



*ANNUAL REPORT ON
YOUTH SERVICES PARTNERSHIP*

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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 2004-2005.

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 and Skills Development 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 Human Resources and Skills Development 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 4-6 times per year to manage ongoing business and task groups are used to carry out selected projects.

Activities/Projects carried out in 2004-2005

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 2004

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 Human Resources and Skill Development Canada and shared the expenses associated with this conference.

In 2004, the conference was held in Fredericton, May 4-5. There were presentations by invited guests including Bob Eckstein (Public Safety), Louise Branch (Director General, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada) and Don Ferguson (Deputy, Family and Community Services).

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

Activities/Projects carried out in 2004-2005

Alternative Classes

The Edmundston & Grand Falls region wants to make a difference in the lives of young persons aged 15 to 20 by offering them alternative classes that will enable them to experience success now and in the future. This is a collaborative effort involving Parachute Info jeunes Inc., School District #3, and Region 4's YSP partners. Our goal is to have between 10 and 15 students per class in fall 2005.

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 2004-2005

Mailout to Restigouche employers (Annual activity for over 8 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 union workers with the benefits of employment programs and to collect information on 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 widely promoted through 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 (Annual activity for over 8 years)

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 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.

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.

Summer Employment Promotion (2004)

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 chosen student, as well as his or her 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 between organizations, the Turnaround Achievement Awards initiative was held again for a fourth consecutive year. Twenty-seven students were recognized for their efforts to turn their lives around during a celebration held at the Campbellton Civic Centre on June 14, 2005. The evening was a huge success, and many positive comments were received from those in attendance. A 5th recognition ceremony is planned for May 2006.

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

Thanks to an ongoing partnership between organizations, an outreach worker continued to be employed in the Campbellton / Kedgwick / Saint-Quentin areas 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.

School to Work Transition Program (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 enables young people to acquire employment skills while planning their future. A 2nd and 3rd group began in January 2005 and will finish in June/July 2005.

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. Its Web site was developed in 1998 through a three-month project, but the world of the Internet is advancing at such a rapid pace that, if we want to keep up, the site needed to be upgraded. Back in 1998, we designed the site in response to the requests of the different stakeholders. Today, we plan to give it a younger, more active image. The committee members agree 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. The committee has joined with several partners that could benefit from this kind of tool. The updating is focused on providing information while making the site interactive and attractive for young people. (www.jry.org)

Get up and Go! (2004 activity)

Get up and Go! was initiated by several Restigouche agencies to encourage students and the public to find out about job opportunities in the Restigouche area and different possible careers or develop a career plan in order to better prepare to enter the labour market. Local employers also had the opportunity to post available positions. The career fair was held in an interactive environment facilitating exchanges between visitors and exhibitors. The fair was divided into five distinct sectors: health, services, wood and metal works, construction, and agri-food. A number of educational institutions and employers were present in those representative sectors, as well as other institutions and/or employers that were located elsewhere in the gymnasium.

Skating Rally (2004)

Together with several Jeunesse Restigouche Youth partners, our first skating rally was presented in November 2004. The event was aimed at promoting services and programs through physical activity. About 300 young people attended.

Youth Forum (2004)

The Restigouche Youth Forum, held March 18, 2005, at the Campbellton Civic Centre, was designed to provide an opportunity for young people to identify their needs and the obstacles they face in relation to their integration into the Restigouche labour market. The Forum was geared toward young people aged 15 to 29 from all over the Restigouche region. The young people were invited to participate in six focus groups to discuss subjects that could facilitate better integration into the labour market, including:

- education,
- entrepreneurship,
- employability,
- community involvement (volunteer work),
- the youth exodus, and lastly,
- crime prevention.

Radio awareness campaign (Ongoing activity since 1998)

A radio awareness campaign was launched for the seventh consecutive year to inform listeners 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.

Employers/Employees Post-secondary Promotion (2003-2004-2005)

To provide a positive image of employment in the Restigouche region, an initiative promoting post-secondary education was implemented to show Restigouche young people that there are job opportunities for those with post-secondary training.

According to a survey of the Restigouche-Chaleur labour market conducted in May 2003 by Roche Atlantic, 33% of Restigouche young people had not finished high school, and 76% of young people were considering leaving the region in the next five years. In our opinion, this was a situation that needed to be examined very closely.

To counter this trend, a promotional campaign was undertaken in one of the local newspapers, and the expenses were covered by Jeunesse Restigouche Youth. All of the Jeunesse Restigouche Youth members played a very important role in this large-scale event. Two local newspapers also took part actively. What is more, the promotion provided an opportunity to make people more aware of the programs and services available to employers and the reality of the local labour market. This initiative was a great success and was offered to 700 employers in the region.

My Roots, My Future (2005)

This initiative consisted of welcoming 30 former Restigouche residents who were willing to return to work in the region. The objectives were to:

- Find work for 50% of the participants.
- Identify 30 jobs available in the Restigouche region in order to make a potential match with the participants concerned.
- Let the participants, businesses, and the Restigouche community know that:
 - there are jobs in the Restigouche area;
 - it's a great place to live; and
 - the business community is active.

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 Skill Development Canada (HRSDC). 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 subcommittee members will meet according to the needs identified, and working groups will be in charge of specific projects.

Activities/Projects carried out in 2004-2005

Intersection Jeunesse-Emploi

This project was geared toward meeting two needs: motivating at-risk youth to obtain the training required to get a job with the aim of filling positions in occupations with shortages in the Chaleur region. The *2002 New Brunswick Occupations in Shortage or Surplus* study was used as a reference, in addition to consultation with the local labour unions. Three trades were identified as having shortages in the region: plumbers, carpenters, and bricklayers. Two hundred information sheets were developed on those trades and submitted to the Career Information Centre. Presentations were given in the literacy classes in the Chaleur region.

Workshops

Workshops designed to teach employability skills to young people were offered to youth in the region. Several themes were covered, including self-esteem, communication, teamwork and conflict management, as well as time management. Four workshops were presented with an average of 10 participants per workshop.

Post-secondary education awareness

The goal of this activity was to facilitate the transition from school to post-secondary education. Two presentations were organized, one in French at ESN and one in English at BHS. Different themes were touched on during several workshops, including budgeting, student loans, time management, and career options. Samuel Lebreton of HRSDC gave a presentation on the labour market. More than 50 young people participated in these workshops. The school boards also participated in the content of the workshops.

Conclusion

The co-ordinator had some difficulties reaching local youth at risk. The lack of outreach street workers in the region limited contact with this clientele and the possibilities of referring them to services and programs. One challenge for the Youth Futures Committee will be to implement mechanisms to facilitate better identification of at-risk youth in the region.

COMITE AVENIR JEUNESSE DE LA PENINSULE 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.

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 or Projects Carried out in 2004-2005

Alternative classes

The content of alternative class activities continues to be enhanced. This type of initiative is a very topical issue. Many agreements are made for the young people attending the alternative classes. Several courses were set up with the assistance of the Acadian Peninsula's community college. A number of activities took place during the students' graduation thanks to the co-operation of the community foundation.

Je reviens je reste [Coming back to stay]

This was another project where, with the committee's co-operation, demographic data were provided for holding the May 2004 event. Nancy Roussel of RDÉE worked with a team to organize presentations with Michel Legault for young people living in the area, something new this year.

Ma qualité de vie Carrière 2005 [My quality of life Career 2005]

Two projects initiated by the multipurpose youth complexes, "Carrière sur mesure" [tailor-made career] and "Ma qualité de vie Carrière 2005," were carried out in co-operation with HRSDC, Training and Employment Development (TED), and FCS. Single mothers get work experience and training with the aim of returning to school or entering the labour market.

Je me prends en main [Taking charge of my life]

Another initiative launched with the help of various parties, the "Je me prends en main" program gives young people the opportunity to participate in positive work and teamwork experiences.

L'Acadie Nouvelle

An agreement was reached with *L'Acadie Nouvelle* allowing our youth to benefit from a forum where they can express their opinion on current issues, just like other Acadian Peninsula residents.

O.I.R.

A committee worked on developing PHASE A, a feasibility study concerning the ***Observatoire d'Information et de Recherche de la Péninsule acadienne*** (O.I.R.) [Acadian Peninsula research and information observatory]. A project should be finalized in 2006.

Healthy Eating

The Health and Wellness group held a luncheon with high school students from Shippagan to discuss healthy eating and to get some ideas about our role in the schools in order to help young people make better choices regarding their overall health.

Ruée vers les études [Back to school day]

A lot of work was done on the strategic committee aimed at encouraging people wishing to change career paths or get training to help improve their potential for accessing higher-paying jobs to go back to school. The purpose of the event was to assist participants who are not always aware of the programs that can facilitate their return to school. More than 200 people came to get information.

Vois comme c'est beau [Look how beautiful it is!]

This large-scale project was designed to raise awareness among young people and adults on the Peninsula about the wonders surrounding us that are often taken for granted.

Thirty young people pitched in to take photos, compose a theme song, and create an exhibition of their work. This was an opportunity for them to demonstrate their potential and show that Acadia is unique. The talents of our young people, our sunsets, and the ability to work as a team were all combined for the purpose of involving as many young people as possible in an activity that brought them together.

Jour J [Youth day]

Youth day is a project that was carried out with the financial participation of Crime Prevention. Small groups of young people met in the community to discuss a topic of concern to them and prepare a gathering with the aim of finding concrete solutions with their peers to eliminate the issue in question. In the end, about 20 stakeholders worked together to develop awareness-raising workshops and give young people an opportunity to discuss this problem and their experience. The youth day became youth days along the way as more time was needed. The topic is complex and the youth wanted to express themselves. Two days of activities were held where more than 100 young people engaged in dialogue and decided to meet in 2006 to work on developing a tool for raising awareness, possibly a short film, for which they have already worked out a scenario. We will need to come back to this, as this is just the tip of the iceberg. Some young people are discovering leadership talents and developing new avenues that they never imagined possible. Our youth gained confidence as they prepared activities surrounding topics such as “bullying”...an unexpected outcome.

Reality 2005-2006

The information session entitled *Pour que l'emploi ait un avenir* [ensuring a future for employment] was held for youth. This was a very popular topic. More than 300 young people received information on emerging and high-demand occupations through the co-operation of the HRDC Youth Awareness program.

We had the opportunity to co-operate on several other activities through letters of support or our presence at meetings. Last summer, we were involved with the Maison des jeunes [youth centre] committee in Shippagan and attended several meetings. We did several interview sessions on the street with the young people of Tracadie, Caraquet, and Shippagan over the summer to better understand their concerns and interests. Also, we went on the radio on Thursdays to promote the Comité Avenir Jeunesse.

In addition to these activities, we participated in conferences and workshops on various topics, including leadership, social inclusion, and the challenges of volunteer work, as well as other topics such as Forging Links. It was very enriching. Several interesting meetings were held with Collectivité

ingénieuse de la Péninsule Acadienne (CIPA) employees over the past year to discuss having a youth corner as part of the Acadian Peninsula portal.

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 2004-2005

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 eight (8) at-risk youth.

The initial phases of the program included classroom instruction, but the most challenging and satisfying aspects of the program were the actual hands-on work at the radio station. Participants learned about radio station operations, acquired computer skills, 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.

Five (5) youth successfully completed the project. Three (3) of the five were extended for several months. During these placements and their extension, the participants gained additional work

experience, and developed their skills in the areas of on-air presentation, hosting skills, and time management. One (1) individual has since opened her own business – a convenience store.

The radio station originally received its approval from the CRTC in December 2003. The station applied to the CRTC for permission to re-broadcast over a larger geographic area of Northumberland County.

Ready – To - Work

This four (4) week program is a national sector-based internship program which assists individuals 18 years of age and up who are unemployed or working part-time to prepare for full time employment in the workforce. Participants received training and certification in WHMIS, First Aid / CPR, and customer service. Emphasis was placed on such topics as: professionalism, communication skills, teamwork, safety and sanitation, office administration, food and beverage service and job search skills. At least two (2) job interviews per participant were arranged at the end of the program. Employers who agreed to hire a participant were offered financial incentives by the Tourism Industry Association of New Brunswick (TIANB)

Through a partnership between Family and Community Services and TIANB, a very successful program was offered in July 2004 at the Miramichi Fellowship Centre, Blackville.

Methadone Treatment Program

Several members of the MYSP have been actively involved since the beginning of the work to establish a Methadone Treatment and Maintenance Program in the Miramichi. Over the past several years, large numbers of Miramichi youth travelled on a weekly basis to Fredericton, Cambridge Narrows or Moncton for Methadone treatment. A treatment program in Miramichi was approved by the Miramichi Regional Health Authority as part of the Health and Business Plan for 2004-2005. The Miramichi Area Recovery Clinic opened its doors in Miramichi East in mid-fall 2004. At the end of the 2004-2005 fiscal year, the clinic was serving 109 clients of which 52 are youth. There were 142 clients on the waiting list of which 78 were 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, an Addictions Social Worker and a receptionist / secretary. Through the Work Ability Program, an FCS client and a TED client were placed at the clinic for six (6) months each as a Public Relations Officer and an Addictions Support Worker respectively.

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 group completed work this year in the area of developmental assets for youth. A survey of 3200 youth in the region's middle schools and high schools was conducted in March 2005. Mary Lynn Jardine, Youth Coordinator for the City of Miramichi Recreation Department will be attending a Train the Trainer program in Toronto on developmental assets and will provide regional training to representatives of provincial and federal government departments, municipalities, and First Nations communities

Village Of Rogersville – Skills Link Work Experience

The Village of Rogersville sponsored three (3) youth clients of Family and Community Services for work experiences with Public Works, the Village Office and the Rogersville Resource Centre respectively from July 2004 to March 2005.

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 sixty-five (65) graduates since the start of the programs. Fifteen additional (15) youth will graduate in June 2005.

Lasting Gifts

Sharon Campbell, Career Consultant and Lisette Durelle, Case Manager at FCS offered Lasting Gifts programs in Blackville and Miramichi this year. The programs were successful. They provided support to youth by offering their parents information and activities that the parents could, in turn, use with their teenage children to assist them to understand the labour market and to make good career decisions. These sessions were available on a referral basis to clients of partner departments – Education, Training and Employment Development, Public Safety and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. Additional programs are planned for the coming year.

Miramichi Youth In Action 2004

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 December 2004.

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, Mount Saint Joseph Outdoor Park, Strawberry Marsh Area, Communities in Bloom.

Six (6) of the initial ten (10) participants completed the project in December. Most of the original 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 2005.

A significant challenge arose during this program when several participants made allegations of harassment and sexual harassment against the coordinator and assistant coordinator. Miramichi City police were notified and, at the end of March 2005, the investigation was still ongoing. A new coordinator was hired, a human resources specialist conducted an internal investigation, and as a result of the recommendations from the investigation, additional team building sessions including life skills and employability skills were held for the remaining participants. Family and Community Services – HRD provided psychological counselling services to several participants. All participants who completed the program did so with increased self-esteem and the ability to cope with conflict in the workplace.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

Tara White, a “youthful” Case Manager from FCS and her colleague Lisa Blackmore, an Employment Counsellor from TED, completed the building of their own portfolios and received their certification for the program on their way to being certified as PLAR Practitioners. They will be jointly facilitating PLAR Programs in the future and will serve both youth and adult clients.

Miramichi Youth House

Miramichi Youth House (MYH) 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 & Skills Development Canada Homelessness Initiative, Family and Community Service, and the Department of Justice Community Mobilization Initiative.

More than ninety (90) youth were accommodated at MYH before it closed down temporarily in August 2004 due to financial difficulties. The house reopened in October 2004 with a new Board of Directors. Financial assistance to operate for the balance of the fiscal year was provided by both federal (HRSDC) and provincial (Regional Development Commission) governments in the amount of \$50,000 each. Becoming self-sustaining is an ongoing challenge for the Board.

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 has 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 – HRD, Human Resources & Skills Development Canada, Training and Employment Development, 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.

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.

YOUTH SERVICES PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SOUTHEAST REGION

MANDATE/ OBJECTIVES

To facilitate the establishment of a collaborative network which will share information, strengthen partnerships and identify specific issues related to the programs and services designed to enhance the employability of youth.

SCOPE, FOCUS AND AUTHORITIES

- Youth 15-30 years of age inclusive. (*NOTE: Departmental and agency involvement is dependent on their respective mandate and age criteria.*)
- To promote information sharing among service providers;
- To create and maintain a process that identifies needs, barriers and program/service gaps related to specific youth employability issues, in consultation with youth and youth agencies;
- To report needs, barriers and program/service gaps related to specific youth employability issues to the Omnibus Committee and provide recommendations;
- To maintain a local inventory of services, programs and resources (Youth Website);

Activities/Projects carried out in 2004-2005

The Southeast YSP committee has been inactive over the past year. However, YSP members have been busy collaborating on the implementation of QUEST Case Management.

The objective of this program is to reach out to young people between 15 to 30, who are youth at risk, unemployed or out of school. QUEST Case Management provides case management and employment counselling. Following an assessment of the clients needs, barriers and strengths, an evaluation of the needed interventions is done to help them prepare to obtain and maintain employment. If services are already offered in their community, youth are referred to this resource while being followed by QUEST case managers. The program can also make requests to HRSDC for Skills Link programs.

YSP partners are also involved in many joint individual projects aimed at assisting youth make the transition from school to work.

SAINT JOHN YOUTH SERVICES PARTNERSHIP

WORKING STRUCTURE

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.

STEP PROGRAM

An example of this collaboration is a program called STEP (Skills Training Employment Preparation). The partnership for this program includes Family and Community Services, HRSDC and YMCA. This program services youth from 16-30, helping them overcome barriers to employment, with the end result being a 52 week paid placement through Skills Link.

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 2004-2005

Committee restructure

In early 2005, the Fredericton Youth Partnership Committee was reformed, bringing in new members. Energy was refocused on areas that were selected as service gaps. The biggest gap in service was actually the dissemination of the information to those that could/would/should be using the services.

Youth Forum

The planning has started to hold a Youth Forum in the spring of 2006. The Youth Forum is aimed at providing answers and resources to those in need, targeting both youth and parents of youth.

The mission of the 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

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

WORKING STRUCTURE

The committee meets approximately every six weeks. The group has a work plan session, which outlines the focus for the upcoming year. We usually meet in early spring for work planning, with sub-committees being formed to work on projects for the year. The majority of the work occurs at the sub-committee level.

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 committee meets on a regular basis and consists of counterparts of the same organizations/government department members as the Woodstock committee. The Perth sub-committee reports back to the larger Woodstock group.

Activities / Projects carried out in 2004-2005

Building Pathways

This project, for the village of Plaster Rock, was facilitated and organized by the Perth sub-committee as their major work plan item of the year. The purpose of Building Pathways was to have a public forum / meeting in Plaster Rock 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. The outcome of Building Pathways has been that the village has relocated a community bulletin board to a central location to promote youth related information/services/activities. They have also formed a Lifestyle and Services committee to work on implementing the goals from the Building Pathways process. They are presently awaiting village council approval of a Youth Centre.

A Building Pathways project is being planned for the Perth area and will be the main goal of the Perth YPC sub-committee for 2005-06.

Youth Conference / Career Fair

Other activities completed by the Woodstock committee were a Youth Conference/Career Fair, which was held in April 2005. This career fair was sponsored by TED and was held for area high school students to attend and participate in interactive career displays. We continued with public relations activities such as a YPC brochure (which is continually updated), a Youth phone directory and plastic wallet cards for youth to access important phone numbers.

Work plan 2005-2006

We recently met as a group in May for 2005-06 work planning. A Building Pathways is being planned for Perth area and another career fair is being planned for the Perth/Plaster Rock area high schools. We also have an interest in promoting volunteerism for Youth. These will be our main activities for the New 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

Rose Bossé	Human Resource and Skill Development Canada (co-chair)
Angela Carr	Family & Community Services (co-chair)
Louis Godin	Training & Employment Development
Ivan Corbett	New Brunswick Advisory Council on Youth
Bob Eckstein	Public Safety
Terry Robichaud	Health and Wellness
Barry Wishart	Culture and Sport Secretariat

APPENDIX B

Current Local Committee Co-Chairs

Moncton Region	Deborah MacPherson (interim), FCS Gerald Belliveau, HRSDC
Saint John Region	Heather Hartley Brown, 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:	Andrea Gallagher, FCS Donna Hanson, HRSDC
Northwest Region:	Michel Charette, FCS Luc Levesque, HRSDC
Chaleur Region:	Sandra Cowan-Roy, FCS Roger Robichaud, HRSDC
Restigouche Region:	Donna Cormier-Pitre, FCS Samia Awad, HRSDC
Miramichi Region:	Don Lynch, FCS Denise Hathaway, 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)						✓		✓			

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