

COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

AN INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP FOR
PUBLIC SERVANTS AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Petit-de-Grat

May 7, 2010



Economic and Rural Development
Développement économique et rural

Collaborative Strategies in Community Development Workshop

Participants' Contributions



Petit-de-Grat, Isle Madame, Nova Scotia
7 May 2010

Workshop facilitated by:
Nova Scotia Office of Acadian Affairs
Nova Scotia Department of Rural and Economic Development

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Background

For those of you who attended the Collaborative Strategies in Community Development workshop on 7 May 2010 in Petit-de-Grat, Isle Madame, you will know it was a day to connect with colleagues in the region focused on sustainable community development. We explored our personal relationship with our communities, reflected on the principles identified in the Community Development Policy, and met around areas of shared interest. We also began to develop ideas that might expand the application of the Community Development (CD) Policy within our departments, agencies and communities. This document is an informal record of our work together and serves a few purposes:

- It is a **resource** for the benefit of those dedicated to seeing the CD Policy take root in Nova Scotia.
- It is a “**refresher**” **document** – one that you can browse through to reconnect with the highlights of the day. We have included some headlines and photos so that skimming the document will be rewarding in itself.
- It is a **pass-along document** for those of you who wish to share something of the spirit of the day with others.
- This document – and the day’s work altogether – is meant to be a **platform for future conversations** focused on sustainable community development.

Finally, your questions, concerns, appreciations, and all the work done on that day help **inform and inspire** the designers of the *Collaborative Strategies in Community Development* workshop to refine and expand this approach in other communities. This is a work-in progress, and your contributions to the workshop’s further development are important. We feel privileged to have hosted such a successful day with such committed individuals.

Sincerely,

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Workshop photos



Projects of importance to our community

The facilitators asked participants to define a variety of current and potential community development initiatives. Participants then had to specify why these projects were important for the vitality and sustainable development of their community.

Taxi in Chéticamp

- Facilitate access to essential services (e.g. medical services)
- Create jobs

Develop and maintain port authority infrastructure

- Forge partnerships among community groups and between communities

Baseball team

- Improve and maintain the physical health of community residents
- Contribute to development of leadership and team work capacities (capacity development in human resources management)
- Contribute to the diversity of cultural and entertainment activities in communities
- Facilitate networking and creation of partnerships

Community radio station

- Contribute to preservation of the language and culture
- Facilitate communication and promotion of community events

Gardens – Centre Sainte-Anne

- Facilitate closer links and intergenerational exchanges
- Contribute to development of seniors
- Stimulate the involvement of community residents

Preserve Acadian and francophone songs

- Enhance the value of the region's Acadian and francophone language and identity
- Provide opportunities for socializing

Closer community links

Local leadership

Disseminate information (e.g. health and safety)

Economic development

- Encourage and facilitate economic diversification

French-language training

How to cooperate more between initiatives

After determining many community development initiatives in their region, participants then listed strategies to ensure greater cooperation between key players and leaders, so as to maximize the benefits of initiatives.



		Prioritize - Vision - Objectives/goals - Actions - Timelines		Will to act / to be proactive rather than reactive		
Deliver training in community development to new people	Share resources - \$\$ - Human	Open to regional needs	Radio - Share programs - Share artists - Share between regions	Regional cooperation (between organizations and between individuals)	Cultural activities and sharing heritage	Inclusiveness - Vulnerable people - Minorities - Eliminate our stereotypes
Learn from others	Share resources			Cooperation between regions		Establish programs that include all members of the community
Share various expertise (best practices)				Cooperation with government agencies (\$\$)		

Collaborative strategies and projects

Area of interest	Intergenerational project
Name / Describe project	Build and maintain a therapy or community garden at the Sainte-Anne nursing home
Potential partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sainte-Anne nursing home employees - Nursing home members - Nursing home administration - Business community / entrepreneurs - Three levels of government – municipal, provincial and federal - Groups / gardening enthusiasts - Representative from each community - Groups and community organizations – Caisse populaire, women’s auxiliary, New Horizons club <p><u>Potential partners / long term</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community radio station - Guides, cadets and youth home members (youth group)
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ask community groups to sponsor various activities – e.g. \$100 to sponsor a physical activity session or vegetable harvesting day - Recruit volunteers - Prepare a presentation for elementary and secondary students; recruit students to assist with the project
Responsibility	



Area of interest	Rural community development
Name / Describe project	Draft a handbook and provide training on rural community development
Potential partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community radio station - <i>Le Courrier de la Nouvelle-Écosse</i> - Telile [community television] - Parish newsletter - La Picasse (community cultural centre) - Various distribution networks (informal and formal) - Université Sainte-Anne - Nova Scotia Department of Rural and Economic Development - Community development organizations - Réseau de développement économique et d'employabilité de la Nouvelle-Écosse (RDEE N.-É.) - Équipe alphabétisation de la Nouvelle-Écosse (provincial literacy team) - Nova Scotia Department of Community Services - Groups and organizations for people with physical or mental disabilities - ROC Centre - Leaside - New Horizons club
Next steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recruit contributors to assist with module development; invite them through the media (responsibility: La Picasse). 2. Form the steering committee; specify the terms of reference and roles of committee members (responsibility: Université Sainte-Anne) : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential steering committee members: government representative; training sector representative; minority groups representative; and community sector representative 3. Determine needs and necessary information, and draw up project development stages (responsibility: Université Sainte-Anne). 4. Draft and edit modules (responsibility: Équipe alphabétisation); print handbooks (responsibility / sponsor: Rural and Economic Development; coordinate printing process: La Picasse). 5. Deliver training (responsibility: La Picasse and steering committee members)
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - La Picasse (community cultural centre) - Department of Community Services

Area of interest	Manufacturing sector; importing of products
Name / Describe project	Develop an industry to manufacture products currently imported into Canada, in Nova Scotia and Richmond County; stimulate local entrepreneurship and support the establishment of new exporting businesses.
Potential partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Centre d'aide en affaires et en entrepreneuriat (CAAE) - Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse (CDENE) and Réseau de développement économique et d'employabilité de la Nouvelle-Écosse (RDEE N.-É.) - Straight-Highlands Regional Development Agency - InRich - Université Sainte-Anne - Nova Scotia Department of Rural and Economic Development - Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation - DIMA - Richmond County Municipality - Community radio station - <i>Le Courrier de la Nouvelle-Écosse</i> - <i>Port Hawkesbury Reporter</i> - Telile [community television]
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Form a steering committee. Potential members: CAAE, CDENE, Université Sainte-Anne and Richmond County Municipality - Define research methodology for imported products based on the findings of research conducted by Ron Robichaud of the Jodrey Centre (now CAAE) more than a decade ago. - Conduct research and publish the findings. - Organize a meeting of entrepreneurs. - Select entrepreneurs and projects. - Conduct a feasibility study for each project selected. - Draft plans for each project: marketing plan, business plan, etc.
Responsibility	

APPENDIXES

Appendix A: Workshop evaluation

What I liked best about this workshop was...	This follow-up would facilitate community development in my region...	To improve this workshop, I would suggest...
<p>The workshop was held here and in my language (French). The workshop inspired me and encouraged me to continue to work in the field of community development. The workshop gave me the opportunity to dream of potential projects and strategies. In turn, I can assist the members of various committees I sit on to dream of the possibilities and to work to achieve our shared goals.</p>	<p>I am going to share what I have learned at the workshop with the members of the committees I sit on.</p>	
<p>The opportunity to meet with other people, networking.</p>	<p>Although I did not receive tangible tools, I am leaving with new ideas to further develop the programs I am working on.</p>	<p>I expected to learn more about the provincial government's support and funding programs. Resource persons or a list of support programs for communities would have proved useful in my work.</p>
<p>I liked the opportunity to share with other people and hear them talk about their experiences.</p>	<p>To find leaders and positive people to handle follow-up in the strategies and projects. Seek out more people wanting to cooperate with various groups to conduct projects.</p>	<p>Spend more time explaining the guiding principles of the <i>Nova Scotia Community Development Policy</i>.</p>
<p>I liked the interactive workshop format – especially the opportunity to share with others.</p>		

What I liked best about this workshop was...	This follow-up would facilitate community development in my region...	To improve this workshop, I would suggest...
I liked interacting with the other participants.	Consult anglophones in the region, especially business leaders and community organizations. We must work together.	More time for the drawing activity and presentation of the image of a good community.
The opportunity to share my projects and learn about the projects of the other participants was inspiring.	The workshop did not give me any resources or tools to facilitate development of my projects, but in listening to the others' ideas, I noted ideas and strategies that will help me.	There was a lack of representation of community members. The workshop should also be more intense. It would also be useful to provide more resources or ensure the presence of representatives of organizations that can assist us with our projects.
I liked the interactive workshop format.	With the help of the workshop report, I will be able to continue working with other organizations and key players to conduct the follow-ups we determined.	
The interaction between participants and the sharing of ideas, initiatives and projects contributed to success of the workshop.	The workshop will facilitate the organization of meetings with key partners.	Ensure greater diversity of participants.