

COLLABORATIVE  
STRATEGIES  
IN COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT

# ACADIE-LOUISIANA WORKSHOP

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- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2010 -  
TUSKET, NOVA SCOTIA



# ACADIE – LOUISIANA WORKSHOP RESULTS

– FRIDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2010 –  
TUSKET, NOVA SCOTIA



Participants in the workshop on 19 February 2010:

First row, L to R: Gaston Saulnier, Michelle Blinn, Pauline d'Entremont, Jean Melanson, Valerie Broussard, Vaughne Madden, Germaine Comeau, and Joseph Nyemah

Second row, L to R: Roger d'Entremont, Bernice d'Entremont, Gwen LeBlanc, Mireille Roach, Cyrille LeBlanc, Kyla Quinlan, Jocelyne Comeau, Brenda Comeaux Trahan, Lisette Gaudet, Allister Surette, Julie Oliver, Philippe Gustin, Ray Trahan, Ghislain Boudreau, and Stan Surette  
Not in photo: Brenda LaGrandeur, Ross MacDonald, and Elaine Thimot

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# ACADIE – LOUISIANA WORKSHOP RESULTS – FRIDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2010 – TUSKET, NOVA SCOTIA

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# Table of Contents

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>BACKGROUND</b> .....	<b>4</b>
WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES .....	4
<b>EXISTING INITIATIVES</b> .....	<b>6</b>
NOVA SCOTIA OFFICE OF ACADIAN AFFAIRS .....	6
NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICY .....	6
CONSEIL DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUE DE LA NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE .....	8
THE GREAT ACADIAN AWAKENING .....	9
<b>PARTICIPANTS' EXPECTATIONS</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD COMMUNITY</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>IMAGES OF EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>PROJECT IDEAS AND IMPLEMENTATION PLANS</b> .....	<b>19</b>
PROJECT IDEA 1: EXCHANGES.....	19
PROJECT IDEA 2: MUSEUMS NETWORK .....	20
PROJECT IDEA 3: RADIO EXCHANGES.....	21
PROJECT IDEA 4: FRENCH LANGUAGE SCHOOL .....	22
<b>OBSERVATIONS</b> .....	<b>23</b>

# Background

*There is an affinity between the Acadian and Cajun cultures – even a feeling of being brothers and sisters.*

- Participant

There is often talk of an affinity felt between Acadians, especially those in southwestern Nova Scotia, and Cajuns in Louisiana.

Ideas for exchange projects and cooperation between the two regions are simmering in many formal and informal networks. However, opportunities to meet and discuss how to make these ideas a reality are few and far between.

The Nova Scotia Office of Acadian Affairs joined forces with the Nova Scotia Department of Economic and Rural Development and the Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse (CDENE) to organize a workshop to develop strategies for cooperation to contribute to the community development of Acadie in southwestern Nova Scotia and to strengthen links between Acadie and Louisiana.

## Workshop objectives

- Publicize the *Nova Scotia Community Development Policy* as a best practice in community development.
- Apply the policy's principles to identify opportunities for cooperation and exchange between southwestern Nova Scotia and Louisiana.
- Obtain the commitment of key partners and players to implement and coordinate ideas for projects deemed a priority by participants.

This report presents the results of the workshop held on 19 February 2010 in Tusket, Nova Scotia. It details the discussions held and lists the project ideas discussed.

The workshop will be repeated in Lafayette, Louisiana in the United States on 22 April 2010, as an adjunct to Expo Acadie, an international exhibition organized by CDENE and focused on marketing products and services from Atlantic Canada and Louisiana. A report similar to this one will be produced to share the results of the discussions at the workshop in Lafayette. Following Expo Acadie in April, the report on the Tusket workshop and the report on the Lafayette workshop will be distributed to participants at both workshops, even if they were not able to travel to

the two meetings. The determination of common interests, concerns, issues, and strategies will drive the initiatives for exchanges and cooperation between the two regions.

The workshops in Tusket and Lafayette will serve as a launching pad for deliberations on potential exchanges and cooperation between southwestern Nova Scotia and Louisiana. A commitment by participants to implement the projects and initiatives identified is essential. We now have the opportunity to forge new networks and support existing networks to enrich exchanges and cooperation between Acadians in southwestern Nova Scotia and Cajuns.

**Vaughne Madden**

Chief Executive Officer

Nova Scotia Office of Acadian Affairs



# Existing initiatives

## Nova Scotia Office of Acadian Affairs

The mission of the Office of Acadian Affairs is to offer advice and support to departments, agencies, and Crown corporations so they can develop and adapt policies, programs, and services that reflect the needs of the Acadian and francophone community of Nova Scotia.

The objects and purposes of the Office of Acadian Affairs are to:

- a) Ensure that the Government is aware of the needs of the Acadian and francophone community;
- b) Offer advice and support to departments, offices, and agencies of Government and to Crown corporations for the purpose of developing and adopting or providing programs, policies, and services that reflect the needs of the Acadian and francophone community;
- c) Serve as a central support agency for other departments for French-language services within the Government;
- d) Develop partnerships with Acadian and francophone agencies at provincial, national, and international levels;
- e) Ensure that Acadian and francophone needs are addressed in the development of programs, policies, and services;
- f) Recognize the contribution of the Acadian and francophone community.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/acadien>

## *Nova Scotia Community Development Policy*

The *Nova Scotia Community Development Policy* is a framework for building stronger, healthier and more prosperous communities in Nova Scotia. The policy is the result of consultations with many public officials, community organizations, businesses, municipalities, and Nova Scotians. It was approved by the Executive Council of Nova Scotia on 9 December 2004.

This policy serves the following objectives.

- Clarify Government and community roles in community development.
- Increase cooperation, coordination and collaboration among Departments/Offices, between communities and Departments/Offices, among levels of Government, and among communities.

- Increase Government and community capacity to understand and advance community development.
- Develop an accountability framework to report on progress, ensure transparency and enable evidence-based decision-making in community development.

The *Community Development Policy* is focused on 11 principles:

- Local leadership – support communities that play a leadership role;
- Government support – provide information, expertise, and resources;
- Cooperative approach – enhance coordination and cooperation;
- Balance – integrate social, economic, environmental, and cultural considerations;
- Respect for local values – consider the potential impact on communities;
- Social inclusion – promote opportunities for full participation;
- Transparency and accountability – encourage broad based decision making and measurable results;
- Partnership and shared interests – allow adequate time for relationships to develop;
- Common vision – support communities to share responsibilities in development issues;
- Focus on community assets – build on existing capacity;
- Volunteerism – acknowledge and support the contribution of volunteers.

With a clear understanding of the policy’s principles and how they are interconnected, they can be applied to each community development project. The use of the principles helps identify the potential consequences for communities of specific decisions activities as well as the potential for sustainable development.

The full policy is posted on the website of the Nova Scotia Department of Economic and Rural Development at:  
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/econ/cdpolicy/docs/NovaScotiaCommunityDevelopmentPolicy.pdf>

## Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse

The Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse (CDENE) is a non-profit provincial organization with a mission to improve the economic wellbeing and quality of life of Acadians and francophones in Nova Scotia, Canada, by demonstrating innovative leadership in economic development and employability, supported by linguistic duality.

CDENE strives to provide effective leadership to Nova Scotia's economic community by representing the interests of Acadian and francophone regions and by promoting and enhancing the value of French in the business sector throughout the province.

<http://www.cdene.ns.ca>

### Expo Acadie

In 2004, Expo Acadie was organized for the first time as an adjunct to celebrations of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Acadie. The Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse hosted Expo Acadie 2004, the very first international exhibition in Halifax featuring innovative products and services from Atlantic Canada with an Acadian flavour. This event gathered together delegates from Atlantic Canada, France, Belgium, New England, Quebec, and Louisiana.

Bolstered by its success in 2004, CDENE sponsored Expo Acadie 2006 in Louisiana and Expo Acadie 2008 in Nova Scotia. The time has now come for a return to Lafayette, Louisiana, the host city for Expo Acadie 2010.

The theme for Expo Acadie 2010 is "Toward a French-language Acadian and Cajun cultural economy" and activities will centre around the marketing of educational and cultural products and services.

Expo Acadie 2010 will take place in Lafayette, Louisiana, United States, from 22 to 24 April 2010.

<http://www.expoacadie.com>

## The Great Acadian Awakening

The mission of the Great Acadian Awakening is to impress upon the people of Louisiana and the world, especially those of Acadian ancestry and particularly young people, that although much progress has been achieved, Louisiana is gradually losing its French language and culture as well as its coastal lands. Through this gathering, “The Great Acadian Awakening” will seek support, partnerships, solutions, and actions.

The gathering will highlight promotion of the regional culture and development of links among Acadians from all corners of the world, through seminars, conferences, family reunions, and several other educational and cultural activities.

<http://www.gra2011.org>

# Participants' expectations

The following comments were noted during the opening session of the workshop in which participants were encouraged to voice their expectations.

- More promotion of elements of community and economic development in Nova Scotia and Louisiana.
- Find new ideas and seek inspiration in community development.
- Strengthen the existing, solid relationships between the two regions and increase economic development initiatives between them.
- Further develop and support exchanges between southwestern Nova Scotia and Louisiana.
- Develop international relations and twinning of regions, cities, towns, and villages.
- Restore and maintain solid links between twinned villages and regions in Nova Scotia and Louisiana.
- Support Nova Scotian groups and organizations that are developing (or want to develop) links with Cajuns.
- Forge lasting partnerships and find gateways for exchanges and cooperation between southwestern Nova Scotia and Louisiana.
- Create and support a forum for exchanges and cooperation between Acadians in southwestern Nova Scotia and Cajuns.
  
- Strengthen the close cultural links that exist between Acadie in southwestern Nova Scotia and Acadie South (Louisiana).
- Institute initiatives to “awaken” Cajuns so they place value on and preserve their language and culture.
- Continue to organize or better organize cultural activities as part of annual Acadian festivals (summer season).



- Continue and increase recruitment of storytellers (oral tales) from Louisiana and organize exchanges between Acadian and Cajun storytellers.
- Forge new partnerships for exchanges of radio broadcasts and maintain existing partnerships between southwestern Nova Scotia and Louisiana.
- Develop initiatives to preserve the Acadian and Cajun language and culture—especially among young people.
- Promote Nova Scotia museums and southwestern Nova Scotia more effectively and provide a better welcome for visitors from the United States, especially those from Louisiana.
- Gather ideas and know opportunities for creation and exchanges of tourism products between the two regions.
- Promote the Grand Pré National Historic Site among American travellers, especially those from Louisiana.
- Promote the ancestral links that exist between Acadians in southwestern Nova Scotia and Cajuns from Louisiana.
- Promote genealogical research between the regions.
- Develop better knowledge of the talents of young Acadians and young Cajuns.
- Work more with young people in both regions and identify opportunities for exchanges between the regions.
- Ensure sharing of the life experience of young Acadians and young Cajuns.
- Develop initiatives to help young people enhance the value of and preserve their language and culture.

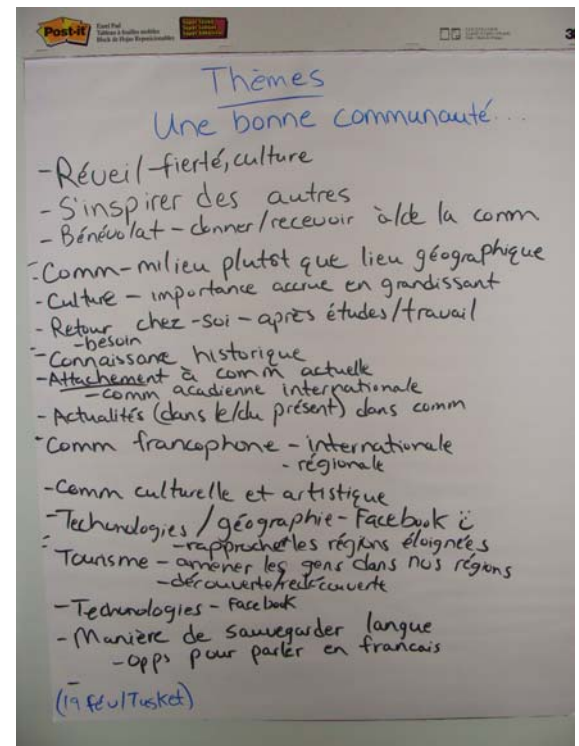


# Characteristics of a good community

*We all belong to a community, whether by choice or by chance.  
Interestingly, we sometimes tend not to notice what we truly like about our communities.*

Participants were asked to gather in small working groups and list the themes and factors that characterize an ideal community, a good community:

- Awakening – pride in one’s culture and language
- Volunteer work – giving to and receiving from the community
- Community – often defined as an environment rather than a geographic place
- Cultural and artistic community
- Culture – greater importance as one ages
- Return home – after studying or working outside one’s native region
  - o Feeling a pull to return home
- Historical knowledge
- Sense of belonging to one’s community
- Acadian community
  - o Regional
  - o International
- Current issues surrounding one’s community
  - o Events taking place in one’s community
- Technologies that help link distant regions despite their geographic separation
  - o Facebook
  - o E-mail
  - o Internet
- Tourism
  - o Draw people to our regions
  - o Discoveries and rediscoveries (language, cultures, and regions)
- Opportunities to preserve the language
  - o Opportunities for young people



# Images of exchanges and cooperation

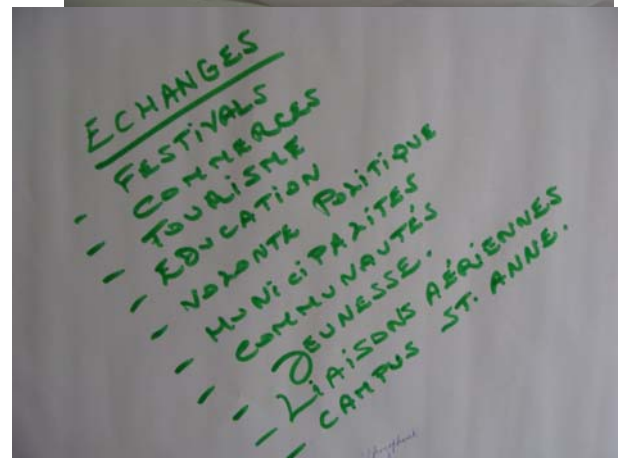
In working groups, participants developed the following images of potential exchanges and cooperation between Acadie in southwestern Nova Scotia and Acadie in Louisiana.

## Group 1: Cultural tourism

- Better links with tour organizers
  - o Receptive to exchanges
  - o Acadian packages sold and purchased
- Travel writers in Nova Scotia and Louisiana
- Inter-business trade show, government support
- Nova Scotian provincial team for cultural tourism
- Yarmouth and Acadian Shores and Acadiana region (Louisiana)
- Facebook groups and other promotional methods (for shared interests)
- Exchanges between young people

## Group 2: Exchanges

- Festivals (exchanges and promotion)
- Business (exchanges)
- Tourism
- Education (French; postsecondary studies as well)
- Political will to assist, contribute, and oversee development of Acadian and francophone communities and of Cajun communities
- Municipalities assist, contribute, and oversee development of Acadian and francophone communities and of Cajun communities
- Communities
- Youth
- Existing, sustainable airline links
- Université Sainte-Anne campus in Louisiana



### Group 3: Links and exchanges

(Especially between young people)

At the centre: Traditional and social media (radio, Internet, Facebook, electronic exchange sites, e-mail, etc.)

The media and information technologies allow young people and the general public to:

- Know each other better;
- Share their history and genealogy;
- Forge links between concepts learned in school and the actual experience of people in the communities;
- Organize work internships between the regions of southwestern Nova Scotia and Louisiana;
- Grow;
- Promote and increase pride (e.g. in one's language and culture).



### Group 4: Young people

- Opportunities for meetings and exchanges
  - o Sports: Jeux de l'Acadie [Acadian games]
  - o Le Grand rassemblement jeunesse [youth gathering]
- Immersion classes
- Social technologies and media (videoconferencing systems, exchanges through computer software and cyberconferencing – e.g. Elluminate and iVisit)
- Partnerships between schools



### Group 5: The Acadian arch

(Comparison of the Acadian and Cajun communities to a barge/arch)

- All passengers travel in the same direction
  - o Guided by a common plan or strategies (e.g. community development plan or strategic development plan)
- All sails unfurled
  - o Maximize assets
  - o Align in the same direction / beneficial for development
- Cargo / freight on the barge
  - o Speaking Acadian / Cajun
  - o Immersion classes
    - Exchanges between young Acadian and Cajun francophones
  - o Opportunities for language development
    - Jeux de l'Acadie
  - o Social media
    - Computers
    - French-language documentaries on Acadians and Cajuns
    - French-language cinema, films on Acadians and Cajuns
  - o Cultures and traditions
    - Education
    - Initiatives, tools and activities to develop pride
    - Community projects
  - o Tourism
    - Festivals
    - Music (exchanges of groups)
    - Opportunities to learn the language and culture



# Potential initiatives

Participants listed potential initiatives for exchanges and cooperation which they subsequently assembled into seven sectors.

- Sector 1: Structures and mechanisms
- Sector 2: Tourism
  - o Sector 2a: Tourism packages
  - o Sector 2b: Museums network
- Sector 3: Cultural exchanges
- Sector 4: Media
- Sector 5: Stories / plays
- Sector 6: Commercial exchanges
- Sector 7: Training / education sector



The initiatives and activities listed in each sector are summarized as follows.

## Sector 1: Structures and mechanisms

- Implement structures and mechanisms, protocols, and work processes
- Association of Acadians around the world
  - o International
  - o Friendly
  - o Virtual

## Sector 2: Tourism

- Cruises: packages highlighting Acadian and Cajun musicians, music, food, storytellers, artists, and artisans
- Yarmouth and Acadian Shores – Acadiana (tourism promotion and development of tourism products between the two regions)
- Develop the ports of Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne
- Exchanges of travel writers between New England and Louisiana

## Sector 2a: Tourism packages

- Design travel, including accommodations, hosts, guides, etc. to strengthen twinning of communities
- Better links between cultural tourism products and tour organizers

### Sector 2b: Museums network

- Exchanges of targeted specialized knowledge
  - o Between museums, for example
- Grouping of Acadian and Cajun museums

### Sector 3: Cultural exchanges

- Exchanges of young people between southwestern Nova Scotia and Louisiana
- Exchanges between public schools, immersion classes
- Acadie-Louisiana youth festival
  - o Rap, rock and roll
  - o Exchanges
  - o Pizza (the food of choice for many young people, apparently!)
  - o Arts
  - o Technology
- Twinning of classes (elementary schools)
- Activities using social media / information technology (e.g. videoconferencing and cyberconferencing)
- Participation by Cajun youth in activities of Nova Scotia's Conseil jeunesse provincial
- Opportunities for smaller exchanges
  - o Storytelling
  - o Genealogy
  - o Festivals
- Marketing cultural activities
- Shared interests – Yarmouth and Acadian Shores – Acadiana
  - o Creation of a Facebook group
- Exchanges of specialized knowledge
  - o Education
  - o Technologies
  - o Marketing (tourism)
  - o Arts (various disciplines)
- Exchanges of cultural expression (at festivals, for example)
  - o Artists
  - o Musicians
  - o Chefs
  - o Media – radio, television and newspapers
- Exchanges between Canadian and Cajun elected officials



#### Sector 4: Media

(Productions, new technologies, social media and documentaries)

- Productions highlighting the history of Acadians and Cajuns
- Creative workshops
- Visual documentaries on the historic and cultural links between Acadians in southwestern Nova Scotia and Cajuns
- Exchanges of radio broadcasts
- Production of documentaries

#### Sector 5: Stories, plays

- Network to share plays in each community

#### Sector 6: Commercial exchanges

(Sale of products, entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs, private sector)

- Greater openness by entrepreneurs to the sale of Acadian and Cajun products (on a non-consignment basis)

#### Sector 7: Training, education sector

- On-line courses and programs (develop new courses and programs, and increase the promotion of existing courses and programs more)
  - o Tourism
  - o Business French



# Project ideas and implementation plans

## Project idea 1: Exchanges

Area of interest	Exchanges
Name/ describe project	Exchanges of specialized knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- By specialization</li> <li>- Between administrators (e.g. between communities and cultural and community centres)</li> </ul>
Potential partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acadian festivals in southwestern Nova Scotia (<a href="http://www.festivalacadiendeclare.ca">http://www.festivalacadiendeclare.ca</a>; <a href="http://www.festivalacadien.net">http://www.festivalacadien.net</a>; <a href="http://www.festivaldelaparole.ca">http://www.festivaldelaparole.ca</a>)</li> <li>- Museums in southwestern Nova Scotia, including the Grand-Pré National Historic Site (in English: <a href="http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/ns/grandpre/index.aspx">http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/ns/grandpre/index.aspx</a>; in French: <a href="http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/ns/grandpre/index.aspx">http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/ns/grandpre/index.aspx</a>; <a href="http://www.inscriptiongrandpre.ca/index.html">http://www.inscriptiongrandpre.ca/index.html</a>; <a href="http://www.museeacadien.ca">http://www.museeacadien.ca</a>; <a href="http://museum.gov.ns.ca/av/en/home/default.aspx">http://museum.gov.ns.ca/av/en/home/default.aspx</a>)</li> <li>- Museums and commemorative sites in Louisiana (e.g. Acadian Memorial – St. Martinville) (<a href="http://www.acadianmemorial.org">www.acadianmemorial.org</a>)</li> <li>- Office of Acadian Affairs (Nova Scotia) – <a href="http://www.gov.ns.ca/acadien">www.gov.ns.ca/acadien</a></li> <li>- Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse (CDENE) – division: provincial coordination of Acadian tourism (<a href="http://www.cdene.ns.ca">www.cdene.ns.ca</a>)</li> <li>- American Association of Museums (<a href="http://www.aam-us.org">http://www.aam-us.org</a>)</li> </ul>
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communicate with potential partners in southwestern Nova Scotia.</li> <li>- Obtain a commitment from partners.</li> <li>- Identify partners in Louisiana.</li> <li>- Determine partners' needs and specialties.</li> <li>- Form working committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Define objectives for exchanges;</li> <li>- Determine desired outcomes and benefits;</li> <li>- Draw up an action plan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Find resources for exchanges.</li> </ul>
Person(s) responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordinators (?)</li> <li>- Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse (Provincial coordination of Acadian tourism) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Convene partners</li> <li>- Launch the project</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Project idea 2: Museums network

Area of interest	Tourism: Acadian museums network
Name/ describe project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An association of all Acadian/Cajun museums in the world</li> <li>- Interactive forum for representatives of member museums</li> <li>- Increase tourism revenue</li> <li>- Networking and visibility</li> </ul>
Potential partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acadian and Cajun museums and villages</li> <li>- Municipalities and other levels of government (financial partners / funding sources)</li> <li>- Société Nationale de l'Acadie - <a href="http://www.snacadie.org">http://www.snacadie.org</a></li> <li>- Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse – <a href="http://www.federationacadienne.ca">http://www.federationacadienne.ca</a></li> <li>- Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) - <a href="http://www.codofil.org">http://www.codofil.org</a></li> <li>- Commission du tourisme acadien du Canada atlantique (CTACA) - <a href="http://www.acadievacances.com">http://www.acadievacances.com</a></li> <li>- Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse (CDENE) – <a href="http://www.cdene.ns.ca">www.cdene.ns.ca</a></li> <li>- American Association of Museums (<a href="http://www.aam-us.org">http://www.aam-us.org</a>)</li> <li>- Community radio stations</li> <li>- SWMA (??)</li> <li>- Warren Perrin</li> </ul>
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Find partners.</li> <li>- Create the association.</li> <li>- Establish the approach for exchanges and communication between members:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Carrefour;</li> <li>- Skype.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Produce a joint brochure.</li> <li>- Produce videos, clips, and other promotional materials.</li> <li>- Create a joint website for consumers.</li> <li>- Facilitate the sale of items – on-line shop.</li> <li>- Design a passport (for visits to various museums).</li> <li>- Organize a summit (e.g. every five years), perhaps as an adjunct to the Acadian world congress (CMA).</li> </ul>
Person(s) responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brenda Comeaux Trahan, Philippe Gustin, and Warren Perrin</li> <li>- Ultimately: the association – steering committee for the network or association</li> <li>- Representatives from each geographic region</li> </ul>

### Project idea 3: Radio exchanges

Area of interest	Media: Radio exchanges
Name/ describe project	Acadie vivante [living Acadie]
Potential partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Le Centre de la francophonie des Amériques (<a href="http://www.francophoniedesameriques.com">http://www.francophoniedesameriques.com</a>)</li> <li>- Radio stations in Louisiana:            KRVS (Lafayette) - <a href="http://www.krvs.org">http://www.krvs.org</a>            KLRZ (Larose) - <a href="http://www.klrzfm.com">http://www.klrzfm.com</a>            KBON (Eunice) - <a href="http://www.kbon.com">http://www.kbon.com</a>            KVPI (Ville Platte) - <a href="http://oldies925.com">http://oldies925.com</a></li> <li>- Radio stations in Nova Scotia:            CIFA (Baie Sainte-Marie) - <a href="http://www.cifafm.ca">http://www.cifafm.ca</a>            CKJM (Chéticamp) - <a href="http://www.ckjm.ca">http://www.ckjm.ca</a>            CKRH (Halifax) - <a href="http://www.ckrhfm.ca">http://www.ckrhfm.ca</a>            CITU (Isle Madame)</li> </ul>
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contact the manager of each radio station to gauge interest, set dates, times, etc. for exchanges of broadcasts.</li> <li>- Introduce programming, broadcast and production software.</li> <li>- Choose themes and music for broadcasts.</li> </ul>
Person(s) responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Manager of each radio station</li> <li>- Valerie Broussard (Louisiana)</li> <li>- Ghislain Boudreau (General Manager – CIFA)</li> </ul>

## Project idea 4: French language school

Area of interest	Training / education sector: French language school
Name/ describe project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- French: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In non-profit organizations, the community sector and the humanitarian sector</li> <li>- Tourism</li> <li>- Teaching – international and local</li> <li>- Culture</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Potential partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Université Sainte-Anne <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Immersion school/classes</li> </ul> </li> <li>- School boards in Nova Scotia and Louisiana (<a href="http://csap.ednet.ns.ca">http://csap.ednet.ns.ca</a>; <a href="http://www.ednet.ns.ca/contact/schools.shtml">http://www.ednet.ns.ca/contact/schools.shtml</a>)</li> <li>- Nova Scotia Department of Education - <a href="http://www.ednet.ns.ca">http://www.ednet.ns.ca</a> et <a href="http://dsalf.ednet.ns.ca/index.shtml">http://dsalf.ednet.ns.ca/index.shtml</a>)</li> <li>- Louisiana Department of Education - <a href="http://doe.louisiana.gov/index.html">http://doe.louisiana.gov/index.html</a></li> <li>- Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) - <a href="http://www.codofil.org">http://www.codofil.org</a></li> </ul>
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expo Acadie – twinning and meetings between institutions in the education sector</li> </ul>
Person(s) responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Université Sainte-Anne – <a href="http://www.usainteanne.ca">http://www.usainteanne.ca</a></li> <li>- Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) - <a href="http://csap.ednet.ns.ca">http://csap.ednet.ns.ca</a></li> <li>- University of Louisiana in Lafayette - <a href="http://www.louisiana.edu">http://www.louisiana.edu</a></li> <li>- Centre international de Lafayette - <a href="http://www.lecentre.org">http://www.lecentre.org</a></li> </ul>

# Observations

Comments gathered from the group discussion at the end of the day

**I am leaving with the feeling that I have found ideas for projects that WILL work...**

- I liked working with many people and groups. It was good to hear a wide range of opinions and ideas.
- I liked the urban café format – it allows exchanges and travel to points of common interest.
- I am eager to continue working with the partners to develop the projects presented and undertake new initiatives.
- We are going home with ideas on which we can work more.
- Thank you for inviting the young people.
- I gained a better vision and understanding of my place in the potential exchanges between southwestern Nova Scotia and Louisiana.
- It is wonderful to see ideas for more tangible projects that were developed through cooperation among the participants.
- I liked getting a few ideas for tangible projects. We must maintain the momentum created during the workshop.
- It is important to find project managers and continue discussions on line, by e-mail, etc.
- I liked the ideas expressed by the young people. The discussions gave me strength and inspired me to continue with various projects.
- I am impressed by the number of shared ideas developed. There are similar concerns among Acadians from southwestern Nova Scotia and Cajuns.
- I liked the vitality and enthusiasm of the young people. This gives me hope for the next generation. Why not organize exchanges and travel for high school students (e.g. by organizing fundraising events)?
- I enjoyed the opportunity to talk with and listen to each other. I liked the energy among the participants.
- I liked sharing ideas, the urban café format and sharing of specialized knowledge and tools. I especially liked the willingness of participants to share.
- New ideas; ideas to improve my own projects even more.

**The workshop will facilitate exchanges and help build a spirit of openness toward exchanges and cooperation within the global Acadian community.**

- I liked the variety of ideas expressed. However, we must not forget the other project ideas and initiatives expressed during the workshop, which we did not have an opportunity to develop in greater detail.
- The workshop helped me understand the common challenges faced by Acadians in southwestern Nova Scotia and Cajuns.
- This is an opportunity to develop ideas for improving our products and projects. We have many shared interests with Cajuns, despite the geographic distance.
- Social media and cyberconferencing software – e.g. Elluminate and iVisit – help us communicate with each other despite the geographic distance.
- We must not forget the genealogy sector in potential exchanges with Louisiana.

*This brainstorming session with people with the same interests by far surpassed all previous sessions I attended. Here, we have the opportunity to develop these GREAT IDEAS. It is our responsibility to make sure it works.*

– Ray Trahan

