

# Rural Horizon

Fall 2004

## RURAL TEAM QUEBEC

### Who Are We?

Rural Team Quebec is composed of representatives from various federal departments and organizations as well as a few key rural development organizations in Quebec. Our mission is to support rural community development and to promote the integration and participation of young people in their communities throughout Quebec's rural areas. Rural Team Quebec is part of the Canadian Rural Partnership, the strategy adopted by the Government of Canada to support sustainable development in rural and remote communities.

### What do we do?

Since its inception in 1998, the team has mobilized federal players on rural issues, consulted with and brought stakeholders from different regions together, most notably through the creation of four Regional Rural Teams (Eastern Townships, Lower St. Lawrence, Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Montérégie), and organized forums, meetings, and roundtable discussions. Rural Team Quebec also shares information about programs and services available in rural areas and maintains a dialogue with citizens in rural communities to better identify their local and regional concerns.

For more information on Rural Team Quebec and the Canadian Rural Partnership, visit our Web site at [www.rural.gc.ca](http://www.rural.gc.ca) or contact Monique Martin, Regional Advisor at the Rural Secretariat, at (418) 648-4820, ext. 322.

## Maison familiale rurale:

### A concept that is making inroads

What is Maison Familiale Rurale (MFR)? It is a school that emerged from consensus within the community, using alternating work-study sessions for Secondary III, IV and V students. MFR lets students acquire a general and vocational education that is tailored to the labour needs of the rural locations in which the schools are located. There are more than 1,000 MFRs in some 30 countries around the world.

In June 1998, a dozen volunteers from the Municipalité régionale de comté du Granit (MRC du Granit) joined together to start the first Maison Familiale Rurale in Quebec. In its first year, the new educational institution welcomed 28 young people from the rural region of Le Granit and surrounding areas who wanted general and vocational training in agriculture and forestry. Five years later, more than 300 students have attended the MFR du Granit, which has an occupational sector graduation rate that is higher than the regional average.



Source: MFR – Québec



Source: MFR – Québec

In 2003, the MRC du Granit's CLD [local development centre] launched a centre for the promotion and development of MFRs in Quebec on the strength of the schools' success and the interest from Quebec's rural areas in this educational method that is the only one of its kind in Canada to integrate youth training and local development. Mr. Daniel Lambert, the centre's project manager, indicates that there are currently a dozen rural communities in Quebec that have expressed interest in, and begun the process of implementing this kind of educational institution in agriculture, forestry, trade, tourism and other fields. The goal of the centre is to develop five MFRs in various sectors by 2006.

According to Mr. Lambert, the community must get involved in setting up and running the MFR if it is to succeed. "This is an exceptional rural development tool that gets families involved and mobilizes the community to work toward its own development."

A number of partners in the field and two levels of government have supported the creation of the MFR-Quebec centre. The Government of Canada's contribution has helped to create a university-level training program on the alternating training model for educators who work at MFRs. This unique alternative education model could also be transplanted to other Canadian rural communities outside Quebec.

For more information on the MFR-Quebec centre, please contact Mr. Lambert, at (819) 583-4411, extension 222, or Ms. Renée Fortin, Rural Secretariat Program Officer, at 1-877-295-7160.

## In this issue

Protecting marine resources from Les Escoumins to the Betsiamites River

The future of youth in rural areas  
— A priority **2**

Conflicts are managed peacefully in the MRC of Maskinongé  
Treaties: The bridge between the past and the future **3**

High-speed Internet contributes to rural development  
Promotional tour to raise awareness of the YouthPath Web site **4**



## From Les Escoumins to the Betsiamites River: Protecting and harnessing marine resources

On the Upper North Shore, a thirteen member coastal committee (made up of municipal, Aboriginal, fishing, environmental, economic development, marine mammal observation and citizen representatives) is learning about the local coastal zone, managing its use and participating in the decision-making process. It is a concrete example of integrated coastal zone management that was initiated by Fisheries and Oceans Canada in 1996 and which continues to receive support from the community.

### Result

Once introduced to integrated management and equipped with thematic maps that illustrated various uses for the coast and the aquatic habitats it contained, local stakeholders developed management goals that targeted the coastal environment and its resources, then proposed a plan of action. This is the action plan that has been applied along 85 km of coastline.

### Here are a few of the committee's achievements:

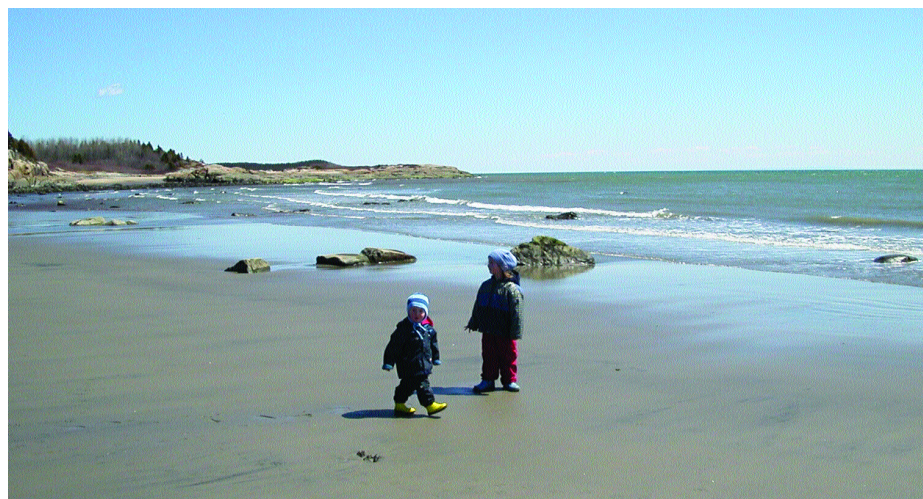
- › Production of a list of research projects conducted each year in the coastal zone;
- › Annual awareness-raising activity for 5th grade students to let them discover the coastal zone;
- › Positioning of the soft-shell clam industry (500 jobs), which resulted in the creation of a soft-shell clam fishers' association;

*the adoption of new regulations on the harvesting of mollusks under the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Fisheries Act; and the adoption of new rules concerning the processing of soft-shell clams by the Quebec Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.*

The actions of the coastal committee are not only a source of inspiration for other similar processes in Canada; they also produce tangible benefits for the community. The money invested annually by Fisheries and Oceans Canada results in benefits to the community that are worth up to six times more than the initial investment.

This integrated coastal zone management initiative was developed under the Canada Oceans Act. Fisheries and Oceans Canada supports communities that wish to mobilize in order to manage their coastal zone in an integrated fashion in cooperation with all key stakeholders in the region.

For more information about this initiative, contact Jean Morisset at Fisheries and Oceans Canada, at 1 (800) 463-1729, or by email, at morissetj@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or Jean-Marie Bélisle, of the Les Escoumins to Betsiamites River coastal committee at (418) 231-2181, [www.comite-cotier.org](http://www.comite-cotier.org).



Source: Les Escoumins to the Betsiamites River coastal committee

## The future of youth in rural areas—A priority

On April 16, 2004, the Honourable Lucienne Robillard, then Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec, announced the extension of the Youth Strategy for a period of two years ending March 31, 2006. An additional \$6 million will be earmarked for this important initiative put forward by Canada Economic Development (CED) in cooperation with the Quebec Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDC). This extension will help ensure that young people are able to take an active part in their region's economy.

The CED/CFDC Youth Strategy aims to slow the migration of youth to large urban centres by helping young men and women in rural areas build a promising future for themselves in their own communities. It helps young local entrepreneurs develop business plans in their own community and encourages



Mme Johanne Gauthier, M. Gratien Lebel, l'honorable Lucienne Robillard, M. Steven Maheux et M. Pierre Pinard

them to acquire, start up, expand or modernize their business. It also promotes the employability of young people while emphasizing their social, cultural and economic commitment in areas remote from the large cities of Quebec.

The Youth Strategy has consistently proved its effectiveness by enabling entrepreneurs aged 18 to 35 who live in areas served by the CFDCs to build a future at home. Results for the period from November 1997 to March 31, 2003 clearly demonstrate that this is the case. In fact, 2,731 entrepreneurs have received support through the Youth Strategy, thus promoting the creation or expansion of 2,250 businesses. Over the same period, \$29.9 million were invested, generating an investment total of \$198.7 million in the very heart of these regions of Quebec. The Youth Strategy has also contributed to the creation and retention of 8,000 jobs in Quebec's rural areas.

The extension of the Youth Strategy will without a doubt continue its successful path and allow many more young entrepreneurs to take their future into their own hands.

For more information on the Youth Strategy, visit the CFDCs Network Web site at [www2.reseau-sadc.qc.ca](http://www2.reseau-sadc.qc.ca).





## Conflicts are managed peacefully in the Municipalité Régionale de comté de Maskinongé



Left untended, conflicts can sometimes lead to violence. It is essential to take steps to prevent and manage them in a peaceful manner as soon as they emerge. This is what Ressources Alternatives Maskinongé [alternative resources organization] has undertaken by setting up its conflict resolution project.

The community organization, which serves the Municipalité régionale de comté (MRC) de Maskinongé, started by conducting a study that showed an increase in youth harassment and violence, particularly at the elementary level, as well as a lack of resources outside of school to help youth and families deal with conflict.

In order to address the situation, the organization urged youth to become aware of the impact of their actions and taught them a peaceful conflict resolution alternative. It also helped adults do a better job of helping their children through the process. Information was given on support, conflict resolution and mediation services available from Ressources Alternatives Maskinongé. Volunteer mediators were recruited and trained to assist citizens as they resolved their conflicts.

To support its actions, the organization developed some promotional and informational tools. A card summarizing the steps to take when a conflict arises was given to students in participating schools. A flyer listing the organization's mediation services was sent to some sixty merchants and distributed throughout the MRC de Maskinongé's public areas.

An important partnership developed around the conflict resolution project. Fifteen schools and organizations took part in the process and the expertise of a researcher was put to good use in developing the requirement study. The initiative also received support from the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada's National Crime Prevention Strategy, in cooperation with the Quebec Department of Public Security.

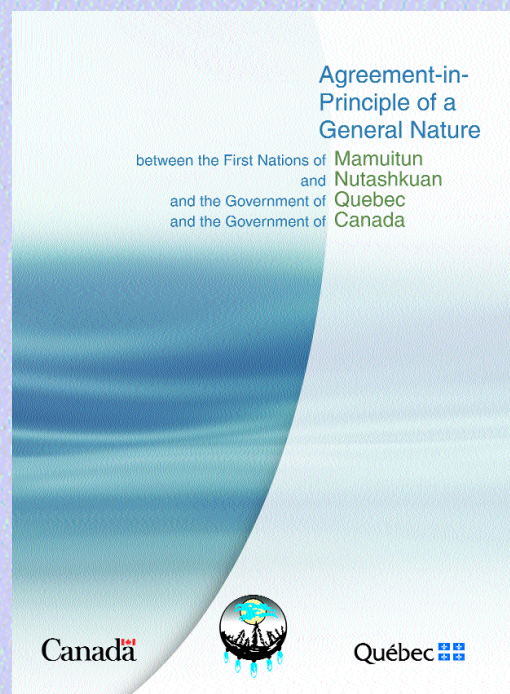
Through this project, the MRC de Maskinongé community has clearly demonstrated its determination to promote a more harmonious social fabric and a safer living environment. For more information, please contact Ms. Laure Gaillardetz and Ms. Linda Provençal of Ressources Alternatives Maskinongé, at (819) 228-8693.

## Treaties: The bridge between the past and the future

In Canada, there may be Aboriginal rights and titles which have not been dealt with by treaties and these form the basis for comprehensive land claims by certain Aboriginal groups. Over the past few years, the Supreme Court of Canada has invited all parties involved to negotiate a solution to these issues as legal channels are more costly, time consuming and unpredictable than negotiations.

This is why the government has developed a policy governing comprehensive land claim settlements with First Nations which is based on the negotiation of treaties. Treaties provide certainty and clarity of rights of all parties as regards ownership and the use of lands and resources.

The Government of Canada has undertaken treaty negotiations with the First Nations of Québec, namely with the Innu, in order to eliminate any uncertainty that prevails over land ownership and its use, management and regulations as well as the application of relevant legislation. On March 31, 2004, First Nation representatives from the four Innu communities of Mamuitun mak Nutashkuan (Betsiamites, Essipit, Mashteuiatsh and Nutashkuan) and the Governments of Québec and Canada signed an Agreement in Principle of a General Nature which will serve as the basis of the negotiations towards the treaty.



In order to ensure that the interests of non-Aboriginals are respected as regards Innu land claims, the Government of Canada intends to hold a series of information and consultation sessions in the administrative regions of Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean and the North Shore.

The certainty stemming from the future treaty will allow the development of a sustainable development framework that will benefit the First Nations and communities in the administrative regions of Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean and the North Shore.

The economic stability resulting from the treaty will create a climate that will foster private investment and stimulate economic activity and partnerships between Aboriginal groups and non-Aboriginal groups. Several business leaders estimate that an injection of funds in the region as a result of land claim settlements stimulates and diversifies the local economy. However, the absence of treaties has several consequences among which an economic slowdown, accumulation of costly litigation and uncertainty as to the development of the territory.

To obtain further information on the Agreement in Principle of a General Nature or any other information pertaining to comprehensive land claims, please consult the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Web site at the following address : [www.inac-ainc.gc.ca](http://www.inac-ainc.gc.ca).



## High-speed Internet contributes to rural development



While the focus in the 20th century was on building roads, the 21st century will be characterized by high-speed telecommunications networks. Broadband services (also known as high-speed Internet services) are used to send or receive huge quantities of information via the Internet. This technology is capable of bringing people together even though they are in different locations—from a physician in Montréal treating a patient in the Gaspé, to third-grade students in Saint-Tite visiting a science centre in Ottawa. Such feats are nearly impossible with simple telephone dial-up access.

### Here are just some of the advantages of having a high-speed connection:

- *Commercial farm enterprises can use high-speed access to enable the exchange of information between stables.*
- *High-speed Internet teleconferencing allows businesses to hold meetings to discuss urgent issues, thus minimizing or eliminating entirely the travel costs associated with face-to-face meetings.*
- *High-speed Internet services allow teachers to consult schoolbooks and exercises on line and incorporate them into their classes.*

➤ *Broadband services can also benefit the tourism industry by making it possible for travel destinations to promote local and historical attractions on-line instead of by mail.*

All of these applications are now possible in many rural communities, thanks to Industry Canada's Broadband for Rural and Northern Development Pilot Program. Why travel 1,000 kilometres from Natashquan to Val d'Or when a simple click of the mouse can get you there via a high-speed Internet connection?



For more information on this initiative, contact the regional Broadband for Rural and Northern Development Pilot Program manager by visiting the program's Web site at [www.broadband.ic.gc.ca](http://www.broadband.ic.gc.ca), or by calling 1-888-237-3037.

## Promotional tour to raise awareness of the YouthPath Web site

A promotional tour will hit the road this fall to raise awareness of the programs and services available from the [www.youth.gc.ca](http://www.youth.gc.ca) site. Representatives of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, in partnership with the psychosocial resources of selected educational institutions, community organizations and organizations from the provincial public network and private sector businesses will create Youth Teams in high schools in various regions of Quebec.

These student Youth Teams will provide a multitude of services to their peers: interview simulation and advice, resumé templates and revision, direct access to the Web site, personality tests, information sessions on career prospects, promotion of the benefits of physical and psychological health, and follow-up for youth at-risk by the psychosocial resources in the area.



The YouthPath Web site, a unique portal that includes all online youth resources for those aged 15 to 30, including Anglophone minorities in rural and remote areas, will allow the teams to support students in their search for information on jobs, education, health and well-being, etc. The Youth Team students will receive a certificate of recognition and participation for their involvement in their community from the partners in this project.

Students, there's only one URL to remember: [www.youth.gc.ca](http://www.youth.gc.ca)!

### FOR INFORMATION ON GOVERNMENT OF CANADA PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

Phone: 1-800-0-CANADA(1-800-622-6232)  
TTY/TDD: 1-800-465-7735

Web: [www.canada.gc.ca](http://www.canada.gc.ca)

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