

Cornwall

*Community Priority Setting Exercise
August 22nd, 2005*

Report



Final Report Date: October 2005

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Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Brief Review United Way of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry
3. **Part I: Issues** – Turbo Brainstorming
 - 3.1. What are your communities' most pressing issues?
 - 3.2. What are the most important factors creating these issues?
4. **Part II: Discussion**
 - 4.1. What's working well
 - 4.2. What needs improvement
5. Dotmacracy regarding issues
6. Discussion Local vs. Regional
7. Discussion regarding sharing of info
8. Closing Remarks

3. Part 1: Issues

- 3.1. What are your communities' most pressing issues?
- 3.2. What are the important factors creating these issues?

3.1. Communities most pressing issues identified

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 3.1.1. Youth | 3.1.6. Poverty |
| 3.1.2. Education | 3.1.7. Community Image |
| 3.1.3. Jobs/Employment | 3.1.8. Medical Services |
| 3.1.4. Elderly | 3.1.9. Lack of information of services |
| 3.1.5. Early Intervention | 3.1.10. Isolation |

3.2. Important Factors Creating Issues

3.2.1. Youth

- Lack of activities especially recreational
- Poor transportation / cost prohibitive
- No opportunities for youth
- Isolation
- Very little for the ages between 11-19 yrs
- No bowling alley
- High-risk situations due to boredom
- Bullying
- High cost for services and activities for youth
- Very sports-minded community – what about the youth who do not do sports?
- Lack of cultural activities i.e.: arts, theatre
- Youth initiatives offered in the library are not well advertised
- Insufficient youth centres
- High school drop outs
- Need for focus on trades
- Parental involvement
- Alcohol and drug abuse
- Split families

3.2.2. Education

- Literacy levels low
- Educational institutions lacking
- Children ill prepared for school entry
- Poor early child development experiences
- Cultural barriers for new immigrants
- Parental commitment to children's education
- Local rates for postsecondary education low
- Financial constraints

- Inadequate funding for special needs education

3.2.3. Jobs/Employment

- Domtar and other recent industry layoffs
- Manufacturing industry decreasing
- More service jobs = less money
- Overall low wages
- Cornwall always badly hit by recession = vicious cycle
- Lack of financial security so don't spend on services or activities
- No economic development
- No direct transport between Cornwall and Ottawa
- No skill training available for Cornwall community members
- Lack of skilled workers in Cornwall

3.2.4. Elderly

- Aging population
- Aged population takes a toll on the services that are out there
- Higher than normal population of seniors
- Cornwall attracts more seniors – demographics > 10%
- Increase in baby boomers (junior seniors = 47-58yrs)
- Becoming a retirement community
- Lowest prices for housing
- Isolation
- Do not ask for help so may miss out
- No help for the elderly
- Need more services to accommodate increase in population
- Little recreational activities

3.2.5. Early Intervention

3.2.6. Poverty

- Youth
- Seniors
- Working poor
- Minimum wage jobs
- Single parenting

3.2.7. Community Image

- Negative Image
- Image is influenced by smuggling and other crimes related to smuggling
- Demographic profile
- High alcohol and substance use rates
- Industrial community - emissions
- Media coverage
- Sexual abuse scandal

3.2.8. Medical Services

- Elderly population increasing
- Doctor shortage
- Shortage of nurses
- Recruitment challenges
- Doctors without hospital privileges
- Abuse of emergency room services
- Insufficient Nurse Practitioners
- No Community Health Centre (French equivalent exists)

3.2.9. Lack of Information of services

3.2.10. Isolation

4. Part 2: Activities/Services/Strategies/Resources:

- 4.1. What is working well in the community?
- 4.2. What do we need to improve or add that would make a difference?

4.1. What is working well in the community?

- 4.1.1. Geographical and population size is nice, not too small & not too big
- 4.1.2. Lots of amenities but still rural appeal
- 4.1.3. Community pulls together
- 4.1.4. Openness to different languages (French/English)
- 4.1.5. No prejudice in Cornwall
- 4.1.6. Location is ideal
- 4.1.7. Bike path
- 4.1.8. Partnerships
- 4.1.9. Fundraising with very specific purpose (e.g. Cornwall Community Hospital, Children's Treatment Centre)
- 4.1.10. Support for National relief efforts
- 4.1.11. Integration of immigrant population
- 4.1.12. Support for local tragedies (house fire)

4.2. What do we need to improve or add that would make a difference?

- 4.2.1. Timing of road closures
- 4.2.2. Need more opportunities for youth
- 4.2.3. All identified issues are seen as areas for improvement
- 4.2.4. More free activities for community members
- 4.2.5. Outdoor activities for kids
- 4.2.6. Usage of Cornwall's waterfront
- 4.2.7. Media coverage
- 4.2.8. Involvement of community leaders
- 4.2.9. Community strategic plan
- 4.2.10. Involvement of parents
- 4.2.11. Intervention efforts

- 4.2.12. Specific goals and outcomes
- 4.2.13. Greater corporate involvement in community

5. Ranking Of Issues

Achieved through the Dotmocracy process.

- 3.2.1. Youth ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
- 3.2.2. Education ✓✓✓✓
- 3.2.3. Jobs/Employment ✓✓
- 3.2.4. Elderly ✓✓
- 3.2.5. Early Intervention ✓
- 3.2.6. Poverty ✓
- 3.2.7. Community Image
- 3.2.8. Medical Services
- 3.2.9. Lack of Information of Services
- 3.2.10. Isolation

6. Discussion on Local vs. Regional

- 3.2.1. Youth Local & Regional
- 3.2.2. Education Local
- 3.2.3. Jobs/Employment Regional
- 3.2.4. Elderly Local & Regional
- 3.2.5. Early Intervention Regional
- 3.2.6. Poverty Local & Regional
- 3.2.7. Community Image Local
- 3.2.8. Medical Services Local
- 3.2.9. Lack of Information of Services Local
- 3.2.10. Isolation Local

The group agreed that most of the issues were local (Cornwall). The issues surrounding Youth, Elderly and Poverty were considered to be both regional (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry) and local issues. For Jobs and Early Intervention, the group felt that these issues were strictly regional.

7. Addendum

A draft report was sent to all participants for further commenting. Many additional factors were added to some of the issues above. One participant felt that the following issues deserved mention in the report:

- **Violence in schools – bullying**
 - Lack of parenting skills
 - Anger management
 - Discipline in schools

- **Women's rights**
 - Domestic violence

- **Children's rights**
 - Physical abuse
 - Sexual abuse

- **Teen pregnancy**
 - Demographics (education, income)
 - Relationship issues
 - Contraception
 - Self esteem

- **Economic development**
 - Stagnant population growth
 - Minimal business expansion