



Initiative on the New Economy

**Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Places:
A Report for Lot 16, P.E.I.**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page Number |
|---|-------------|
| Initiative on the New Economy - About the Project | 2 |
| About the Service Inventory | 3 |
| Availability | 4 |
| Site Description - Lot 16, P.E.I. | 5 |
| Population Profile - Lot 16, Prince Edward Island | 6 |
| Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Places | 7 |
| General Overview of Service Availability for Lot 16 Residents | 7 |
| Education | 7 |
| Health | 8 |
| Protection Services | 9 |
| Legal Services | 10 |
| Financial Services | 10 |
| Communications | 11 |
| Elderly and Childcare Services | 11 |
| Government Services | 12 |
| Community Services | 13 |
| Transportation | 13 |
| Recreational Services | 14 |
| Shopping | 15 |
| Economic Development Organizations | 16 |
| Housing | 17 |
| Challenges and Opportunities for Lot 16, P.E.I. | 18 |
| Sources of Interest | 19 |

INITIATIVE ON THE NEW ECONOMY - ABOUT THE PROJECT

The *Initiative on the New Economy* project of the Canadian Rural and Restructuring Foundation works closely with residents, service providers, voluntary organizations, business members, and decision makers to identify factors that contribute to building capacity in rural and small town places across Canada. Capacity is the ability of people residing in a place to mobilize their assets and resources to cope with stress and transition, or to capitalize on opportunities. Such capacity is built from trust and relationships grounded in institutions, organizations, businesses, and services alike. The Initiative on the New Economy is built on four key themes to explore capacity including *local governance, communications, services, and the environment*. This report explores the relationship between services and capacity.

The Services Research Centre conducted site profile surveys in the summer of 2003. This is the third survey conducted since 1998 with a goal to track services over time. Services play two key functions in building capacity. First, services help rural and small town places to cope with restructuring and transition as a result of economic downturns or even plant closures. Job losses stemming from industrial restructuring or closure can place increased demands on local services for education and training, welfare, counselling, health care, and other support services. Without such services, residents would have to cope with the additional burden of having to leave their town to access assistance. Job and service losses present a significant challenge to rural and small town places working on revitalization.

Second, services provide opportunities for building relationships, partnerships, and trust. Together, these can lead to new partnerships and innovative ways for delivering services where they might otherwise not exist. For example, schools or senior centres can act as multi-functional facilities for the community where local volunteer groups, sporting clubs, local theatre, and others can do their work in the absence of other facilities. Another example might be the way that post offices can act as a one stop shop for a range of government services. This report focuses on the current service provision levels in rural and small town Canada. In particular, this report will compare the availability of services in Lot 16, P.E.I. with services available in other research sites across Canada, as well as with services available in other study sites within Atlantic Canada. In each of these tables in this report, the availability of services in Lot 16 is compared to the 22 sites surveyed across Canada and to the 6 study sites in Atlantic Canada.

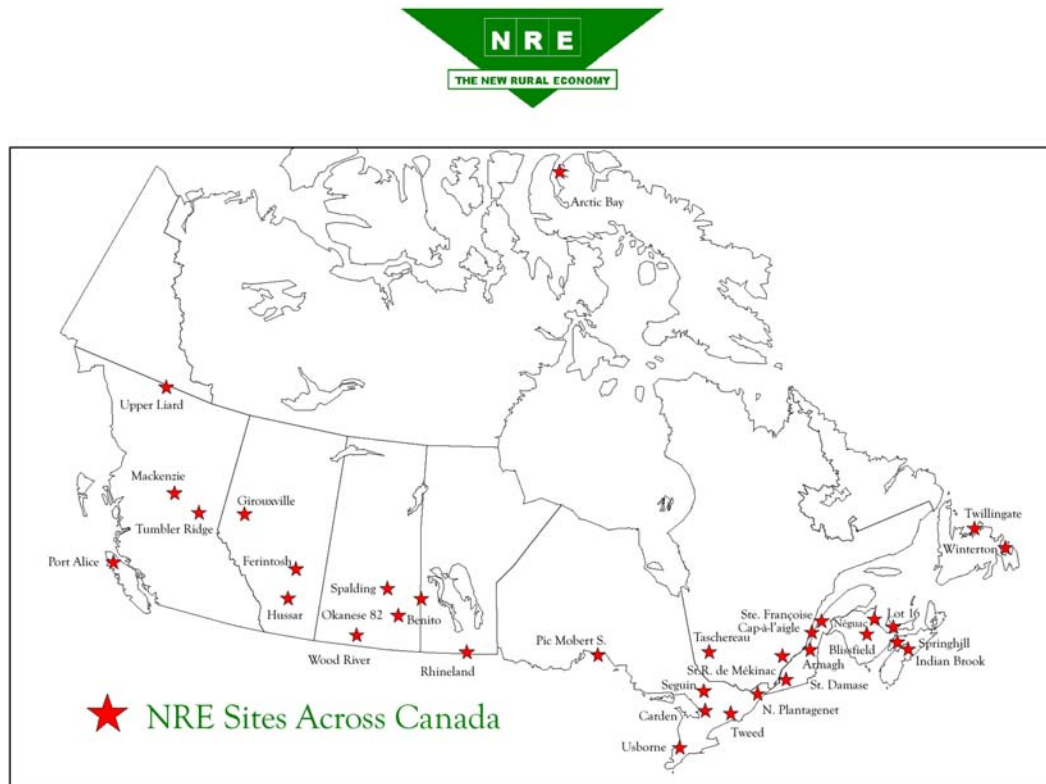
ABOUT THE SERVICE INVENTORY

The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation has been conducting research in 32 rural and small town sites from across Canada. These sites form a type of “rural observatory” in which aspects of the *Initiative on the New Economy* project may be examined. The sites participating in this project reflect the diversity of the Canadian landscape, and include forestry and mining towns, farming communities, and tourism towns. Furthermore, some of these places are located adjacent to metropolitan areas, while others are more isolated.

In the summer of 2003, researchers visited 22 sites across Canada to update a service provision inventory. Data were collected to examine the availability of a range of services including:

education
health
protection services
legal
business services
communication
elderly and childcare
government

community
transportation
recreational
basic shopping
commercial shopping
economic development organizations
housing



AVAILABILITY

Copies of all site reports on services availability were distributed within to participating sites. Additionally, copies have been posted on the INE website (nre.concordia.ca) and on Greg Halseth's website (<http://web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg>).

Copies of the larger *Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Canada* report are available in a number of locations. At the University of Northern British Columbia, copies have been deposited at the Weller Library or can be accessed on Greg Halseth's website: <http://web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg>. Copies are also available on the website of the Initiative of the New Economy at: nre.concordia.ca.

For further information about this report or other available reports on services, please contact Greg Halseth at:

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**INITIATIVE ON THE NEW ECONOMY
SERVICE PROVISION IN RURAL AND SMALL TOWN PLACES: A REPORT FOR LOT 16, P.E.I.**

Site Description – Lot 16, P.E.I.

Lot 16 is an unincorporated area located in western Prince Edward Island approximately 40 km from the Confederation Bridge. The nearest city, Summerside, is 10 km to the south east. Charlottetown, 91 km away, is the provincial capital and has a regional airport. Moncton International Airport is 160 km away and Halifax International Airport is 315 km away. The Lot 16 area can be reached via two routes. Secondary Highway 122 (Allen Road) off Highway 2 intersects with Lady Slipper Scenic Drive (Highway 12) which runs parallel to the Grand River and loops directly through Lot 16 around to Miscouche. The other entry point is from the north east via Highway 12 from Miscouche directly. Lady Slipper Drive (Highway 12) also extends in a loop out onto Winchester Cape where Belmont Provincial Park is located. This road is known locally as the ‘Belmont Loop’.

Three distinct areas comprise Lot 16: Belmont Lot 16, Central Lot 16, and Southwest Lot 16. The landscape surrounding Lot 16 is comprised of primarily red soiled farmland, sparse northern evergreen forests, grasslands and sandy beaches along shorelines. Soon after the discovery of Prince Edward Island’s fertile soil, the British divided the entire island into agricultural ‘lots’. This led to a distinct linear settlement pattern across most of the island. Since that time many of the lots have amalgamated into larger townships, but Lot 16 has remained as it was initially established in the 1700s. There are no commercial areas in Lot 16 and as a result no distinct ‘centre’ of the community. The dominant economic base in Lot 16 is agriculture and to a lesser extent fishing. Many people commute to Summerside for work as well. Most homes are located on large plots of land with few close neighbours. The majority of homes are concentrated in the northeastern end of the site.



POPULATION PROFILE - LOT 16, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

The population of Lot 16, Prince Edward Island grew from 643 residents in 1996 to 688 residents in 2001 (Statistics Canada 2001). Overall, it has a fairly young family oriented population. However, youth out-migration appears to be a challenge for the community, particularly when focusing upon individuals between the ages of 20 and 24.

| Population | Site: Lot 16 | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|------|--------|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| Population in 2001 | 688 | 365 | 325 |
| Population in 1996 | 643 | 340 | 305 |
| 1996 to 2001 population change (%) | 7.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| Total - All persons | 690 | 365 | 325 |
| Age 0-4 | 40 | 25 | 15 |
| Age 5-14 | 130 | 70 | 60 |
| Age 15-19 | 50 | 30 | 20 |
| Age 20-24 | 25 | 20 | 10 |
| Age 25-44 | 205 | 95 | 110 |
| Age 45-54 | 100 | 55 | 45 |
| Age 55-64 | 60 | 30 | 30 |
| Age 65-74 | 40 | 20 | 20 |
| Age 75-84 | 20 | 10 | 15 |
| Age 85 and over | 10 | 0 | 5 |
| Median age of the population | 34.2 | 33.1 | 34.9 |

Source: Statistics Canada 2001.

SERVICE PROVISION IN RURAL AND SMALL TOWN PLACES

Services play an important role in retaining and attracting residents and businesses as they enhance local quality of life. However, rural and small town across Canada are experiencing tremendous change stemming from economic and social restructuring in an increasing global economy. As a result of industrial restructuring, some small towns have been experiencing population declines. At the same time, federal and provincial government policies have been withdrawing some of the service infrastructure that can provide a foundation for revitalizing rural and small town places and assist residents to cope with stress. Some rural and small town places adjusted to transition through establishing innovative services or diversifying their local economies. These types of innovation suggest one way by which services help to build capacity within a place.

Services also help to build capacity by providing opportunities for building relationships, partnerships, and trust, which subsequently can lead to new partnerships and innovative ways for delivering services where they might otherwise not exist. Together, services can help to enhance local quality of life and mitigate out-migration from rural and small town places.

General Overview of Service Availability for Lot 16 Residents

Lot 16 is located very close to Summerside, the second largest urban centre in PEI. As a result, residents in Lot 16 are very well served by the availability of almost all types of services (ranging from health care and education to retail and economic development). Some services are also available in the nearby smaller communities of Miscouche and Wellington. Although residents have to drive (or receive a ride) to obtain these services, they are very close by - perhaps much more accessible than they are for many citizens living in other parts of rural and small town Canada.

The tables which follow summarize the importance of, and availability of, services for Lot 16 residents. The exceptions to reasonable service availability for Lot 16 residents include:

- dental surgeons (located in Charlottetown);
- local bus transit (there is no local bus service in Summerside that could be used by Lot 16 residents once they get into Summerside to obtain various services or to do shopping);
- airport (located in Charlottetown and Moncton); and
- primary wholesale retail centre (residents would have to travel to Moncton for full “big box shopping”).

Educational Services

Educational institutions are playing a changing role in maintaining quality of life in rural and small town places. Schools have provided other amenities through their libraries, theatres, and art galleries in places that would otherwise not have access to such services. They have also played a larger economic development role. Community colleges can provide skilled and

professional workers, act as a broker of services, and act as a repository of information. They can also design programs and services that are relevant and respond to the changing labour market conditions of small places.

Table 1: Availability of Education Services - 2003

| Services | NRE Sites: | | Lot 16: | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Canada % Yes | Atlantic % Yes | Within the Site | Within 30 Minutes |
| Pre-school/kindergarten | 50.0% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Elementary school | 63.6% | 66.7% | X | ✓ |
| High school | 27.3% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| CEGEP / College | 18.2% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Continuing Education | 27.3% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

While pre-school and kindergarten services are less frequently available in Atlantic sites, other educational services, such as high schools and post secondary facilities, exist in more of these sites when compared to the sites across Canada (Table 1).

Health Services

Health services play an important role in attracting new labour and retaining residents. However, during times of economic and social restructuring, closures in hospitals and the centralization of physical and mental health services can be difficult on the elderly and the poor who do not have access to a vehicle and who live in a place with limited transportation services. However, it is not just the utility of health services that is of concern, but also the potential loss of health care jobs that can lead to a further decline in the local economy and population.

Table 2a: Availability of Health Services - 2003

| Services | NRE Sites: | | Lot 16: | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Canada % Yes | Atlantic % Yes | Within the Site | Within 30 Minutes |
| Hospital | 18.2% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Health centre / CLSC | 27.3% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Medical clinic | 40.9% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Blood / urine testing facility | 36.4% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| X-ray facility | 22.7% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Baby delivery facility | 4.5% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| CT scan facility | 0.0% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| Pharmacy | 40.9% | 66.7% | X | ✓ |
| Ambulance | 36.4% | 66.7% | X | ✓ |
| Emergency services | 18.2% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Health facilities are limited in most of the rural and small town places examined (Table 2a). Of particular interest is that fewer than 40% of sites have a health centre, hospital, or pharmacy, and just over one-third of the sites across Canada have ambulance services. This carries important implications for residents commuting for medical emergencies or health care reasons. Sites in Atlantic Canada are better equipped with health care services when compared with the national sample. The majority of sites in Atlantic Canada have a pharmacy and an ambulance, and half the sites have a medical clinic or a blood / urine testing facility.

Table 2b: Availability of Health Services - 2003

| Services | NRE Sites: | | Lot 16: | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Canada % Yes | Atlantic % Yes | Within the Site | Within 30 Minutes |
| Doctors | 36.4% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Nurses | 36.4% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Dentists | 27.3% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Dental surgeons | 9.1% | 16.7% | X | X |
| Optometrists | 18.2% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Home care visits | 54.5% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| VON | 13.6% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Social workers | 22.7% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Public health nurse | 31.8% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Physiotherapy | 22.7% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Speech therapy | 31.8% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Occupational therapy | 13.6% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Respite care | 22.7% | 66.7% | X | ✓ |

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

The availability of health care professionals is also limited in small places. In fact, only home care visits are available in more than half of the sites. Even those services deemed as essential, such as doctors, are only available in just over 35% of the sites across Canada. With the exception of home care visits, health care professionals are available in a higher proportion of Atlantic sites when compared to sites across Canada.

Protection Services

Protection services contribute to community capacity in a number of ways. For example, volunteer fire departments and various crime watch programs provide opportunities for community involvement and interaction, both of which can build trust and leadership.

Protection services are more available than most other service areas (Table 3). Most notably, fire departments and 911 are in more than half the sites across Canada. Local police or RCMP services are limited in these sites across Canada overall. While policing services and rural crime watch are more available in Atlantic sites than the national sample, fewer Atlantic sites have 911. The availability of fire departments and neighbourhood crime watch services in Atlantic Canada closely resembles the national average.

Table 3: Availability of Protection Services - 2003

| Services | NRE Sites: | | Lot 16: | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Canada % Yes | Atlantic % Yes | Within the Site | Within 30 Minutes |
| Police (Local / RCMP) | 22.7% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Fire department | 68.2% | 66.7% | X | ✓ |
| 911 emergency line | 86.4% | 66.7% | ✓ | |
| Neighbourhood Watch | 31.8% | 33.3% | ✓ | |
| Rural Crime Watch | 13.6% | 16.7% | X | ✓ |

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Legal Services

Legal services are another example of specialized services that are often not found in rural areas. The absence of legal services has important implications as residents must commute to go to court, to access legal services to prepare wills or purchase real estate, or have passports or affidavits signed.

Table 4: Availability of Legal Services - 2003

| Services | NRE Sites: | | Lot 16: | |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Canada % Yes | Atlantic % Yes | Within the Site | Within 30 Minutes |
| Lawyer | 18.2% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Notary | 40.9% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Court | 18.2% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Overall, legal services are very limited in the INE sites across Canada (Table 4). The availability of legal services in Atlantic sites is above the national sample.

Financial Services

Businesses also play a role in providing a range of activities that enhance the quality of life of a place, as well as the viability and stability of the place. Business members also play an important role in community development as they can provide leadership in volunteer groups either as members or in a leadership role. Small local businesses are also an important source for fundraisers and sponsor specific local organizations or events.

Overall, credit unions, ATMs, and insurance offices are found in half the sites across Canada (Table 5). In Atlantic Canada, more sites offer banking and accounting services. The availability of ATMs and insurance offices closely reflected the national average. Fewer Atlantic sites have an industrial park, micro-financing, and real estate.

Table 5: Availability of Business Services - 2003

| Services | NRE Sites: | | Lot 16: | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Canada % Yes | Atlantic % Yes | Within the Site | Within 30 Minutes |
| Banks | 36.4% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Credit Union / Caisse Populaire | 50.0% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| ATM | 50.0% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Micro-financing | 9.1% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| Insurance office | 50.0% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Industrial park | 22.7% | 16.7% | X | ✓ |
| Real estate | 18.2% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| Accounting | 45.5% | 66.7% | X | ✓ |

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Communications

Connectivity is crucial in the new economy. Communication services also allow residents to maintain contact with family and friends. With improved communication infrastructure, such as telephone services, Internet, and cell phone service, rural and small town places can attract businesses that no longer have to be located in cities, and they can improve local employment opportunities. They can also use communications services to support business networks.

Table 6: Availability of Communication Services - 2003

| Services | NRE Sites: | | Lot 16: | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Canada % Yes | Atlantic % Yes | Within the Site | Within 30 Minutes |
| Cell phone – analog | 86.4% | 100.0% | ✓ | |
| Cell phone – digital | 40.9% | 33.3% | ✓ | |

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Overall, analog cell phone service is widely available across the INE sites in Canada (Table 6). Almost 41% of the sites also enjoy digital cell phone service. Slightly fewer sites in Atlantic Canada have digital cell phone service when compared to all the sites across Canada. Although, all of the sites in Atlantic Canada offer analog cell phone service.

Elderly and Childcare Services

Childcare services provide an important part of the educational and care services in rural and small town places. Childcare also provides men and women with children an opportunity to participate in the labour force. Other services of importance are seniors' services including nursing homes and retirement homes. These services are particularly important given the aging

of the Canadian population and that many rural and small town places are not yet well equipped to deal with seniors' needs.

Table 7: Availability of Child and Elderly Services - 2003

| Services | NRE Sites: | | Lot 16: | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Canada % Yes | Atlantic % Yes | Within the Site | Within 30 Minutes |
| Daycare | 45.5% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Senior citizen's nursing home | 18.2% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Senior citizen's retirement home | 31.8% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

An inventory of 22 sites across Canada indicates that many are not equipped to meet the needs of young families or seniors (Table 7). In particular, sites in Atlantic Canada are less equipped to offer daycare services, although these sites have more services to meet the needs of seniors than the national sample.

Government Services

Town halls and post offices are the most frequently available government services in rural and small town places. Post offices not only provide a service and identity, but also opportunities for routine social interaction to build relationships. Other government services play an important role in community capacity by providing a local source of expertise and knowledge upon which the community can draw.

The rural and small town sites examined across Canada do not have access to many government services (Table 8). Of particular concern to sites experiencing social and economic restructuring is that none of the sites have HRDC or Employment Insurance offices. Furthermore, few sites have social assistance offices. Consequently, during economic and industrial restructuring or plant closures, households experiencing stress will have to go outside the site for services to help them cope.

Table 8: Availability of Government Services - 2003

| Services | NRE Sites: | | Lot 16: | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Canada % Yes | Atlantic % Yes | Within the Site | Within 30 Minutes |
| Human Resources Dev. Canada | 0.0% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| Employment Insurance | 4.5% | 16.7% | X | ✓ |
| Provincial Auto License Office | 18.2% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| Social Assistance Office | 22.7% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Town hall | 68.2% | 66.7% | X | ✓ |
| Post office | 81.8% | 66.7% | X | ✓ |

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

In Atlantic Canada, more sites offer social assistance and employment insurance services to provide assistance to households experiencing economic and social restructuring. However, fewer sites have other government service offices such as a post office, and none have a provincial auto license office.

Community Services

Community services can provide an important foundation from which to build relationships, and can be important sources to draw upon during times of economic and social stress. The availability of community services in rural and small town places varied considerably (Table 9).

Table 9: Availability of Community Services - 2003

| Services | NRE Sites: | | Lot 16: | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Canada % Yes | Atlantic % Yes | Within the Site | Within 30 Minutes |
| Food bank | 31.8% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Clothing exchange / depot | 18.2% | 16.7% | X | ✓ |
| Second hand stores | 40.9% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Youth drop-in centre | 22.7% | 16.7% | X | ✓ |
| Women's drop-in centre | 22.7% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| Senior's drop-in centre | 31.8% | 16.7% | X | ✓ |
| Half-way house | 4.5% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| Women's resource centre | 9.1% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| Personal aid services | 31.8% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Overall, sites in Atlantic Canada did not have as many community services when compared to all the sites across Canada. Food banks, second hand stores, and personal aid services, though, are available in half of the sites in Atlantic Canada. The availability of a food bank and personal aid services will be important services to have during social and economic restructuring periods.

Transportation

Transportation infrastructure can have important implications not only for attracting economic activity to a place, but also for enhancing the quality of life of vulnerable groups in rural and small town. Transportation services, especially freight services, can play an important role in attracting industry by providing additional options to export products. However, without adequate, affordable transportation options, mobility can be difficult for women, seniors, or those with disabilities to move within the community and to access services in adjacent centres. Being mobile enables citizens to have access to services, to be involved in the community, and to develop local friendship ties and support networks, and to experience social activities.

The higher availability of gas stations and automobile repair services in these places reflects Canada's general reliance on the automobile (Table 10). Other transportation services are less

frequently available, most notably local transit service, passenger rail service, boat / ferry services, and airport service.

Table 10: Availability of Transport Services - 2003

| Services | NRE Sites: | | Lot 16: | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Canada % Yes | Atlantic % Yes | Within the Site | Within 30 Minutes |
| Local bus transit | 0.0% | 0.0% | X | X |
| Inter-community bus station | 31.8% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Train – passenger | 4.5% | 16.7% | X | X |
| Train – freight | 36.4% | 16.7% | X | X |
| Airport | 18.2% | 0.0% | X | X |
| Helicopter port | 22.7% | 16.7% | X | ✓ |
| Boat / ferry terminal | 13.6% | 16.7% | X | X |
| Taxi | 27.3% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Gas station | 86.4% | 66.7% | X | ✓ |
| Automobile repair | 63.6% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

When compared to sites across Canada, more sites in Atlantic Canada have inter-community bus service, passenger train service, boating or ferry services, and taxi services. However, fewer Atlantic sites have freight, airport and helicopter services, gas stations, and automobile repair shops.

Recreation Services

When examining all of the sites, recreational services showed the greatest range of availability compared to any other service category (Table 11). This bodes well for the retention and attraction of residents, as well as the overall quality of life of these places. More notable recreational services available include community playing fields, community centres, libraries, municipal parks, hiking trails, and campgrounds. Many of these services can be important places where events can be held to foster a sense of community.

Across Canada, most sites are able to offer either an indoor skating rink or an outdoor skating rink. Recreational services less frequently available across Canada included fitness facilities, such as athletic clubs, as well as entertainment features such as live theatre or cinemas.

A greater proportion of sites in Atlantic Canada offer recreational amenities such as bowling lanes, private athletic clubs, theatres, museums, and skiing and hiking trails when compared with sites across Canada. However, some recreational services, such as a curling rink, municipal athletic club, and movie cinema, are not available in any of these sites.

Table 11: Availability of Recreation Services - 2003

| Services | NRE Sites: | | Lot 16: | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Canada % Yes | Atlantic % Yes | Within the Site | Within 30 Minutes |
| Curling rink | 31.8% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| Bowling lanes | 22.7% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Indoor municipal swimming pool | 13.6% | 16.7% | X | ✓ |
| Outdoor municipal swimming pool | 18.2% | 16.7% | X | ✓ |
| Indoor municipal skating rink | 50.0% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Outdoor municipal skating rink | 31.8% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Community playing field | 81.8% | 66.7% | X | ✓ |
| Community gym | 50.0% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Community centre | 81.8% | 83.3% | ✓ | |
| Private athletic club | 13.6% | 20.0% | X | ✓ |
| Municipal athletic club | 18.2% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| Theatre (live performance) | 13.6% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Cinema (movie theatre) | 4.5% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| Museum | 36.4% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Library | 77.3% | 66.7% | X | ✓ |
| Municipal parks | 77.3% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Provincial parks | 22.7% | 16.7% | ✓ | |
| Tennis courts | 31.8% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Skiing trails | 50.0% | 66.7% | X | ✓ |
| Hiking trails | 63.6% | 83.3% | X | ✓ |
| Golf courses | 36.4% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Campgrounds | 68.2% | 66.7% | X | ✓ |

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Shopping

Shopping services contribute to the success of the local economy, and are considered to be an important gauge of economic health of rural and small town places. Shopping is also an important recreational activity and provides opportunities for social interaction. Low levels of shopping services can lead to out-of-town shopping and perhaps even out-migration.

Table 12: Availability of Basic Shopping Services - 2003

| Services | NRE Sites: | | Lot 16: | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Canada % Yes | Atlantic % Yes | Within the Site | Within 30 Minutes |
| Grocery store | 68.2% | 66.7% | X | ✓ |
| Farmer's market | 13.6% | 16.7% | X | ✓ |
| Liquor store | 54.5% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Bakery | 27.3% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

The service inventory indicates that most sites across Canada are able to offer shopping services that residents would need to access on a more frequent basis, notably grocery stores (Table 12). However, a lower proportion of sites in Atlantic Canada have a grocery store and a liquor store. Instead, a greater proportion of these sites have a farmer's market or a bakery.

Most of the sites across Canada are minimum convenience service centres (Table 13). These places generally offer a hardware store, a drug store, a bank, and two other convenience functions such as a variety store. About one-third of the sites filled the function of a full convenience centre. These places offer all the services of a minimum convenience centre, plus a laundry or dry cleaning store, jewelry, appliances, or furniture, clothing, lumber, building materials, shoes, garden supplies, and a motel or hotel. Finally, just under 20% of the sites fulfilled the role of a partial shopping centre. These towns carry all the services of a full convenience centre plus some specialty services such as a camera shop, a floral store, radio or television store, or women's accessories. Sites in Atlantic Canada are more likely to have a full convenience centre when compared with sites across Canada.

Table 13: Availability of Commercial Shopping Services - 2003

| Services | NRE Sites: | | Lot 16: | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Canada % Yes | Atlantic % Yes | Within the Site | Within 30 Minutes |
| Minimum Convenience Centre | 86.4% | 66.7% | X | ✓ |
| Full Convenience Centre | 36.4% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Partial Shopping Centre | 18.2% | 16.7% | X | ✓ |
| Complete Shopping Centre | 0.0% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| Secondary Wholesale Retail Ctr | 0.0% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| Primary Wholesale Retail Centre | 0.0% | 0.0% | X | X |

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Economic Development Organizations

Economic development organizations can play an important role in promoting the community to attract not only additional businesses, but also to attract a wider population base. While there is not a wide range of economic development organizations in these sites, it is particularly critical to note that there are only approximately 20% of the sites across Canada with local business development corporations and rotary clubs (Table 14). As these organizations are comprised of local business individuals, they are important sources to draw upon during economic and social restructuring.

The availability of the rotary club and Chamber of Commerce in Atlantic sites closely reflected the national sample. However, Atlantic sites have more financial / business consulting services and tourism associations.

Table 14: Availability of Economic / Development Organizations - 2003

| Services | NRE Sites: | | Lot 16: | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Canada % Yes | Atlantic % Yes | Within the Site | Within 30 Minutes |
| Community Business Dev. Ctrs | 0.0% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| Fed / Prov Econ. Dev. Agencies | 0.0% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| Chamber of Commerce | 18.2% | 16.7% | X | ✓ |
| Local Business Dev. Corporation | 18.2% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| Economic / Community Trust | 4.5% | 0.0% | X | X |
| Career Training / Placement | 13.6% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| Financial / Business Consulting | 27.3% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Real Estate Boards | 0.0% | 0.0% | X | X |
| Tourism Associations | 27.3% | 50.0% | X | ✓ |
| Rotary clubs | 18.2% | 16.7% | X | ✓ |

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Housing

A new category added to the service inventory in 2003 was housing. Housing has been used as an incentive to attract residents to rural and small town places. However, lack of housing options is a problem in rural and small town places that can lead to out-migration. Housing options can improve the quality of life of residents, especially the more vulnerable citizens, including senior citizens or those with disabilities.

Table 15: Availability of Social Housing Services - 2003

| Services | NRE Sites: | | Lot 16: | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Canada % Yes | Atlantic % Yes | Within the Site | Within 30 Minutes |
| Co-op Housing | 13.6% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| Rent Supplement Units | 22.7% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Subsidized Housing - Seniors | 31.8% | 33.3% | X | ✓ |
| Subsidized Housing - Families | 31.8% | 66.7% | X | ✓ |
| Subsidized Housing - Single People | 9.1% | 0.0% | X | ✓ |
| Subsidized Housing - Special Needs | 13.6% | 16.7% | X | ✓ |

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Although, initially, social housing does not appear to be widely available in sites across Canada, there are strong regional differences (Table 15). In fact, while Atlantic sites do not have co-op housing or assisted / subsidized housing for single individuals, a greater proportion of the sites are able to offer all other types of social housing when compared with the national sample. Furthermore, more than half of the sites in Atlantic Canada have assisted or subsidized housing for families.

Challenges and Opportunities for Lot 16, P.E.I.

The access to services profile for Lot 16 does not present any immediate challenges or opportunities for the community. However, given the current interest in possibly establishing a community development organization, there is the potential to provide some services (especially recreation related services such as a playground or an outdoor arena) directly in the community. Knowledge of the availability of economic development support programs from government offices in Summerside and Wellington will be a great help.

SOURCES OF INTEREST

Books

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CRRF Reports

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