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BACKGROUND

The Youth Services Partnership was established to provide a collaborative network to facilitate effective and efficient delivery of programs and services for youth at the provincial and local level. Through collaboration, provincial and federal government agencies are able to offer a range of programs and services to youth that address specific needs and avoid duplication.

The needs of youth are diverse in nature and span the jurisdictional responsibilities of any single federal or provincial government department. The Youth Services Partnership reflects an inclusive network of federal and provincial departments, community and youth serving agencies, and private sector representatives who seek to provide a continuum of programs and services. The partnership supports the development of a culture among community members to identify needs, available resources, and innovative approaches to service delivery. The objective is to ensure that services are comprehensive, responsive and flexible to the needs of youth.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this annual report is to raise awareness of the many partners involved with the Youth Services Partnership network and to provide senior management with a compilation of realized activities made possible from this collaborative effort during 2005-2006.

YOUTH SERVICES PARTNERSHIP - OVERVIEW

PRINCIPLES

- Maximize use of existing community, provincial and federal resources to address youth needs;
- Include the consultation of youth both in identifying and finding solutions to youth concerns;
- Recognize that the needs of youth are many, unique and varied;
- Participation of federal and provincial government departments must be consistent within all levels of the partnership;
- Strong partnerships must be developed locally with partner departments and community stakeholders;
- The primary goal of providing programs and services to youth is long-term self-sufficiency and self-management;
- Mutual responsibility must be established between the service provider and the recipient of service; and,
- An equitable, holistic, client centered approach should be used when providing programs and services.

OBJECTIVES

- To facilitate the establishment of a collaborative network which will eliminate duplication and introduce a range of complementary programs and services designed to enhance the employability of youth;
- To jointly plan, fund and implement programs and services which meet the needs of youth through sharing of information, responsibilities and decision making.

CLIENT GROUP

Youth 15 - 30 years of age inclusive.

(NOTE: Departmental involvement is dependent on their respective mandate and age criteria.)

PARTNERS

The partners in the Youth Services Partnership include, if possible, public, not-for-profit and private organizations that are involved in the delivery of programs and services to youth.

Current partners common to local and provincial committees include: Service Canada, Family and Community Services, Training and Employment Development, Health and Wellness and Public Safety.

STRUCTURE

The management structure of the Youth Services Partnership includes the Senior Management Committee, the Provincial Committee and 10 Local Committees. Committees at all levels are co-chaired by Service Canada and Family and Community Services.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE

MANDATE

The Committee exists to maintain a conduit between local committees and the Senior Management Committee for issues that require provincial attention. The Committee also promotes collaboration between federal and provincial government departments and provincial youth serving agencies in an effort to facilitate and support local complementary networks of programs and services for youth.

WORKING STRUCTURE

Meetings are held 2-4 times per year to manage ongoing business.

Activities/Projects carried out in 2005-2006

On the Move! 3rd edition

On the Move! can be viewed in English at www.ted-fde.gnb.ca/onthemove/ or in French at www.ted-fde.gnb.ca/verslavant/. Please note that this site is currently inactive.

Although all partners provide information and updates for *On the Move!*, responsibility for this Internet tool rests with the Department of Training and Employment Development.

Youth Services Partnership Annual Conferences 2005

This regular event provides representatives of local committees with the opportunity to share information about the activities they are involved with in their area. Participants have the opportunity to network and learn valuable information from other local committee members. Positive feedback is received from conference participants. Family and Community Services and Service Canada shared the expenses associated with this conference.

In 2005, the conference was held in Caraquet, May 12-13. There was a presentation by invited guest Pat Bernard (Regional Economist, Service Canada) as well as a musical performance of the song "Vois Comme c'est beau" by the group Zolis.

LOCAL COMMITTEES

PARACHUTE (NORTHWEST)

MANDATE

To support youth and provide them with services in order to contribute to the overall, unique development of each young person in the community.

WORKING STRUCTURE

The Committee is structured to include 5 working groups:

- Steering Committee;
- Education Committee;
- Labour Market Entry Committee;
- At-Risk Youth Committee; and,
- Communications Committee

In the absence of a coordinator, we have adopted a more flexible structure and a mandate within our means. The committee will focus more on meetings aimed at exchanging information and identifying priorities that can then be incorporated into each partner's youth services plan

Activities/projects carried out in 2005-2006

Alternative education centres

In the wake of the study on the difficulties and needs associated with youth training and labour market entry in northwestern N.B. (2003), the partners supported the establishment of two alternative education centres, one in the Edmundston area and the second in the Grand Falls area. Each centre can accommodate up to 25 participants, and learning is based on practical methods. The centres came about thanks to a partnership between School District #3, Service Canada, and the New Brunswick departments of Family and Community Services, Training and Employment Development, and Public Safety, along with the involvement of volunteers with the community organization Parachute Info Jeunes Ltée.

Le Nord-Ouest, mon Patelin, j'y reviens! [I'm coming home to the Northwest]

This activity is an initiative of the Work-Ready Workforce Committee for Northwestern N.B. and targets young people who were born in the Northwest in hopes of interesting them in coming back to the region to work. Several partners of the Youth Services Partnership (YSP) Committee – Northwest took part in its realization. The ultimate goal of the activity is to encourage young people to meet the projected needs of the northwestern N.B. labour market. The activity was termed a success, bring back five young people to the region to work for employers who welcomed them with open arms.

Entreprends ton avenir / Take on your future

In co-operation with professional organizations, major employers, and educational institutions, a number of YSP Committee partners organized this career fair under the terms of a mandate from the Work-Ready Workforce Committee. The activity, which included a motivational speaker, took place on May 10 and 11, 2005, at the Cité des Jeunes A.-M.-Sormany in Edmundston. What set Take On Your Future apart was its interactive nature. The goal of the activity was to encourage smart career choices among northwestern N.B. youth while seeking to meet the projected needs of the labour market.

Data bank on northwestern N.B. graduates

The youth exodus is an alarming reality to which communities in northwestern New Brunswick have to respond. The Work-Ready Workforce Committee, which includes a large number of the local YSP Committee partners, therefore decided to create a data bank containing contact information for post-secondary graduates born in the region. This directory makes it possible to communicate regularly with them in order to share attractive employment opportunities in the area. The data bank facilitates the recruitment of hard-to-find, qualified workers.

Prospects for 2006

Since the committee has no coordinator at present, it will focus more on meetings aimed at exchanging information and identifying priorities that can then be incorporated into each partner's youth services plan.

The Take On Your Future initiative will be repeated, this time in the Grand Falls area, and will involve Grades 10 and 11 students from Victoria and lower Madawaska counties. The activity will take place on April 4 and 5 at the Polyvalente Thomas Albert.

"Le Nord-Ouest, mon Patelin, j'y reviens!" will basically follow the same format as before and will be held on March 18 and 19, 2006, at the Edmundston Convention Centre.

Reverse job fair / Tourism show

A reverse job fair will be held on March 24 to 26, 2006. This fair gives young people whose studies relate to the tourism sector the opportunity to show off their abilities to potential employers. Employers from large hotel chains and other businesses in the New Brunswick tourism sector will be present to engage in recruitment. The activity is being organized in co-operation with the Work-Ready Workforce Committee.

JEUNESSE RESTIGOUCHE YOUTH

MANDATE

Jeunesse Restigouche Youth helps young people under 30 years of age to become self-sufficient and realize their full potential within the educational and social contexts in order to be integrated into the labour market by encouraging partnerships between governmental agencies, the community, businesses, and youth.

WORKING STRUCTURE

Jeunesse Restigouche Youth is made up of a large committee that meets every three months, an Executive Committee that meets as necessary, and six subcommittees that meet on a monthly basis. A co-ordinator also works with the committee members to ensure that all activities outlined in the action plan are implemented.

Activities/Projects carried out in 2005-2006

Mailout to Restigouche Employers (Annual activity for over 9 years)

A mailout describing the employment programs available to businesses and a listing of resource persons for each program were distributed to local employers. This was a way to acquaint employers and unionized workers with the benefits of employment programs and to collect information about ways to enhance the quality of placement experiences for both youth and employers.

Jeunesse Restigouche Youth Information Line - 759-6699 (Ongoing activity since 1994)

The Jeunesse Restigouche Youth information line was promoted through a variety of media. The entire population of Restigouche County was targeted during this project, resulting in an increased awareness of Jeunesse Restigouche Youth and a jump in direct inquiries from youth.

List of Resource Persons Available to Give Presentations (Annual activity for over 9 years)

A list of resource persons who are available to give presentations on the new realities and trends of the labour market and on entrepreneurship was distributed to local schools. All stakeholders throughout Restigouche County were targeted.

Learning Centres (Ongoing activity since 1999)

The operation of four learning centres in Restigouche County for approximately 60 school dropouts aged 15 and over was ensured through a continuing partnership among several agencies.

This project has led to many positive results, including the maintenance of partnerships between schools, the community, and families and the prevention of criminal behaviour. This is an ongoing activity that began in September 1999.

Summer Employment Promotion(2 years)

This initiative had two objectives: to raise awareness among Restigouche employers and community members of the importance of hiring students for the summer and to make them aware of the advantages of hiring summer students for sectors in demand, in accordance with the Restigouche community economic development strategy. The initiative consisted of two main activities. The first was to conduct radio interviews with different students each week. The hosts highlighted the employability skills of the students selected, as well as their training and qualifications. The second activity consisted in conducting interviews with employers to provide testimonials of the benefits of hiring students in their businesses.

Turnaround Achievement Awards (Annual activity since 2001)

Thanks to an ongoing partnership among agencies, the Turnaround Achievement Awards initiative was held again for a fifth consecutive year. Thirty students were recognized for their efforts to turn their lives around during a celebration held at the Campbellton Civic Centre on May 16, 2006. The evening was a huge success, and many positive comments were received from those in attendance. A sixth recognition ceremony is planned for May 2007.

Outreach Worker (Street Worker) (Ongoing activity since 2000)

Thanks to an ongoing partnership among agencies, an outreach worker continued to be employed in the Campbellton/Kedgwick/Saint-Quentin area to provide young people aged 30 and under with the support and information they require at a time and place that is convenient for them. This has proved to be a very successful activity and one that is welcomed by the many youth who are in contact with the outreach worker.

Destination Work World (Activity since 2002)

During the Jeunesse Restigouche Youth strategic planning process, the partners identified a need to develop a program for high school graduates who are not pursuing post-secondary studies and/or are unable to enter the labour market. This training and work internship program, called Destination Work World, enables 28 young persons to acquire employment skills while planning their future. A first and second group began in December 2005 and January 2006 and will finish in June/July 2006.

Web Page (Ongoing activity since 1998)

The Jeunesse Restigouche Youth committee has a duty to inform young people and the representatives of various agencies about the numerous services available to young people in the Restigouche region. The Web site was recently given a younger, more active image. The committee members agreed that such a site would help young people by acquainting them with the committee and the agencies and resources in the region. Not only does this site inform young people about all the services, but it informs the agencies as well. Since it was very active, the committee joined with several partners that could benefit from this kind of tool. The update focused on providing information while making the site interactive and attractive for young people. (www.jry.org)

Wellness Rally (2004 and 2005)

Together with several Jeunesse Restigouche Youth partners, our second wellness rally was held in November 2005. The event was aimed at promoting services and programs through physical activity. About 500 young persons attended.

Radio Campaign for Destination Work World Registration

A radio awareness campaign was launched to encourage young people to register for the new Destination Work World program and inform them about youth programs and services as well as where to access them. A number of 15- and 30-second radio spots were produced, each specifying a need, the related service, and information on how to obtain it.

Case Management

Case management was provided for about 15 to 20 young persons under the age of 21 to help them to return to school, take training and/or enter the job market.

Volunteer Program (May 2006)

A new initiative was implemented this year to enable the members of Jeunesse Restigouche Youth to work on another of their objectives: that of increasing young people's appreciation of volunteering and making them aware of the benefits of volunteering as a form of work experience.

Project Objectives

1. Increase young people's appreciation of volunteering.
2. Prepare young people indirectly for entering the labour market or returning to school through volunteering.
3. Acquire relevant work experience and transferable skills through volunteering.
4. Encourage young people to participate in the community.
5. Increase the contribution of young people to society through volunteering.
6. Help agencies with the recruitment of a new generation of volunteers.
7. Provide increased support for local agencies.

The Volunteer Program will encourage young people under the age of 30 to volunteer their time with an agency (e.g., school, hospital, social club). Not only would the young person benefit from the experience by acquiring transferable skills and having the opportunity to volunteer in a positive environment, but the sponsoring agency would benefit as well from the new volunteer's contribution.

Jeunesse Restigouche Youth will reward participants for their efforts provided they volunteer the minimum number of hours required.

1. All young people who volunteer at least 40 hours will receive a certificate, a T-shirt, and an invitation to a prize-drawing event.
2. All young people who volunteer at least 100 hours will receive a knapsack, the chance to participate in a prize draw, and an invitation to the prize-drawing event.

New participants will be able to join this program aimed at young persons under the age of 30 at any time. This will enable them to begin volunteering and earning rewards when they feel the time is right.

CHALEUR YOUTH FUTURES COMMITTEE

MANDATE

The mission of the Chaleur Youth Futures Committee is to work with partners to promote the development and the social and economic integration of young persons between the ages of 15 and 30 in the Chaleur region.

Under its mandate, the Committee seeks to inform young people, the community, and its partners about existing youth programs and services, identify the needs of young people, and see to new initiatives according to the identified needs.

WORKING STRUCTURE

The Chaleur Youth Futures Committee is made up of a plenary committee that includes all the members of the Youth Futures Committee and two co-chairs from Family and Community Services (FCS) and Human Resource and Service Canada (SC). It was previously made up of three subcommittees: employment, training, and health and social. Each subcommittee is responsible for objectives determined beforehand at an annual planning meeting. The action plan is then reviewed with the members at regular intervals. Under the new structure, there is no longer a co-ordinator to serve as liaison between the members and the subcommittees, which in the future will be formed on an ad hoc basis according to the needs identified by the members in response to young people's expectations.

The plenary committee will meet three times a year. One of its meetings will be set aside for strategic planning and development of an action plan for the following year of operation. The sub-committee members will meet according to the needs identified, and working groups will be in charge of specific projects.

Activities/Projects carried out in 2005-2006

The annual general meeting, in which some 20 young persons from the Chaleur region participated, made it possible to establish the foundations of our strategic plan for next year, with recommendations from the young participants. It was suggested that a proposal aimed at hiring of a co-ordinator for the Chaleur Youth Futures Committee be submitted. The members agreed they had to decide what direction the committee was going to move in before they could convince the directors of each department to provide funding. It was therefore agreed to do some strategic planning by developing an action plan incorporating our objectives and by defining the co-ordinator's role.

In response to those recommendations, the committee is now working on completing its action plan with the objectives and priorities set at the annual general meeting.

A consultant has been hired on an intermittent basis to help the committee to complete its action plan for the activities that will be priorities for youth in the Chaleur region.

COMITÉ AVENIR JEUNESSE DE LA PÉNINSULE ACADIENNE

MANDATE

The Comité Avenir Jeunesse works with partners on developing long-term actions aimed at helping young people on the Acadian Peninsula realize their full potential and join the labour market.\

MISSION

To work with partners on developing long-term actions aimed at helping young people on the Acadian Peninsula realize their full potential and join the labour market.

WORKING STRUCTURE

The Comité Avenir Jeunesse de la Péninsule Acadienne consists of a steering committee and working committees. The steering committee is made up of 15 directors from government agencies, community organizations, and institutions. The plenary committee is made up of more than 45 representatives from government agencies, community organizations, and institutions that work on four different working committees. It is chaired by representatives from Human Resources Development Canada and Family and Community Services that collaborate on the directions of the committees' work.

The strategic operating model for Avenir Jeunesse consists of four sectoral groups: health and wellness, education/training, socio-cultural, and employment.

Activities and projects carried out in 2005-2006

The actions carried out in 2005-2006 by the Avenir Jeunesse team can be divided into three separate parts. Each of the four sectoral groups (sociocultural, health and wellness, employment, and education/training) continued working on its initiatives. At the start of the year, the team focused on

organizing the annual conference of the Youth Services Partnership (YSP), held in Caraquet on May 12 and 13, 2005. The participants' comments about the activities at the conference were positive.

The second part of the sectoral groups' work was devoted to various activities and initiatives.

The members of the **Sociocultural Group** were involved in the following:

- **Youth Day**, an activity that brought together more than 160 young persons from the Acadian Peninsula for a discussion of bullying.
- Submission to the National Crime Prevention Strategy of an application for financial assistance for **phase II of Youth Day**, which involves the development of an awareness tool (possibly a videocassette on the subject).
- Contacts with the daily newspaper *L'Acadie Nouvelle*, in co-operation with the Fédération des jeunes francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick, in order to plan a **youth opinion** space that would enable young Francophones in the province to express various opinions on employment and sociocommunity life.

The members of the **Education/Training Group** worked on the following activities:

- The **PHARE** (skills and learning for student success) program, an alternative to public school for high school students, was active.
- The **learning associates** program was another example of the ongoing close co-operation among the partners aimed at preventing students (± 125) from dropping out.
- **Entrepreneurship, internship and mentorship** makes it possible to offer practical work experiences, skills development workshops, co-op placements, etc.
- A **mental health awareness day** was organized for professionals who work with youth and young adults.
- The **Réseau des Complexes Jeunesse Multifonctionnels Inc.** was discussed many times in an effort to find sources of funding for the hiring of a team of facilitators.
- An **interdepartmental committee** was set up to provide liaison between the different agencies with a view to raising the issue of the lack of services for young persons aged 16 to 18 (grey zone).

A whole range of activities was on the **Employment Group**'s agenda:

- **Training for young entrepreneurs** (± 250 young persons).
- **Entrepreneurship** workshop (± 200 participants).
- **Junior Achievers** (± 35 participants).
- **Back to school day** (± 225 participants).
- **Coming back to stay** banquet.
- **Skills Link** (± 75 participants).
- **5 à 7** (± 50 participants).
- **2006 Youth Profile** (update of work done in 2000 on the bank of ± 6,600 young persons aged 15 to 30).
- A study concerning the possibility of developing an **OIR** (research and information observatory) for the Acadian Peninsula was submitted in December 2005.
- The **youth exodus** will be examined by various partners of Avenir Jeunesse. The results of that initiative will be submitted to the plenary committee.
- Development of a **youth round table** was begun.

Lastly, the members of the **Health and Wellness Group** are working on the following:

- Planning of a health day.
- Promotion of awareness of the concept of wellness.

The option put in place ensured follow-up of the issues while making it possible to meet the immediate needs of the Comité Avenir Jeunesse de la Péninsule acadienne. The strategic plan remains in place, and work on the actions is continuing.

Lastly, it should be noted that all of the actions of the Comité Avenir Jeunesse de la Péninsule acadienne are made possible thanks to the shared efforts of a number of partners. The steering committee consists of 18 executive directors, while the plenary committee, which brings together the members of the sectoral groups, is made up of about 35 local stakeholders.

MIRAMICHI YOUTH SERVICES PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

MANDATE

Through effective partnering, discussion and information sharing, the Miramichi Youth Services Partnership (MYSP) will create and coordinate innovative and relevant programs and services in order to assist Miramichi youth in:

- becoming self-reliant, contributing members of society,
- avoiding participation in criminal activity, and
- becoming good citizens who participate fully in the workplace and community

The Miramichi Youth Services Partnership focuses on:

- youth at risk of not participating productively in society,
- youth at risk of dropping out of school,
- unemployed youth who lack opportunities for experience, basic work-related vocational skills, life skills, and / or basic education, and
- marginalized youth including youth with a criminal history and youth from minority groups

WORKING STRUCTURE

The MYSP normally meets on a monthly basis. Meeting agendas include a review of ongoing projects, budget updates, departmental program and service updates, and initiatives under discussion. Special guests are invited to make presentations to the committee or to submit proposals.

Activities/Projects Carried Out In 2005-2006

Budgeting and Financial Management

Darlene Stewart and Greg Daley, Case Managers at Family and Community Services, developed this short but effective workshop to assist individuals in getting a handle on their finances. The workshop lasts three (3) half days and is normally delivered over a period of several weeks to enable the participants to try some of the skills and techniques acquired in the program. The Salvation Army collaborated with FCS in the development of the workshop and have provided lunch for the participants. Case Manager Lisette Durelle assisted in a special delivery of the workshop this year for a group of youth from the New Brunswick Youth Centre, who attended as part of their preparation for reintegration into the community.

Miramichi Youth Extended Services (Y.E.S.)

This Skills Link project is in the process of providing life skills training and work opportunities for 8 youth between the ages of 15 and 30 who face barriers to entering the labour market. It is coordinated through the Miramichi Fellowship Centre in Blackville. The 48-week project, which started in August of 2005 and runs until July 2006 began with 8 participants, one of whom left, but was replaced by another participant. The participants started with a 20-week Employability Skills through Community Service component. This component began with a 7-week life skills course, following which the participants made the transition from life skills to being involved in other community service-related

activities such as writing and recording anti-drug commercials, and writing dramas covering many issues facing youth.

In order to reinforce and reflect their skills, the participants are currently on work placements 4 days per week and in class 1 day per week for the rest of the project. There is potential for long-term employment for 2 of the participants. The participants are also presenting their drama workshops in local high schools.

Methadone Treatment Program

Several member agencies of the MYSP continue to work closely with the Miramichi Addictions Recovery Clinic. Over the past year, Miramichi youth who were previously being treated with Methadone in Fredericton, Cambridge Narrows or Moncton were transferred back to Miramichi. The Miramichi Addictions Recovery Clinic opened its doors in Miramichi East in mid-fall 2004. At the present time, the clinic has reached full capacity, serving 151 clients of whom 70 are youth. There are 177 clients on the waiting list of which 84 are youth. The clinic is staffed by three (3) area physicians – Dr. Linda Hudson, Dr. Camille Haddad, and Dr. Jeff Hans, as well as an RN, two (2) Addictions Social Workers and a receptionist / secretary. During the recent accreditation of the Miramichi Regional Hospital, the development and operation of the Methadone Treatment Program was cited as a best practice.

Partners For a Drug Free Miramichi

Partners For A Drug Free Miramichi was formed in 2003. This group is dedicated to bringing the anti-drug message to youth in the community through a variety of speakers and public forums. Significant work in the area of developmental assets has been completed during the past year including numerous workshops for professionals and members of the community. In addition, a weekly column in the local newspaper serves to continually educate the public on building developmental assets.

Community Project 2005 – Club Sportif de Rogersville

The Club Sportif de Rogersville has been coordinating a Skills Link Project with 8 participants. These youth have a great opportunity to acquire life skills, attend workshops which would help them to enter the work force or pursue their education, get a perspective in career fields suitable to their abilities and interests, and to gain work experience. The project started in October 2005 and will run until August 2006, with the participants currently in the Work Experience portion of the project.

At the end of this project, all participants will have successfully completed 10 weeks of life skills and 30 weeks of employability skills through work experience. During the employability skills portion of the project, participants will spend two 2 days per week in a classroom and three 3 days in a working environment. The objective is to give each participant a chance to work in at least 3 different work environments matching their interests, so as to give them a better chance to choose a suitable career. The community of Rogersville has been very supportive and involved in the project.

Stars & Quasars

STARS and QUASARS are two exciting and comprehensive Personal and Career Development Programs for youth at risk. The programs are located at The Learning Centre in Miramichi West, and are co-located with alternative education day programs of School District 16.

The Learning Centre provides a high tech learning environment where the life skills and educational needs of the youth are responded to by highly skilled teachers, learning facilitators and support staff. All of the programs of The Learning Centre benefit from the sharing of resources.

STARS focuses on youth aged 17 to 24 who have multiple barriers and who have been out of school for more than a year. QUASARS focuses on youth aged 15 to 21 who are in conflict with the law.

In addition to strong life skills programming, participants are assisted to complete their high school education. This combination of life and personal management skills and education significantly reduces the participants' critical risk elements, and helps to pave the way for a successful future.

There have been more than eighty (80) graduates to date with an additional twenty (20) youth expected to graduate in June 2006.

Miramichi Youth in Action 2005

This Skills Link project, designed to provide an interactive, educational program to participants in order to prepare them for life, in general, and education and/or employment, in particular, is being coordinated through the John Howard Society of Miramichi. This 49 week project started in August 2005 and will be completed in July 2006. Ten (10) participants began the program, and 9 youth with multiple barriers continue to participate.

The main intent of the project is to provide each participant with a basic life skills assessment, basic life skills training, pre-employment / educational skills enhancement, employment seeking skills, individual work placements, and individual employment related counselling, while strengthening their sense of accomplishment and their attachment to their work team and their community.

For the first 16 weeks of the project, the participants were involved in Group-Based Employability skills. The participants are currently on their work placements and return to class 2 days each week to debrief and evaluate their placement experience.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

Family and Community Services and Post-Secondary Education & Training continue to partner in the delivery of ten (10) week PLAR Programs. Sharon Campbell -- FCS Career Consultant, Tara White -- FCS Case Manager, and Lisa Blackmore -- DPET Employment Counsellor are actively involved in the delivery of the program which attracts both youth and adult clients. These programs have been enormously successful in preparing the participants for education and employment while providing a significant boost to their self-esteem and self-confidence. A number of professionals have also participated in the training and have completed the building of their own portfolios. This has enabled them to be more knowledgeable and proactive in working with their respective clients.

French Fort Cove Arts & Culture

This Skills Link Project, which is being coordinated by the French Fort Cove Eco-Tourism Centre, started in August 2005 and will run until July 2006. It will provide a combination of work experience and employability skills workshops for two (2) youth, as well as skill enhancement in their field of sculpturing and painting. The project will also include portfolio development for each individual as well as artistic mentoring support.

Upon completion of this project the participants will have built a body of work to be showcased at French Fort Cove Eco-Centre and, in doing so, will have developed marketing and public relations skills. In addition, each participant's personal inventory of work will be used for product development for the Cove, which will heighten the profile of the artist and encourage sustainability. These youth will obtain work experience and employability skills which will enhance their entry into the labour market.

Miramichi Youth House

Miramichi Youth House originally opened its doors in the spring of 2002. The need for accommodations for homeless youth was significant, and homeless youth were welcomed even before all of the needed building renovations were completed.

Significant funding was received over the years through Service Canada's Homelessness Initiative, Family and Community Services, the Department of Justice Community Mobilization Initiative, and Regional Development Corporation (RDC).

MYH closed down temporarily in August 2004 due to financial difficulties. The house reopened in October 2004 with a new Board of Directors and new staff. Becoming self-sustaining is an ongoing challenge for the very hard-working Board. During the past year, renovations have been done both inside and outside the building, the most noticeable of which would be the replacement of the huge staircase descending the riverbank to the youth house. The house is currently structured to accommodate five (5) youth with two (2) additional emergency beds.

All youth residing in MYH are expected to attend school or post-secondary training, receive counselling or therapy, or be gainfully employed. The dedicated staff have worked hard in helping the residents make positive changes in their lives. There have been a number of success stories ... and the work goes on.

Miramichi Skate Park

Miramichi boasts having the largest outdoor skate park facility in the Atlantic Provinces. This park was developed several years ago through a partnership involving Family and Community Services, Service Canada, Post-Secondary Education & Training, and the City of Miramichi.

The facility provides a healthy and safe recreational environment for skateboarders, rollerbladers and BMX bikers. It hosts several competitions each year in each discipline. The Miramichi Skate Park is located adjacent to the Golden Hawk Rec Centre and is managed by the City of Miramichi. During the past year, a significant and moving event saw youth and professionals of the area come together at the Skate Park to honor the memory of a young skateboarder who lost his life to suicide. The event also raised funds to support his family.

The Miramichi YSP provides ongoing support to the Miramichi Skate Park Commission through the participation of a member on the Commission, as well as the participation of various employees of the YSP departments at competitions and special events.

Programming For Offenders

In providing community based services, Miramichi Community & Correctional Services utilizes a case management component in which Probation Officers (Case Managers) assess individual files involving Youth Offenders in an effort to determine the offenders' level of risk and areas of need. Once the areas of need are identified, youth are then referred to the appropriate service agency to address those specific needs. Miramichi Community & Correctional Services liaises with many and varied agencies within the Miramichi community and surrounding areas. Services are provided and accessed through Addictions Services, Mental Health Services, Family and Community Services, The Learning Centre (School District 16) – STARS & QUASARS, and the John Howard Society.

The John Howard Society Miramichi offers many faceted programs for offenders. Clients participate in programs focusing on anger management, life skills, goal setting, decision-making, self-esteem, assertiveness training, financial planning, grief counselling, and health and wellness. This very valuable programming assists enormously in meeting the needs of offenders, helps them to become productive citizens, and promotes crime free communities.

Skills Link – Individual Work Experience

In addition to the group projects, there are also several Individual Work Experience projects underway through the Skills Link Program. The main objective of these projects is to help a youth facing barriers to employment develop the broad range of skills, knowledge and work experience he / she needs to participate in the job market. Currently, participants are placed with Miramichi Fisheries Management, Tabusintac Community Economic Development, Miramichi Senior Citizen's Home, and the Miramichi Salvation Army Thrift Store.

YOUTH SERVICES PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SOUTHEAST REGION

Youth Services Partnership (YSP) Southeast Region was inactive in 2005-2006, but is in the process of re-grouping for the next fiscal year.

SAINT JOHN YOUTH SERVICES PARTNERSHIP

Saint John currently does not have a formal Youth Services Partnership (YSP) committee at the present time. However, agencies in the Saint John area do collaborate to provide services for youth.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Charlotte County Youth Services Partnership Committee is currently inactive.

FREDERICTON YOUTH SERVICES PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

MANDATE

To provide a practical and efficient vehicle to share information, discuss issues related to youth and respond to these issues in a collaborative manner in order to provide a quality service that eliminates overlap and duplication while providing a full continuum of service.

WORKING STRUCTURE

All members meet monthly, with a rotating Chairperson. These meetings are followed up with an email of the Minutes for review. Prior to each monthly meeting, reminder e-mails are sent, with Minutes and action items.

Activities/Projects carried out in 2005-2006

In 2005 we continued to bring in new members, and focused our energy into a successful Youth Forum.

Youth Forum

We are currently implementing our plan to hold a Youth Forum in the Spring of 2006. We've met with the community partners and are in the process of breaking into committees and meeting with youth themselves who will lend some more direction and purpose to the Forum. The mission of the Youth Forum is:

What: "To empower our youth and Families to make positive choices"

How: "To maximise the development of assets by providing information on support services"

SAINT JOHN RIVER VALLEY YOUTH PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

MANDATE

To provide a practical and efficient vehicle to share information, discuss issues related to youth and respond to these issues in a collaborative manner in order to provide a quality service that eliminates overlap and duplication while providing a full continuum of services.

WORKING STRUCTURE

The Saint John River Valley YPC meets every six weeks. We incorporate members from various agencies in the Woodstock and Perth areas. We currently have four sub-committees or working groups which have been formed from our 2005-06 work plan.

Activities / Projects carried out in 2005-2006

Building Pathways

The purpose of this project is to focus on a community and have a public forum/meeting with members of the public, service providers and village council to determine the needs of youth in that area and to empower the community to address the needs of youth. This year we had selected the village of Perth Andover for this project and had targeted a date to hold this forum in April. However, due to some delays with the village we are now hoping to do this project in early fall and we will carry this activity over in to our next year's work plan.

Federal/Provincial accountability/YPC co-ordinator

The purpose of this working group is to address the provincial accountability to youth, utilizing feedback from regional committees and to look at how core funding is obtained provincially. We had hoped to address some of these issues/information sharing at the next YSP annual conference this spring.

Youth Directory/Employment registry

This group is in the initial stages of determining terms of reference to identify and register all non post secondary youth in the Youth Training and Employment Registry. This group will work in collaboration with the seven high schools within this district and to work in collaboration with youth to inform of existing programs and services in terms of employment and training.

"Opening a door to the schools in the area"

The target group for this sub-committee is youth in the high schools in our area. We would like to have a closer connection with youth to determine what needs they are identifying are lacking in the areas where they live. We have connected with the student councils in four of the high schools and will have a YPC committee member attend a student council meeting for each school to explain the YPC mandate and gather information from the students.

We will be meeting as a group in May to establish our work plan for the 2006-07 year.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it must be stated that the development of an effective partnership is an extremely complex but beneficial exercise. Common vision and expectations, communication, commitment and involvement are challenges which must be addressed continuously and demand a great deal of time and energy. The results though, create synergy, co-operation and a co-ordinated approach to program and service delivery.

The Youth Services Partnership, particularly at the local level, has made significant strides in recent years. In many locations throughout the province, the YSP is a true testament to the concept of partnership.

APPENDIX A

Current Provincial Operations Committee Members

Dana Sappier	Service Canada (co-chair)
Angela Carr	Family & Community Services (co-chair)
Angela Léger	Training & Employment Development
Bob Eckstein	Public Safety
Terry Robichaud	Health and Wellness
Barry Wishart	Culture and Sport Secretariat

APPENDIX B

Current Local Committee Co-Chairs

Moncton Region	Rachel Thériault, FCS Isabelle LeBlanc-Gaudet, SC
Saint John Region	Heather Hartley Brown, FCS Gloria Boyd, SC
Charlotte Region:	Bob Conley, FCS Debbie Scullin, SC
Fredericton Region:	John Otteson, FCS Lois Williams, SC Bev Noddin, TED
Woodstock Region:	Andrea Gallagher, FCS Sarah Touchie, SC
Northwest Region:	Mona Bélanger, FCS Luc Levesque, SC
Chaleur Region:	Sandra Cowan-Roy, FCS Roger Robichaud, SC
Restigouche Region:	Donna Cormier-Pitre, FCS Brigitte Gray-Carroll, SC
Miramichi Region:	Don Lynch, FCS Kristy Hamilton-Stewart, SC
Acadian Peninsula Region:	Reno Lebouthillier, FCS Roger Robichaud, SC

APPENDIX C

Provincial and Local Committees Composition

PARTNERS	PROVINCIAL	CHARLOTTE	FREDERICTON	WOODSTOCK	NORTHWEST	RESTIGOUCHE	CHALEUR	PENINSULA	MIRAMICHI	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST
Service Canada	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family & Community Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Education			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Culture & Sport Secretariat	✓			✓							
Health & Wellness	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Training & Employment Development	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
New Brunswick Community College	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Public Safety	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Youth Council of New Brunswick			✓		✓						
RCMP / Police				✓	✓	✓					✓
University					✓		✓	✓			✓
Chamber of Commerce				✓		✓					
Fédération des jeunes francophones du N.-B.							✓	✓		✓	
Youth Centre / Maison des jeunes / Boys & Girls Club/YMCA							✓				
First Nations				✓		✓					
Junior Achievement							✓				
Other community and youth serving agencies				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Youth representation					✓						✓
Community Outreach Worker					✓	✓					
Committee Staff (coordinator / Webmaster)						✓		✓			

Approximately 200 people are involved with the Youth Services Partnership at the provincial and local level.