

PRESENTATION TO THE COMMISSION ON POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

As you are aware, the population of young people is shrinking in rural areas.

In Kent County, in order to further their education, our youth must leave home and go to larger centers. Unfortunately, statistics show that we have the lowest percentage of returnees in the province. One of the main reasons for this is our geographical location; that being our proximity to Moncton & Miramichi both of which have rapidly growing economies.

In the Rexton area, we have many young people with families who, for various reasons, were unable to further their training immediately upon leaving school. Yet, with work experience gained, they are highly capable of obtaining trade certification.

Our recommendations to this commission are:

1. Provide a venue for training locally so that rural people are not forced to leave home to learn. This particularly applies to those with young families.
For example: Rexton is the education and service center for the majority of the English population of Kent County and would be an ideal location for such a location.
2. Most young people with family obligations cannot afford to further their education. Therefore, the government should make provisions to provide an adequate income during the training period.
We are not getting a great number of immigrants with skills. However, we have the potential to alleviate the need for skilled workers by providing the proper facilities and funding to take advantage of the skills of our existing, capable population.

Thank you,

David L. Hanson, Mayor
Village of Rexton