



Vision Évangéline

FEB.15, 2019



ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION REPORT

Executive Summary

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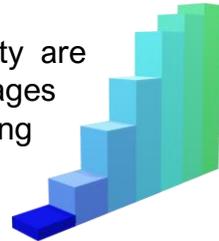
This report has been prepared to provide an assessment and evaluation of the current circumstances within the Évangéline region, in terms of the possibility of establishing a new rural municipality within that region. The following paragraphs summarize that assessment:

1. Proposed Boundaries:

The recommended boundary for a new regional rural municipality for the Évangéline region is supported by physical and land use considerations, a community of interest, and relationships to the adjoining municipal governments and unincorporated areas.

2. Population Trends:

The communities within the proposed Évangéline municipality are experiencing the same trends in terms of higher than average ages and limited growth as other rural areas in PEI. French speaking residents still represent a majority of those in the region.



3. Economics:

The economy of the Évangéline region is supported by a variety of businesses, institutions and employment opportunities, and it appears to be relatively stable because of the variety and diversity of the business environment, making it more resilient than other single industry areas. Bilingual workers are an important feature in these communities, as are bilingual employment opportunities within commuting distance of the region.

4. Overall Potential:

- a) **Administration:** Abram-Village and Wellington provide a good base for the incorporation of a larger, regional rural municipality.
- b) **Land Use Planning:** Abram-Village and Wellington both have land use plans which could be used as a starting point for a regional land use plan. However, there are a number of important issues that are not currently addressed within the existing planning documents that a regional plan will need to consider, such as climate change and coastal planning.
- c) **Other Municipal Services:** Municipal facilities, fire protection, emergency management and recreation activities should transfer relatively easily to a larger municipal government, and several of these services are operating regionally already. The two regulated sewer collection and treatment systems could also be transferred to a single municipal organization.

- d) **Municipal Finance:** As the starting points for a larger municipal government, both existing municipalities have stable finances and limited debt.

5. Priorities for a Rural Municipality of Évangéline:

The potential to achieve the priorities identified by this Growth Management Study within the Évangéline region would be significantly better with the establishment of a new municipal government:

- a) *A new VISION Évangéline for the community as a whole.*
- b) *A regional bilingual government to support community development and Acadian culture.*
- c) *Better planning, emergency management, recreation and other services.*
- d) *Improving local input for provincial and federal government decisions.*
- e) *Better management and access for municipal services.*

Next Steps: This report is intended to provide the background to consult with the community and other interested stakeholders through a consultation process beginning with a community Open House scheduled for February 19, 2019 at L'École Évangéline. Comments and questions will be encouraged through social media as well, using the web site:

<https://municipaliteevangeline.wordpress.com>

With the guidance of the Working Committee and others, the consultants will next develop a Phase 2 Report - Recommendations and Municipal Restructuring Plan, to be completed and will be the subject of future consultations.



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