



**Initiative on the New Economy**

**Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Places:  
A Report for Neguac, New Brunswick**

**March 2006**



A project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation  
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## INITIATIVE ON THE NEW ECONOMY - ABOUT THE PROJECT

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

The Services Research theme conducted site profile surveys in the summer of 2005. This is the fourth survey conducted since 1998 with a goal to track services over time. Services play two key functions in building capacity. First, services help rural and small town places to cope with restructuring and transition as a result of economic downturns or plant closures. Job losses stemming from industrial restructuring or closure can place increased demands on local services for education and training, business development, counselling, health care, and other support services. Without such services, residents would have to cope with the additional burden of having to leave their town to access assistance. Job and service losses present a significant challenge to rural and small town places.

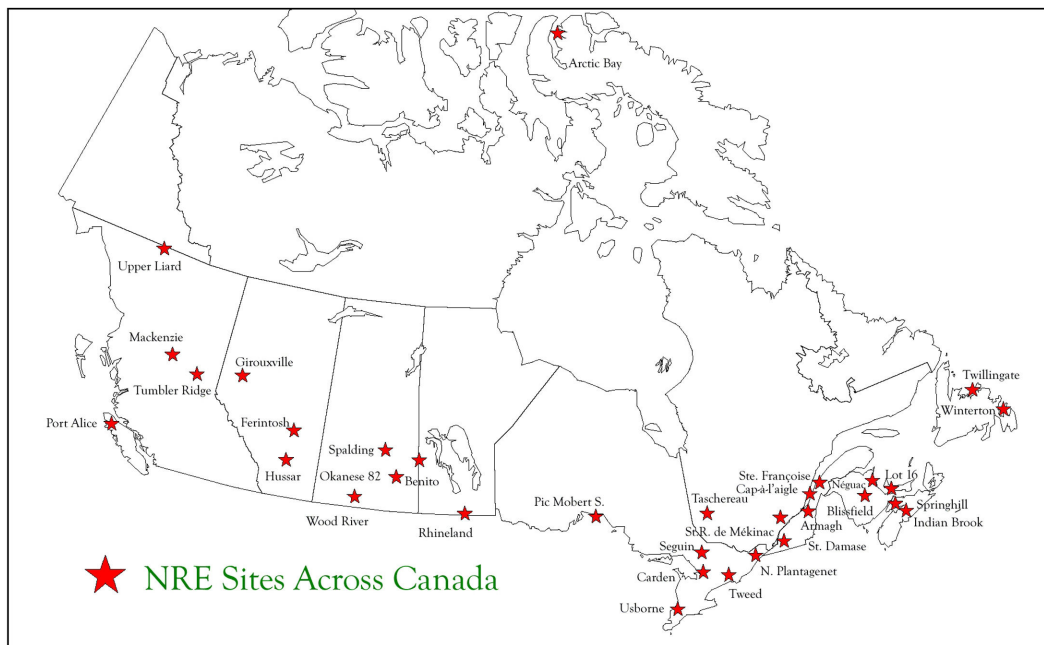
Second, services provide opportunities for building relationships, partnerships, and trust. Together, these can lead to new partnerships and innovative ways for delivering services where they might otherwise not exist. For example, schools or seniors' centres can act as multi-functional facilities for the community where local volunteer groups, sporting clubs, local theatre, and others can do their work. Another example might be the way that post offices can act as a one stop shop for a range of government services. This report focuses on the current service provision levels in rural and small town Canada. In particular, this report will compare the availability of services in Neguac, New Brunswick with services available in other research sites across Canada, as well as with services available in other study sites within Atlantic Canada. In each of these tables in this report, the availability of services in Neguac is compared to the 24 sites surveyed across Canada and to the 6 study sites in Atlantic Canada.

Information for this report was collected in Neguac by: Chantal Barnaby, Mme Lamratou, Ibrahim Halilou, H  l  ne Devarennnes, and Omer Chouinard.

## ABOUT THE SERVICE INVENTORY

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



In the summer of 2005, researchers visited 24 sites across Canada to update a service provision inventory. This included 9 sites in Western Canada, 5 sites in Ontario, 4 sites in Québec, and 6 sites in Atlantic Canada. The population of these rural and small town places varies from 150 to 5,205 people.

Distribution and size of INE participating sites

<b>SITES</b>	<b>POPULATION SIZE – 2001</b>
<b>Western Canada</b>	
Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia	1,851
Mackenzie, British Columbia	5,205
Port Alice, British Columbia	1,126
Hussar, Alberta	181
Ferintosh, Alberta	150
Spalding, Saskatchewan	261
Wood River, Saskatchewan	370
Benito, Manitoba	415
Rhineland, Manitoba	4,183
<b>Ontario</b>	
Seguin, Ontario	3,698
Tweed, Ontario	1,540
North Plantagenet, Ontario	3,848
Carden, Ontario	888
Usborne, Ontario	1,490
<b>Québec</b>	
Taschereau, Québec	534
Cap-à-l'aigle, Québec	720
St. Damase, Québec	1,327
St. Françoise, Québec	453
<b>Atlantic Canada</b>	
Blissfield, New Brunswick	674
Neguac, New Brunswick	1,697
Lot 16, Prince Edward Island	688
Springhill, Nova Scotia	4,091
Twillingate, Newfoundland and Labrador	2,615
Winterton, Newfoundland and Labrador	560

Source: CRRF NRE 2005; Statistics Canada 2001.

Data were collected to examine the availability of a range of services including:

- |                       |                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| education             | community                          |
| health                | transportation                     |
| protection services   | recreational                       |
| legal                 | basic Shopping                     |
| business services     | commercial shopping                |
| communication         | economic development organizations |
| elderly and childcare | housing                            |
| government            |                                    |

## AVAILABILITY

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

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

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

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**INITIATIVE ON THE NEW ECONOMY  
SERVICE PROVISION IN RURAL AND SMALL TOWN PLACES: A REPORT FOR NEGUAC, NEW  
BRUNSWICK**

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**Site Description – Neguac, New Brunswick**

Neguac is located at the southern end of the Acadian Peninsula. The population is approximately 1,700 people. Main Street incorporates both residential and commercial land uses. On the opposite side of Main Street, roads lead off to various subdivisions. The population of the village is, for the most part, bilingual at a high level.

The fishery is the most important industry to Neguac and to the area. Most of the revenue from the industry is provided by lobster, herring, mackerel, and oysters. The agricultural presence is small to non-existent and is limited to blueberries and market gardening. Forestry is very important especially in the northern part of the territory. There exists a very small industrial function in the village, including a fish processing plant, a lobster trap fabrication plant, and a concrete fabrication plant. There are 83 businesses employing 795 people.

Economic activity is declining. Forestry and fishing are important but can only support so many people. Neguac is in need of something that will bring employment to the area for both men and women. There have been some discussions about attracting a textile industry to the village. Many businesses are based on tourism, but the economy also needs to expand its diversification. One project with Heritage Canada involves the renovations of Otho-Robichaud House as well as setting up an interpretation site.



## POPULATION PROFILE - NEGUAC, NEW BRUNSWICK

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The population of Neguac, New Brunswick declined from 1,735 residents in 1996 to 1,697 residents in 2001 (Statistics Canada 2001). Overall, it has an older family oriented population. Youth out-migration appears to be a challenge for Neguac, particularly when examining individuals between 20 and 24 years of age. Neguac also has a strong population of seniors. This will have important implications for planning the delivery of a range of services, such as housing, health, social, and recreational services.

Population	Site: Neguac		
	Total	Hommes	Femmes
Population en 2001	1697	845	850
Population en 1996	1735	875	865
Changement de population, 1996 à 2001 (%)	-2.2%	-3.4%	-1.7%
Total – Tous les individus	1700	845	850
Âgés de 0-4	85	40	40
Âgés de 5-14	195	105	90
Âgés de 15-19	100	50	50
Âgés de 20-24	95	40	55
Âgés de 25-44	500	250	245
Âgés de 45-54	280	145	130
Âgés de 55-64	190	95	100
Âgés de 65-74	150	75	75
Âgés de 75-84	80	30	45
Âgés de 85 et plus	25	10	15
Âge moyen de la population	40.4	40.1	40.6

Source: Statistics Canada 2001.



## SERVICE PROVISION IN RURAL AND SMALL TOWN PLACES

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

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

### Educational Services

Educational institutions are playing a changing role in maintaining quality of life in rural and small town places. Schools have provided other amenities through their libraries, theatres, and art galleries in places that would otherwise not have access to such services. They have also played a larger economic development role. Community colleges can provide skilled and professional workers, act as a broker of services, and act as a repository of information. They can also design programs and services that are relevant and respond to the changing labour market conditions of small places.

**Table 1: Availability of Education Services - 2005**

Services	NRE Sites:				Neguac:	
	Canada		Atlantic		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Pre-school/kindergarten	50.0	62.5	33.3	66.7	✓	
Elementary school	63.6	66.7	66.7	66.7	✓	
High school	27.3	37.5	50.0	50.0	✓	
CEGEP/college	18.2	16.7	33.3	33.3	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

With the exception of community colleges, educational services are available in more sites across Canada in 2005 compared to two years ago. A greater proportion of sites in Atlantic Canada offer a range of educational services when compared to the sites across Canada (Table 1). In particular, the Atlantic region has experienced a growth in the availability of pre-school / kindergartens since 2003. Neguac is well equipped to cope with the needs of young families, as well as some demands for post-secondary training through classes offered in Neguac by the

Tracadie-Sheila Acadian Peninsula Community College Center. Tracadie-Sheila is 40 minutes away from Neguac.

## Health Services

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

**Table 2: Availability of Health Infrastructure - 2005**

Services	NRE Sites:				Neguac:	
	Canada		Atlantic		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Hospital	18.2	12.5	33.3	33.3	X	X
Health centre/CLSC	27.3	37.5	33.3	50.0	✓	
Medical clinic	40.9	37.5	50.0	33.3	✓	
Blood/urine testing facility	36.4	41.7	50.0	50.0	✓	
X-ray facility	22.7	20.8	33.3	33.3	X	X
Baby delivery facility	4.5	4.2	0.0	0.0	X	X
CT scan facility	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	X
Nursing home	18.2	16.7	50.0	33.3	X	X
Pharmacy	40.9	37.5	66.7	66.7	✓	
Ambulance	36.4	41.7	66.7	66.7	✓	
Emergency services	18.2	16.7	33.3	33.3	X	X

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Health facilities are limited in most of the rural and small town places examined (Table 2). This has changed very little over the last two years. Of particular interest is that fewer than 40% of sites across Canada in 2005 have a health centre, hospital, or pharmacy. This carries important implications for residents commuting for medical emergencies or health care reasons. Sites in Atlantic Canada are better equipped with health care services when compared with the national sample. At least half of the sites in Atlantic Canada have a health centre, a blood / urine testing facility, a pharmacy, and an ambulance. However, fewer sites in Atlantic Canada have a medical clinic compared to two years ago. Neguac provides health care facilities that are more commonly found amongst the Atlantic sites including a health centre, medical clinic, blood / urine testing facility, pharmacy, and ambulance service. The availability of these facilities establishes an important foundation to retain residents in an aging population. Other health facilities, including a hospital, x-ray facility, baby delivery facility, CT scan facility, nursing home, and emergency services, are found approximately 50 kilometres away in Miramichi or Tracadie-Sheila.

**Table 3: Availability of Health Professionals - 2005**

Services	NRE Sites:				Neguac:	
	Canada		Atlantic		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Doctors	36.4	41.7	50.0	66.7	✓	
Nurses	36.4	41.7	50.0	50.0	✓	
Dentists	27.3	25.0	50.0	50.0	✓	
Dental surgeons	9.1	8.3	16.7	16.7	X	X
Optometrists	18.2	16.7	33.3	33.3	X	X
Home care visits	54.5	70.8	50.0	66.7	✓	
VON	13.6	20.8	50.0	50.0	✓	
Social workers	22.7	29.2	50.0	50.0	✓	
Public health nurse	31.8	37.5	50.0	50.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

The availability of health care professionals is also limited in small places. In fact, only home care visits are available in more than half of the sites across Canada in 2005 (Table 3). Even those services considered as essential, such as doctors, are only available in just over 41% of the sites across Canada. With the exception of home care visits, health care professionals are available in a higher proportion of Atlantic sites when compared to the national results. Of interest, there have been no reductions in health care professionals in Atlantic communities over the last two years. In fact, more Atlantic sites have a doctor or home care visits compared to two years ago.

Neguac has a strong presence of health care professionals when compared to sites across Canada, including sites in Atlantic Canada. Again, these health care professionals will play an important role in retaining residents within the community who may otherwise be concerned about commuting longer distances to access these services.

**Table 4: Availability of Health Programs / Services - 2005**

Services	NRE Sites:				Neguac:	
	Canada		Atlantic		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Physiotherapy	22.7	25.0	33.3	33.3	X	X
Speech therapy	31.8	25.0	50.0	33.3	X	X
Occupational therapy	13.6	17.4	33.3	33.3	X	X
Respite care	22.7	21.7	66.7	50.0	✓	
Prenatal care programs	*	39.1	*	50.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

\* Information was not collected for this service that year.

The availability of health care programs and services is also low in the sites examined across Canada. However, new services being tracked in 2005, including prenatal care programs, are

more widely available (Table 4). Health care services and programs are more widely available in Atlantic sites compared to the national sample. Although, there has been a decline in the presence of speech therapy and respite care in Atlantic sites since 2003. Neguac is able to offer some of the health care programs and services tracked, such as respite care services. The presence of prenatal care programs in Neguac is particularly important given that there are no baby delivery facilities within 30 minutes of the community. Specialized health care programs and services that cannot be accessed locally are available beyond 30 minutes in Miramichi or Tracadie-Sheila.

## Protection Services

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

**Table 5: Availability of Protection Services - 2005**

Services	NRE Sites:				Neguac: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Atlantic % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Police (local/RCMP)	22.7	33.3	50.0	50.0	✓	
Fire department	71.4	79.2	66.7	66.7	✓	
911 emergency line	86.4	83.3	66.7	66.7	✓	
Security services	4.5	12.5	0.0	0.0	X	X
Alarm services	22.7	37.5	0.0	50.0	✓	
Neighbourhood watch	31.8	25.9	0.0	0.0	X	X
Rural crime watch	13.6	16.7	0.0	0.0	X	X
Victim's services – police based	*	16.7	0.0	0.0	X	X

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

\* Information was not collected for this service that year.

Protection services are more available than most other services (Table 5). Most notably, fire departments and the 911 telephone number are available in more than half the sites across Canada. Since 2003, some sites across Canada appear to have recovered policing and fire department services. While policing and alarm services are more available in Atlantic sites than the national sample, fewer Atlantic sites have all of the other protection services. Neguac offers protection services commonly available across the Atlantic sites, including policing, fire protection, 911 emergency line, and alarm services. While Neguac does not have a neighbourhood watch program, there is a Block Watch parent program in the community. Other protection services may be accessible beyond 30 minutes in Miramichi or Tracadie-Sheila.

## Legal Services

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

**Table 6: Availability of Legal Services - 2005**

Services	NRE Sites:				Neguac: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Atlantic % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Lawyer	18.2	16.7	33.3	33.3	✓	
Notary	40.9	45.8	50.0	66.7	✓	
Court	18.2	12.5	16.7	16.7	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Overall, legal services are very limited in the study sites across Canada (Table 6). The availability of legal services in Atlantic sites is above the national sample. However, while more Atlantic sites have a notary public, fewer of these sites have a court when compared to 2003 results. Neguac residents are able to enjoy a range of legal services within their community.

## Financial Services

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

**Table 7: Availability of Financial / Business Services - 2005**

Services	NRE Sites:				Neguac: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Atlantic % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Banks	36.4	33.3	50.0	50.0	✓	
Credit union/caisse populaire	50.0	50.0	33.3	33.3	✓	
ATM	50.0	54.2	50.0	50.0	✓	
Micro-financing	9.1	16.7	0.0	0.0	X	X
Insurance office	50.0	50.0	50.0	66.7	✓	
Industrial park	25.0	20.8	16.7	16.7	X	X
Real estate office	18.2	20.8	0.0	0.0	X	X
Accounting	47.6	50.0	66.7	66.7	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

In general, credit unions, ATMs, insurance offices, and accounting services are found in half the rural and small town sites across Canada (Table 7). The availability of these services has remained fairly stable over the last two years. In 2005, more Atlantic Canada sites offer banking, insurance, and accounting services compared to the national sample. Fewer Atlantic sites have an industrial park, micro-financing, and real estate. The availability of financial services in Neguac closely reflects the financial services found in other Atlantic sites. The closest micro-financing and real estate office is located approximately 50 kilometres away in Miramichi or Tracadie-Sheila. In Neguac, land is being developed for an industrial park that is expected to be completed by the end of autumn 2005.

## Communications

Connectivity is crucial in the new economy. Communication services also allow residents to maintain contact with family and friends. With improved communication infrastructure, rural and small town places can improve local employment opportunities, and support business networks.

**Table 8: Availability of Communication Services - 2005**

Services	NRE Sites:				Neguac: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Atlantic % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Cell phone – analog	86.4	91.7	100.0	100.0	✓	
Cell phone – digital	40.9	83.3	33.3	83.3	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Neguac residents and businesses benefit from the availability of both analog and digital cell phone service (Table 8). Overall, analog cell phone service is widely available across the study sites in Canada. Approximately 83% of the sites in the national sample also enjoy digital cell phone service. All of the sites in Atlantic Canada offer analog cell phone service. The availability of digital cell phone services reflects the national average.

## Elderly and Childcare Services

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

An inventory of 24 sites across Canada indicates that while many are equipped to meet the needs of young families, others are not yet well equipped with seniors' care facilities (Table 9). In contrast to the national sample, sites in Atlantic Canada are less equipped to offer daycare

services, although more of these sites have nursing homes for seniors than the national sample. When examining change in the availability of senior citizen's retirement homes, Atlantic sites have experienced a decline in availability. In comparison to other sites, Neguac is well equipped to meet the needs of young families and seniors within its community.

**Table 9: Availability of Elderly and Daycare Services - 2005**

Services	NRE Sites:				Neguac:	
	Canada		Atlantic		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Daycare	45.5	54.2	33.3	33.3	✓	
Senior citizen's nursing home	18.2	20.8	50.0	50.0	✓	
Senior citizen's retirement home	33.3	37.5	50.0	16.7	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

## Government Services

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

The rural and small town sites examined across Canada do not have access to many government services (Table 10). Of particular concern to sites experiencing social and economic restructuring is that few of the sites have Employment Insurance or social assistance offices. Consequently, during restructuring or plant closures, households experiencing stress will have to go outside the site for information and assistance.

**Table 10: Availability of Government Services - 2005**

Services	NRE Sites:				Neguac:	
	Canada		Atlantic		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Employment Insurance	4.5	4.2	16.7	16.7	✓	
Provincial auto license office	18.2	16.7	0.0	0.0	X	X
Social assistance office	22.7	16.7	33.3	33.3	✓	
Town hall	68.2	70.8	66.7	66.7	✓	
Post office	81.8	83.3	66.7	66.7	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

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

a provincial auto license office. With the exception of a provincial auto license office, Neguac residents are able to access a wider range of government services in their community compared to other sites across Canada.

## Community Services

Community services can provide an important foundation from which to build relationships, and can be important sources to draw upon during times of economic and social stress. The availability of community services in rural and small town places varies considerably (Table 11). While fewer sites across Canada have a second hand stores compared to two years ago, more sites in the national sample offer clothing depots and senior drop-in centres.

**Table 11: Availability of Community Services - 2005**

Services	NRE Sites:				Neguac:	
	Canada		Atlantic		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Food bank	31.8	25.0	50.0	16.7	X	✓
Clothing exchange/depot	18.2	29.2	16.7	33.3	✓	
Second hand stores	40.9	29.2	50.0	33.3	✓	
Youth drop-in centre	22.7	25.0	16.7	16.7	X	X
Women's drop-in centre	22.7	16.7	0.0	0.0	X	X
Senior's drop-in centre	31.8	41.7	16.7	16.7	X	X
Half-way house	4.5	4.2	0.0	0.0	X	X
Women's resource centre	9.1	8.3	0.0	0.0	X	X
Women's safe house	*	8.3	*	0.0	X	X
Personal aid services	31.8	37.5	50.0	50.0	✓	
Victim's services						
– comm. based	*	25.0	*	16.7	X	X
Churches	*	95.8	*	100.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

\* Information was not collected for this service that year.

Overall, sites in Atlantic Canada do not have as many community services when compared to all the sites across Canada. In fact, the availability of food banks and second hand stores has declined in the Atlantic sites since 2003. At least half of these sites, though, have personal aid services and churches. The availability of personal aid services will be important during periods of social and economic change. While Neguac does not offer many of these community services, its clothing exchange, second hand store, personal aid services, and churches do provide for families in need. A challenge for the community may exist for residents who must travel approximately 50 kilometres to Miramichi or Tracadie-Sheila to obtain assistance from a safe house or community-based victim's services.



## Transportation

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

The higher availability of gas stations and automobile repair services in these places reflects Canada's general reliance on the automobile (Table 12). Other transportation services are less frequently available, most notably local transit service, passenger rail service, and airport service.

**Table 12: Availability of Transport Services - 2005**

Services	NRE Sites:				Neguac: 2005	
	Canada		Atlantic		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	% Yes		% Yes			
2003	2005	2003	2005			
Local bus transit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	X
Inter-community bus station	33.3	29.2	40.0	16.7	X	X
Train – passenger	4.5	4.2	16.7	16.7	X	X
Train – freight	36.4	29.2	16.7	16.7	X	X
Airport	18.2	16.7	0.0	0.0	X	X
Helicopter port	22.7	25.0	16.7	33.3	✓	
Boat/ferry terminal	18.2	25.0	50.0	50.0	✓	
Taxi	27.3	25.0	33.3	33.3	X	X
Gas station	86.4	87.5	66.7	66.7	✓	
Automobile repair	63.6	70.8	50.0	50.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

When compared to sites across Canada, more Atlantic sites offer passenger train services, helicopter ports, boat / ferry terminals, and taxi services. However, fewer Atlantic sites have inter-community bus service, freight train service, airports, gas stations, and automobile repair shops. While most of these transportation services have remained stable over the last two years, fewer sites in Atlantic Canada now have inter-community bus service. Residents in Neguac rely mostly on their own automobile for transportation. This may pose a number of concerns for retaining residents over time.

## Recreation Services

When examining all of the sites, recreational services show the greatest range of availability compared to any other service category (Table 13). This bodes well for the retention and attraction of residents, as well as the overall quality of life of these places. More notable recreational services available include community playing fields, community centres, libraries,

municipal parks, hiking trails, and campgrounds. Many of these services can be important places where events can foster a sense of community. Across Canada, most sites are also able to offer either an indoor skating rink or a community gym. Recreational services less frequently available across Canada include fitness facilities, such as athletic clubs and swimming pools, as well as entertainment features such as cinemas. Since 2003, live theatre and tennis courts are found in more sites in the national sample. Declines in recreational services between 2003 and 2005 in the national sample include outdoor municipal swimming pools and skiing trails.

**Table 13: Availability of Recreation Services - 2005**

Services	NRE Sites:				Neguac: 2005	
	Canada		Atlantic		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	% Yes		% Yes			
2003	2005	2003	2005			
Curling rink	31.8	37.5	0.0	0.0	X	X
Bowling lanes	22.7	20.8	33.3	33.3	✓	
Indoor municipal swimming pool	13.6	12.5	16.7	16.7	X	X
Outdoor municipal swimming pool	18.2	8.3	16.7	0.0	X	✓
Indoor municipal skating rink	50.0	54.2	33.3	50.0	✓	
Outdoor municipal skating rink	31.8	33.3	33.3	16.7	✓	
Community playing field	81.8	79.2	66.7	66.7	✓	
Community gym	50.0	50.0	50.0	33.3	✓	
Community centre	81.8	75.0	83.3	66.7	✓	
Municipal athletic club	18.2	16.7	0.0	16.7	✓	
Theatre (live performance)	13.6	33.3	33.3	33.3	✓	
Cinema (movie theatre)	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	X
Museum	36.4	41.7	50.0	50.0	X	X
Library	77.3	79.2	66.7	66.7	✓	
Municipal parks	77.3	79.2	50.0	50.0	✓	
Provincial parks	22.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	X	X
Tennis courts	31.8	45.8	33.3	33.3	✓	
Skiing trails	50.0	37.5	66.7	50.0	✓	
Hiking trails	63.6	62.5	83.3	83.3	✓	
Golf courses	36.4	37.5	33.3	16.7	X	✓
Campgrounds	68.2	66.7	66.7	50.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

In 2005, a greater proportion of sites in Atlantic Canada offer recreational amenities such as bowling lanes, museums, and skiing and hiking trails when compared with sites across Canada in 2005. However, some recreational services, such as a curling rink, outdoor municipal swimming pool, and movie cinema, are not available in any of these sites.

Findings indicate that Neguac is well equipped to offer its residents and visitors a range of recreational services for various fitness levels and age groups. In this context, the planning and development of the secondary school provided the community with some important recreational amenities, including a public library, a community gym, and a theatre. Furthermore, while Neguac does not have a golf course, local resource industry employees worked with residents in Tabusintac to create a regional golf course just five kilometres away.

## Shopping

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

**Table 14: Availability of Basic Shopping Services - 2005**

Services	NRE Sites:				Neguac:	
	Canada		Atlantic		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Grocery store	68.2	70.8	66.7	66.7	✓	
Farmer's market	13.6	25.0	16.7	33.3	X	X
Liquor store	54.5	62.5	50.0	50.0	✓	
Bakery	27.3	37.5	50.0	50.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

The service inventory indicates that most sites across Canada are able to offer shopping services that residents would need to access on a more frequent basis, such as grocery stores (Table 14). In fact, basic shopping services have been increasing in the 24 sites examined in the national inventory. However, a lower proportion of sites in Atlantic Canada have a liquor store. Instead, a greater proportion of these sites have a bakery. Neguac residents are able to access most of these basic shopping services locally. Residents may also access other basic shopping services locally, including a floral and garden shop, various hair salons and convenience stores, video store, and two hardware stores. For more specialized shopping, Neguac residents must travel to Miramichi or Tracadie-Sheila.

## Economic Development Organizations

Economic development organizations can play an important role in promoting the community to attract not only additional businesses, but also to attract a wider population base. While there is not a wide range of economic development organizations in these sites, it is particularly critical to note that only approximately 20% of the sites across Canada have a Chamber of Commerce (Table 15). As these organizations are comprised of local business individuals, they are important sources to draw upon during economic and social change. On the other hand, more sites in the national sample offer financial and business consulting services compared to two years ago.

While economic development organizations are not widely available in the Atlantic sites, more Atlantic sites have tourism associations, general retraining programs, and women's leadership groups compared to the national sample. While Neguac does not have a Chamber of Commerce or local business development organization, it does have financial / business consulting, general retraining programs, and a tourism association. A challenge for pursuing economic development

opportunities within the community may be that other economic development organizations and programs are not available in close proximity to the community. Many other economic development organizations and programs are located approximately 50 kilometres away in Miramichi or Tracadie-Sheila.

**Table 15: Availability of Economic / Development Organizations - 2005**

Services	NRE Sites:				Neguac: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Atlantic % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Business Dev. Bank of Canada	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	X
Community Business Dev. Ctrs.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	X
Federal / prov. dev. - ACOA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	X
Chamber of Commerce	18.2	20.8	16.7	16.7	X	X
Local bus. dev. corp.	18.2	8.3	0.0	0.0	X	X
Economic/community trust	4.5	4.2	0.0	0.0	X	X
Career training/placmt. program	13.6	12.5	0.0	0.0	X	X
Financial/business consulting	27.3	37.5	33.3	33.3	✓	
Real estate boards	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	X
Tourism associations	27.3	12.5	50.0	33.3	✓	
Rotary clubs	18.2	12.5	16.7	16.7	X	X
Retraining programs – general	*	8.3	*	33.3	✓	
Retraining programs – women	*	0.0	*	0.0	X	X
Women’s leadership groups	*	41.7	*	50.0	X	X

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles. \* Information was not collected for this service that year.

## Housing

Housing has been used as an incentive to attract residents to rural and small town places. However, lack of housing options as a population changes, or ages, can be a problem and can lead to out-migration. Housing options can improve the quality of life of residents, especially the more vulnerable citizens, including senior citizens or those with disabilities.

**Table 16: Availability of Social Housing Services - 2005**

Services	NRE Sites:				Neguac: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Atlantic % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Co-op housing	13.6	8.3	0.0	16.7	✓	
Rent supplement units	22.7	20.8	33.3	33.3	✓	
Asstd./sub. housing – seniors	31.8	50.0	33.3	33.3	✓	
Asstd./sub. housing – families	31.8	29.2	66.7	50.0	✓	
Asstd./sub. housing – singles	9.1	12.5	0.0	16.7	✓	
Asstd./sub. housing - disabled/special needs	13.6	12.5	16.7	16.7	X	✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Although, social housing does not appear to be widely available in sites across Canada, there have been some important changes (Table 16). Most notably, there has been an increase in the availability of assisted or subsidized housing for seniors from approximately 32% of the sites across Canada in 2003 to 50% in 2005. In Atlantic Canada, fewer sites have assisted / subsidized housing for seniors. Instead, a greater proportion of the Atlantic sites are able to offer all other types of social housing when compared with the national sample. Notably, half of the sites in Atlantic Canada have assisted or subsidized housing for families. When compared to other sites across Canada, as well as Atlantic Canada, Neguac is able to offer a wide range of social housing options for its residents.

### **Challenges and Opportunities for Neguac, New Brunswick**

Although Neguac faces challenges in coping with restructuring of the fishing and forestry industries, it has a foundation of services that contributes to its capacity to cope with change. The community has a range of educational services to provide new training and educational opportunities. Neguac also offers many basic health services, which will be assets to help retain residents in its aging population. There are also some support services to help residents cope with social and economic changes, such as an Employment Insurance office, social assistance, and personal aid services. The community also offers a range of recreational amenities that will go a long way, not just in attracting tourists and economic activity, but also for enhancing local quality of life for residents.

Neguac residents face some challenges with limited shopping services and transportation infrastructure. Limited shopping services may lead to economic leakage and multi-purpose out-of-town trips to larger urban centres, such as Miramichi or Tracadie-Sheila. Furthermore, limited transportation infrastructure may pose concerns for retaining seniors who may need to access more specialized services outside of the community. Transportation infrastructure, as well as economic development organizations and programs, also plays an important role in attracting economic development to the community. Despite these challenges, Neguac has been maintaining a solid foundation of services and infrastructure to meet the needs of its young families and seniors through daycare, retirement homes, and a range of social housing options that will help the community to adjust and retain the changing demographics of the population.

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