

Strategic Planning Consultation Survey

Eco Dev was formed in 2015 to collaboratively undertake the Almaguin Regional Business Retention and Expansion project (BR+E). The three communities of McMurrich/Monteith, Magnetawan and Perry formed the EcoDev Committee to help uncover the needs of the community and implement initiatives to attract, retain and expand businesses. EcoDev continues to evolve to represent the needs of the communities to safeguard its growth and support future development.

To effectively achieve this goal, the Eco Dev has developed a draft strategic plan and we want to hear from you to ensure that we are making sound informed decisions based on the needs of the communities. Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey and provide us with your thoughts on what is important to you.

Please note that Survey will be available until September 19th, 2017 only.

1. Which option best describes you? (circle all that apply)

- a. Business owner
- b. Resident (permanent)
- c. Resident (seasonal)
- d. Visitor

2. In which municipality do you live and/or work? (circle all that apply)

- a. Perry
- b. Magnetawan
- c. McMurrich/Monteith
- d. Other

3. Please list the top 3 advantages of being in your municipality.

- a. Advantage 1:

- b. Advantage 2:

- c. Advantage 3:

4. What are three challenges of living in your community?

a. Challenge 1:

b. Challenge 2:

c. Challenge 3:

In order to realize the identified goals, the Economic Development Committee for Perry, Magnetawan and McMurrich/Monteith will need to focus on key priorities. For each of the following goals, please choose and rank three priorities by placing the number 1, 2, or 3 beside your three selections.

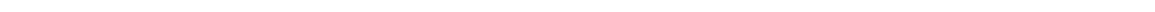
5. Goal #1- To Promote Regional Collaboration

- a. ____ Collaboration with other Economic Development Committees, Municipalities, and organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce
- b. ____ Encourage new opportunities to network
- c. ____ Work with different levels of government- Federal and Provincial levels



6. Goal #2- Attract new families, visitors, and businesses to the area through investment attraction.

- a. ____ Work with a similar community to determine areas of improvement through a First Impressions Community Exchange (FICE)
- b. ____ Determine each community's Assets and Gaps through a Market Study by hiring a consultant
- c. ____ Attract new families and residents through assisting Recreation Committees in development year-round recreational opportunities, such as children's programming
- d. ____ Work with the schools to develop programming that will benefit the community
- e. Cottage/Retirement Attraction
- f. ____ Attract cottagers and retirees by develop a regional welcome package to inform seasonal/new residents on what is available in the area
- g. ____ Attract new businesses by having an updated inventory of commercial lots, store fronts, land, etc.



7. Goal #3- Develop Tourism Opportunities Throughout the 3 Communities and the Region of Almaguin Highlands.

- a. ___ Work on marketing opportunities through the Villages of Almaguin, the Regional Marketing Partnership
 - b. ___ Develop a regional marketing plan
 - c. ___ Encourage off-season tourism by supporting and development new events outside of summer.
 - d. ___ Look and support other opportunities for new event development by supporting new tourism businesses and products.
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8. Goal #4- Encourage Business Development Through Support and Outreach.

- a. ___ Provide entrepreneur/start-up/expansion support by holding regular seminars and workshops to educate businesses on a variety of topics
 - b. ___ Help businesses with funding applications (review and suggestions)
 - c. ___ Continue with Education Alignment, workforce development and skills training through the Almaguin Careers and Trades Day (A job fair at Almaguin Highlands Secondary School)
 - d. ___ Promote existing and new businesses through businesses events such as the Chamber's Festival of Almaguin Businesses (FAB)
 - e. ___ Keep up-to-date business directory in each municipality
 - f. ___ Host/support Succession Planning workshops to educate businesses on the importance of planning ahead
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9. Goal #5- Be the Voice of Businesses, Visitors and the Community.

- a. ___ Voice concerns over Hydro, internet, and cellular issues by communicating to government representatives as issues arise
 - b. ___ Advocate for change with regards to various issues that impact the community, such as the challenges with various ministries and red-tape restrictions.
 - c. ___ Host round-table discussions with government representatives
 - d. ___ Educate businesses on various support and opportunities through regular business visits/ business retention and expansion visits
 - e. ___ Enhance/facilitate communication and collaboration between municipalities and businesses by reporting back to Councils/Clerks on issues affecting businesses
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10. Goal #6- Address Various Challenges with Regards to Community Services.

- a. ___ Address Aging Population by looking into health care opportunities/funding
 - b. ___ Educate businesses on accessibility for aging population
 - c. ___ Communicate youth entrepreneurship programs to the communities
 - d. ___ Encourage youth volunteerism in various organizations
 - e. ___ Keep database of youth leaving the area, and communicate with the Universities and Collages to bring students back to Almaguin
 - f. ___ Continue with 3R Volunteer Program – a program developed to build capacity in volunteer organizations, while also tackling issues such as volunteer recruitment, retention, and recognition.
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11. Please prioritize our Goals listed above: What is most important to you?

- a. ___ Goal #1- Regional Collaboration
 - b. ___ Goal #2- Investment Attraction
 - c. ___ Goal #3- Tourism Development
 - d. ___ Goal #4- Business Development
 - e. ___ Goal #5- Voice Concerns of Businesses, Visitors and Community
 - f. ___ Goal #6- Focus on Community Services
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12. Do you feel our goals and objectives accurately address the challenges of your community that you listed in Question 4? If not, please provide some suggestions of how we might do so.

- a. Yes
- b. No: Suggestions

13. Additional Concerns, Comments or Questions?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.