

Measuring Capacity – focus on NRE Field Sites

March 2, 2004

Bill Reimer

Resilience Checklist:

Site: Mackenzie, B.C.

Date: March 25th, 2004

Respondent: Greg Halseth and Laura Ryser

Table 1: Resilience: How well was the site able to cope with shocks or stresses?

Date	Sector	Poor	Sat.	V.W.	Comments/Examples
2001	Private/Market		●		<p>There have been mergers, acquisitions, and strikes in the forest industry that have affected Mackenzie. The town has also been affected by the Softwood Lumber Dispute. In 2002, Abitibi-Consolidated faced curtailments of two weeks in August affecting 232 employees and six weeks in October and November affecting 352 employees. The small business sector in the community was particularly hard hit. The local government continues to lobby with federal and provincial governments and industry. However, there have been limited degrees of freedom in what town could accomplish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Slocan Learning Centre was established to help workers and their wives obtain their grade 12 education. This learning centre was set up by PPWC Local 18 5 years ago. Workers could also complete computer training programs for new technologies installed at Slocan.● Building the causeway opened up a more direct route to Williston Lake. It was a partnership between Slocan, the provincial government, local government, and residents. Slocan would build it, but also wanted a rebate on the logs / stumpage fees - so the Ministry of Forests agreed. It cost \$6 million and opened in May 2000.

2001	Public/Bureau.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • 	<p>Building the causeway opened up a more direct route to Williston Lake. It was a partnership between Slocan, the provincial government, local government, and residents. Slocan would build it, but also wanted a rebate on the logs / stumpage fees - so the Ministry of Forests agreed. It cost \$6 million and opened in May 2000.</p> <p>Two isolated First Nation communities (Tse Ke Dene) are located 180 km northwest of Mackenzie. The District of Mackenzie is advocating year-round road access to these communities. This access would ensure access of first nation groups to the rest of B.C. and could open up natural resource exploration and recreational development.</p> <p>Mackenzie is developing relationships with First Nations groups, such as MacLeod Lake band, to get a joint community forest license to allow them to have more control over forest resources.</p> <p>There have been cuts to health care services by the provincial government. In Mackenzie, the number of hospital beds were reduced from 12 to 5, and food services and laundry services have been contracted out.</p> <p>The local government has been lobbying force throughout the softwood lumber dispute and the health care cutbacks. However, they have limited degrees of freedom in what they could accomplish.</p>
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2001	Civic/Assoc.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ● ● ● ● 	<p>On November 26th, 2001, a broadcasting chain that owned the local Mackenzie radio station closed it. Shortly after, residents formed the Mackenzie & Area Radio Society. In May 2003, CRTC approved MARS application for a community radio station. A local radio station re-emerged in the fall of 2003. MARS is partnering with the College of New Caledonia and local high schools to provide opportunities for local volunteers and students to gain experience in radio broadcasting and operations. This society now has over 800 members.</p> <p>In 1992, the Autumn Lodge Society was formed to work towards the goal of developing senior housing. They worked with the local government to find land suitable for development and purchased the land for \$1. They received a B.C. Housing Corporation grant to research their project. They received numerous funds in donations from the forest industry, businesses, services (including the hospital), and other service clubs. In fact, the Rotary Club also donated land that was known as Rotary Park. However, they continue to work towards their goal. The senior housing complex is not built yet.</p> <p>Mackenzie Counselling has received support from the Ministry of Women's Equality and the Ministry of Children and Families. Other support comes from volunteers and local donations.</p> <p>The Festival of Lights is organized by the Rotary Club of Mackenzie. They sell Christmas lights at \$5.00 a bulb to individuals or companies who tend to buy them in batches. B.C. Hydro put a native spruce tree on top of their building. As lights are purchased, they are put on the tree until it is filled up. They raised \$6,000 through the Festival of Lights that the Rotary gave to local charities.</p> <p>The Cabin Fever Carnival is now organized by the Recreation Department and the Community Action Committee in Mackenzie. It was initiated 30 years ago by women in Mackenzie who felt isolated and snow bound as their husbands went to work and they had no transportation to Prince George. They needed to deal with the long winter months. The carnival died out some years ago, but has made a strong comeback. It now gives residents something to look forward to each winter. Hot chocolate and donuts are provided by local service clubs. Activities range from broom ball to figure skating to snow sculptures.</p>
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2001	Family/Comm.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Family and community members have received support from the Mackenzie Counselling services. They have also enjoyed numerous annual events such as the Festival of Lights and the Cabin Fever Carnival. There is also a large Blue Grass Festival in the summer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An outdoor skating rink completed in 1999. <p>However, there are struggles maintaining a youth network.</p>
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Capacity Checklist

Site: Mackenzie, B.C.

Date: March 25th, 2004

Respondent: Laura Ryser and Greg Halseth

Table 2: Capacity: How well was the site able to...?

Date	Sector	Item	Poor	Sat.	V.W.	Comments/Examples
2001	Priv/M.	Anticipate				Unknown
2001		Get Inf.		•		Mergers, acquisitions, strikes, and the softwood lumber dispute have received media coverage in local and regional newspapers.
2001		Debate				Unknown
2001		Act		•		<p>In confronting the softwood lumber dispute, the local government continues to lobby with federal and provincial governments and industry. However, there have been limited degrees of freedom in what town could accomplish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Slocan Learning Centre was established by PPWC Local 18 5 years ago to assist workers with retraining as the forest industry computerized. Spouses were also able to take computer courses and upgrade. • Building the causeway in May 2000 opened up a more direct route to Williston Lake.
2001		Support			•	To build the causeway, a partnership was developed between Slocan, the provincial government, local government, and residents. Slocan would build it, but also wanted a rebate on the logs / stumpage fees - so the Ministry of Forests agreed. It cost \$6 million.
2001		Evaluate				Unknown

2001	Pub/Bur	Anticipate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 	<p>Causeway – Unknown</p> <p>Limited access with First Nations groups has been a long term problem. The idea of building road access is new and is anticipated to have the mutual benefit of opening up the area for various types of development.</p> <p>In response to ongoing pressures stemming from the forest industry, Mackenzie is trying to stabilize local development by development a joint community forest with First Nations groups.</p>
2001		Get Inf.			Unknown
2001		Debate			Unknown
2001		Act		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 	<p>Building the causeway in May 2000 opened up a more direct route to Williston Lake.</p> <p>The idea to build a road to the two isolated First Nation communities (Tse Ke Dene) located 180 km northwest of Mackenzie is new. This concept is in the early stages of talks and there is no action yet.</p> <p>Mackenzie is developing relationships with First Nations groups, such as MacLeod Lake band, to get a joint community forest license to allow them to have more control over forest resources. Nothing is finalized as of yet.</p> <p>The local government has been lobbying after cuts made to health care services.</p>
2001		Support		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>The causeway was a partnership between Slokan, the provincial government, local government, and residents. Slokan would build it, but also wanted a rebate on the logs / stumpage fees - so the Ministry of Forests agreed. It cost \$6 million and opened in May 2000.</p> <p>Support for joint developments with First Nations groups is unclear.</p>
2001		Evaluate			Unknown

2001	Civ/Ass.	Anticipate			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 	<p>Mackenzie did not anticipate the closing of its broadcast radio station.</p> <p>As Mackenzie's population has been aging, they have been anticipating the need for senior housing and have been working towards this goal for some time.</p> <p>Annual events, such as the Cabin Fever and Festival of Lights, are anticipated each year.</p>
2001		Get Inf.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 	<p>Residents can obtain information about the Autumn Lodge Society, MARS, and the Mackenzie Counselling services through their websites. Services are also advertised in the local newspaper.</p> <p>Community events, such as Cabin Fever, have been advertised in both local and regional newspapers. There have been flyers, programs, and posters put up for these events.</p>
2001		Debate				Unknown.

2001		Act			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To cope with the closing of its radio station, residents formed the Mackenzie & Area Radio Society. In May 2003, CRTC approved MARS application for a community radio station. A local radio station re-emerged in the fall of 2003. ● In 1992, the Autumn Lodge Society was formed to work towards the goal of developing senior housing. They worked with the local government to find land suitable for development and purchased the land for \$1. They received a B.C. Housing Corporation grant to research their project. They received numerous funds in donations from the forest industry, businesses, services (including the hospital), and other service clubs. In fact, the Rotary Club also donated land that was known as Rotary Park. However, they continue to work towards their goal. The senior housing complex is not built yet. ● Over the years, Mackenzie Counselling has provide a range of services such as the Employee and Family Assistance Program, Alcohol and Drug services, supported child care, mental health, support groups, the Mackenzie Safe Home Program, and Community Prevention programs for parenting, substance abuse, and peer pressure. ● The Festival of Lights is organized by the Rotary Club of Mackenzie. They sell Christmas lights at \$5.00 a bulb to individuals or companies who tend to by them in batches. B.C. Hydro put a native spruce tree on top of their building. As lights are purchased, they are put on the tree until it is filled up. They raised \$6,000 through the Festival of Lights that the Rotary gave to local charities. ● The Cabin Fever Carnival is now organized by the Recreation Department and the Community Action Committee in Mackenzie. It was initiated 30 years ago by women in Mackenzie who felt isolated and snow bound as their husbands went to work and they had no transportation to Prince George. They needed to deal with the long winter months. The carnival died out some years ago, but has made a strong comeback. It now gives residents something to look forward to each winter. Hot chocolate and donuts are provided by local service clubs. Activities range from broom ball to figure skating to snow sculptures.
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2001		Support			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MARS is partnering with the College of New Caledonia and local high schools to provide opportunities for local volunteers and students to gain experience in radio broadcasting and operations. This society now has over 800 members. • The Autumn Lodge Society has received grants and support from a range of sources, including the local government, which allowed them to purchase land for \$1. They received a B.C. Housing Corporation grant to research their project. They received numerous funds in donations from the forest industry, businesses, services (including the hospital), and other service clubs. In fact, the Rotary Club also donated land that was known as Rotary Park. • Mackenzie Counselling has received support from the MacLeod Lake Indian Band, the Ministry of Children and Families, the Ministry of Women's Equality, and from community and private donations. • The Cabin Fever Carnival is supported by service clubs that provide hot chocolate and donuts. There are also numerous volunteers for the events.
2001		Evaluate			Unknown.
2001	Fam/C.	Anticipate			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual events are anticipated by residents.
2001		Get Inf.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community events, such as Cabin Fever, have been advertised in both local and regional newspapers. There have been flyers, programs, and posters put up for these events.
2001		Debate			n/a
2001		Act			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents have accessed a range of programs through Mackenzie Counselling, recreation programs through Leisure Services and the Recreation Centre, and have built up relationship through annual events.

2001		Support				Unknown
2001		Evaluate				Unknown, n/a