

Workshop 7: Yorkton

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

- ☞ Community spirit, Positive attitudes
- ☞ Rural and urban work together
- ☞ Health, long term care, recreation
- ☞ Natural Resources
- ☞ Clean air/water
- ☞ Oil, biodiesel, mining, etc
- ☞ Tourism
- ☞ Hunting, fishing, etc.
- ☞ Bird watching
- ☞ Historical attractions
- ☞ Northern lights
- ☞ Transportation (rail, hwy, etc)
- ☞ Low cost housing
- ☞ Tax incentives
- ☞ Protective services
- ☞ Natural gas
- ☞ Power supply
- ☞ Curling, arenas, golf courses (recreation facilities)
- ☞ Schools, day cares
- ☞ Senior facilities
- ☞ Theaters
- ☞ Employment opportunities
- ☞ Working positively together (communities)
- ☞ Well trained fire dept.
- ☞ Land available for development (rural and urban)
- ☞ Colleges, libraries
- ☞ Entrepreneurs
- ☞ Core services to service development
- ☞ Camp grounds, hiking
- ☞ Good ag land
- ☞ Family atmosphere
- ☞ Friendly people
- ☞ Potash
- ☞ Ethanol
- ☞ Spin-offs (manufacturing, metal shops)
- ☞ Open to investment and econ. development
- ☞ Skiing
- ☞ 3 phase power in some areas
- ☞ Some municipalities have new bylaws for development
- ☞ First Nations population
- ☞ Immigrant population
- ☞ Game farms

- ☞ Small town atmosphere
- ☞ Progressive thinking
- ☞ Young people moving home (families)
- ☞ Tax incentives (business and residential)
- ☞ Multicultural
- ☞ Seed cleaning, implement, feed lots, elevators (Agriculture amenities)
- ☞ Parkland community college
- ☞ Highspeed Internet access in some communities
- ☞ Clean air
- ☞ Clean communities
- ☞ Processing/manufacturing
- ☞ Yorkton (trading center)
- ☞ Air charter
- ☞ Affordable living
- ☞ Bed & Breakfasts

Goals and Challenges Identified:

- ☞ Schools (larger districts make it less attractive)
- ☞ Secondary highways are deteriorating (need to push government to maintain/upgrade).
- ☞ Lacking industry to attract people back
- ☞ Take advantage of all growth opportunities
- ☞ First Nations (more partnerships on projects)
- ☞ Government relations (learn from past, let them know what we need changed to overcome stumbling blocks)
- ☞ Take an inventory of our exports - what is being processed and exported/imported. Ship processed/value-added)
- ☞ Hunting/Fishing lodges (some legislation needs changing)
- ☞ Need investment capital (private sector)
- ☞ Shift attitude (need a vision of what our communities are)
- ☞ Draw back population (youth) (how do we do it?)
- ☞ Remove Fed/Prov. Government impediments
- ☞ Bring people back to live in rural Saskatchewan. (How do we do it?)

Session 2:

Sectors of Developments To Target In the Area

- ☞ Alternative energy industry
 - Ethanol
 - Biodiesel
 - Solar, wind
- ☞ Natural Resource Development
- ☞ Agri-business, Ag Processing (value add)
 - flour mills, vegetable processing
 - biofuels
 - processing/utilizing agriculture byproducts
 - Beef Marketing Campaign (quality product)

- ☞ Tourism (Camping, snowmobile trails/rallies)
 - Hunting/fishing (outfitters, guides, lodges)
 - Bird-watching
 - snowmobiling
 - White-tail deer hunting (Game Farming)
 - Wild life study groups
 - migratory birds, eco-tourism
 - Need to organize tourism (Marketing, packaging)
- ☞ Real-estate Industry
 - Marketing farming/small town lifestyle (Last Cattle Frontier)
- ☞ Manufacturing sector
- ☞ Spin-offs jobs and businesses from these sectors ie construction, housing, services, etc.)