

Workshop 6: Melfort

The following notes were taken during the brainstorming session by all the community leaders represented at the workshop.

Session 1: Attitudes

Positives Identified For the Area

- ☞ Plenty of land
- ☞ Recreational facilities
- ☞ Service industries
- ☞ Health care facilities
- ☞ Abundant resources (agriculture, oil, gas, mining, etc.)
- ☞ Good environment (clean air, water)
- ☞ Hunting, fishing
- ☞ Lakeshore development potential
- ☞ New developments (diamond mine, ethanol)
- ☞ Affordable housing
- ☞ Tax incentives (business and residential)
- ☞ Good primary highways, municipal roads, rail
- ☞ Senior care
- ☞ Elevators
- ☞ Schools (k-12)
- ☞ Churches
- ☞ Police force (protection)
- ☞ Heavy Equipment manufacturing
- ☞ Oil and gas starting up
- ☞ Golfing
- ☞ Shopping
- ☞ Employment opportunities
- ☞ Good cooperation between town/rural
- ☞ Progressive thinking councils
- ☞ Regional park (Camping)
- ☞ Home care, health care
- ☞ Good quality farm land
- ☞ Bilingual
- ☞ Lots of history (tourism)
- ☞ Subdivisions for housing
- ☞ Regional/National parks
- ☞ Community spirit
- ☞ Large agriculture sector
- ☞ Post secondary education
- ☞ Transportation (rail, road, air)
- ☞ Utilities (oil, gas, telecommunications)
- ☞ Diverse economy (public/private)
- ☞ Mining
- ☞ Forestry
- ☞ Tourism (hiking, skiing, others)
- ☞ Low land prices
- ☞ Strong community leadership

- ☞ Work ethic, manpower is available in our communities
- ☞ Good looking people!
- ☞ Small town (sense of belonging, security)
- ☞ Rinks, lakes, forests, etc.
- ☞ All municipalities are open for business (tax incent)
- ☞ Wide open spaces
- ☞ Grocery stores
- ☞ Proximity to Prince Albert
- ☞ Tourism potential
- ☞ Fort Carleton, Duck Lake, Seager Wheeler
- ☞ Potash/shale
- ☞ Labour force (First Nations)
- ☞ REDAs
- ☞ Peat moss
- ☞ Business incentives
- ☞ Assisted living facilities
- ☞ Paved air strips
- ☞ Diversified Agriculture (Seed growers, dairy, organic).

Goals and Challenges Identified:

- ☞ Young people, immigrants would work here if jobs were here.
- ☞ Infrastructure needs some work (roads, hospitals, etc.)
- ☞ Promote low cost of living to outsiders, larger urbans.
- ☞ Close the loop - ship finished products; ship value-added
- ☞ Regional cooperation
- ☞ Utilize labour force (First Nations)
- ☞ Pro-active (look to AB - why is there exploration there and not here - royalty structure?)
 - Tax regime needs to mirror or be better than AB.
- ☞ Attitude adjustment of local people (coffee shop talk - think positive)
- ☞ First Nations (more partnerships on projects)

Session 2:

Sectors of Developments To Target In the Area

- ☞ Agriculture (Value-added)
 - Ethanol
 - Biodiesel
 - ILOs
 - meat processing
 - de-braning
 - Canola crushing plant
 - Malt plant
 - Agri-food - organic, neutraceuticals
- ☞ Agro-forestry (farming woods)
- ☞ Shale industry
- ☞ Tourism - market tourism (package it)
 - Film industry (lodging, etc.)
 - Eco-Tourism
 - Outfitting

- Trails (hiking, skiing, etc.)
- ☞ Retirement living promotions (real-estate)
 - Safe, affordable, health care
- ☞ Resources, raw material, water,
- ☞ Utilize access to biotech/university in Saskatoon to attract industry
- ☞ Mining (diamonds)
- ☞ Small scale processing (ship value-added, not raw)
- ☞ More joint ventures with First Nations
- ☞ Waste management
- ☞ Uranium refining and manufacturing power
- ☞ Encouraging mining, exploration, etc. and providing services to these industries
- ☞ Greenhouse
- ☞ Aquaculture
- ☞ Gravel Industry