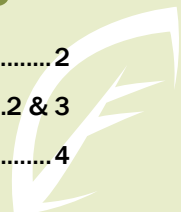
Leah lives by her belief in "no risk, no reward." She knows that she will make mistakes, but the key is to learn from them and use them to help you grow; the only failure is giving up. Her positive attitude and learning from business and life struggles will guarantee her continued success!

Leah's future plans include expansion to the Lower Sunshine Coast, which will include opening a second showroom location.

For commercial or residential interior design projects call Leah Rourke at Relish Interiors, 604 485-9333 | leah@relishinteriors.com | www.relishinteriors.com | or on Facebook at "relishinteriors"

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Self-Employment Program Clients

BRAD COLLINS



I'm **Brad Collins**. I'm a painter, writer, and designer living here in Powell River.

From toddlerhood onward, I've spent most of the waking hours of my day making things out of words and pictures. As it turns out, words and pictures are fundamental to pretty much any kind of media you could imagine, so I've been able to work as a writer, a game designer, an illustrator, a journalist, and a bunch of other things besides.

I've made video games, comic books, and works of art; I'm published in a handful of journals; and I perform as a live painter (and sometimes musician) at festivals.

I am exactly what I wanted to be when I grew up.

I'm self taught at what I do, and perhaps because of that, I missed out on some of the fundamentals of connecting my work with

paying customers. Things weren't working, and I had a hard time being proud of my work when it continued to fall short of my financial needs. It was a bad slope, and a slippery one. After joining the Self Employment Program with Community Futures, I was able to pick up all the common sense, in-the-trenches sort of business acumen that I'd missed somewhere along the road.

With their training, guidance, and assistance, I've been able to redesign what I do into a well-oiled business machine instead of an old potato. Moving forward, I'm going to continue producing cool, fun, strange products made up from words and pictures. I'm going to find, create, and grow new markets for my work. I'm going to be self employed. bradcollinsart.com

COLLEEN MUDRY Malaspina Mediation



As Powell River's sole practicing Certified Family Mediator, Colleen is strongly committed to providing peacekeeping mediation services in her community as well as customizing workshops and presentations focusing on conflict resolution and productive communication skills.

Her business provides mediation and conflict resolution services to assist parents and teens/families, Boards, businesses, landlords and tenants, volunteer organizations and neighbors to resolve their outstanding conflict in a respectful and productive way.

Colleen is very grateful to Community Futures: "The Self-employment Program provided the encouragement and concrete educational and practical support that I needed in order to plan and open a business for the first time. The funding meant that I could turn my dream into a reality!"

Colleen's client feedback has been very positive and participants have expressed how significant the mediation process has been to collaboratively resolve problematic and long standing issues. Please contact Colleen if you are interested in resolving a conflict and or need mediation. **Malaspina Mediation Services** | 604 414-5353 | malaspinamediation.ca

THE SELF EMPLOYMENT P

- Business Concept Development
- Business Coaching
- Training and Workshops
- Business Launch

RYAN THOMPSON




LES PENNY Sunshine Coast Marine Outboard



Les Penny of **Sunshine Coast Marine Outboard Services and Sales** is a licensed Marine Outboard mechanic who specialises in small engine repairs. Les grew up in the family marine repair business, and has over 20 years of experience repairing inboards and outboards.

Services includes the repair and maintenance of outboard and inboard marine engines, installation of helm controls, the repair and refurbishing of small gas engines, lawn equipment, chainsaws, winches, pressure washer, generators, compressors, rototillers, and cement mixers.

As a licensed Marine Outboard mechanic, Les has extensive experience supplying marine outboard repairs and maintenance from his shop and as a dockside service. If you wish to contact Les for your marine repairs call him at 604 483-4198. 

PROGRAM

We can help you do it!

- up to 48 weeks of financial support
- Monthly intakes

Contact us for details.

Leaven Agency



Leaven Agency is a friendly, one-person design studio creating pixel based projects such as websites, as well as real world objects you can hold. With over fifteen years freelancing experience Ryan Thompson decided to work with Community Futures to create his own homebased design studio.

“Community Futures helped me utilize my skills and experience and take the jump from freelance to business,” Ryan says.

The philosophy of Leaven Agency is to provide top-notch design services usually found with large design agencies and offer these services in a one-to-one, accessible manner for small to mid-sized business.

Thompson’s past projects have included web design, augmented reality apps, print and graphic design, logo and branding projects, posters, books, industrial and environment design, furniture, public art installations, signage and product packaging.


leaven.agency | 1 604.449.8243 

MARIKA VARRO



Marika Varro’s, dream has always been to create signature dishes from local ingredients. Her new business, **The Convenient Chef**, does just that by using organic ingredients whenever possible from area farmers, with zero waste. All menu items are prepared from scratch without additives or preservatives.

With more than 30 years’ experience in food service, Marika owned a local restaurant when she noticed that many people in Powell River live very busy lifestyles with little time or energy to prepare nutritious meals. And so her business concept of pre-prepared meals and catering began. The concept has expanded to include balanced meals for the elderly and disabled, with a weekly delivered package. Her custom designed food items are also available at 32 Lakes Café.

“It was important to me that Community Futures believed in my business,” says Marika. Community Futures’ support and guidance made it easy for Marika to focus on the start-up details. She purchased the “little yellow building” on corner of Ash and Marine, and installed a commercial kitchen with storage. You can find Marika there, perhaps in the vegetable and herb garden, located on the property. Contact Marika at 604 483-9944 | convenientchef.pr@gmail.com | convenientchef.ca 



David Scherger
Ecoterra Developers, 604-483-9560



Jan & John Russell
Blackpoint Auto Salvage & Parts, 604-487-1299
blackpointautoreckers.com/en

Community Futures Powell River

COMMUNITY FUTURES plays a key role working alongside local and regional community leaders for the development of a sustainable future. Along with our community partners, we invest in activities and projects designed to allow our community to be resilient and successful.

BUSINESS LOANS

Community Futures provides small business loans advice to entrepreneurs on business concept, plan development and financial management topics. Whatever stage of development your business is in, we are available to assist you in the establishment and growth of your business.



Erik Blaney (Ty 'ap thote)
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The best small businesses are created by people just like you

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