

Summary of discussions from the two consultation meetings held on
June 5 and 7, 2018

Around 70 people attended two discussion meetings held in order to discuss questions and issues relating to the possibility of creating a regional municipality that would serve the area known as Évangeline and including the two existing municipalities of Wellington and Abram-Village.

This report summarizes discussions held in small groups as well as during the plenary sessions. Comments, ideas and concerns have been reorganized in order to bring greater clarity to the discussions held.

Advantages :

- 1) We need to focus on the fact that we have the opportunity to control our own destiny. If we choose not to do it ourselves than government will probably do it for us.
- 2) "Good thing to unify"
- 3) Greater influence of government instances under a municipality.
- 4) Would benefit tourism, commerce, etc.
- 5) Human resources would be very beneficial
- 6) Volunteerism could benefit from regional municipality
- 7) Gives a stronger voice to the region
- 8) Provides greater « buying power »
- 9) Good to have a representative to fight for you.
- 10) Problems in the neighbourhood good be brought to the attention of the chief administrator for him to deal with
- 11) Could be a good thing for our youth
- 12) We would have a better control of land-use zoning and development
- 13) Would provide a means to get rid of obsolete buildings
- 14) Formidable
- 15) Better to deal with a municipality than with government
- 16) Protection of coastlines
- 17) Would provide an annual meeting for the residents of the whole region.
- 18) Could benefit for the hiring of a Sports and Recreation Director
- 19) Municipalities are going to benefit
- 20) Bigger risk of not amalgamating is losing control
- 21) Migration to Urban Centres could happen if no amalgamation
- 22) We see more benefits for existing municipalities than for non-incorporated villages
- 23) Would provide more public consultations when you want to establish businesses

Priorization :

- 1) Training for our youth and encouraging them to stay in the region
- 2) Retention of the population

- 3) Pave Cannontown Road
- 4) Scare of losing my Acadian culture, therefore need to protect Acadian culture in a new incorporation
- 5) Maintain our identity
- 6) Should manage our community infrastructures
- 7) Would regroup our community
- 8) Linguistic aspect
- 9) Heritage protection : Old buildings should be preserved
- 10) A new council must be equitable and represent the region well
- 11) Important to protect our language and Acadian culture
- 12) Protect our drinking (potable) water
- 13) Protection from Coastal erosion of our rural area
- 14) francophone immigration / Immigration of business people
- 15) Save our factories
- 16) Look at the possibilities of developing the other villages and not only Wellington and Abram-Village.
- 17) A study of the factory to protect residents
- 18) Land use policies
- 19) Building permits approval

Budget and Taxes :

- 1) Provincial tax rate is the same for all residents - \$1.50/\$100 assessment
- province gives a credit of \$ 0,50 to the permanent residents
- 2) Estimate a budget of \$100 000 to operate a municipality
- 3) In municipalities the fire dues are included in the municipal tax
- 4) For example in a municipality in Ontario, taxes don't increase more than the cost of living
- 5) Taxes will increase no matter what
- 6) Need a new tax structure for farmers
- 7) Have a grading system for taxes (ex : fire, sewer, etc.)
- 8) Want to know what each village would pay in taxes
- 9) Are there examples of tax systems that work well in other municipalities?
- 10) Want to see a breakdown of taxes in a language that everyone understands
- 11) Clarify and put on paper the tax rates for forest lands, farmland, etc. under a new municipality
- 12) The municipality operates under what funds now? and if it was a larger municipality would it actually have access to more funds?

ACTIONS

- 1) Could a website be created to better inform the residents? How can we assure that everyone has the chance to fully understand the process and take the time to understand what is at stake?
- 2) Create a list of what we would need to do as residents of non-incorporated areas if the area became incorporated

- 3) Clarify and properly present the options of going forward and not going forward with a regional municipality
- 4) Study what Dieppe has done to become a francophone municipality with services in English
- 5) Would like to clearly determine the territory of this new municipality
- 6) Better clarification of approval process
- 7) Can we have access to all the information somewhere on the internet in order to be better informed
- 8) Examples of successful projects vs non-successful projects relating to municipal amalgamations; causes of successes and causes of failures
- 9) We need a study of existing problems in the Evangeline region
- 10) Establish the boundaries
- 11) Refer to census data to study the population and afterwards establish strategies to improve the area
- 12) Use examples of bylaws in other municipalities in order to understand what to expect
- 13) Ensure that all residents are aware of what is going on
- 14) How would zoning be done? Population? Size?
- 15) Consultation with the community
- 16) Budget consultations
- 17) What is the decision process?
- 18) What is meant by a bilingual municipality? Many bilingual organizations operate in English. The Évangeline region is known elsewhere as an Acadian region; and it is for this reason that the opening of the Acadian World Congress will be in Abram-Village in 2019 and not somewhere else on PEI
- 19) Bylaws in place... how do we do that and do all regulations apply to everyone no matter where you live?
- 20) Present clearly the options of moving forward with a regional and options of not moving forward

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Could the employees of the CSCÉ work on this new municipal structure?
- 2) Is there a type of garbage from Quebec coming to Wellington?
- 3) Will a request need to be made if one wants to build a "dog house"?
- 4) Do you need a building permit for everything you want to build? (ex : greenhouse)
- 5) Clarify what snow removal means?
- 6) Sewer for who? How will that impact the budget.
- 7) Will there be a public vote to determine yes or no?
- 8) Should someone from the provincial government attend the public meetings to help answering some of the questions?
- 9) Who is on IRAC, are there any Acadians on it?
- 10) Benefits and advantages for a resident in a non-incorporated village
- 11) Will the new laws and policies be flexible in order to integrate the new villages?
- 12) What will happen to the Evangeline region in the long-term if we do not incorporate?
- 13) What will it concretely give me that I don't have now?

- 14) If let's say St-Timothée wants something, what are the chances that it would be approved by Council?
- 15) If Abram-Village cannot advance projects how are we going to be able to advance projects in other areas?
- 16) Would we still have the 250 million dollars require to meet the criteria of the province
- 17) Especially for smaller villages, what are you free to do and what laws do you have to follow if you incorporate?
- 18) How to consult people if the zone(boundary) has not been determine? The present school zone includes Tyne Valley and Lennox Island
- 19) Look at the Fire District
- 21) It is kind of a mystery for us to know what goes on in a municipality; what does that entail as a responsibility?
- 22) Do we want the incorporation to nourish or save our two existing municipalities?

Comments:

- 1) Examples of population strategies, especially young adults – Kentville et Clare
- 2) Taxes = Services
- 3) The region is changing; hardly know my neighbours
- 4) « The community was built on 10 cents per dollar » (0,10\$/1\$)
- 5) To have the choice to amalgamate with other regions than Evangeline we would certainly choose the Evangeline region.
- 6) Nobody likes changes
- 7) Against it, but maybe some good for some things
- 8) Not much will change
- 9) May be good for the community
- 10) Government would defray the costs of paving Cannontown – not the municipality
- 11) Nothing that was said will give us more
- 12) No need for that in rural communities
- 13) Government does what it wants anyways
- 14) You will have nothing to say on who your neighbours are; they will also be paying
- 15) Government is going to push for it no matter what
- 16) Won't happen this year
- 17) We are set in our own way also
- 18) The idea is good but there is a lot of work to be done
- 19) Not yet clear enough for me to take a decision
- 20) Must really be to our advantage before I say yes. I moved to St-Chrysostome for specific reasons.
- 21) Construction of l'École Évangéline was an important development to assure the Acadian and francophone presence in la région Évangéline
- 22) That the questions of residents of the non-incorporated villages be considered seriously and equally
- 23) Must ensure that a regional municipality doesn't reduce or affect funding
- 24) Not enough activities relating to immigration
- 25) Ensure a good leadership in the new structure; need to have the right persons

- 26) Don't see the personal benefit for this
- 27) Building a campground
- 28) Once a rate is decided, scared that it increases at any time
- 29) We don't lack anything

CONSIDERATIONS:

- 1) Stop all kinds of stuff in yards
- 2) Have a regulation banning plastic water bottles
- 3) Everybody uses some services in the region; everybody should pay something. Need more efforts in immigration and population strategies.
- 4) We need a major restructuring of the region
- 5) Open to go towards Richmond and Tyne Valley and others but very hesitant on the linguistic impact if we do that
- 6) Sewer utility would be separate for residents of Wellington and Abram-Village; the residents of the non-incorporated villages would not pay anything towards these sewer services.