Community Development in Newfoundland and Labrador

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Community Economic Development

- is citizen-led;
- is dedicated to improving lifestyles through:
  - wealth distribution
  - poverty reduction
  - job creation; and
- provides infrastructure in support of business development.
Regional Development Associations

Early organizations were created as a result of:

- the resettlement program;
- access to employment;
- out-migration and a lack of attention to fishery development, creating community vulnerability; and
- commitment to traditional lifestyles.
The Early 90s

- A collapse of the groundfishery created a community crisis.
- There was a need to refocus regional development efforts.
- Downsizing resulted in less money and greater accountability.
Regional Economic Development Boards (REDBs): A New Approach
The Approach

- 1993 The NLRDC requests a study of regional economic development.
- 1994 The Task Force on CED travels the province.
- 1995 Government approves *Community Matters*. 
Task Force Objective

- to review and make recommendations regarding:

1. organizational structures for economic development
2. programs and services and how they are used
Community Matters

Provisional Boards

- made up of representatives of major stakeholders in the zones responsible for:
  - identifying stakeholders for REDBs
  - developing formulae for their representation
  - developing bylaws and ensuring incorporation
  - finalizing boundaries and providing a name
Core Functions

• Provide leadership in the development and implementation of a strategic plan for the zone.
• Coordinate business development support.
• Support organizations and communities within the zone.
Core Functions (contd)

- Coordinate social and economic initiatives related to economic development.
- Promote public participation and community education.
Provide leadership in the development and implementation of a strategic plan:

- Initiate partnerships.
- Market and promote the zone and the SEP.
- Ensure the SEP is current and up-to-date.
- Monitor the impact of SEP implementation relative to the larger zonal economy.
Coordinate business development support:

Assist businesses, development groups, and entrepreneurs to identify:

- funding sources;
- investment opportunities; and
- local and global investment potential.
Support organizations and communities within the zone:

- Access resources and expertise in support of stakeholders.
- Promote community and organizational capacity building.
- Promote leadership and skills development.
- Empower sub-zonal agencies.
Coordinate social and economic initiatives related to economic development:

Ensure:

• that the SEP is successfully implemented;
• that development is consistent with the goals and objectives of the SEP; and
• that social and economic objectives are integrated.
Promote public participation and community education:

Ensure:

- the participation of all sectors of the community, including:
  - youth
  - women
  - other minorities; and
- access to information and skills for community decision-making.
Promote public participation and community education: (contd)

Ensure:

- citizens’ responsibility for becoming functional in:
  - decision-making
  - the development process
  - government operations; and

- Board empowerment through community support.
Performance Contracts

- agreements to undertake mutually agreeable objectives
- mechanisms for providing core funding
- means to define the relationship between Government and the REDBs
- developmental VS regulatory
- means to identify accountability framework
Phase I

REDBs were to:

- hire expertise to assist with the development of strategic economic plans;
- develop policy manuals; and
- monitor and provide input on economic development proposals.
Phase II

- is a five-year framework agreement based on five core functions;
- provides for an annual renewal of the budget, work plan and monitoring and evaluation schedule; and
- provides for dispute resolution, reporting procedures, and administrative details.
Issues

- Planning
- Governance
- Resources
- Capacity Building
- Pan Provincial Issues
- Communications
- Government Partnerships
Actions

- Integrated Workplans
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Partnerships with ACOA, LMDA
- Business Retention and Expansion
- Capacity Building Program
- NLREDA
- Communications Strategy
- Protocol Committee