

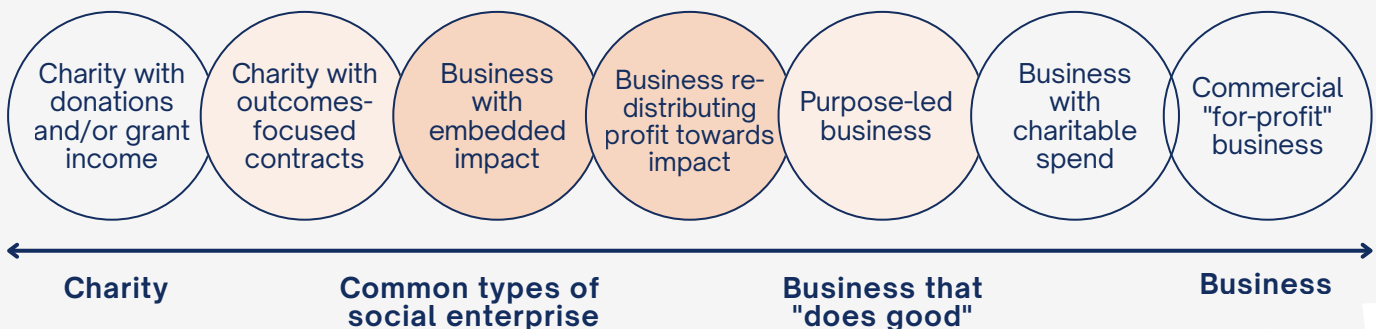
What is a Social Enterprise?

Social enterprises are innovative businesses that drive social change.

They sell products or services to generate income, and take the principles of entrepreneurship and for-profit management practices to find **sustainable solutions to social, cultural or environmental issues.**

A social enterprise can be a **for-profit, non-profit or co-op structure.** The important part of a social enterprise is the **impact it makes** and how this is embedded into the purpose of the organization, not the structure of the business.

Social enterprise sits within a wider spectrum of charity and business models



How can it benefit rural communities?

Social enterprises in rural communities **drive sustainable development** by bridging economic and social gaps, providing essential services and fostering local resilience. They **empower communities to address their needs from within** and use community assets and profits for community benefit.

1. Stronger Local Economies

Social enterprises create jobs, purchase locally, and keep money circulating in the community.

2. Solutions to Community Challenges

They tackle issues such as unemployment, poverty, housing, transportation and food security.

3. Financial Sustainability

By generating their own income, social enterprises reduce reliance on grants and donations, allowing organizations to grow their impact.

4. Inclusive Employment

Many social enterprises provide training and meaningful work for people who face barriers to employment.

5. Support Social Connection

Social enterprises can create spaces, opportunities, and activities that bring people together - building stronger relationships and a greater sense of belonging.

For regions like the Kootenays, social enterprise is a way to:

Build on local assets

Reclaim community sovereignty

Keep wealth in motion and in the community

Have an idea for your community?

Visit: www.cfek.ca/innovate-for-impact/

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