

MAJOR ISSUES OF FERINTOSH AND HUSSAR, ALBERTA EXPLORATORY REPORT RESULTS

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1.0 Introduction

The New Rural Economy Project (NRE) is a five-year education and research project occurring in rural Canada. The project is bringing together rural leaders, policy-analysts, the business community, researchers, and government agencies at all levels to identify and address vital rural issues. The national project is profiling 32 rural sites across Canada, with assistance of local site teams. The site teams members are local community leaders with interests in the future of their community.

The first exploratory stage in consulting community leaders and engaging site teams was, ranking the importance of major issues conditioning future prospects of each village. The purpose of this exercise was to bring site teams into the research framework through interviews regarding major issues. This report is based on documented interviews with site team members and the mayors in each village. The report illustrates interview results concerning major issues discussed.

The interview purpose was to determine and rank major issues in each village through a series of five scoring questions. Site team members as a group and as individuals were asked to consider the importance of each issue: as an obstacle to development, as a target for future research, in discussions during the past year, intensity of feelings, and the amount of influence the community has on the issue. The scoring questions were evaluated on a scale of one to ten, one being the least value of importance and ten the greatest value of importance. The scores enabled issues to be ranked between being a non-issue and an important strategic concern in revitalizing the local economy.

The list of possible issues was prepared in advance, however site team members could add other issues. The prepared issue list was roads and other infrastructure, youth out-migration, jobs, health, education, social and recreational services, tax and finance. Site team members added issues regarding Hutterite Colonies and real estate. During the interviews the broad scope of each issue was discussed. The discussions were to decide the major issues within the scope of each issue. The discussions formed a basis for site team members to score an issue.

2.0 Major Issues

The issues scoring results are displayed in tables presenting the two villages, Ferintosh and Hussar. Following the tables are discussions of each issue. The discussions demonstrate differences and similarities of issues between Hussar and Ferintosh. Following each issue discussions are research requests made by site team member.

2.1 Roads and Other Infrastructure

Site teams members reported issues concerning local roads, highway roads, accessibility, condition of roads, future upgrades, important tax base infrastructure, future of elevators, effect of loss of elevators, water and sewage utilities, and recreation centres.

Table 1. Importance of Roads and other Infrastructure Issue for Hussar and Ferintosh
January 1999

Roads and Other Infrastructures			
Scoring Question (1-10)	Hussar -		Ferintosh –
	Roads	Infrastructure	Roads and Infrastructure
Importance as an obstacle to development	5	8	7
Importance as a target for research in future	10	9	6
Frequency of discussion in past year	2	7	6
Intensity of feelings currently	1	5	6
Amount of influence the community has on issue	7	1	5

2.1.1 Hussar

Hussar team members focussed their discussions on road conditions and elevators tax base revenue. Other infrastructure issues were mentioned. Water and sewage utilities were thought sufficient having drilled a new well in 1991. The Hussar community was reportedly fundraising to build a new arena, however a team member stated some difficulties acquiring required funds. Both highway and local village road conditions were discussed.

The highway road conditions were stated to be important for agricultural trucking transportation. The team felt in the future, if the rail line disappears there will be increased agricultural pressure on highways. Concern was reported over future upgrades

of main transportation routes. Over the past few years' highway road conditions were thought to have improved with paving highway 56 and good accessibility to Highway 1, the Trans Canada Highway. In comparison, village roads were seen to need improvements.

Interviews revealed need for upgrading the local village roads. The mayor stated a long-term plan for accomplishing upgrades with funds coming from provincial grants and village taxes. Wheatland County recently paved the road from the highway into Hussar. The road paving was seen to assisting farmers when bringing their farm equipment into Hussar during wet spring and fall seasons. Improving farmer's road conditions was thought to assist with the future of elevators.

Hussar team members were primarily concerned with the elevators tax base revenue. The major issue reported was, if the elevators were removed there would be a 41% (based on 1998 tax roles) loss in tax base revenue for Hussar. The site team felt that two out of three elevators could be torn down in the near future but one would remain. Loss of the elevators was thought to equal a loss in a sense of control for the community and the municipal government. The municipal government indicated not to have a strategic plan in place for the possible loss of elevators. The team felt the community does not have much control over future of elevators. Global market forces were thought to be controlling farmer's decisions to go where they can get the best grain price.

Research - The Hussar team's research requests were to explore conditions of surrounding highways and create a municipal government financial plan dealing with the loss of elevators tax revenue. A research question raised was, which highways do and could play a major agricultural transportation role in the future with the loss of Hussar rail lines.

2.1.2 Ferintosh

The main issues stated by Ferintosh site team members, were conditions and use of roads. Other infrastructure issues were discussed. Elevators in Ferintosh had been torn down creating a decrease in the village tax base. Reported result of the last elevator torn down in 1996 created a 10% decrease in tax base revenue for Ferintosh in 1996. In 1998 Ferintosh integrated four new wells for the village water and sewage utilities. Ferintosh paid 25% and Alberta Transportation and Utilities paid 75% of the project bill. Previously water was drawn from Little Beaver Lake. Ferintosh was reported as debt-free and indicated no plans for infrastructure expansion. The mayor indicated future plans for upgrading village roads.

Roads were viewed as playing a role in economic viability for Ferintosh. Highways were thought important to agriculture, oil and gas industry transportation. The local population was observed to use highway roads when accessing vehicle service, gas, groceries, and entertainment and health services. Highway roads were viewed in good condition and paving of village roads was thought to have improved road local conditions.

Research- Ferintosh team members requested research determining highway road conditions for industries interested in local development. A question raised was, are the road conditions and accessibility acceptable for industry development.

2.2 Youth Out- Migration

Site team members raised issues concerning why youth leave, effect of youth leaving, and how to prevent out-migration.

Table 2. Importance of Youth Out-Migration Issue for Hussar and Ferintosh, January 1999

Youth Out-Migration		
Scoring Questions (1-10)	Hussar	Ferintosh
Importance as an obstacle to development	8	9
Importance as a target for research in future	8	9
Frequency of discussion in past year	1	6
Intensity of feelings currently	6	5
Amount of influence the community has on issue	4	4

2.2.1 Hussar

The major issue illustrated by Hussar site team members was limited youth employment opportunities. Site team members thought youth have options of taking over the family farm, working in oil fields, being a teacher at the local school or working at the local Credit Union. Discussions mentioned lack of light industrial fabricators and grain conversion industries in the area restricts Hussar's job possibilities for youth.

The team sensed youth left because of greater opportunities for employment and education in larger centres. Past observations saw women leave if they did not marry a farmer and young men usually found work on farms or oil fields. Youth were thought to have more choices for careers and view farming as a difficult way of earning a living.

Discussions revealed many farmers have reached retirement age and some of their sons or daughters have stayed on the family farm. Others reportedly sold their farms to Hutterite Colonies, when their children relinquished the farm responsibility. New young

farmers were thought rarely have funds to purchase new land and begin farming. A recent rise in land prices was felt to discourage young farmers.

Research - Hussar site team members requested research to explore possibilities of bringing industries into the Hussar community, providing jobs for youth.

2.2.2 Ferintosh

The Ferintosh site team primary concerns were few youth employment possibilities. Youth reportedly left to obtain higher education and employment. Observations rarely saw youth return to reside in Ferintosh. Discussions revealed few youth have remained in Ferintosh and good paying jobs were thought a rarity in the community. Youth options were thought limited by local resources.

Farming resources were felt the only option for youth. Several team members observed a rise in land prices discouraged young farmers from acquiring land.

Discussions revealed the community has not provided opportunities encouraging youth to stay in Ferintosh after high school graduation. Loss of the young population was seen as a reason for Ferintosh becoming a retirement bedroom community.

Research- Ferintosh site team members requested research with regards to providing greater youth employment opportunities.

2.3 Jobs

Site team members raised issues concerning types of jobs available, how people feel about them, few jobs for youth and missed opportunities.

Table 3. Importance of Job Issue for Hussar and Ferintosh, January 1999

Jobs		
Scoring Questions (1-10)	Hussar	Ferintosh
Importance as an obstacle to development	9	5
Importance as a target for research in future	9	7
Frequency of discussion in past year	3	3
Intensity of feelings currently	5	5
Amount of influence the community has on issue	3	4

2.3.1 Hussar

The major issues raised by Hussar site team members were poor job availability and missed or unexplored opportunities. Discussions revealed Hussar missed industrial development possibly because of infrastructure, services, limited water utilities and location of the village. Team members felt that by advertising village assets and targeting industries the village could attract future unexplored development.

Hussar team members suggested unexplored opportunities for new entrepreneurs. They felt Hussar's agriculture-based community could start using their own locally produced resources by having a manufacturing, processing or grain conversion industry located in Hussar. The industry would hypothetically bring jobs and added income to Hussar through exports. Other resources were discussed as recreational development.

Team members discussed Deadhorse Lake, north of Hussar, as a possible recreational development village. Discussions included concerns of filling the lake with water. The lake was described as a marsh ecosystem. Team members felt a recreational lake may attract visitors looking for a vacation retreat. Another possibility raised was to develop a protected wildlife habitat to lure nature enthusiast. Discussions also presented existing missed opportunities.

The team members sensed missed opportunities with the oil and gas industry in the surrounding area. Oil and gas field workers were observed to need hotel and restaurant services. A team member reported the new restaurant in Hussar has plans to build a motel.

Research - Hussar site team members requested research with respect to new development of any kind that would create jobs. Discussions included development of the lake area, manufacturing and processing plants to serve the agricultural industry in the area.

2.3.2 Ferintosh

Few job possibilities were the main issues reported by Ferintosh site team members. A stated concern was the people employed resistance to change, being satisfied with their level of earnings. Members stated Ferintosh has limited resources and little access to capital. Development potential was viewed as poor. Discussions revealed the community must take responsibility for its growth and development.

Team members felt there were opportunities for creating employment through home based business. Ferintosh is in a fiber optics centre thought to provide potential for Internet and computer based industries. A team member reported an attempt being made to bring a multi-media lab to Ferintosh and New Norway school. Multi-media labs were felt to increase worldwide information access and possibly lead to entrepreneurial developments.

A member stated fiber optics light industry development is hindered by education necessary to initiate a development. Training and education for fiber optics industry is reportedly based in Ontario.

It was felt niche markets could succeed in Ferintosh village as well as anywhere else. An example was the King Kuba Sausage Store that specialized in quality sausages. The store was seen as a success and people from a large surrounding area reportedly came to buy the specialty sausages in Ferintosh. Little Beaver Lake could be considered a niche market.

Little Beaver Lake was discussed as a potential resort destination for visitors to the area. The existing campground is reportedly filled to capacity during summer months for family reunions. Team members felt water quality and few fish in the lake hinder lake development. The bedroom community was stated to encourage development creating more jobs however, not at the expense of changing the quiet community.

Research- Ferintosh team members requested research focus on access to capital resources and development of tourism in the local area.

2.4 Health

Health issues were considered a non-issue by all of the site team members in both villages. This issue was therefore not scored, but only discussed.

2.4.1 Hussar

Hussar reportedly never had many health services and everyone was accustomed to travelling to larger centers for their health care. Recent observations noted retirees were moving to larger centres closer to hospitals. Team members felt they had no control over this issue, regarding it as a provincial issue.

The health services available for the Hussar and hinterland community were the health school nurse and the First Responders Association. The school nurse runs baby clinics to provide immunization for pre-school age children. A public health nurse from Strathmore periodically runs foot clinics, blood pressure clinics and other requested clinics.

Emergency service is not available; Hussar and surrounding hinterland residents must call the ambulance in Strathmore who then contacts the First Responders. The First Responders are trained in first aid and CPR to assist during the estimated twenty-five minute wait for the ambulance arrival.

2.4.2 Ferintosh

Similar to Hussar, Ferintosh reportedly had limited health services available. Recent observations noted retirees were moving to larger centres closer to hospitals. Team members felt they had no control over this issue, it is viewed as a provincial concern.

The health services available were focussed on the aging population. Ferintosh village administrators sent out a health survey to people 55 years and older inquiring which wellness clinics were most in demand. The public nurse from Camrose periodically visits to perform special interest clinics including osteoporosis, foot care, stress management and fitness. There is a private nurse who will provide home care for a fee and limited provincial home care services are available. The senior centre has a blood pressure machine run by volunteers once a week.

Emergency 9-1-1 services are available out of Camrose with estimated travel time of twenty minutes.

2.5 Education

Site team members reported issues concerning the Hussar School, maintaining a population to support the school and the social focus in the community. Only Hussar scored this issue. Education was felt to be a non-issue for Ferintosh team members.

Table 4. Importance of Education Issue for Hussar, January 1999

Education	
Scoring Questions (1-10)	Hussar
Importance as an obstacle to development	1
Importance as a target for research in future	5
Frequency of discussion in past year	7
Intensity of feelings currently	10
Amount of influence the community has on issue	6

2.5.1 Hussar

The major issue reported was survival of the school. Size of student population from Hussar and its hinterland was thought to play a key role in maintaining the school. The lack of young families in the area was felt to limit the number children at the school.

The school was seen as the major social focus of the young community. The school was described as a centre for sports teams social seasonal dances and concerts.

The school had lost the high school (grade 10-12) in the past, however the community fought for the return of the high school. Their battle was a success and the lost grades were returned to the school.

The quality of education was considered high. Graduating students have continued to demonstrate success by obtaining scholarships for post secondary institutions.

Research- The Hussar site team requested research focussing on maintaining the student population to prevent the closure of the school and how the school closure would affect the community.

2.5.2 Ferintosh

Ferintosh School closed in 1975 and the community felt a loss of social focus. The only reported local education issue was educating farmers about diversification.

2.6 Social and Recreational Services

Site team members raised concerns with limited provincial and municipal funding the villages receives for social and recreational services. The importance of sustaining existing social centres, educating the population about available services, volunteering for social services, and expanding local recreational facilities were all stressed by site team members.

Table 5. Importance of Social Services Issue for Hussar and Ferintosh,
January 1999

Social and Recreational Services		
Scoring Questions (1-10)	Hussar	Ferintosh
Importance as an obstacle to development	1	8
Importance as a target for research in future	3	7
Frequency of discussion in past year	1	1
Intensity of feelings currently	2	5
Amount of influence the community has on issue	5	5

2.6.1 Hussar

The main issue stressed by Hussar site team members was educating the public about social services available. A member sensed many people were unaware of provincial and local funding available for social assistance through the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS).

The FCSS programs and services available are based on preventative goals, to assist in the prevention of a crisis situation. The main programs available in Hussar are the Family and School Liaisons and Homemaker Services.

The Family and School Liaisons reportedly employs councilors to work with children and families dealing with social problems. They have provided family relations workshops including how to listen to children and coping with stress.

The Homemaker Services have assisted elderly with cooking and cleaning allowing them to remain in their homes.

The closest information centre for the FCSS is in Strathmore. Funding for FCSS was estimated 80% from provincial government and 20% from municipal governments based on their population.

Site team members described many community social and recreational organizations serving all ages of the population. The main project and fundraiser is the proposed new arena in Hussar.

Research- Hussar site team members requested research to evaluate the best method of informing the public about social services available in Hussar.

2.6.2 Ferintosh

The main issue reported by Ferintosh site team members was a lack of social service organizations. Discussions revealed a resistance by volunteers to participate in community organizations. The team sensed a need for a committee dealing with advertising and funding applications for social services available to Ferintosh.

The existing social community organizations were thought focussed on seniors. The senior centre has provided games, health clinics and socialization opportunities for seniors. The Community Club has run the book exchange and an annual town clean up.

No youth organizations were reported. Children in the community have traveled to New Norway or Bashaw, location of local schools, to participate in social or recreational activities. Ferintosh recreation centre was discussed as having expansion possibilities for recreational services.

Concern was stated about the aging population and the impact on social animation of Ferintosh. Middle-aged people are felt to focus on their careers and not have time or energy to participate in volunteer organizations. T.V and Internet were observed as replacing socializing needs of the aging community.

Research- Ferintosh site team members requested researches focus on motivation of volunteers allowing a diversity of services and expand existing organizations.

2.7 Taxes and Finances

Site team members stated their concerns with residential and business taxes, control of taxes, and size of tax base.

Table 6. Importance Taxes and Finances Issue for Hussar and Ferintosh,
January 1999

Taxes and Finances		
Scoring Questions (1-10)	Hussar	Ferintosh
Importance as an obstacle to development	9	3
Importance as a target for research in future	1	6
Frequency of discussion in past year	2	1
Intensity of feelings currently	1	3
Amount of influence the community has on issue	2	5

2.7.1 Hussar

The main issue raised by Hussar site team members was the amount of municipal taxes (42%) paid to the Alberta School Foundation. Tax revenue paid to the Alberta School Foundation was seen as diminishing village tax base revenue and contributing to higher municipal taxes for residents of Hussar.

Team members felt Hussar residents were in favor of municipal tax dollars being spent on schooling. Team members expressed concern regarding amount of tax dollars returning to Hussar school from the Alberta School Foundation. They feared the amount resident's pay is not a fair reflection of the amount received by Hussar School.

Business tax was felt to be low and was expressed as an incentive for new business to build in Ferintosh.

Community participation regarding tax issues was felt possible by voting in all levels of government elections.

Research - The amount of tax revenue returning to the community through the Alberta School Foundation was the research requested by Hussar site team members.

2.7.2 Ferintosh

The main issue raised by Ferintosh site team members was size of the village tax base. Ferintosh tax base was expressed as the village population, and a few small businesses. The last remaining elevator was removed in 1996. The village was eligible to receive provincial grants similar to the cost-sharing grant received for the water utility upgrade. Village taxes were considered low and the village free of debt.

Research- Acquiring a larger tax base was the primary concern of Ferintosh team members for future research.

2.8 Real Estate

The real estate issues reported by site team members were quality, quantity and cost of residential housing, lack of residential building lots and lack of revenue to increase number of lots.

Table 7. Importance of the Real Estate Issue for Hussar and Ferintosh,
January 1999

Real Estate		
Scoring Questions (1-10)	Hussar	Ferintosh
Importance as an obstacle to development	8	1
Importance as a target for research in future	6	5
Frequency of discussion in past year	5	1
Intensity of feelings currently	9	2
Amount of influence the community has on issue	10	9

2.8.1 Hussar

The main real estate issue reported by Hussar site team members was lack of suitable housing available in Hussar. The problem was felt to originate with shortage of building lots, lack of capital resources to acquire land and install services. Lack of suitable housing was considered a factor with people employed in Hussar choosing to live in other nearby centres.

Research- Attracting an outside developer to undertake creating new building lots was the primary concern stated for future research.

2.8.2 Ferintosh

Ferintosh site team members focussed their discussions on the quality of housing available in Ferintosh. Housing costs were considered low and felt could attract low-income residents to the Ferintosh area. Low-income people were generally thought low skilled or retired.

Research- Local methods of improving housing quality were requested for future research.

2.9 Hutterite Colonies

Site team members were concerned with Hutterite Colonies competing with farmers for local land and the Colonies non-participation in both Hussar and Ferintosh communities.

Table 8. Importance of Hutterite Colonies Issue for Hussar and Ferintosh, January 1999

Hutterite Colonies		
Scoring Questions (1-10)	Hussar	Ferintosh
Importance as an obstacle to development	10	8
Importance as a target for research in future	9	8
Frequency of discussion in past year	8	7
Intensity of feelings currently	9	6
Amount of influence the community has on issue	8	5

2.9.1 Hussar and Ferintosh

The discussions revealed Hussar and Ferintosh shared similar views regarding Hutterite Colonies. Observations noted Hutterite Colonies competed with local farmers for land by purchasing land from retired farmers. The land was then considered indefinitely unavailable for purchasing by local farmers. Team members thought Hutterite Colonies demand and purchasing of land was a factor contributing to a rise of local land prices. Local farmers were feeling limited by land available for purchasing and the price of land.

Several team members observed high land prices affecting young and established farmers. Young farmers have observed difficulties establishing a new farm and

established farmers felt limited in expanding the family farm. Hutterite Colonies are group farms and were thought not as vulnerable to rises in land prices.

Hutterite Colonies were thought independent of local Hussar and Ferintosh communities. Hutterites were reported as having their own school, social events and resources. Team members of Hussar and Ferintosh reported strong community relations and participation a primary asset to their communities. Both teams were concerned with sustaining the population of their active communities.

Research- Site teams requested research focus on how local communities can compete with Hutterites for land and a population base to sustain their communities. An idea raised by Hussar team members were creating community based land co-ops to help young farmers purchase land.

3.0 Results Summary

The report purpose was to illustrate the effectiveness of initiating site teams into the research framework. The goal of the exercise was to enable issues to be ranked between being a non-issue and an important strategic concern in revitalizing the local economy.

The summary highlights high scoring (7-10) and low scoring (1-3) issues with respect to the five scoring questions. High scoring major issues illustrate important strategic issues considered as conditioning future prospects of the village. Low scoring issues reflect non-issues concerning viability of the village.

3.1.0 Important Strategic Issues and Non-Issues of Hussar and Ferintosh – The Five Scoring Questions

The summary results have been evaluated through the five scoring questions with respect to issues with high scores and low scores. Results are displayed in a question by question analysis.

3.1.1 Importance as an Obstacle to Development - Hussar

High Scores -

The highest scoring issue in Hussar was Hutterite Colonies. Jobs, taxes and finance, infrastructure, youth out-migration, and real estate followed in importance value.

- Hutterite Colonies were described as the most important obstacle to development. Hutterite Colonies were reported to be competing with local farmers for land by purchasing land from retired farmers. Hutterite Colonies were thought independent of the local Hussar community.
- Limited employment opportunities for youth was reported as an obstacle to development and a major issue of youth out-migration.

- Infrastructure, taxes and finance were reported as obstacles to development. Loss of elevators was projected as a decrease in future village tax base revenue and possibly increasing residential taxes.
- Lack of suitable housing was seen as an obstacle to encouraging development in Hussar.

Low Scores-

Health was not scored by either site team and was therefore considered a non-issue. The lowest scoring issues reported by Hussar were education, social and recreational services.

- The Hussar school was not considered an obstacle to development. The school was thought an asset to development. The school was felt to provide quality education and a centre for social activities in Hussar.
- A number of social and recreational groups have provided services for all ages of the Hussar community. Volunteer associations were considered a great asset to community development.

3.1.1 Importance as an Obstacle to Development – Ferintosh

High Scores-

Ferintosh team members reported youth out-migration was the most important obstacle to development. Roads and other infrastructures, social and recreational services, and Hutterite Colonies followed in importance value.

- Youth out-migration was considered an obstacle to development due to lack of youth employment and higher educational available in Ferintosh. The only youth employment opportunity was considered farming.
- Roads and existing infrastructure were seen as important aspects for future development. It was felt that existing conditions might not support industrial development.
- The major important issue reported as an obstacle for social service development was community resistance to volunteering. The Ferintosh team was concerned with a lack of social service organization existing in Ferintosh.
- Hutterite Colonies were considered an obstacle to development. Ferintosh team members were concerned with land competition and Hutterite non-participation in social organizations in the Ferintosh community.

Low Scores –

Issues with low scores reported by Ferintosh team members were taxes, finances and real estate. These issues did not appear to be obstacles to development.

- Taxes and finances in Ferintosh were reported stable and the village not indebted.
- The low score of low real estate values indicates the issue is not considered an obstacle to development. Concern with low income and low skilled people moving into the community was stated.

3.2.1 Importance as a Target for Research in the Future – Hussar

High Score-

Roads and infrastructure were the most important research issues in Hussar. Jobs, youth out-migration and Hutterite Colonies followed in importance value.

- Research requested was concerned with closing effect of elevators on the community. Team members felt roads could receive increased pressure with closing of rail lines, and they were concerned with how closing rail lines would effect surrounding highways. A key research question raised was, which highways do and could play a major agricultural transportation role with a projected loss of elevators.
- Jobs and youth out-migration reported the same question of how to attract development providing youth employment. The site team wished to explore unexploited opportunities, such as grain conversion industries and the lake area development.
- The Hussar team requested research regarding local farmers land competition with Hutterite Colonies. The team felt research into community based land co-op would benefit young farmers.

Low Score-

The low scores represent issues requesting little research. Hussar team members gave low scores to social and recreational services, tax and finances.

- Hussar team members reported great satisfaction with existing social and recreational services available in Hussar. The only concern was informing the public about social services available.
- Business and residential taxes were felt acceptable. Concern was with the amount of tax dollars sent to the Alberta School Foundation.

3.2.2 Importance as a Target for Research in the Future – Ferintosh

High Score –

The most important research issue discussed by Ferintosh site team members was youth out-migration. Hutterites, jobs, and social and recreational services followed in importance value.

- Research was considering youth out-migration were how to provide greater youth employment opportunities.
- The Ferintosh team requested research regarding local farmers land competition with Hutterite Colonies.
- Research was requested to focus on access to capital resources and development of recreational tourism in the Ferintosh area.
- Research was requested to focus on motivation of volunteers in creating a diversity of social services and expand existing organizations.

Low Score-

Ferintosh site team members reported no low scoring issues.

3.3.1 Frequency of Discussion in the Past Year- Hussar

High Scores-

Site teams considered issues with a high score as issues frequently discussed in their community during the past year. Issues frequently discussed were elevators, education and Hutterites.

Low Scores-

Issues with low scores were not considered recent topics of conversation within the local community. Non-discussed issues were social and recreational services, youth out-migration, taxes and finances, roads and jobs.

3.3.2 Frequency of Discussion in the Past Year – Ferintosh

High Scores-

Hutterites were considered the most frequently discussed issue in Ferintosh.

Low Scores-

Ferintosh team members considered that the least discussed issues were social services, taxes and finances, real estate and jobs.

3.4.1 Intensity of Feelings Currently- Hussar

High Scores –

High scores illustrate the intensity of community response to an issue. Education, real estate and Hutterites were all high scoring issues.

- Site team members felt the community has shown intense response regarding closing of the Hussar high school and would rebel against closing the entire school.
- Real estate quality was felt an issue considered by all residents of the community.
- Site team members felt the community would support initiatives that would solve problems with Hutterite Colonies.

Low Scores-

Low scores represent issues the Hussar community residents have an inactive response. Low scoring issues were roads, social and recreational services, and taxes and finances. Site team members felt if there was a problem or concern about these issue residents would not display much reaction.

3.4.2 Intensity of Feelings Currently – Ferintosh

High Scores-

Ferintosh site team members reported no high scoring issues. No issues were felt to create intense community response.

Low Scores -

Low scoring issues reported by site team members were taxes, finance, and real estate. Low scores were thought to indicate people were satisfied with current conditions of taxes, finance and real estate in Ferintosh.

A small number of high and low scores could indicate the community is partially concerned about most issues affecting their village and hinterland, but will not react strongly to issues of concern.

3.5.1 Amount of Influence the Community has on Issue – Hussar

High Scores-

High scores represented issues site team members' felt the community has a control influence. High scoring issues were roads, real estate and Hutterites.

- The community was felt to have control over local roads but not as great control over highways.
- Real estate was thought controlled by municipal government however was thought hindered by the amount of capital and resources available.
- The team felt the community could pull together to solve problems with Hutterite Colonies.

Low Scores –

Low scores represented issues sit team members felt the community had little control. Low scoring issues were infrastructure, jobs, taxes and finances.

- Hussar site team members felt the community had little control over the future of existing elevators. They felt global market was in control of the elevators future.
- Site team members felt little control over the job market due to Hussar's dependency on outside economic forces.
- The team felt the community had little control over taxes and finances observing the Hussar tax base tied to elevators and the Alberta School Foundation.

3.5.2 Amount of Influence the Community has on Issue – Ferintosh

High Scores –

Ferintosh site team members reported real estate as the only low scoring issue. Team members felt the community was responsible for improving real estate conditions.

Low Scores-

Low scores were not reported by Ferintosh site team members, possibly indicating team members felt the community had some control over every aspect of issues covered.

4.0 Conclusion

The interview exercise was successful in engaging the site team members into the research framework. The issues discussed should illuminate the major issues to be considered by researcher and community leaders. The scores may accurately depict the importance of issues, however scores will provide base results to be evaluated by site team members. Evaluation of this first exploratory stage will assist the second exploratory stage process. The next stage will be discussion panels, including local residents representing different occupations sharing opinions and repeating the major issues ranking process.