Western Financial Group is proud to announce it will provide a $5,000 infrastructure grant to The Cariboo Regional District for their New Pool Project in Williams Lake. The grant is one of 14 infrastructure grants totalling $70,000 that Western is distributing in 2013 through its charitable arm, the Western Communities Foundation. The Western Communities Foundation supports community infrastructure, student bursaries and other worthwhile endeavours including public health, recreation and education in the communities Western serves.

“Swimming pools are important not only to promote activity and fitness, but also as community hubs and gathering places,” said Angela Williams, manager of the Western Financial Group branch in Williams Lake. “We’re proud to have a part in improving the pool and keeping it a resource our community can enjoy for many years to come.”

In its 12-year history, the Western Communities Foundation has put an Automated External Defibrillator in 46 communities and has distributed approximately 60 infrastructure grants and 357 bursaries. The Foundation has also distributed more than $35,000 in matching money, helping to double the impact of fundraisers put on by Western employees in their communities. To date, the Western Communities Foundation has supported seven Habitat for Humanity builds at $15,000 per home and has donated $23,000 to Canadian Vision Care to help it provide eye care to those less fortunate overseas. Including the 2013 infrastructure grants, the Western Communities Foundation has distributed more than $900,000 since 2002.

“The Western Communities Foundation has made a deep impact in dozens of the communities we serve,” said Scott Tannas, president and CEO of Western Financial Group. “The projects supported by our infrastructure grants are selected by Western employees who see worthwhile endeavours in their communities. This year we’re making grants to help with everything from building a swimming pool in Williams Lake, BC to improving a theatre in Gull Lake, SK.”

Western Financial Group is a western Canada based, diversified, financial services company serving more than 600,000 customers and headquartered in High River, Alberta. The Western Communities Foundation was founded by Western Financial Group in 2001 as a non-profit organization.