



PUT YOUR MONEY
WHERE YOUR LIFE IS



West Kootenay Boundary
COMMUNITY
INVESTMENT CO-OP

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS MAKES CENTS

Your Two Cents Could Make a Big Difference



If you picked up one of our wooden tokens at a recent community event, you're holding more than just a conversation starter – you're holding a symbol of local economic potential.

Each token features a QR code that links directly to information about our community investment co-op. Our goal? To connect everyday people with meaningful ways to invest in – or borrow from – the communities they care about most.

Here's how you can make your "two cents" count:

- Scan the code to explore how local investing works
- Pass the token to a small business owner or community-minded investor
- Share the opportunity to be part of something that strengthens our region from the ground up

This simple wooden token could spark a ripple effect of local growth, resilience, and collaboration.

Put your money where your life is – it just makes "cents."

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INFINITY SOLAR

OWN YOUR POWER

WKBCIC ANNOUNCES SECOND JOINT INVESTMENT IN INFINITY SOLAR GROUP

**Three Kootenay Investment Co-ops Team Up Again to
Support Regional Clean Energy Growth**

The West Kootenay Boundary Community Investment Co-op (WKB Investment Co-op), in partnership with the Creston and District Community Investment Co-op and the East Kootenay Columbia Community Investment Co-op, is proud to announce a second joint investment in Infinity Solar Group, a dynamic solar energy company helping to accelerate the clean energy transition across southeastern British Columbia.

This renewed collaboration follows a successful first round of financing and represents a shared commitment to supporting businesses that are driving positive economic, environmental, and social impact. The new investment will support Infinity Solar's continued expansion, job creation, and increased capacity to serve communities across the Boundary and Kootenays.

Infinity Solar Group is powered by a singular mission: to ensure that every individual and community has the ability to harness the infinite power of the sun. Rooted in resilience, innovation, and a deep commitment to environmental stewardship, the company is at the forefront of reshaping energy systems in the face of climate change and aging infrastructure.

"We're honoured to continue our support for Infinity Solar Group, a company that so clearly aligns with our values of sustainability, community empowerment, and local resilience," said Jeff Hayward, President of the WKB Investment Co-op.

Infinity Solar's leadership expressed deep appreciation for the continued support. "To receive a second round of investment from all three community co-ops speaks volumes," said Eden Yesh, Founder, President and CEO of Infinity Solar Group. "We're united in a vision of a future where distributed energy production empowers communities, protects the environment, and leaves a sustainable legacy for generations to come. This partnership is a powerful reminder of what's possible when communities lead the transition."

The partnership among the West Kootenay Boundary, Creston and District, and East Kootenay Columbia Community Investment Co-ops is a compelling example of regional collaboration—and a model for how local capital can drive transformative change.



WKBCIC PRESENTS AT TWO BC CONVENTIONS

In May, WKBCIC was asked to present at the BC Economic Development Association's annual convention. Joining Ryley Hawkeswood of Cooperatives First, and strategic advisor James Grieve of Catalyst Strategies, the panel discussed the opportunities supported by investment cooperatives. WKBCIC Board member Tracey MacGregor explains, "communities don't often consider co-operatives when trying to secure funding for important community investments. These co-ops can take many shapes, and I was proud to promote WKBCIC as an example of how communities can set themselves up to be nimble and responsive to local business and economic needs."

In June, Tracey and WKBCIC president Jeff Hayward spoke at the Keeping it Rural conference in Kelowna. This annual conference focuses on issues through a rural lens, and gathers over 150 attendees from throughout the province. The focus: Rural Resiliency. "We wanted to provide the context for why WKBCIC does what it does: To build a strong community, growth has to be community-led, capital needs to be community-raised, and purpose needs to be community-defined," said Jeff Hayward. "That's how we aim to build resiliency with the co-op."

As more communities face the challenge of building sustainable futures, the WKBCIC model offers a powerful example of what's possible when local capital meets local purpose.





BUSINESS AFTER BUSINESS WITH WKBCIC IN CASTLEGAR



Business after Business at the Confluence Centre in Castlegar June 19. Shown below are hosts Belinda Field of West Koots Notary, and Collin Ludwar and Eva Hernandez – both board members of the WKBCIC.

A Night of Networking, Local Flavor, and Community Support

One June 19 the WKB Co-op hosted Business after Business networking event at the Chamber of Commerce in Castlegar along with local business West Koots Notary. The event drew close to 60 attendees, who enjoyed appetizers and beverages as well as a chance to win amazing prizes. As part of our ongoing commitment to support our borrowers, the event featuring two of our own investment recipients: **Kootenay West Distilling** and **Valley of the Springs Winery**. Events like this remind us of the power of connection—and the exciting potential of investing in our own backyard.



How presentations and events fulfill our Key Strategic Priorities

- ✓ **Expanding Engagement** - Encouraging more local investment by building awareness
- ✓ **Strengthening Connections** - identifying organizations that align with our values and who will champion co-ops to develop community-driven capital.
- ✓ **Deepening Partnerships** - Collaborating with organizations to establish new lending opportunities