Prince Edward Island
CANADA

*Regional Economic Advisory Councils*

# ACTIVITY REPORT

2018-2019

*Department of*
*Fisheries and Communities*

# Regional Economic Advisory Councils

# Activity Report

# 2018-2019

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# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Activity Report summarizes the activities of each Regional Economic Advisory Council (REAC), provides an overview of the REAC's recommendations and concludes with next steps for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

## 1.1 Acronyms

**RRD** – Rural and Regional Development
**DFC** – Department of Fisheries and Communities
**EGTC** – Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture
**REAC** – Regional Economic Advisory Council
**WAL** – Workforce and Advanced Learning
**EDT** – Economic Development and Tourism
**RGI** – Rural Growth Initiative
**DAF** – Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
**CADC** – Charlottetown Area Development Corporation

# 2.0 BACKGROUND

The Regional Economic Advisory Councils (REACs) were first announced as part of the Government of Prince Edward Island's 'Mighty Island' framework for economic growth, in January of 2017. The Councils key objectives are to[1]:

- Develop economic growth strategies for each region;
- Identify platforms and clusters that will benefit from investment opportunities;
- Ensure labour development is considered for areas of growth; and
- Advise on strategic infrastructure development that will support growth in the region.

Members were selected through EngagePEI[2]. The Councils are composed of individuals who have considerable experience and a thorough understanding of their regions, both from a business and community perspective. The members have diverse backgrounds and represent many business sectors. The Councils were designed to provide regional economic advice to Provincial Government Deputy Ministers and Executive Council. The Councils act as an additional voice for youth, community and business leaders and are supported by the Provincial Departments of Fisheries and Communities (DFC), Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture (EGTC).

Each Council met twice in 2017 to gather information about the economic issues in their region. The first two meetings were structured so that the Councils would answer specific questions to help form

[1] https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/executive-council-office/regional-economic-advisory-councils
[2] Engage PEI advertised for Council positions in the spring of 2017. Individuals from across PEI were encouraged to apply to represent their geographic area.

recommendations for the Provincial Deputy Minister's Economic Hub. In December of 2017, an interim report was developed to provide an overview of the activity and successes of the initial two meetings of the REACs (see Appendix C for a list of recommendations from the 2017 Council meetings).

After the initial two meetings, the Councils began to focus on specific regional issues and potential strategies moving forward.

- The West Council organized a tour of the Eastern region in the fall of 2017 that included a collaborative session with the East Council.

- On February 12, 2018, the East Council hosted a facilitated Town Hall session to receive feedback from key community, municipal and business organizations to discuss and identify:
    - Economic opportunities and strengths;
    - Ways to enhance population growth and retention;
    - Investments in local infrastructure; and
    - Ways to improve labour and youth entrepreneurship supports.

- Each Council met 3-4 times in 2018-19 prior to the call of the 2019 Provincial election.

- On May 9, 2019 the incoming Government reshaped a number of Departments. The activity update uses the former Department names. However, the changes include:
    - The Department of Rural and Regional Development merging with several other divisions to create the new Department of Fisheries and Communities (DFC). The REACs are the responsibility of the Division of Rural Economic Development.
    - The Department of Economic Development and Tourism was changed to the Department of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture.
    - The Department of Workforce and Advanced Learning was dissolved.

# 3.0 COUNCIL ACTIVITY UPDATE

The following is a summary of each of the Council's meetings, including any presentations made to the Council and recommendations or requests that arose from the meetings.

## 3.1 West Regional Economic Advisory Council

**Members:**

- Jason Ramsay (Chair)
- Tammy Rix
- Christine Batten
- Terry Adams
- Matilda Ramjattan
- Andrew Ramsay
- Ruby Arsenault

**Council Support:**

- Giselle Bernard
- Ellen Rennie

| Meetings | Topics of discussion | Presentations made by | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3. February 15, 2018 | ▪ Labour Market<br>▪ Youth Entrepreneurship<br>▪ Temporary Foreign Worker Program<br>▪ Holland College Alberton campus<br>▪ Employment opportunities in trades, trucking, etc. | **Labour Market**: Patrick Perry, Dept. of WAL<br>**Youth Entrepreneurship**: Steve Reaman, Dept. of EDT | Request Holland College to meet with the Council and discuss potential of Alberton campus.<br><br>Request to the Department of WAL to provide an inventory of upcoming job vacancies.<br><br>Request to meet with RRD Minister Murphy to update and outline the priorities and progress of the Council. |
| 4. May 17, 2018 | ▪ Vision and priority exercise<br>▪ Primary industries and their importance to the local economy<br>▪ Holland College Alberton<br>▪ Transportation | **Rural Growth Initiative**: Amie Swallow-MacDonald, Dept. of RRD | Recommend more resources be utilized to promote and celebrate local success stories.<br><br>Recommend that more focus be placed on collaboration between communities.<br><br>Recommend asset mapping for the West region. |
| 5. November 19, 2018 | ▪ Holland College Alberton campus<br>▪ Priorities for 2019-20 for West REAC | **Holland College Alberton:** Sandy MacDonald, VP of Holland College | Recommend continued partnership between West REAC and Holland College.<br><br>Request exploring new opportunities for research and training in West Prince. |

## 3.2 East Prince/West Queens Regional Economic Advisory Council

**Members:**

- Rick Kennedy (Chair)
- Romana Roberts
- Thane Smallwood
- Ron Clow
- Donnie Arsenault
- Mary Robinson
- Jerry Bidgood
-

**Council Support:**

- Shane MacDougall
- Kellie Mulligan

| Meetings | Topics of discussion | Presentations made by | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3. January 29, 2018 | ▪ Labour Market<br>▪ Population Action Plan<br>▪ Immigration<br>▪ Youth Entrepreneurship<br>▪ Health Care in Rural PEI | **Population Action Plan**: Patrick Perry, Dept. of WAL<br>**Immigration**: Heather Rossiter, Dept. of EDT | Request more resources be devoted to address population growth and other related issues such as housing, health care and education.<br><br>Recommend continued collaboration with local groups to improve rural infrastructure and services. |
| 4. April 26, 2018 | ▪ 2018-19 Provincial Budget<br>▪ Agriculture<br>▪ Labour challenges<br>▪ Slemon Park and Port opportunities of Summerside and Borden-Carleton | **Provincial Budget:** The Honourable Chris Palmer, Min. of EDT | Request an inventory of assets in the Region.<br><br>Recommend developing a plan for the Port of Summerside and revitalization plan for Borden-Carleton.<br><br>Request a meeting with other Councils to move forward with a common agenda. |
| 5. December 6, 2018 | ▪ South Shore Health and Wellness primary care and doctor recruitment<br>▪ Priorities and concerns of the Town of Borden-Carleton (Housing, daycare space, harbor, Fabrication yard and Gateway Village.) | **South Shore Health & Wellness Group:** Lisa Gallant and Mike Connolly.<br>**Town of Borden-Carleton:** Charles MacKenzie, Mayor, and Anytra Eterovich, CAO | Action: Letter of support to Premier and Minister of Health about the proposal from the South Shore Health and Wellness group to lobby for additional doctor recruitment. |

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| | ▪ Summerside economic development overview and challenges (Population, immigration, housing, commercial rental space.)<br>▪ Central Development Corporation | **City of Summerside:** Mike Thususka, EDO<br>**Central Development Corporation:** Thane Smallwood | |
| 6. February 6, 2019 | ▪ Doctor allocations<br>▪ Summerside Port<br>▪ Issues and challenges in the agriculture industry | **Summerside Port Authority:** Jim Bradley and Arnold Crocken<br><br>**PEI Federation of Agriculture:** Robert Godfrey, Executive Director | Invite Health PEI to present on the economic development implications of physician allocations on PEI. |

### 3.3 Capital/Central Regional Economic Advisory Councils

**Members:**

- Jennifer Dunn (Chair)
- Jillian Kilfoil
- Jacinthe Lemire
- Dawn Allan
- Christina MacLeod

**Council Support:**

- Shane MacDougall

| Meetings | Topics of discussion | Presentations made by | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3. March 5, 2018 | ▪ Labour Market<br>▪ PEI's Population Action Plan<br>▪ Immigration<br>▪ Youth Entrepreneurship<br>▪ Post-secondary and skill development<br>▪ Employee retention<br>▪ Support for non-profits | **Population and Labour Market**: Patrick Perry, Dept. of WAL<br><br>**Youth Entrepreneurship:** Preston Llewellyn, Dept. of EDT | Recommend examining nonprofit organizations' eligibility for wage subsidy programs.<br><br>Recommend that post-secondary institutions should continue/adopt the process of employer advisory committees.<br><br>Recommend examining the traditional format of childcare.<br><br>Recommend exploring skill development opportunities. |

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| 4. June 13, 2018 | ▪ Charlottetown Library<br>▪ Charlottetown Area Development Corporation<br>▪ Vison and Progress of REAC<br>▪ Inclusive approach to services<br>▪ Mentorship and Entrepreneurship<br>▪ Art and Culture opportunities<br>▪ Housing | **Charlottetown Library Proposal:** N/A | *The Council generated a number ideas from a round table discussion about the vision and priorities of the region, but did not have any formal recommendations.* |
| 5. November 15, 2018 | ▪ PEI's Housing Strategy<br>▪ Charlottetown Library project<br>▪ Public Transportation<br>▪ Committee Membership | | Recommend that the Council receive a brief presentation of the Housing Strategy.<br><br>Request for a facilitated planning session to determine organizational options for CADC.<br><br>***Note: Council member Chief Brian Francis was appointed to the Senate of Canada and resigned from the REAC.*** |
| 6. January 8, 2019 | ▪ Geographic area of REAC<br>▪ Climate change<br>▪ Electric charging stations – map | **Transportation Strategy:** Sean Ledgerwood, Senior Climate Change Policy Advisor, Climate Change Secretariat | Recommend that a review of the REACs' geographic areas be completed.<br><br>Recommend that the Council receive a brief presentation of the Housing Strategy. |

## 3.4 East Regional Economic Advisory Council

**Members:**

- Scott Annear (Chair)
- Charlie Fitzpatrick
- Meredith Hoerig
- Ray Kennan
- Kerry Taylor
- Audrey Shillabeer
- Mike Cheverie

**Council Support:**

- Amie Swallow MacDonald
- Chris Blaisdell

| Meetings | Topics of discussion | Presentations made by | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3. April 23, 2018 | ▪ Provincial Budget<br>▪ Labour Market<br>▪ Youth Entrepreneurship<br>▪ Repatriation and reducing red tape<br>▪ Employment Insurance<br>▪ Post-secondary institutions on PEI<br>▪ Labour shortages and impact on growth | **Provincial Budget 2018:** The Honourable Heath MacDonald, Min. of Finance<br>**Labour Market**: Patrick Perry, Dept. of WAL<br>**Youth Entrepreneurship**: Kathleen Townshend, Dept. of EDT | Recommend that government improve small business program delivery. (This would include offering more on-site services to meet the needs of local businesses).<br><br>Recommend that financial literacy be included as part of PEI education curriculum. |
| 4. May 10, 2018 | ▪ 2018-19 Provincial Budget<br>▪ Vision and Priorities of East Council<br>▪ Health Care facilities<br>▪ Food security<br>▪ Housing<br>▪ Green energy<br>▪ Student job opportunities | **PEI Municipal Act:** Kevin McCarville, Consultant, Dept. of CLE | Request a meeting with other Councils to move forward with a common agenda and priorities. |
| 5. September 19, 2018 | ▪ Population Action Plan<br>▪ Climate Change Action Plan<br>▪ Housing Action<br>▪ Rural Broad Band RFP Process<br>▪ Town Hall discussion<br>▪ Transportation<br>▪ Labour force development<br>▪ Priority development for East Council | **Program and Provincial Strategies Update:** Chris Blaisdell, CDO; Amie Swallow-MacDonald, Director; and John Jamieson, Deputy Minister, Dept. of RRD. | Request that an independent consultant outside of government examine the development of a regional labour force plan.<br><br>Request a meeting with other Councils to collaborate and identify topics for discussion. |

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| 6. February 28, 2019 | ▪ Labour supply<br>▪ Provincial and Federal labour programs<br>▪ Immigration programs: TFW etc.<br>▪ Recruitment and retention<br>▪ Changing Labour market<br>▪ Employment Insurance | **Labour Supply and Programs:** Pat Perry and Susan MacKenzie Dept. of WAL<br><br>(Mary Hunter, Director, Office of Immigration attended meeting to observe and answer questions.) | Recommend that a request be sent to the Federal Government to open an Office of Immigration on PEI.<br><br>Recommend that REAC explore options for regional labour recruitment missions to attract foreign labour.<br><br>Recommend that Council provide support for Montague Rotary Housing Study. |

# 4.0 PROGRESS REPORT

Since the formation of the Councils in 2017, a number of focus areas have been identified. These include: **Infrastructure, Youth, Population, Supports, Key Industries, and Education and Training**. The Councils have made a number of recommendations that have been communicated to the Economic Hub, and several of these recommendations have been addressed.

- The Department of Rural and Regional Development considered many of the REAC recommendations when developing the Rural Growth Initiative, which was implemented in 2018. The Rural Growth Initiative program funding is targeted towards **strategic community infrastructure**, **creating inclusive communities**, **building community capacity** and **economic growth.** The long-term program outcomes align with the feedback and recommendations received from the Councils (Appendix C: Public Feedback: Alignment with RGI).

- Recently, the Federal Government has announced additional funds for rural broadband internet, improving the Eastern ferry service, and increasing affordable housing. These announcements will address areas of concern that were identified by the REAC's. On March 6, 2019, the Federal Government announced its plan to reopen a Federal Immigration Office in PEI[3].

- There are currently several local NGO working groups engaged in developing and implementing strategies to address housing, poverty, and population. The Councils have been asked to provide their input to these groups to help with goal setting.

- Finally, the East Prince/West Queens Council has officially lobbied the Provincial Government to maintain health care services in the South Shore region, and have opened a dialog with the Minister of Health on this issue.

[3] CBC News, March 2019. *Immigration office to reopen in Charlottetown.* Retrieved from: https://tinyurl.com/y4slhyse

# 5.0 NEXT STEPS

A facilitated session is planned for 2019 that will include all of the Council members. This session will allow the REACs to discuss issues and plan for the next year. The session will include a review of the mandate of the Councils, the process for communicating recommendations the Economic Hub, and future collaboration between the four REACs.

# Appendix A: Terms of Reference

**Regional Economic Advisory Council – Terms of Reference**

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**Mandate**

To make recommendations regarding opportunities for growth within the region and the PEI economy.

**Key Objectives**

Duties of the Regional Economic Advisory Councils will include:

- Identify platforms and clusters in the region and advise on growth and investment opportunities in these sectors;
- Identify opportunities to enhance population growth in each region, and specifically help in targeted population attraction drawn by employment and economic opportunities;
- Advise on labour development and youth entrepreneurship activity that is connected to growth potential in the region;
- Advise on strategic infrastructure development that supports growth in the region; and
- Develop a growth strategy for the region, identify and leverage strength areas, and draw on existing economic development organizations, as well as municipal and federal governments, to ensure a collaborative effort.

**Membership**

The Regional Economic Advisory Council will be composed of five to seven representatives, including one chair, from the area who are considered in business and/or community leaders.

**Support**

The Regional Economic Advisory Councils will be supported by staff from the Departments of Rural and Regional Development, Economic Development and Tourism and Workforce and Advanced Learning.

**Terms of Office**

Appointments will be for two years, renewable once. Some initial appointments may be made for three years. Meetings will be held at least four times per year and members are expected to attend 75% of these meetings annually to maintain membership. Quorum for meetings is 50% plus 1. Decisions will be achieved by consensus; if consensus is not achieved, dissenting views will be reflected in the record of the meeting.

**Reporting**

The Regional Economic Advisory Councils will maintain records of meetings and will provide quarterly updates to the Interdepartmental Economic Hub. The Council Chair will meet with the Premier and the Interdepartmental Economic Hub group once per year in addition to regular council meetings.

## Appendix B: Recommendations from the REACs Interim Report (2017)

**Broadband Internet**

Broadband Internet is required for Prince Edward Island businesses to stay competitive in both local and global markets. The Government of Prince Edward Island works to ensure this service is accessible in all parts of the province.

**Share Successes, Support Local**

It is imperative that Prince Edward Island celebrate its successes and create opportunities to share our positive stories. Doing so will create a culture of success, inspire emerging entrepreneurs to start businesses and support existing businesses to thrive and grow. In order to recruit, retain and repatriate population is important to have a positive narrative from Islanders.

**Population Growth in Rural PEI**

Economic growth in PEI's regions are predicated on population and labour force development. The flow of outmigration from rural Prince Edward Island must be reversed for economic development to be achieved. The government must support population growth and retention outside the Capital and Central region of Prince Edward Island by ensuring adequate access to services including healthcare and housing.

**Experiential Tourism**

While tourism numbers have seen positive growth in recent years, there are opportunities for expansion within certain regions and demographics. First Nations in the Capital/Central region and individuals in the West and East should capitalize on the popularity of experiential tourism. There is an opportunity to share experiences from traditional Prince Edward Island livelihoods and occupations with visitors who seek an authentic experience of Island life.

**Value-Added Processing and Capacity Building**

Opportunities for value-added processing and cold storage for products within existing primary industries in each region should be supported and encouraged. Strategic partnerships should be fostered, to support the development of new products. The Government of Prince Edward Island should support these initiatives.

**Provincial Transit Network**

Options for a rural transportation network should be explored to ease financial and logistical burden of individuals in rural Prince Edward Island who do not have access to a vehicle for employment or other needs, including young people, seniors, newcomers and temporary foreign workers.

**Training and Education**

Ensure post-secondary education and training opportunities on Prince Edward Island are aligned to the job market and emerging fields (e.g., high tech, information technology, remote work and sales, etc.).

**Mentorship and Entrepreneurship**

Increase incentives for businesses to provide mentorship and apprenticeship opportunities to youth and individuals entering the job market. A mentorship program would connect youth in each region with established entrepreneurs and encourage them to consider fields in the private sector. There is also a need to have succession planning and mentoring for people purchasing of Island businesses.

**Navigation and Support for Businesses**
Small business owners cite challenges growing their businesses when they are required to deal with day-to-day tasks. By examining existing licensing, inspection and paperwork-laden processes to find ways to reduce time-related barriers to growth, small businesses can thrive.

**Create and Support Cluster Development**
Prince Edward Island must capitalize on its uniquely integrated economy and access to deep water ports by creating and supporting industry clusters across the province that can support each other, lead to further growth, and position Prince Edward Island as a centre of excellence. Examples include the recent expansion of the air-strip at Slemon Park which can help attract new businesses and business expansions as well as the opportunity to develop an economic hub in the Borden-Carleton region due to its proximity to off-island markets.

**Infrastructure and Supports**

Councils identified that, as populations grow, infrastructure needs to grow with it. Infrastructure growth and expansion that must occur alongside population growth includes broadband networks, housing, transportation and childcare spaces. All Councils identified access to housing as a major challenge that needs to be addressed. Providing incentives for, and awareness of, opportunities for private sector developers to create housing units in rural areas would support population development in these regions.

**Focused Immigration Recruitment**
Language was identified as a one of the biggest challenges facing both new immigrants and employers. Focusing recruitment efforts on countries with some knowledge of English may help to ease the transition. Prince Edward Island should focus on countries that have both the skill sets that are currently in demand as well as credentials that are recognized in Canada.

**Language Training**
One of the biggest challenges for a new immigrant to settle in an area is having sufficient language skills. Ensuring that there is sufficient English language training opportunities across PEI, including rural areas, is very important. There are opportunities for employers to have English language training within their companies; this is an option that should be promoted more. There are also examples of communities hosting conversation circles; this is a model that could be replicated.

**Create Awareness of Opportunities**
Communicate stories and individual experiences relating to positive growth on PEI and in the rural areas. Ensure that new entrepreneurs, including immigrants, are aware of the many resources available to them. Profiles of the regions should be completed that highlight the strengths of each region and the resources available.

**Youth Retention**
It is important to create awareness amongst youth of opportunities that are available on PEI. This needs to done in partnership with post-secondary institutions, high schools and through job fairs. Ensure students are aware of opportunities and in-demand skillsets when they are beginning their post-secondary education. Determine what factors are needed to retain both international and local students on PEI after their studies.

**Settlement Services**
It is important that there are enough settlement services for people once they arrive on PEI including language training, welcoming communities initiatives, and resources to employers. A shared HR

specialist should be available to companies that have newcomer workers (similar to the model HR pilot projects in the East and West Rural Action Centres).

**Mentorship and Succession Planning**
There is a need for mentorship for new entrepreneurs and succession planning. By linking young people with entrepreneurs across PEI, they will learn about entrepreneurship, explore opportunities and consider a future in the field. There is also an opportunity to develop a business-to-business peer mentoring program to help both young and newcomer entrepreneurs navigate the Island's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

**Strengthen and Support Employment Stability in Primary and Seasonal Industries**
There are major challenges for both workers and employers associated with the volatility and seasonality of certain occupations on Prince Edward Island, particularly in rural areas. By taking an industry-wide approach, and collaborating with other industries and community organizations, there is an opportunity to ensure greater labour market participation for underserved populations, employment transition support and greater certainty in employment hours.

**Anchor Program at Holland College Alberton Campus**
The Holland College Alberton campus is not being utilized to its full extent. The province should work with Holland College to develop a course or program offering in which it is the primary destination to obtain such credits on Prince Edward Island, or in the Maritimes, similar to the welding program in Georgetown or Marine Training Institute in Summerside.

## Appendix C: Public Feedback: Alignment with RGI

| Rural Growth Initiative Programs | Source | Feedback and Recommendations[4] |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusive Communities Program**<br><br>**RGI Outcome: *Increase rural population growth***<br><br>**<u>Activities eligible for funding:</u>**<br>**• Welcoming events**<br>**• Newcomer networking events**<br>**• Diversity and inclusion training**<br>**• Translation of community material**<br>**• Development of multi-language video materials** | Regional Economic Advisory Council Report (Dec.2017) | ✓ Government must **support population growth** and **retention** outside of the Capital and Central region of PEI.<br>✓ Ensuring that there is **sufficient language training** opportunities for newcomers who speak English as an additional language is important.<br>✓ It is important that newcomers are **aware of the services** available to them.<br>✓ It is important that there are enough **settlement services** for newcomers when they arrive on PEI.<br>✓ Training and "**welcome to the community"** initiatives are important for newcomers.<br>✓ There is an opportunity to ensure **greater labour market participation** for underserved populations. |
| | Eastern PEI Regional Economic Advisory Council Town Hall Report (Feb.2018) | ✓ To enhance population growth and retention, **storytelling is important**. We need to market **positive stories**. However, we also need to change the story that we have historically been telling.<br>✓ For newcomers to PEI, there is an opportunity to be **an asset to the community** and to fill a gap/need in the community and current offerings. |
| **Economic Growth Program**<br><br>***RGI Outcome: Build resilient rural economies***<br><br>**<u>Activities eligible for funding:</u>**<br>**• Business networking events for youth entrepreneurs**<br>**• Matching youth entrepreneurs with mentors**<br>**• Professional communication services** | Regional Economic Advisory Council Report (Dec.2017) | ✓ It is imperative that PEI creates a culture of support **for emerging entrepreneurs to be inspired to start a business**.<br>✓ It is imperative that PEI creates a culture of support **for existing businesses to thrive and grow**.<br>✓ Individuals in the West and East should capitalize on the popularity of **experiential tourism**.<br>✓ Increase incentives for businesses to provide **mentorship and apprenticeship opportunities** to youth and individuals entering the job market.<br>✓ The development of a **user-friendly platform** that lists and provides access to resources including but not limited to loans, human resource tools, training sessions and succession planning for entrepreneurs and small business owners would further encourage efficiencies and investments.<br>✓ **Industry-wide approaches** which involve **partnering with community organizations** is important. |

[4] Information from Central File No. 2300-00-P1

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|---|---|---|
| • **Business co-operatives** | Eastern PEI – Economic Advisory Council Town Hall Discussion Report | ✓ **Entrepreneurs** are critical to Island success.<br>✓ **Storytelling** is very important to encourage growth in the region. We need to do a better job of telling **the stories of entrepreneurs** on PEI to highlight opportunity in the region and to demonstrate our uniqueness.<br>✓ We need an **integrated approach to development initiatives**. All business areas and communities need to work together.<br>✓ We should find a way to **match available skills sets with opportunities.**<br>✓ Build a program where people are encouraged to **invest in a young entrepreneur** from the area. For example, supporting a young entrepreneur to be able to start up transportation solutions.<br>✓ Have **companies and community organizations consult with students** in high school to learn about what types of jobs they want and what they need to help their entrepreneurial initiatives. |
| **Community Capacity Building Program**<br><br>**RGI Outcome:**<br>***Increase the strategic capacity of rural communities***<br><br>**Activities eligible for funding:**<br>• **Professional training services to educate NGO's on strategic planning**<br>• **Regional economic development plans**<br>• **Operational and strategic plans**<br>• **Asset mapping services** | Eastern PEI Regional Economic Advisory Council Town Hall Report (Feb.2018) | ✓ **Communities need strategic focus** to assist their development. **Strategic plans for communities would help** to identify direction/planning/development. **Plans would identify assets, needs and community strengths** and would provide the guidance of a 'business plan' for where they are headed into the future.<br>✓ An **asset inventory for** the region would help to identify what resources and assets are currently available. We should have this inventory and be able to provide it to people who are interested in coming to an area so they can see where there may be gaps and opportunities to begin enterprises and contribute to labour needs. **A central repository of information that is accessible** is important to support entrepreneurship as it tells people where to go to find out information (e.g., about business parks, available retail space, business leaders, etc.). |
| **Community Revitalization Program**<br><br>**RGI Outcome:**<br>***Revitalize rural community infrastructure***<br><br>**Activities eligible for funding:**<br>• Infrastructure projects | Regional Economic Advisory Council Report (Dec.2017) | ✓ All Councils identified that **infrastructure needs to grow** to keep pace with population growth. |
| | Eastern PEI – Economic Advisory Council Town Hall Discussion Report (Feb.2018) | ✓ Infrastructure is very important to retain and grow populations. |