

CFEO NETWORK PEER COUNCILS

	EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS (ED)	LOANS MANAGERS (LM)	MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS (MARCOM)	CFDC BOARD CHAIRS (CHAIRS)
Participants	Executive Directors, General Managers (staff)	Loans Managers, Loans Administrators, Loans Coordinators (staff)	Marketing Coordinators, Students, Administrators (staff)	Board Chairs of Eastern ON CF offices (volunteers)
CFEO Lead	Cyndy Palleske Executive Director	Michelle Cathers SOFII Loans Manager	Erica Tripp Marketing & Communications Coordinator	Wendy Stone Chair, CFEO Network Board of Directors
Meeting Dates	First Tuesday of Each Month 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Third Tuesday of Each Month 9:30 am – 10:30 am	Last Thursday of Each Month 10:00 am – 11:00 am	Quarterly with dates decided by the Group

The Community Futures Eastern Ontario (CFEO) Network Peer Councils bring CFEO member subject matter experts together to exchange information, ideas, and insights. Members meet regularly in facilitated peer groups. The peer group model ensures a high level of commitment, trust and accountability which offers valuable opportunities to benchmark, share best practices and participate in solution-seeking discussions.

The Councils are most effective when the members themselves drive the agenda. Meetings are highly interactive, and participants are expected to share their experiences on various topics relevant to their roles. The confidential nature of the discussions allows members to seek frank advice related to the ongoing operations and growth of their businesses. These real time business issues discussions challenge the expertise of the participants and provide excellent learning opportunities.

The councils are open to staff from CFEO member CFDCs and their Board Chairs. Each meeting is coordinated and guided by a facilitator who has expertise that is directly relevant to the Council. Groups also gain access to trusted third party subject matter experts through guest speakers and training opportunities relevant to the Council.

Key benefits for Peer Council participants include:

-  Broadening your perspective and developing critical thinking, communication and leadership skills;
-  Increasing knowledge and getting confidential advice potentially not available in your own organization;
-  Building new networks and business relationships; and
-  Generating ideas and problem-solving expertise to take back to your organization.

General structure of the meeting:

-  Strict confidentiality, no formal Minutes (some pertinent resource information may be recorded and circulated for the groups reference)
-  Roundtable sharing of participants specific challenges and/or successes for feedback or sharing
-  The Peer Council will decide as a group which opportunities to solicit outside expertise on (potential for future speakers/presenters)
-  Participants are encouraged to rotate leadership of the meetings to facilitate a shared, cooperative environment