

# Citizens' Participation and Sense of Belonging



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# Introduction

- Strategic planification and survey
- Citizens' participation vs change process
- Young adults' opinions

# Citizens' participation,

more than ever!

**To get involved,** personal benefits and also for the community!

- Develop a sense of belonging and accomplishment;
- Share ideas, enrich public debates;
- Expand its network of contacts;
- Develop new skills;
- Maintain services in your municipality (library, newspaper, ice rink, etc.);
- Promote local, social, and economic development.



# The reasons...

to take an active part in our surroundings?

- Support a cause;
- Support an organization;
- Influence decision-making;
- Initiate change;
- Acquire experience;
- Develop your municipality (dynamics, quality of life);
- Put all one's unexploited talents and interests into other areas.



# How?

- Volunteer;
- Sign a petition;
- Participate in a public consultation;
- Go and vote;
- Organize a family activity;
- Take part of a committee, a board of directors;
- Be a candidate to the municipal elections.

# A population in support of...



- *Marche Verte*
- Revival of the LVL plant
- « *Le ruée vers l'art* »
- TRAPPE project
- *Camps des As*
- Committee in the east
- Curling in Belleterre
- Organizing committees for different events



# Act in our surroundings

and make all the difference!

- Stand out as a welcoming land, be attractive;
- Become richer with our young people's innovating ideas and talents;
- Promote sharing between generations;
- Motivate our territory;
- Improve quality of life;
- Avoid the fleeing of our population.



And what if we turned to the young people and newcomers for relief?

*57% of the users of the welcome service at the CJET are in the 25-34 age group.*

*A total of **140** people have used the welcome service at the CJET.*

*74% of the newcomers who were welcomed still live in the Temiscamingue area.*

# A survey, questions, answers, the opinion of the young adults of the Temiscamingue area

- 120 young adults
- 55% are between 16 and 25 years old
- 40% have a partner
- 19% have a partner and children
- 53% have been living in the Temiscamingue area for the past 16 years

# What are the factors in choosing to live and have a future in the Temiscamingue area?

- Jobs (96 respondents out of 120 in the top 3)
- Diversity (activities, businesses, economy, 68 respondents)
- Access to health care (68 respondents)
- Professional challenges (62 respondents)

# Young adults and municipal mergers or amalgamations (controversy in opinions)

- Uncertainty with the real results;
- Fear of losing its identity (every village) ;
- Strong sense of belonging to its municipality;
- Fear of losing services;
- Too much distance between municipalities;
- Because a region cannot be a big city;
- I don't have enough information for a clear and precise answer.

## More...

- Yes for lower costs, sharing services;
- Interesting to get together for the economy (stronger together);
- « Interesting to lower administrative costs for each municipality and invest elsewhere... »;
- Avoid conflicts;
- « One day we will have to look at ourselves as a territory and not as a town. It would be sad to lose sight of our common goal: the survival and emancipation of the Temiscamingue area! ».

# In 15 years, will you still be here?

- 71.67% yes;
- Employment is an issue;
- Attracted by lakes, huge open spaces, ideal surroundings to raise a family;
- Sense of belonging helps.



# Conclusion

- The young adults and newcomers wish to contribute to the economic development of the Temsicamingue area (through different means);
- Get involved and be recognized as citizens according to their skills and not because they are young;
- Their cooperation is essential to help them stay in the area;
- Our area has to keep and develop a vitality to attract them.

Thank you!