

Summary of the Feasibility Report for the establishment of a rural community for Campobello Island

April 2010



A plebiscite (vote - yes or no) will be held in the Local Service District of the Parish of Campobello, on Monday, May 10th, 2010, according to Regulation 2005-95 of the *Municipalities Act*. You will be receiving information from Elections NB, by mail, concerning the date, place and times of the advance and regular polls.

All residents qualified to vote will be asked to answer the following question when casting their ballots:

“Are you in favour of the establishment of the Local Service District of the Parish of Campobello as a Rural Community as proposed in the Summary of the Feasibility Report of April 2010?”

Local support will be sufficient if a majority (50% + 1) of those voting at the plebiscite vote in favour of establishing a Rural Community.

This document serves to provide essential information, in an effort to assist affected residents in making an informed choice when voting at the plebiscite.

1. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE LOCAL SERVICE DISTRICT OF CAMPOBELLO ISLAND

Population

- According to the 2006 census, there are 1,056 residents in the local service district (LSD) of Campobello, a decrease of 139 residents, or 11.6 per cent, from the 2001 census of 1,195 residents, and a decrease of 18.6 per cent when compared to the 1996 census of 1,305 residents.
- According to the 2006 census, the 18.4 per cent adult unemployment rate was more than twice that of New Brunswick as a whole, and almost three times as high as the rest of Canada.

2010 property tax base and tax rate

- The **2010** property tax base for Campobello LSD is \$100 million of which about \$32 million is residential properties, about \$60 million is cottage properties, and about \$8 million is business properties.
- The **2010** local property tax rate for Campobello LSD is 23 cents per \$100 of property assessment, which is lower than the provincial average of 29 cents for LSDs. Added to this is the provincial tax levy of 63 cents per \$100 of property assessment for owner-occupied residential properties, which covers policing and road maintenance services. This results in a 2010 combined local tax rate of 86 cents (23+ 63) per \$100 of assessment for residential properties occupied by the owners.

Property type	Provincial property tax rate per \$100 of assessment value	LSD 2010 property tax rate per \$100 of assessment value	Special provincial property tax rate per \$100 of assessment	Total per \$100 of assessment value
Residential	N/A	23 cents	63 cents	86 cents
Cottage owners	\$1.46	23 cents	N/A	\$1.69
Business owners	\$2.19	35 cents	N/A	\$2.54

2. THE COMMUNITY OF CAMPOBELLO AND ITS UNMET NEEDS AND GOALS

Consultations with the community have revealed many concerns, including access to medical services and other goods and services, the lack of a year-round ferry service, border issues, the lack of employment opportunities, a related dramatic decline in population, and the absence of real, accountable, elected representation. Members of the Campobello Local Governance Committee feel that it is time for the community to control its destiny, and try to address these and other concerns and problems on Campobello Island.

3. THE RURAL COMMUNITY PROPOSAL

• **What is the vision of the rural community?**

To build a viable, self-sufficient community that is innovative and forward-looking, while maintaining respect for Campobello Island's heritage and acknowledging its unique situation.

• **How could the status of a rural community better serve the community's needs, goals and interests than the current LSD status?**

- Residents of Campobello Island would have the opportunity to serve on council and elect council members.
- All meetings of a rural community are public, and all decisions of council must be made by a resolution or bylaw at a council meeting.
- The rural community council could establish resident advisory committees to work with council on issues of concern to the community and council, and establish committees to provide advice to council on the provision of local services.

- The rural community, as an incorporated body, could own land, buildings and equipment, and would have the power to borrow funds and access grants for various projects to meet the needs of the community.
- Council could negotiate projects with the provincial and federal governments, and would be able to pursue projects and initiatives with other municipalities and LSDs.

• **What are the proposed boundaries?**

The entire island.

• **What would the rural community be named?**

The recommended name put forth by the Campobello Local Governance Committee is Campobello Island.

• **What would be the composition of council?**

With the creation of a rural community, the existing LSD Advisory Committee would be dissolved. To replace the committee, the Campobello Local Governance Committee has recommended a rural community council composed of a mayor (elected at-large) and four councillors - one elected from each of the three proposed wards, and one at-large to serve a population of 1,056.

• **Where would the rural community office initially be located?**

There is no recommendation for the initial location of the rural community office. However, it is recommended that for the first few years, council find rental space in an existing building centrally located on Campobello, with a future or permanent location to be decided at a later date by the elected rural community council.

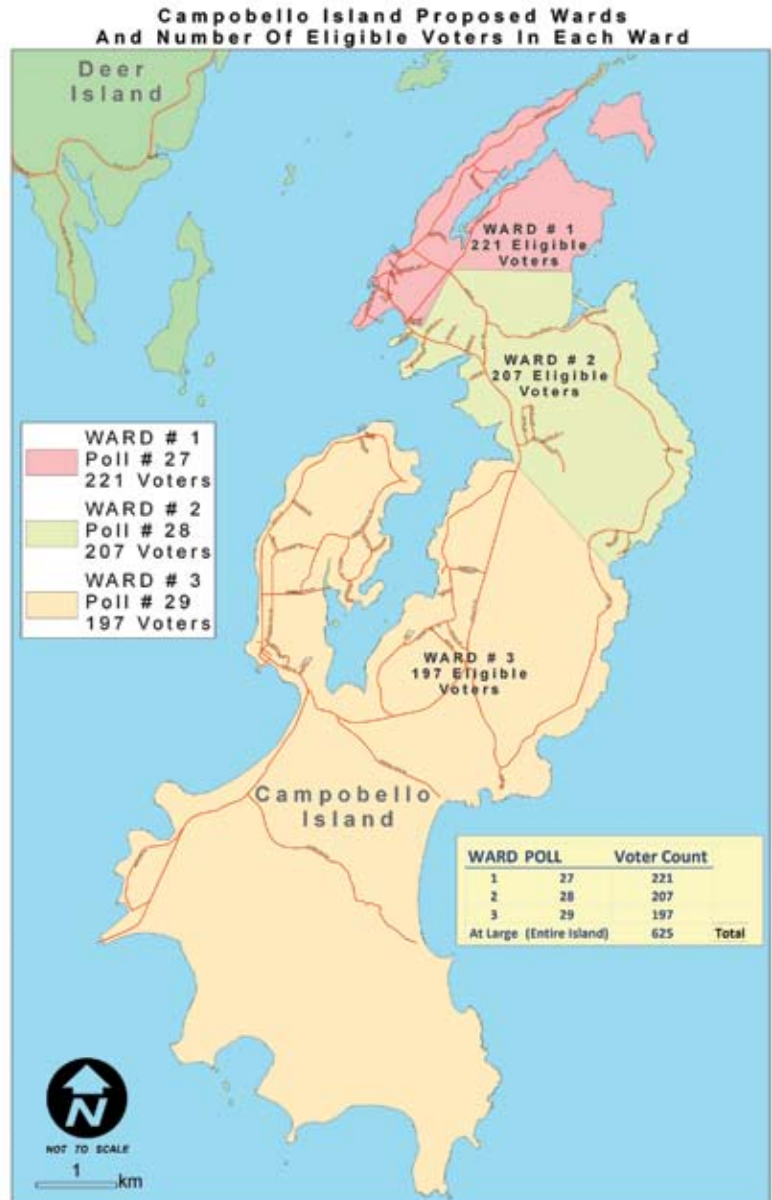
• **What staff would the rural community employ?**

The recommendation from the Campobello Local Governance Committee is that initially the rural community could have a clerk/treasurer employed for at least two days per week, and would contract out the services of a part-time development officer/building inspector, or make those services part of the clerk's duties. It is anticipated that council will eventually need to employ at least one full-time staff member.

• **What services would the rural community initially be responsible for providing, and how would those services be delivered?**

Initially, the rural community would be responsible for offering the services of land-use planning, emergency measures and administration of the rural community. It is expected that the rural community would adopt rural and emergency measures plans within two years of incorporation.

- With the adoption of its own rural plan, Campobello Island would have a plan specific to the needs and realities of the community to ensure that the different land uses (that is, residential, commercial and recreational) are located only in appropriate areas for the desired growth and development of the community.
- The rural community would be responsible for contracting the services of a certified planner/consultant to prepare



its rural plan and offer professional advice on planning matters.

- The council would also have to establish a planning advisory committee of at least three but not more than six members.
- The emergency measures plan would ensure a co-ordinated effort in an emergency situation in order to protect life, the environment and property.

The rural community council could take responsibility, when it chooses, for services now provided or that could be provided in the rural community.

• What services would the province continue to provide?

The provincial government would continue to administer all other local services now provided on Campobello Island, including police and fire protection, solid waste collection and disposal, recreation and community services, road maintenance, and animal control, unless the rural community decided through the adoption of a bylaw to become responsible for these additional services.

• How much would a rural community initially cost, and how would that affect property taxes?

- The Campobello Local Governance Committee estimates that the initial annual cost would be about \$89,000 for an elected council and part-time clerk-treasurer, and to pay for general administration costs, furniture and equipment. There would also be the cost of planning services of about \$35,000 (rural plan, fees for a development officer; building inspector; planning advisory committee; newspaper advertising, etc.) as well as \$2,000 to provide emergency measures.
- This initial total cost of about \$126,000 includes a transfer of \$37,839 from the LSD budget to the initial rural community budget for administration services, assessment and planning, since the rural community would be responsible for those. This would result in a net increase to the overall local property tax rate of 8.9 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

INITIAL PROPERTY TAX RATE INCREASE OF 8.9 CENTS PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUE FOR A RURAL COMMUNITY

PROPERTY TYPE	ASSESSED \$50,000	ASSESSED \$100,000
Permanent residence	Tax increase \$44.50 yearly	Tax increase \$89.00 yearly
Cottage	Tax increase \$44.50 yearly	Tax increase \$89.00 yearly
Business	Tax increase \$89.00 yearly	Tax increase \$133.50 yearly

• Could Campobello Island achieve cost-savings by establishing a rural community?

Some cost savings could eventually be achieved for permanent residents should the rural community choose to become responsible for the provision of other local services, such as policing services.

MORE INFORMATION

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