

Workshop 5: Battleford

The following notes were taken during the brainstorming session by all the community leaders represented at the workshop.

Session 1: Attitudes

Positives Identified For the Area

- ☞ Access to good roads, rail, etc.
- ☞ Good schools, churches, community complexes
- ☞ Good water
- ☞ Oil and gas development
- ☞ Short drive distances to larger centers
- ☞ People (workforce)
- ☞ Tourism
- ☞ Safe communities (low crime rate)
- ☞ Lakes, museums (tourism amenities)
- ☞ Recreation (community associations, facilities)
- ☞ Positive Local Government
- ☞ Community spirit (communities in bloom, civic pride, volunteers)
- ☞ Cooperation (municipalities)
- ☞ Safe environment
- ☞ Good base of economic activity. Existing businesses will draw others.
- ☞ Historical sites
- ☞ Low crime rates
- ☞ Room for expansion (facilities, land)
- ☞ Access to internet
- ☞ People (embrace outsiders, preserve history)
- ☞ Good standard of living
- ☞ Affordable housing
- ☞ Intercommunity working relationships
- ☞ Utilities (power, gas, water)
- ☞ Regional waste management
- ☞ Development incentives
- ☞ Secure tax base (resource sector)
- ☞ Services for industry (welders, light manufacturing, etc.)
- ☞ Clean air
- ☞ Competitive land prices
- ☞ Basic services (post office, restaurants, etc.)
- ☞ Close proximity to major centers
- ☞ Seniors
- ☞ Golf courses, regional parks, hunting, fishing, skiing
- ☞ Good place to raise a family
- ☞ Natural resources (forestry, scenic topography)
- ☞ Personal care homes
- ☞ Grain terminals
- ☞ Strong leadership
- ☞ K-12 schools
- ☞ Pharmacies
- ☞ Housing available, affordable

- ☞ Fire/rescue protection
- ☞ Close proximity to lakes and parks (4 season activities)
- ☞ Accommodations (Hotels)
- ☞ Banks
- ☞ Wide-open spaces (market it)
- ☞ Crafts
- ☞ Air strips
- ☞ Libraries
- ☞ Research station
- ☞ Resort development potential
- ☞ Internet access

Goals and Challenges Identified:

- ☞ Identify potential for value added ag.
- ☞ Open largest training facility to educate people to fill all the jobs (tourism, oil and gas, resource development, etc.)
- ☞ Hwy #4 some concern (development in Fort McMurray)
- ☞ Agriculture, sustainability of this industry
- ☞ Senior government is an obstacle
- ☞ Outfitting (legislation needs to be adapted)
- ☞ Strategic plan and a vision in one municipality - more need to develop these.
- ☞ Financial input (capital investors)
- ☞ Need investors
- ☞ Municipalities need to be forward thinking
- ☞ Working together without taking away from one another
- ☞ Easier to access info. when all communities are working together
- ☞ Expand water related opportunities

Session 2:

Sectors of Developments To Target In the Area

- ☞ Tourism
 - Lake developments
 - Tourism in many communities (build a tourism package for area)
 - Connect all historical sites (Tourism package, tourism maps)
 - Eco-tourism opportunities (interactive tours, wildlife, farm tours)
 - Outfitters (fishing, hunting)
 - Hunting, fishing, camping
 - Lake lots, bed and breakfasts
 - Bus tours
 - More accommodations (hotels, motels to accommodate tourists)
 - Snow mobile trails
- ☞ Expand our current businesses, industries to create more employment opportunities.
- ☞ Wind power
- ☞ Oil and gas sector
 - Spin-offs from oil and gas (service industry)
 - Service industries for these resources
- ☞ Dam development
- ☞ Nuclear power plant (further processing)

- ☞ Air support (supply workers to northern communities)
- ☞ Community college programs (expand trades programs, housing for students)
- ☞ Real-estate Industry
 - Sell quality of life (low cost of living) to outsiders
 - Seniors Promotion Package: Affordable housing, gated communities, medical needs
 - Families (safe, affordable)
- ☞ Forestry
 - Forest byproducts manufacturing
- ☞ Value-added Agriculture
 - biodiesel
 - ethanol
 - feed lot
 - elk processing
 - organic (niche markets)
 - local processing (don't ship raw = value add here)
 - Agriculture byproducts manufacturing
- ☞ Residential dev't (bedroom communities, increase facilities)
- ☞ Manufacturing