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EAST SIDE PLANNING INITIATIVE Aghaming, Manitoba

ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Communication and Consultation

There are initiatives happening in the region such as roads and access roads but everything is done behind the scenes. We only hear about initiatives after the fact. A recent example is the announcement of cottage lot expansion. Although no planning was to be conducted until the ESPI process was complete, this development cannot occur without planning which fuels the fire of mistrust.

Recommendation Communication and Consultation

- Government needs to be upfront with communities

Fragmentation

There are splits and divisions between the communities caused by Northern Affairs human resources policies. Problems are parochial. There is fragmentation of responsibility within government and micro-management stifles progress. Initiatives have worked in spite of the system.

Recommendation Fragmentation

- Formalize guidelines, develop standards and create linkages across departmental lines that enable rather than hinder community and regional development.

Community and Regional Development

(a) Community Growth

Aghaming is a small community and needs to grow. Despite the fact that we have a growth plan, we don't have the population base to fit within the funding criteria of Northern Affairs. Land isn't the problem as there is land available. Our plans are simply resisted and we can't seem to move forward. Because of our size, there is no trust. We need support.

(b) Economic and Employment Development

Shareholders of companies are marching to a different drummer than the concepts of sustainable development. The economic and political drivers are disrupting and we are not sure where development is headed. The regional economic Round Table is currently being driven by Northern Affairs and the old systems are not in tune with new concepts. We (the communities) need to first learn how to become a region where the design of development meets community not government needs.

To improve a region, you need to respond to the opportunities. Through combined community efforts, we could build mini successes and learn from the values achieved. These successes, in turn, can be used as a measuring tool for further development. Tourism, for example, is an opportunity that could be expanded. This region is a recreation centre for such sports as volleyball, ski trails, and canoeing. We have already been host for regional championships for western Canada. These initiatives could be expanded. Barriers to moving forward are the micromanagement of Northern Affairs. Protection against liability is another barrier. Identification of responsible parties is not clearly stated which leave projects vulnerable.

<p>Recommendation Community and Regional Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local communities need to support local businesses.• Develop mechanism and the capacity for communities to work co-operatively together.• Establish hire local criteria to keep the younger people in the region.
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