



Innovate for Impact

IGNITE IDEAS, SPARK CHANGE, TRANSFORM THE KOOTENAYS.

Innovate for Impact advances social entrepreneurship in the Kootenays by supporting purpose-driven innovators with the tools, training, and community to build impactful, sustainable ventures.

Social enterprise is a powerful tool for building local capacity, supporting job creation, and contributing to long-term economic development. Innovate for Impact fosters inclusive economic growth, deepens social impact, and helps our Kootenay communities lead their own transformation.

When local people drive community change, rural regions thrive.



WHAT IS A SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR?

It's someone who starts a business that's about more than just profits — it's about making a real difference. Whether tackling social issues, protecting the environment, or improving lives in their community, social entrepreneurs care deeply about using their ventures to create positive and meaningful impact.

HOW WE'RE SUPPORTING SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

We provide hands-on support to individuals and organizations launching or growing social enterprises — meeting them where they're at, and grounding everything in the realities of rural BC:

- Cohort-based incubation for early-stage and emerging enterprises
- Bi-monthly workshops open to anyone exploring social enterprise
- A regional community of practice to foster peer learning and shared momentum
- Student consulting offering real-world support to social entrepreneurs and employment opportunities for local post-secondary students

KEY INITIATIVES & OPPORTUNITIES TO COLLABORATE

Annual Social Impact Summit | *Spring 2026 & Spring 2027*

The Social Impact Summits will be vibrant, high-profile gatherings where we'll celebrate outcomes, spotlight inspiring innovators, and showcase the bold local solutions that are transforming our region. It's a prime opportunity to connect and see the impact unfold.

Regional Hackathon | *Fall 2026*

Our in-person Social Enterprise Hackathon will be an electrifying event, bringing together passionate participants across four Kootenay hubs. Together, they'll co-create actionable community-based solutions, offering a dynamic, high-visibility platform for our partners and regional stakeholders to engage and inspire.

Youth Program | *Starting Winter 2026 & Fall 2026*

More than 200 high school students will dive into social entrepreneurship through a flexible online program, gaining mentorship, designing impactful projects to local challenges, and showcasing top initiatives. This program offers an exciting opportunity to back youth leadership, community innovation, and the long-term resilience of rural Kootenay communities.



MAKE AN IMPACT WITH US

Know a non-profit, business, or individual curious about social enterprise? Send them our way! We're here to support their journey.

We're building a bold, local, and lasting movement for social enterprise in the Kootenays, and there's a place for you in it. Connect with us to explore partnerships, referrals, event and workshop collaboration, or sponsorship opportunities that reflect your commitment to rural resilience and social impact.

- Email us: robyn@cfek.ca
- Check out our website: www.cfek.ca/innovate-for-impact
- Sign-up for regular updates by scanning the QR code! 
- Follow the movement on social media: [@communityfutureseastkootenay](https://twitter.com/communityfutureseastkootenay)
[@impacttoolbox](https://twitter.com/impacttoolbox)

