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January 12, 2010

Attention Gillian Chapman

Gillian;

I wanted to write to thank you for everything that you personally, and PELA CFDC have done for me and for my business.

I started my business in 1994, as a small lesson stable and children's camp. Over the years it has grown to include a residential camp which has attracted children from Australia, Qatar, Holland, Germany, England France, Switzerland, Venezuela, the U.S., and Korea.

In 2008, I decided to expand my boarding, lesson and camp business by extending the season and attracting more high-end clientele. This was to be achieved through the addition of a premium stable and indoor riding arena.

The \$50,000. loan (won at the end of 2008) for the arena and stabling enabled me to obtain further financing. In addition, the publicity generated by winning the business plan contest rallied community support, and was a great promotion of my expansion. These monies also provided the equivalent of full-time employment for five trades people for most of a year. The expanded facility also has a much increased demand for local labour, products and services (such as hay, feed, blacksmithing, maintenance and trades people).

I believe that initiatives such as this one can make a tremendous difference in an area which is so chronically recessed. My business brings in a lot of money from outside of this region and distributes it locally through the services and goods which are purchased. My gross income for 2009 was double that of the previous year. I attribute that in no small part to your assistance.

In addition, in late 2009, PELA CFDC loaned me \$24,000. in order to facilitate hydro installation, water, and electrical services, among others. All of this money has, or will, be spent with local contractors. I believe that as well as the financial spin-off effect of this project (which will total well over \$200,000.) there are other far-reaching benefits to this community, from giving youth an active, wholesome athletic pursuit to offering mentoring programs and summer employment.

Thank-you again for assisting me in making this project possible.
Sincerely,

CASpencer

Raspberry Ridge Farms
www.Raspberryridge.com