



***STATUS REPORT ON
YOUTH SERVICES PARTNERSHIP***

***Prepared by:
Youth Services Partnership
Provincial Operations Committee***

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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 the years 2001 - present.

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: Human Resources Development Canada, Family and Community Services, Education, 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 Human Resources Development Canada and Family and Community Services.

<h2>PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE</h2>

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

Bimonthly meetings are held to manage ongoing business and task groups are used to carry out selected projects. Members are also asked to liase with their assigned Youth Services Partnership local committee(s) and to attend at least three local committee meetings per year.

ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2001 - PRESENT

Forum Newsletter

The fall 2001 and spring 2002 editions of the *Forum* newsletter were released in an effort to share the accomplishments of the Youth Services Partnership. The *Forum* is published twice annually and copies distributed to partners at the three levels of the Youth Services Partnership structure. A variety of information has been disseminated as a result of this publication and many favourable comments have been received.

Publication of *Forum* is made possible through funding and in-kind contributions from Family and Community Services, the Youth Council of New Brunswick and submissions from local committees.

On the Move!, 3rd edition

On the Move! provides up-to-date and easily accessible employment and career development programs and services information aimed at helping youth make the school-to-work transition. This Internet tool is easy to use and is divided into six categories – Career Development, Summer Employment, Volunteer Programs, Student Financial Aid, Links, and For More Information. *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/.

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 2001 and 2003

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, Human Resources Development Canada and Training and Employment Development shared the expenses associated with these conferences.

In 2001, the conference was held in Bouctouche, June 7-8. There were presentations by invited guests including Isabelle LeBlanc-Gaudet (Human Resources Development Canada – Homelessness Initiative) and Anthony Knight (Youth Council of New Brunswick).

In 2003, the conference was held in Campbellton, May 1-2. There were presentations by invited guests including Ray Gallant (ACOA), Betty-Anne Levesque (CEDA – Enterprise Restigouche) and Yvon Leblanc (Rural Secretariat).

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

The larger Parachute Committee met six times during the past year, while working groups have met more or less frequently depending upon the activities underway.

ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2001-2002

Committee Name and Logo Contest

A contest was launched in the Northwest region to find a new identity for the committee. This contest was widely publicized and encouraged youth to submit possible names and logos that would reflect the overall mission of the Northwest Committee. This event not only resulted in a new identity for the group, but it all served to increase awareness among young people regarding the group's existence.

The result – Parachute

The campy of the parachute, consisting of different compartments, symbolizes the need for various organizations to work in partnership to ensure that youth enjoy success in the many adventures they will face as they develop. The slogan, *Expand Your Vision/Vois Loin, Vois Grand*, encourages youth to not limit themselves but instead to aim high. It gives them permission to dream and respects the individual strengths of youth.

Youth Needs Study

A study of the education and labour market entry needs of youth in the Northwest region was conducted by the Université de Moncton's Edmundston campus. Recommendations were made available during the summer of 2002. The results of this study will assist the Committee in focussing their efforts in the coming months.

Family and Community Services and Human Resources Development Canada were the major partners involved in this study.

Guest Speaker

Dr. Charles E. Caouette from the Université de Montréal gave a talk entitled *For the Love of Children / Pour l'Amour des Jeunes* during a dinner in February 2002. More than 60 stakeholders who work with youth in the Northwest region attended this event. A workshop for the members of the Education working group and a public presentation by Dr. Caouette were also well attended.

Alternative Schools

The members of the Education working group visited several alternative schools to determine the most suitable model for the Northwest region. The sites visited and evaluated include: Learning Centre (Campbellton, NB), Centre d'Apprentissage (Campbellton, NB), L'École Le Grand Défi (Rimouski, Que.), Le Vitrail (Montréal, Que.), Le Virage (Montréal, Que.), and Liberté-Jeunesse (Oka, Que.). Once the recommendations from the study are available, an educational centre for youth who have difficulty coping with the traditional school system will be established.

2002 - PRESENT

WORKING STRUCTURE

The Committee is structured to include six working groups:

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

The Parachute Committee met 10 times during the past year, while the working groups met more or less frequently depending upon the activities under way.

ACTIVITIES /PROJECTS CARRIED OUT FROM 2002 - PRESENT

Press Conference

Press conference on the study concerning the difficulties and needs related to training and labour market entry for at-risk youth in north-western New Brunswick and recommendations.

Salon de la Jeunesse

We had a booth at the Salon de la Jeunesse, enabling us to raise awareness. Young people were given prizes for participating (T-shirts, backpacks, and headbands with our logo on them).

Incorporation

Incorporation of our organization under the name "Parachute Info Jeunes Ltée" in March 2003.

Directories

Directories of the programs and services available to Anglophone and Francophone youth in the Northwest region were prepared and distributed.

Web Site

A Web site entitled www.infoparachute.com containing useful information for young people is under construction and will be ready in March 2004. Concept J Multimédia was hired to make the site easier to use and maintain.

Project

The consulting firm Girard St-Pier Consultation was hired through an agreement with TED and the Parachute Info-Jeunes Ltée committee. The firm was commissioned to analyze the data that have been collected to date (alternative school visits, study of the needs of youth in the Northeast, activities of different committees, alternative schools in N.B.), develop a document that will be used to sell the project to various partners, and prepare a Power Point presentation.

Co-ordinator and Youth Worker

The co-ordinator was given an extension with FCS until March 31, 2003. The youth worker was given an extension under the Youth Initiatives program until March 31, 2004.

JEUNESSE RESTIGOUCHE YOUTH

MANDATE

Jeunesse Restigouche Youth will help young people less than 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 one large committee that meets every three months, an Executive Committee that meets as necessary, and three sub-committees – Employability and Training, Pre-Employability, and Communications – which meet on a monthly basis. Jeunesse Restigouche Youth also has a co-ordinator who works with the committee members to ensure that all activities outlined in the action plan are implemented.

ACTIVITIES/PROJECT CARRIED OUT IN 2001-2002

Mail out to Restigouche Employers

A mail out describing the employment programs available to businesses and a listing of resource persons for each program was distributed to local employers. This was a way to acquaint employers and union workers with the benefits of employment programs and to collect information on ways to enhance the quality of the placement experience for both youth and employers.

Jeunesse Restigouche Youth Information Line - 759-6699

The Jeunesse Restigouche Youth information line was widely promoted via a variety of mediums. The entire population of Restigouche County was targeted during this project. This has resulted in an increased awareness of Jeunesse Restigouche Youth and an increase in direct inquiries from youth.

List of Resource Persons Available to Provide Presentations

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

Learning Centres

The continuation of 3 learning centres in Restigouche County for approximately 75 school dropouts aged 15 and over was ensured due to a continuing partnership among several agencies.

Many positive results have occurred as a result of this project including the continuation of partnerships between the school, the community, and families and the prevention of criminal behaviour. This is an ongoing project which began in September, 1999.

Open for Business Centre

The Centre targets youth aged 30 and under who are interested in entrepreneurship as a career option. It aims to equip potential entrepreneurs with the tools, attitudes, and opportunities to make positive contributions and constructive change by providing access to peers, contacts, guidance and encouragement for young entrepreneurs. This project began in the spring, 2001 and is on-going.

Who Wants to Win a Jeunesse Restigouche Youth Scholarship?

To promote the importance of completing high school and post-secondary studies, 600 graduates of both Anglophone and francophone schools in Restigouche County were given the opportunity to win one of twenty bursaries valued at up to \$1,000 each. Two evening "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" like quiz shows were hosted by Jeunesse Restigouche Youth and selected students were given the opportunity to answer questions about the labour market and Restigouche County. Information kits were available in the libraries for students wishing to study the information prior to the event.

All Jeunesse Restigouche Youth members played a very important role in this huge undertaking. The local radio stations were also actively involved.

Twenty scholarships valued at a total of \$15,700 were awarded to local students going on to post-secondary study. Also, programs and services available for youth in the area became much more visible, as did the current realities of the local labour market. This initiative was a huge success! Planning for the quiz show began in January 2001 and was completed in June 2001.

Turnaround Achievement Awards

23 students were recognized for their efforts in turning their lives around during a celebration held at the Campbellton Civic Centre on April 16, 2002. The evening was a huge success and many positive comments were received by those in attendance.

Outreach Workers

Outreach Workers have been hired in the Campbellton/Kedgwick/Saint-Quentin areas to provide youth 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 workers.

Canada Games

The 2003 Canada Winter Games is receiving support from Jeunesse Restigouche Youth, particularly in relation to the coordination between the games and government employment programs. This is an on-going activity.

ACTIVITIES/PROJECT CARRIED OUT IN 2002 – PRESENT

The following activities are a continuation of the previous year's:

- Mail out to Restigouche Employers;
- Jeunesse Restigouche Youth Information Line – 759-6699;
- List of Resource Persons Available to Provide Presentations ;
- Open for Business Centre; and
- Outreach Workers (Street Workers).

Learning Centres

The operation of three learning centres in Restigouche County for approximately 45 school dropouts aged 15 and over was ensured through a continuing partnership among several agencies. Many positive results have occurred as a result of this project, including the maintenance of partnerships between the school, the community, and families and the prevention of criminal behaviour. This is an ongoing activity that began in September 1999.

Employers / Employees Post-secondary Promotion

Objectives: Promote the importance of completing post-secondary studies and also provide a positive image of employability in Restigouche County. Results: promotion of youth programs and services among the general public, promotion of the realities of the Restigouche labour market, and partnerships with several agencies.

Turnaround Achievement Awards

Objectives: Recognize and reward a Restigouche County student who showed effort, commitment, and perseverance in turning around his/her life. Organize a Gala for 250 persons in order to recognize 29 persons from the Restigouche region. Also, highlight the contribution of the persons responsible, the staff and/or counsellors, who give of their time and efforts to help young persons facing multiple barriers.

Canada Games

Objectives: Ensure coordination, with the Canada Games Host Society, of all activities related to human resources. Ensure the involvement of all other relevant partners as ad hoc members of the committee. Plan the delivery of services while avoiding duplication and maximizing the partners' resources.

School to Work Transition Program

Intended for young persons who completed high school but did not go on to take post-secondary studies and/or are unable to join the labour market. This training and work internship program enables young people to acquire employment skills while planning their future. Results: 13 young persons participated in this project in 2003, and another 15 are currently in class.

Web Page

Objectives: Update the Web page of Jeunesse Restigouche Youth and its partners by giving it a younger, more active image. Better inform Restigouche young people about the support services and community resources available. Better inform the schools about the support services and community resources available. Better inform the community stakeholders about the support services and community resources available. Provide the up-to-date information required for labour market entry.

Career Expo

The main objective of this event is to encourage students to learn about career opportunities and develop a career plan in order to be better prepared to join the labour market. Representatives of industry, government, union organizations, and secondary and post-secondary institutions participated. Results: 1200 – 1500 participants, plus 50 exhibitors. October 2003.

Job Fair 2002 – Dalhousie

Objective: Energize the Restigouche job market by giving employers, job seekers, and human resources advisors the opportunity to meet face to face. Results: 1,100 job seekers attended the event, 61 exhibitors (30 employers and 31 other exhibitors), 91 employers advertised job openings, 508 openings were advertised, 1,060 résumés were submitted, and 124 jobs were filled, according to the employers who filled out a questionnaire six months after the event.

Play

Objectives: Promote student awareness as a prevention measure. Offer adolescents the opportunity to break the cycle and make them more aware of certain problems such as poverty, homelessness, dysfunctional families, pregnancy, dependencies, peer depression, etc. Offer adolescents choices that will bring about positive changes in their lives and present to them the resources available in their community.

Radio Awareness Campaign

Objectives: Promote awareness among the public and young people with regard to the employability of young persons in the Restigouche region. Prepare 15- and 30-second radio spots to inform people about the services and programs available to Restigouche young people. Results: Increase awareness among 19-to-30-year-olds of the importance of proper preparation for the labour market and the skills necessary to hold a job.

Portfolio

Objective: Enable young persons to prepare their portfolio with a view to pursuing a high school or post-secondary education or entering the labour market. Intended for young persons who needed to acquire the necessary tools to know themselves better and prepare their portfolio in order to help them to enter the labour market or pursue a high school or post-secondary education.

CHALEUR YOUTH FUTURES COMMITTEE

MANDATE

To guide and encourage the development of programs and services for youth in the Chaleur region (young people aged 12 to 29).

WORKING STRUCTURE

The Chaleur Youth Futures Committee is divided into three subcommittees: Employment and Entrepreneurship, Training, and Health and Social. Each subcommittee is responsible for objectives determined beforehand at an annual committee-planning meeting. The action plan is then reviewed with the members at regular intervals. A co-ordinator ensures that the activities and projects set out in the action plan are implemented.

The committee meets four times a year, as well as holding one meeting with the members and their directors. The subcommittees meet four to five times per year, not counting the working groups in charge of specific projects.

ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2001-2002

Survey of Graduates

A questionnaire was designed to obtain information from grade 12 francophone and Anglophone students relating to their career plans and needs. The survey was meant to identify high school graduates seeking work and youth at risk. 46% of Anglophone students and 92% of francophone students responded to the questionnaire.

This study was conducted in partnership with Francophone and Anglophone high schools in the Chaleur Region during May and June 2001.

Outreach Workers

Two Outreach Workers provide front-line intervention for Chaleur young people aged 12 to 29 by referring them or accompanying them to services appropriate for their needs.

50 youth in the region have benefited from this service which ran from August 2001 to March 2002 and has been renewed until March 2003. Family and Community Services, Human Resources Development Canada, and Public Safety-Community and Correctional Services are the partners involved with this service.

4th Annual Small Business Week

Four activities are offered to youth each year during Small Business Week: networking workshops for Grade 11 and 12 students, a business luncheon with a guest speaker for New Brunswick Community College students and business people, the Young Entrepreneur of the Year Gala for young business people, and the Business Game Challenge for students and business people. The activities are designed to promote entrepreneurship among youth.

More than 100 young people and business people participated in the workshops. Seventy guests attended the business luncheon. 205 people were present at the gala. The winner of the Business Game Challenge was the Business Development Bank of Canada team. Small Business Week took place from October 22 to 26, 2001. Events were made possible through the partnerships of Training and Employment Development, Chaleur Development and Entrepreneurship Centre, NBCC-Bathurst, and several Chaleur region businesses.

Alternative Experience Program

This 20-week program offers work experience to young people 16 to 29 years of age facing multiple barriers while enabling them to acquire personal skills. Following a four-week group session on the principles of personal management, participants are provided with a 16-week job placement in a field related to their interests. The program also includes an assessment of personal goals and an action plan, as well as an individual session and a group session every two weeks with follow-up and assessments of participants. There are 10 participants per program, with a total of 60 youth benefiting since April 2000. Two groups were held this fiscal year. Partners in this program include Human Resources Development Canada, Family and Community Services, and Training and Employment Development.

Trades Preparation Course

Young adults who do not have a high school diploma are given the opportunity to earn a GED so that they can qualify for jobs that require a diploma or pursue studies in the traditional trades. 11 participants had the chance to take academic upgrading and prepare for the GED exam between November 2001 and March 2002. Training and Employment Development was the lead in this activity.

Play – *Aller savoir pourquoi*

A play was staged to raise awareness and carry out prevention among people in the Chaleur region regarding the stages of the continuum of use. Young people aged 12 to 29, school staff, youth workers, and the general public were all targeted for this intervention. The play was presented seven times in the Chaleur region's Francophone schools. It was seen by 2,300 people, including 1,900 students and 400 parents, youth workers, and others in the community. A kit was also prepared and distributed within the schools. Preparations for the play began in December 2000 with presentation from November 20 to 22, 2001. Public Safety-Community and Correctional Services, Chaleur region schools, Nor'east Health Network-Addiction Services, and the Bathurst Youth Centre all partnered on this activity.

Directory of Services

A 100-page bilingual reference tool for youth and youth workers containing a list of programs and services offered by member agencies on the committee was developed. All members contributed information to be used in this document. Compiling and producing the tool began in July 2001 and ended in December 2001.

Radio Awareness Project

A radio awareness project was launched in order to make young people more aware of the services to which they have access. 30-second clips that refer to a need and then relate it to a service with information on how to access it were produced. This is an annual project that started in December 2001 in cooperation with the Suicide Prevention Committee and the radio stations of the Chaleur region at no charge.

School to Work Transition Program

This training program and work internship enables youth to acquire employment skills while planning what they want to do with their lives. This program is targeted to students who had trouble graduating or who did not complete high school. 15 youth participated in the project from December 2001 to June 2002. Human Resources Development Canada, Family and Community Services and Training and Employment Development partnered together on this initiative.

Follow-up of ESN Graduates

A survey was carried out with the help of the School to Work Transition program during an internship for the youth participants. June 2001 graduates of École Secondaire Nepisiguit were surveyed in an attempt to identify high-school graduates seeking work and youth at risk. 85% were reached during the telephone follow-up, which ran from January to February 2002.

Web Site

An interactive and informative web site on resources for youth in the Chaleur region was launched in February 2002 in an effort to promote programs and services to youth aged 12 to 29. Approximately 200 people attended the launch of the site: www.chaleuryouth.com. Since then, approximately 120 people visit the site daily. A co-ordinator has been hired to ensure that the site is kept up-to-date. Family and Community Services has been lead on this project.

Junior Achievement Atlantic Conference

17 youth from the Chaleur region participated in the conference held in Charlottetown, PEI from March 15-17, 2002. This activity helped to raise awareness of the business world among students in grades 9 to 12. TED was the primary partner in this initiative.

Alternative Schools

70 youth attended the District Transition Centre (School District 15) and over 30 youth participated in courses at the Learning Centre (School District 5) during the 2001-2002 school year. These alternative schools enable young people to earn their high school diploma by ensuring that the necessary supports are in place for these teens.

Youth in Business

Between April 2001 and March 2002, 59 entrepreneurs aged 18 to 29 were supported during the development of their business plans. Training and Employment Development and the Chaleur Development and Entrepreneurship Centre partnered together on this initiative.

Transit Program

During the 2001-2002 fiscal year, young adult offenders aged 18 and over were assisted with job placements and in their job search. A number of partners supported this initiative including Public Safety - Community and Correctional Services, Human Resources Development Canada, Training and Employment Development, and Family and Community Services.

ACTIVITIES /PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2002-2004

Directory of Services

A 100-page bilingual reference tool for youth and youth workers containing a list of programs and services offered by member agencies on the committee was developed. All members contributed information to be used in this document. The tool was compiled and produced in January and February 2004.

Web Site

An interactive and informative Web site on resources for youth in the Chaleur region was launched in February 2002 in an effort to promote programs and services to youth aged 12 to 29. Some 200 people attended the launch of the site www.chaleuryouth.com. Since then, the site has been visited by approximately 120 persons daily. A co-ordinator has been hired to ensure that the site is kept up to date. Family and Community Services has been the lead on this project.

Play – ADDICT

A play was staged to raise awareness and carry out prevention among people in the Chaleur region regarding the stages of the continuum of use. Young people aged 12 to 29, school staff, youth workers, and the general public were all targeted by this activity. The play *Aller savoir pourquoi* was presented in the Francophone schools, while a similar play was presented at the region's Anglophone high school – Bathurst High. More than 800 students attended the play, presented on November 20 and 21, 2003. Community and Correctional Services of Public Safety, schools in the Chaleur region, Addiction Treatment Services of the Acadie-Bathurst Health Network, and the Bathurst Youth Centre all partnered on this activity.

Youth Futures Week

A number of activities aimed at youth in our region were organized as part of Youth Futures Week from May 11 to 17, 2003. During that week, young people had access to information and lectures about the services available in our region. More specifically, activities included the Turnaround Achievement Awards Banquet, a quiz, Hawaiian night, family day, and a coffee break with a stress management theme.

Quiz

Students in Grades 6, 7, and 8 at the Robertville School took part in a quiz designed to increase youth awareness of the effects of drugs and alcohol and to help them achieve and maintain good mental health. A total of 136 students participated in this activity, held during Youth Futures Week.

Turnaround Achievement Awards Banquet

The aim of the Turnaround Achievement Awards Banquet is to help young people facing multiple barriers, become independent and achieves their full potential, both academically and socially, so they can enter the labour market. To do this, the efforts, commitment, and perseverance of at-risk youth who have made significant changes in their lives are celebrated at a banquet and awards ceremony that also pays tribute to the contribution of youth workers. A total of 23 young people received awards in the Chaleur region. The banquet was held on May 13.

Sixth Annual Small Business Week

Four activities aimed at youth were held during Small Business Week: a visit to a local business for Grade 11 and Grade 12 students, a lunch meeting with a guest speaker for New Brunswick Community College students and business people (which was postponed until February 11), the Young Entrepreneur of the Year Gala for young business people, and the Business Game Challenge for students and business people. These activities are designed to promote entrepreneurship among youth.

Alternative Experience Program

This 41-week program offers work experience to young people 16 to 29 years of age facing multiple barriers, while enabling them to acquire personal skills. Five weeks of recruitment and planning are followed by 36 weeks of work experience supported by supervision, mentoring, workshop, and follow-up activities. The program also includes an assessment of personal goals and an action plan, as well as an individual session and a group session every two weeks with follow-up and assessments of participants. There are 10 participants per program. Partners in this program include Human Resources Development Canada, Family and Community Services, and Training and Employment Development.

Chemin de carrière, sentier de vie

This training and internship program enables youth to acquire employment skills while planning their future. It is intended for students who have had difficulty earning their diplomas or have not completed high school. From June 24, 2003, to May 21, 2004, 10 young persons are taking part in this program offered jointly by Human Resources Development Canada, Family and Community Services, and Training and Employment Development.

Transit Program

During the 2003-2004 fiscal year, young adult offenders aged 18 and over were assisted with job placements and in their job search. In all, 31 clients were served in 2003. A number of partners supported this initiative, including Community and Correctional Services of Public Safety, Human Resources Development Canada, Training and Employment Development, and Family and Community Services.

Workshops

Workshops were organized to enable young people to discover their potential and their career opportunities and receive useful information about the labour market so they could prepare to enter the work force or return to school. Five workshops were offered in 2003-2004, on the following themes: Identify Your Skills, Entrepreneurship, Career Exploration, Planning and Keeping Your Job. The first workshop had only three participants, but this number increased with each subsequent workshop. There are now 12 or so participants per workshop.

Meeting of Guidance Counsellors

Guidance counsellors at the different schools met with people from the Career Resource Centre and Training and Employment Development for the purpose of preparing more complete academic and professional information so counsellors can be better informed and consequently provide more direction for youth while avoiding gaps. Although no gaps were identified, the dialogue was useful nonetheless.

Alternative Schools

During the 2003-2004 school year, the alternative schools remained active. There were 20 students at the K.C. Irving Centre, and there is a waiting list for these schools in both school districts. Alternative schools enable youth to earn their high school diploma while ensuring that they receive the necessary support.

Survey of Graduates

A questionnaire was developed to obtain information from Grade 12 students in the Anglophone and Francophone sectors about their career plans and needs. The survey was designed to identify high school graduates seeking work and youth at risk. The questionnaire was filled out by Francophone students. This study was conducted in partnership with the Francophone and Anglophone high schools in the Chaleur region in May and June 2001. Of the 254 respondents, 193, or 75%, wanted to pursue a postsecondary education. However, during telephone follow-up of 196 students, only 64% were actually doing this. The committee is preparing an action plan to find out more about this issue

Alpha Jeunesse Chaleur

The youth centre, in co-operation with Literacy N.B., is offering Alpha Jeunesse Chaleur classes to provide access to alternative schools for youth who would otherwise not be eligible. These classes are for students who have not completed Grade 9 and therefore do not have access to the alternative school at the K.C. Irving Centre or the NBCC. A total of 19 young persons are enrolled.

COMITÉ AVENIR JEUNESSE DE LA PÉNINSULE ACADIENNE

MANDATE

The mandate of the Avenir Jeunesse working committee is to encourage information sharing, partnerships, and the implementation of concerted actions aimed at the social, educational, and economic development of youth on the Acadian Peninsula.

WORKING STRUCTURE

The Comité Avenir Jeunesse de la Péninsule acadienne consists of a steering committee and a working committee. The steering committee is made up of approximately 10 regional directors from government agencies and 10 directors of community organizations and institutions. The working committee brings together more than 20 representatives of government agencies, community organizations and institutions. This committee is co-chaired by representatives from Human Resources Development Canada and Family and Community Services.

Under its new operational structure, the working committee, which meets every six weeks, intends to form four sectoral groups: health and wellness, social, employment, and education/training. This new structure is expected to be ratified during the fall, 2002. The group is exploring different possibilities that would enable the working committee to obtain long-term staffing, in financial partnership with the departments of Training and Employment Development, Family and Community Services, and Human Resources Development Canada.

The year 2001 was also marked by the lack of a co-ordinator for the group from the fall until August 2002, which resulted in a slowdown in the activities and projects for the period under review. However, there were some very positive achievements, including the development of several one-time contracts.

ACTIVITIES OR PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2001-2002

Web Site – Youth Directory

The youth directory covers all the services of the region's social, volunteer, and educational programs, as well as a host of other information, thus helping to fulfil the group's mandate of promoting the social, educational, and economic development of young people. Over the course of 2001-2002, the data was updated, and users were also offered the possibility of producing their own profiles.

Play

A play on bullying was presented as part of the series of plays about dropping out of school organized over the last two years. A great success, it encouraged young people to find out more and to take charge of their lives. A report about this initiative is available.

Youth Profile

Two parts of a four-phase study/survey of Acadian Peninsula youth has been completed. One of these, a socio-economic study focussing on the impact of poverty and the fisheries crisis on the health of young people, is now available. The second phase, a socio-demographic profile of Acadian youth, which assesses the current situation of young persons aged 15-29 in the areas of education, training, and job experience, is also available at the site www.jeunessepacadienne.org.

2002 Career Fair

The Career Fair was an initiative of the representative from the Acadian Peninsula Economic Development agency. The chief goal of the Career Fair project is to inform young people about the current labour market situation, future trends, and shortages in certain fields such as the industrial and professional sectors. This project is to be discussed in greater depth by the working committee.

ACTIVITIES /PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2002-2004

Group Project

The working committee adopted as its main goal the development of an action plan in response to the recommendations made by young people in various reports (Reference – Youth Forum – Passons à l'action 2002 and/or consultations held over the past six years). This group project was carried out using our new working group operational model consisting of four sectoral committees designed to encourage information sharing, partnership, and the implementation of concerted actions aimed at the social, educational, and economic development of young persons between the ages of 15 and 30.

The project consists in collecting the recommendations expressed by youth at the Passons à l'action 2000 forum, listing the recommendations made by agencies, at the forum, and through consultations, validating the actions by the steering committee, updating a work plan and distributing the recommendations to the sectoral groups, producing a critical path for each of the recommendations from all the working groups, and submitting an outline for the 2004-2005 strategic plan.

To ensure continuity and chart the course for 2004 and 2005, a strategic plan was developed over the past year in co-operation with all group members. Since this is based on a group project, we of course had to start by collecting recommendations made by youth over the past few years. A total of 110 recommendations were listed in a joint document. Each of the groups then adapted themes to ensure follow-up of these recommendations. On the basis of these themes, actions are targeted by each group in order of priority and will become the driving force behind the activities already under way and those to be implemented in 2004 and 2005.

Youth Profile

Following steps taken with the working group involved in developing this project and bringing it on line, a meeting was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2003, to take stock of the activities carried out after the profile was added to the Web site of the Comité Avenir Jeunesse as an update, facilitating the search for specific information and making it more accessible and more visible to the public.

The working group, with the support of Benoît Ferron of CUS and Samuel Lebreton of HRDC, completely organized the site, adding documents used in searches, i.e., questionnaire, standard profile, data reading and other relevant documents.

Questionnaire

A service agreement was established with a professor/researcher from the Université de Moncton for the design of a specific questionnaire, which was circulated to Grade 12 students at the District 9 high schools in May 2003. This will allow for effective follow-up of the students' training and employment efforts to ensure continuity of the existing profile on the Avenir Jeunesse Web site.

Career Fair 2003

A career fair with the theme “Explore My Future” was held thanks to the committee’s new strategic operational structure. Initiated by the Acadian Peninsula Economic Development initiative (education component), the project got under way with the participation of the human and financial resources of the Comité Avenir Jeunesse. The event was held on November 27, 2003, in the sports pavilion of the Université de Moncton, Shippagan campus. Nearly 1,500 students attended the event where 35 different career exhibits informed them about career opportunities. A member of the employment sectoral group was the motivator behind this activity, which was an unprecedented success.

Construction of Multipurpose Youth Complex

The sectoral groups were also very much involved in construction of the multipurpose youth complexes since young people were hired for the construction work. The goal was to provide them with some work experience. Most had no work experience in construction. They were assigned carpenters and an associate to promote learning. The carpenter helpers benefited from a weekly training session to ensure overall growth and personal and vocational development. They took part in all aspects of the construction of the centres, from the laying of the foundation to the finishing work.

Dialogue New Brunswick

Youth from the Acadian Peninsula had the opportunity to meet and chat with peers at a youth forum held in St. Andrews on the theme “Living Diversity: Rural vs. Urban.” It was a rewarding weekend of conciliation with young people from other areas.

Enterprise Peninsula Forum

The Comité Avenir Jeunesse was invited to attend the Enterprise Peninsula Forum so it could participate in the action plan aimed at stating the expectations of youth. Several young persons representing the Avenir Jeunesse sectoral groups were at the event, and a review was done of the activities of the Comité Avenir Jeunesse. Working groups were set up, and the participants were asked to express an opinion on the priority of the actions of Enterprise Peninsula.

Alternative Classes

Thanks to the close co-operation between School District 9 and Family and Community Services, alternative classes were established in 2003. There are four active classes on the Acadian Peninsula: one in each of Tracadie-Sheila, Shippagan, Caraquet and Neguac. These classes offer a program based on individual responsibility and socialization leading to independence of the participants. As a result of this initiative, several young persons have gone back to school and will complete high school.

Learning Associates

This is a new initiative being developed within the Comité Avenir Jeunesse. Learning associates are hired in the schools to assist students most at risk of dropping out. Learning associates keep a close eye on these students, helping them with their school work and providing them with support in all aspects of school life in an effort to keep them interested in their studies.

Crime Prevention

A group of young students from various parts of the Acadian Peninsula meet once a week to develop an activity targeting all youth between the ages of 14 and 25 on the Acadian Peninsula. The goal of the 2004 activity is to put an end to the cycle of prejudice and labelling that certain young people have inherited from earlier generations. These well-supported youth are firmly committed to doing something to eliminate bullying and taxing.

MIRAMICHI YOUTH SERVICES PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

MANDATE

Through the creation and coordination of innovative and relevant programs and services including counselling, education, career planning, skills training, volunteer and paid work placements, and employment, Miramichi youth will be assisted to:

- Become self-sufficient, contributing members of society;
- Avoid participation in criminal activity; and
- Become good citizens who participate fully in the workplace and community.

The Miramichi Youth Services Partnership (MYSP) 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 – youth with a criminal history or youth from minority groups.

WORKING STRUCTURE

The MYSP meets monthly from September to June. It is the working group which sets major directions for regional youth programming, identifies priorities, develops strategies and plans of action, works towards achieving agreed upon objectives, and evaluates and assesses outcomes.

The MYSP is supported by an advisory group - the Northumberland Youth Coalition - a group of more than twenty departments, organizations, and individuals who meet once a year or upon request to provide advice, input and support to the MYSP. Members of the Northumberland Youth Coalition participate upon request in sub-committees struck by the MYSP with responsibility for priority projects and activities.

ACTIVITIES /PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2001-2002

Miramichi Youth House

The committee's largest project to date - Miramichi Youth House - is progressing well. Funding was approved through the Human Resources Development Canada Homelessness Initiative, New Brunswick Housing, the Department of Justice Community Mobilization Initiative and Family and Community Services to purchase and renovate the former O'Neils Pub on the banks of the Miramichi River.

Youth care staff have been hired and there are currently 12 youth residing in the house. Miramichi Youth House has received some excellent publicity - CBC Radio, CBC Television, The Times Transcript, The Telegraph Journal and the Miramichi Leader have all done full-scale stories on this Youth initiative.

The group has also held two successful fundraisers - 12 Homeless Hours and a Giant Yard Sale in partnership with Moncton Head Start. In addition to fundraising efforts, they have done extensive community mobilization activities and made the Miramichi Community aware of the homelessness problem that exists in the community.

Rogersville Community Resource Centre

The Rogersville Community Resource Centre was a joint effort between Human Resources Development Canada, Training and Employment Development, Family and Community Services and the Village of Rogersville. A centre was established for all citizens of Rogersville and the surrounding area, and youth in particular. Residents now have access to computers with Internet capabilities, career related and job search information, as well as access to information on Federal and Provincial programs. This project was featured in a full page article in L'Acadie Nouvelle.

2002 – PRESENT

WORKING STRUCTURE

The MYSP meets monthly from September to June. It is the working group which sets major directions for regional youth programming, identifies priorities, develops strategies and plans of action, works towards achieving agreed upon objectives, and evaluates and assesses outcomes.

ACTIVITIES OR PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2002 - PRESENT

Miramichi Communications Project

The Miramichi Fellowship Centre in the rural village of Blackville is the site of the region's latest radio station -- LIFE 107.5 FM. This exciting project provided life skills training and employment experience to ten (10) at-risk youth.

The initial phases of the program included classroom instruction, but the most challenging and satisfying aspects of the program were the development from scratch of a radio station. Participants learned about radio station operations, acquired computer skills, erected the broadcast antenna, assembled the studio, and learned to produce news, weather, sports and advertising. Twenty-four (24) hour programming is now a reality and everyone has played the role of announcer / DJ.

This project provided the youth with especially successful opportunities for personal growth, job shadowing, acquisition of employment skills, and responsibility through participation in a service to the community. At the end of the initial project, five (5) youth went on to other opportunities while the remaining five (5) began Work Ability placements. During these placements and their extension to

March 2004, the participants gained additional work experience, and developed their skills in the areas of on-air presentation, hosting skills, and time management. The radio station received its approval from the CRTC in December 2003. At the end of the project, all of the participants will have returned to school or will have found full time employment.

Methadone Treatment Program

Several members of the MYSP have been actively involved in the work to establish a Methadone Treatment and Maintenance Program in the Miramichi. Large numbers of Miramichi youth who are addicted to opiates currently travel on a weekly basis to Fredericton, Cambridge Narrows or Moncton for treatment. A treatment program in Miramichi has been approved by the Miramichi Regional Health Authority as part of the Health and Business Plan and we hope to see the program in place early in the 2004 – 2005 fiscal year.

Partnership for a Drug Free Community

The Partnership for a Drug Free Community 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. The most successful event to date was the visit of George Chuvalo, a former Canadian heavyweight boxing champion, who delivered an extremely effective message on the effects of drugs on his family. Approximately 4800 youth from the community attended his presentations and feedback from the youth was very positive.

Stars & Quasars

STARS and QUASARS are two exciting and comprehensive Personal and Career Development Programs for youth at risk. The programs are located in 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 sixty-five (65) graduates since the start of the program. There have been more than forty (40) graduates in the last three (3) years. There are fourteen (14) youth expected to graduate in June 2004.

E-Learning Centre

The E-Learning Centre located at The Learning Centre in Miramichi West is a state of the art educational and video-conferencing facility. SMARTBoard, Polycom and computer technology have combined to enable facilitators to provide and to receive education on a variety of youth issues. Through the magic of this technology and its links in schools throughout the Miramichi Region, youth have been able to speak directly to astronauts, politicians, and youth on the other side of the world.

In an effort to improve the quality of services to youth in conflict with the law, the staff of the New Brunswick Youth Centre conducted a video conference with their counterparts in Scotland.

Miramichi Youth in Action 2003

This project served ten (10) at-risk youth participants who acquired life skills and employment skills while completing worthwhile community service projects. The project ran from May to October 2003.

The program began with a two (2) week life skills component, and continued with a series of community service projects under the guidance of a project coordinator. Project work was completed at a variety of venues including: Ritchie Wharf Park, City of Miramichi Trail System, Miramichi Natural History Museum, Rankin House, Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club, Mount Saint Joseph Outdoor Park, Strawberry Marsh Area, Communities in Bloom, Miramichi Irish Festival and the Miramichi Gymnastics Club. Eight (8) of the initial ten (10) participants completed the project in October. From this group, six (6) participants received Work Ability placements in an effort to move them along their career paths. The projects were well received, and we look forward to Miramichi Youth in Action 2004.

Rogersville Community Resource Centre

A vibrant centre in the Village of Rogersville was established to meet a variety of needs of youth, and of the community in general. The centre offers access to computers with Internet capabilities, career and job search information, and access to information on a wide range of Federal and Provincial government programs.

Miramichi Youth House

Miramichi Youth House 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 building renovations were completed. The official opening of this beautiful facility on the banks of the Miramichi River was held in January 2003.

Funding was received through the Human Resources Development Canada Homelessness Initiative, Family and Community Services – Housing, Family and Community Services – HRD, and the Department of Justice Community Mobilization Initiative.

To date, more than ninety (90) youth have been accommodated at MYH. In an effort to become self-supporting, Miramichi Youth House Inc has vigorously sought the support of major foundations and has held a number of fundraising activities. All youth residing in MYH are expected to attend school or post-secondary training, receive counselling or therapy, or be gainfully employed.

The dedicated staffs 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.

Construction Labourer / Interior and Exterior Construction Skills Programs

These programs started prior to 2002, but continued into 2003. More than thirty (30) participants acquired a variety of construction skills while completing a series of projects which benefited the community.

The most notable of the projects was the construction of the Miramichi Skate Park, located in Miramichi East, which is the largest outdoor skate park facility in the Atlantic Provinces. In a unique approach to this type of facility, skate boarders, rollerbladers and BMX bikers have shared the facility in a cooperative and productive fashion. The well-supervised facility has hosted a number of competitions, and provides a healthy alternative for a large number of the area's youth.

Internship Placements

Through a wide range of internship placements, Human Resources Development Canada has continued to meet the critical need for employment experience relevant to post-secondary education. This program has benefited youth, employers, and the community. It is an important piece of the continuum of service to youth.

YOUTH SERVICES PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SOUTHEAST REGION

MANDATE

To plan, co-coordinate and develop strategies, programs and services to support the efforts of youth to enter the labour market.

WORKING STRUCTURE

The Southeast Youth Services Partnership Committee takes direction from the region's Youth Omnibus Committee – a committee of directors from different provincial and federal government departments that deal with the needs of youth. At this time, the Youth Services Partnership Committee meets monthly and is focusing primarily on activities relating to the awareness and visibility of programs and services for youth. There is also the Service Management Team. This committee is comprised of representatives from Human Resources Development Canada, Family and Community Services NB and Training and Employment development NB. The committee is responsible for informing, coordinating and seeking partnership opportunities to meet the needs of their respective clients. The committee meets monthly.

ACTIVITIES /PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2001-2002

Conference – Youth: Assets, Partnerships and You

In partnership with the Greater Moncton Youth First Committee, the Southeast Youth Services Partnership Committee organised a conference in November 2001 for persons working with youth.

The goal of this conference was to create awareness, improve the visibility and coordinate the delivery of youth programs and services in communities across South-eastern New Brunswick. The event, hosted by Human Resources Development Canada, Family and Community Services, Training and Employment Development, and Public Safety, attracted over 175 persons working with youth in the region and proved to be a big success and a catalyst for other activities.

Web Site of Youth Services in the Southeast Region

This on-going project involves the creation, research and marketing of a one-stop information source of available services for youth in the region. The Web Site will be a valuable tool for youth, parents and persons working with youth and will create awareness, improve the visibility and coordinate the delivery of youth programs and services. Partners involved with this initiative include Human Resources Development Canada and Family and Community Services.

ACTIVITIES OR PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2002 - PRESENT

Committee restructuring

2002-2003 saw a restructuring of the Omnibus Committee for Youth and Children and the Youth Services Partnership Committee. This eliminated some duplication between the committees and provided a clear definition of the roles and responsibilities for each committee.

www.getanswers.ca / www.desreponses.ca

On September 18, 2003, www.getanswers.ca / www.desreponses.ca were launched. This was the culmination of a two year project which involved the creation, research and marketing of a one-stop information source of available services for youth in the region. The Web Site is a valuable tool for youth, parents and persons working with youth and will create awareness, improve the visibility and coordinate the delivery of youth programs and services. The initiative was funded by Human Resources Development Canada and Family and Community Services NB.

Services for youth non-recipients of Employment Insurance and Social Assistance

The Youth Service Partnership Committee is currently examining the possibility of creating an entry point for assessment and case management of youth that are non-recipients of Employment Insurance and Social Assistance. This responds to a need identified by various partners as well as the Greater Moncton Community Plan on Homelessness.

YOUTH WORK READINESS COMMITTEE (SAINT JOHN)

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

Community agencies, government service providers, and youth meet on a regular basis to develop, sustain and support local initiatives which address needs of the Youth in our community.

ACTIVITIES /PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2001- 2002

The Resource Centre for Youth

The primary goal of this committee is ‘THE RESOURCE CENTRE FOR YOUTH’. This vision is for a one stop shopping facility for youth where they can access health service, self development programs, work readiness resources, recreation and opportunities for community involvement.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Charlotte County Youth Services Partnership Committee has been inactive for several years but plans to begin exploring interest and opportunities to re-establish partnerships.

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 services, focusing primarily on the education, training, and employment areas.

WORKING STRUCTURE

The frequency of committee meetings is relevant to the business at hand. On some occasions, the meetings have been biweekly to work on a common project, while at other times the committee has not met for a few months. The committee works as a whole on some projects, while other projects involve a couple of partners who consult with the committee.

The membership and commitment of the committee has remained steady over the past year, and the group has been involved in many successful endeavors. At present, the group is undertaking an analysis of its role, activities, and future plans. A number of potential stakeholders are being considered for possible expansion of the current Committee membership, with an eye to broadening the scope of expertise around the table. The Committee has recently secured administrative help, and it is hoped that the assistance provided will be of benefit to the group with regards to increasing communications and information sharing.

ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2001-2002

Committee Members Web Site

The Fredericton Youth Services Partnership Committee *Members Only Section* of the Fredericton Youth Information Services Web Site provides a secure online forum, or “virtual boardroom” for the Committee’s work. This tool enables the group to hold live online meetings, provides a place to find agendas and minutes of meetings, as well as other reference information and updates that members will find useful in their work. This initiative is ongoing.

Youth Service Gap Determination Study

The Fredericton Youth Services Partnership initiated a *Youth Service Gap Determination Study* of Fredericton and surrounding areas. The study and its subsequent report provides information that the Committee hopes will assist youth in meeting their full potential related to education, training, employment, and personal development. The three main results from this study – a list of cornerstone employability skills, a skills-training gap analysis, and a suggestion that a model be created to address the skills-training gap, are further outlined in a report that:

- Identifies the skills required by youth if they are to reach their full potential in relation to employment and personal development;
- Determines what gaps exist between the skills seen as important by employers and the training available to obtain them; and
- Identifies the need to create a model that will help youth analyze their skill sets, plan a course of action to fill the gaps, and research access to training or counselling in those skills.

The Committee is currently examining the results of the report. Further details of the study and its findings will be forthcoming.

Fredericton Youth Information Services

This initiative arose from a commitment to bring information and resources to youth in Fredericton and surrounding areas. It exists in the form of a youth-oriented web site www.youthinfo.ca, which provides an extensive directory of youth programs and services in the area. It also offers other interactive features such as a listserv and an electronic bulletin board. All Fredericton Youth Services Partnership Committee members have contributed in some form to the realization of Fredericton Youth Information Services. This is an on-going project.

Job Find 2002 – Job Fair Project

A number of FYSP Committee members were intricately involved in the development of Job Find 2002. Job Find 2002 was a partnership to connect local residents to educational resources as well as employers who have jobs available in Fredericton and surrounding areas. A variety of well attended workshops were also held during the job fair on topics such as: Customer Contact Centres and Information Technology – How to Excel in This Environment; The Hidden Job Market & Job Searching with the Internet; The Importance of a Positive Attitude, Knowing Your Personal Strengths & Other Interview Skills. Fifty-nine employers were present over the two days Job Find 2002 ran, and more than one thousand jobs were available to potential candidates. A total of 7,100 people attended the event. Approximately 3,000 attendees filled out survey forms, and the information gathered is currently being examined.

“It’s a Big World Out There!” Career Info Workshop for Parents & Youth

The Fredericton Youth Services Partnership Committee offered a free evening workshop for approximately one hundred parents, caring adults and youth to learn about today’s career opportunities. It featured a well-known leader in the career development field, Lynne Bezanson, Executive Director of the Canadian Career Development Foundation. The workshop informed participants about the nature of change in the workforce, the importance of following one’s heart in determining a career choice, and demonstrated how caring adults can be “allies” in a teen’s career journey. Participants who responded to surveys after the workshop were nearly unanimous in their approval of this event.

WORKING STRUCTURE 2002-2003

The membership and commitment of the committee increased in 2002. The committee benefited from the services of a coordinator who was responsible for the logistics of setting up meetings, doing minutes and follow up etc. This really helped the committee to accomplish more and grow. Unfortunately, there is no ongoing funding mechanism to support the YSP committees so we are without that service in 2003.

One of the successes of 2002-2003 was a session where the group undertook an analysis of its role, activities, and future plans. In this session, it was confirmed the committee would serve an action-oriented function with the following purpose: “...To identify and collaborate on initiatives that address the work-related needs of targeted youth populations.” The term targeted youth was agreed upon to give the FYSPC the flexibility to reach and/or interact with a variety of potential youth audiences at any given point in time as determined by the Committee membership. A number of potential stakeholders were added to the membership, with an eye to broadening the scope of expertise.

ACTIVITIES /PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2002-2003

Defining Youth at Risk

The committee determined that one of the difficulties in addressing the needs of youth was the broad scope of the definition of Youth at Risk. As a result, a subcommittee looked at refining the definition for our purposes. The YSP committee then decided that it would target a specific segment of the youth-at-risk population as its primary focus. The segment of the youth-at-risk population which is the current focus is “those individuals between the ages of 16-18 who, among other descriptors, can be characterized as being individuals living outside the family home and/or having dropped out of high school.”

Youth Storefront

The committee initiated the idea of a youth storefront. Phase 1 would create a storefront to refer youth to existing services. Phase 2 would develop and deliver services based on gaps identified in existing services, in order to address the social and employment needs of youth. This is a huge undertaking and will most likely begin but not be fully in place this year. It will likely take 2 years to implement and will depend on the committee’s ability to find partners.

Rural Youth

The committee started a project with the John Howard Society in 2002-2003, which is now nearing completion. The focus of the project is rural youth. Seven rural youth participated in the program. There were several objectives but primarily we wanted to assist youth from rural areas in making more "pro-social choices" through learning about and applying Choice Theory. These seven interns are completing a work placement within their community with a Non-Profit Agency.

They have also been given Soft Skills training and Choice Theory Training. Each participant will be Co-Facilitating a Living Our Choices Workshop with 3 to 9 participants from their own community. The Interns will get their Advanced Practicum in Choice Theory and go on to certification in August, 2004.

Trade and Technology Expo

A Trades and Technology Expo is being planned for our area next spring. This will be supported by the FYSP. This one-day expo will focus on youth but include the general public. The plan is to have as many trades and technologies as possible represented but there will also be a focus on present and predicted shortages identified in a recent employer survey. One goal is to encourage the participation of parents.

SAINT JOHN RIVER VALLEY YOUTH PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

MANDATE

The Youth Partnership Committee is government and non-governmental organizations working together to address youth issues.

WORKING STRUCTURE

The committee meets approximately every six weeks and consists of six sub-committees. The group work plan session outlines the focus for the upcoming year. The majority of work occurs at the sub-committee level. The six sub-committees include: Membership, Housing Issues Relevant to Homeless Youth, Public Relations, Youth Pamphlet, Youth Recognition Awards, and the Perth Youth Partnership Sub-Committee.

ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2001-2002

Perth Sub-Committee

Due to the large geographical area that the committee covers, it was decided to establish a sub-committee in the Perth area to ensure an equal voice for the Perth/Plaster Rock youth. This sub-committee has met twice to establish membership and an understanding of the work of the members at the table. The next step is to organise a work planning session.

Research - Youth Homelessness

During 2000-2001, research began on the question of the existence or absence of relative or absolute homelessness in the youth population in the committee area. The research was completed in 2001-

2002 and posed several recommendations from the findings to the Youth Partnership Committee. The committee is currently analysing what all members can bring to the table in support of the recommendations. The committee will decide what, if any resources, can be established from a group collaboration effort.

Youth Pamphlet

The Youth Pamphlet is a telephone directory that stretches from Nackawick to Plaster Rock. The purpose of the pamphlet is to have a readily available reference guide for Saint John River Valley youth. The pamphlet has been translated and is ready for publication. Laminated wallet size cards will also be produced to supplement the pamphlet.

The pamphlet contains contact numbers for youth related services and programs in regards to the following: Someone to Talk To, School Guidance, Emergency Help Line, Pastoral Counselling/Emergency Lodging, Medical Help, Pregnancy Counselling, Legal Services, Career Counselling or Finding a Job, Entrepreneurial Training, Student Financing, Volunteering, Emergency Food or Clothing, Addiction Problems, Youth Parent Support, Help for Abused or Those in Danger of Being Abused, Training, Residential Services, Recreational Services, Education for the Disabled, Emergency/Crisis, Family Planning, Recreation for the Disabled, and a listing of Helpful Web Sites.

Youth Turn-Around Achievement Awards Program

The main objective of the Turn-Around Achievement Awards was to reward “at risk” students who turned their lives around. The awards recognized improvements in student’s behaviour, attitude and academics. Students from each school who have demonstrated the most effort, commitment and perseverance in turning around their lives were recognized. The awards also recognized the teachers who gave up their time to work with these youth.

This year, Barrett Corporation sponsored the Youth Turn-Around Awards. The ceremony, including a light lunch, took place on May 28, 2002. In total, 26 students received awards. The guest speaker was former NHL hockey player Tony Currie. This was Barrett Corporation’s first year of involvement with the awards and they are planning to continue their sponsorship of this program.

Youth Forum - Building Pathways to Link Youth and Communities

Building Pathways to Link Youth and Communities was showcased in February 2002. The Forum was the result of the Saint John River Valley Partnership Committee’s desire to obtain a thorough assessment of what resources are currently available to youth aged 15-30 with the direct goal of further improving services and access to services for all youth in Victoria, Carleton and York counties. A full report is available.

2002 – PRESENT

WORKING STRUCTURE

The Woodstock committee meets approximately every six weeks and consists of four working committees and one sub-committee in Perth, which has two working committees. The group work plan session outlines the focus of the upcoming year. The majority of work occurs at the working committee level. The four working committees include: Building Pathways to Link Youth & Communities; Committee Structure; Prevention Awareness Committee; and Public Relations. The Perth Youth Partnership Sub-Committee meets once a month and has two working committees, which include: Building Pathways to Link Youth & Communities and Membership Committee. As of May 2003, the Committee has gained the assistance of an Administrative Service Coordinator to provide administrative assistance to the Youth Partnership Committee and working committees.

ACTIVITIES OR PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2002 - PRESENT

Work Planning Session – January 2003

The YPC is currently focusing on 4 major themes:

1. Funding
2. Leadership
3. Programs
4. Membership

From these themes the committee decided to form four working committees. They are the Prevention Committee; the Building Pathways to Link Youth & Communities Committee; Committee Structure; and Public Relations Committee. The Youth Partnership Committee's next step is for each committee to develop objectives and then develop their activities.

Building Pathways to Link Youth & Communities – Resource Guide

From the Building Pathways to Link Youth & Communities workshop held in February 2002, the youth had identified a weakness in communication links that exist between Youth, service providers and the community at large. The Youth Partnership Committee created a Resource Guide that provides a listing of the different service providers along the Saint John River Valley who may have relative information for Youth.

A telephone survey was completed in November 2003 in order to determine if the Building Pathways Resource Guide is being used within the Carleton and Victoria counties. From this telephone survey it was determined that many professionals in the area are using the Resource Guide and many positive comments were expressed. This Resource Guide is a working document and is updated twice a year, once in May and once in November. This document is being housed at the Culture & Sport Secretariat in Woodstock.

Follow up workshop from the Building Pathways workshop in 2002

Currently, the Building Pathways working committees in Woodstock and Perth are working together in the continuation of Building Pathways to Link Youth and Communities. This committee has decided it is time to bring the people from the community back to discuss primary and secondary concerns within a certain area. The area of focus for this pilot project is Plaster Rock and the surrounding area. This project is still in the initial planning stages.

YPC Brochure

This YPC brochure was created for distribution to various organizations along the Saint John River Valley. The brochure explains the following: YPC's past accomplishments; objectives to Support our Mission; the Work plan and it also lists the committee members involved. This YPC brochure is currently being printed and will be distributed to various communities within the region.

Historical Snapshot

The Woodstock Youth Partnership Committee decided to create an orientation package for new members who join the committee and to also go hand-in-hand with the YPC Power Point Presentation. This package explains where the committee is from, what the committee is currently doing and has done in the past. This package includes the following: current membership list; current work plan; list and description of accomplishments; YPC brochure; Youth Phone Directory; Framework document; Partnership Workshop; Terms of Reference and Resource Booklet. The orientation package is currently in the printing stage and copies will be provided to all members.

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

Sarah Touchie	Human Resources Development Canada (co-chair)
Angela Carr	Family & Community Services (co-chair)
Joe Brennan	Education (Anglophone)
Pierre Dumas	Education (Francophone)
Jean Claude Power	Training & Employment Development
Ivan Corbett	New Brunswick Advisory Council on Youth
Bob Eckstein	Public Safety
Jim Jones	Training & Employment Development - NBCC
Barry Wishart	Culture and Sport Secretariat

APPENDIX B

Current Local Committee Co-Chairs

Moncton Region	Jo-Anne Nadeau, FCS Robert Cormier, HRSDC
Saint John Region	David Hayes, FCS Gloria Boyd, HRSDC
Charlotte Region:	Bob Conley, FCS Debbie Scullin, HRSDC
Fredericton Region:	John Otteson, FCS Lois Williams, HRSDC Bev Noddin, TED
Woodstock Region:	Melanie Dingee, FCS Donna Hanson, HRSDC
Northwest Region:	Michel Charette, FCS Luc Levesque, HRSDC
Chaleur Region:	Lynn Richard, FCS Paul Bélanger, HRSDC
Restigouche Region:	Donna Cormier-Pitre, FCS Brigitte Gray-Carroll, HRSDC
Miramichi Region:	Don Lynch, FCS Marc Savoie, HRSDC
Acadian Peninsula Region:	Ghislain Cormier, FCS Roger Robichaud, HRSDC

APPENDIX C

Provincial and Local Committees Composition

PARTNERS	PROVINCIAL	CHARLOTTE	FREDERICTON	WOODSTOCK	NORTHWEST	RESTIGOUCHE	CHALEUR	PENINSULA	MIRAMICHI	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST
Human Resources Skills Development 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)			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Provincial Committee				✓		✓	✓				

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