



**SURVEY
SUMMARY
EMPLOYMENT
&
ECONOMY**

+902 245 6450 / mcarty@inspiringcommunities.ca / inspiringcommunities.ca

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THE PERSPECTIVE

"The economy. Where will we be in the future? I could work out west but I want to stay here. People need to be able to find work."

More survey participants (50%) expressed concerns about employment and the economy than about any other topic.

People were worried about the lack of jobs as well as the quality, security and the variety of employment options that exist.

Concerns included:

- a large amount of poorly paid, seasonal and part time employment positions;
- difficulty meeting basic needs with the income they earn; and
- unequal access to opportunities.

Survey participants were also worried about an over-reliance on resource based industries such as fishing, which some suggested was not sustainable and threatened by climate change and other environmental concerns.

More than half of those who worried about employment issues mentioned concerns about a declining and aging population.

When youth leave the area because there are no opportunities for them to be successful within their community, it is a loss for the economy as well as for the vibrancy and connectivity of the community.

Participants identified small businesses as an asset to the community, but many noted that it is difficult for them to get established and to thrive in this area.

146 survey participants (19%) identified strengths connected with employment and the economy. These included:

- the fishing industry
- small businesses
- tourism
- arts and music

"I'm worried about the chances of my kids getting good jobs when they grow up. I'm worried that the town is dependant on the fishery and Wharf Rat rally. We need to have a broader base economically."

Suggestions from survey participants included "buy local" campaigns, reducing red tape and establishing business hubs

CROSSING THEMES

Poverty & Equity Issues – participants noted that opportunities are not equitably distributed.

"Access to health services, employment, poverty, crime, segregation. It is a historic segregation. There are different facets in the community. It is very difficult to open up a conversation about this."

Infrastructure Issues – are seen as getting in the way of economic progress.

"... job opportunities - missed opportunities of companies moving to our area that require high capacity of both power and internet."

Lost Connections - the out-migration of younger generations results in a loss of family ties and supports for seniors as well as fewer people to take on tasks within the community, such as volunteering for community organizations.

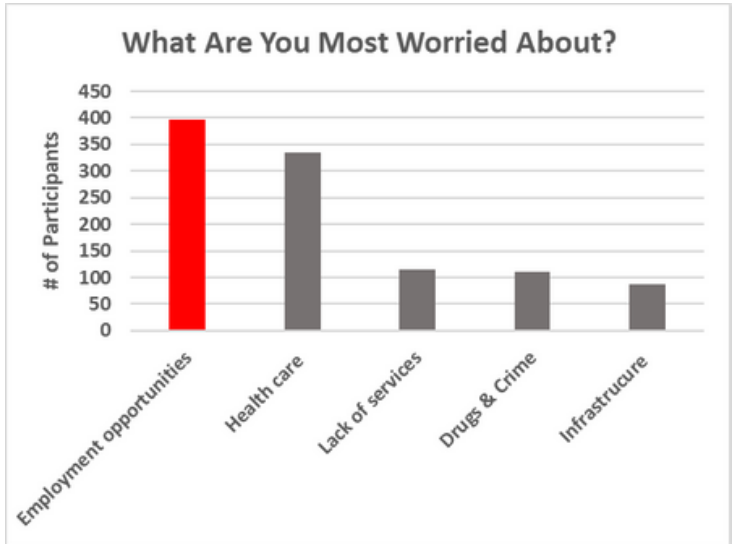
"Jobs for my kids. I pay the bills working at the mill but I want my kids to do better."

WHAT ARE YOU MOST WORRIED ABOUT?

Half of participants surveyed were worried about employment and the economy.

Concerns included:

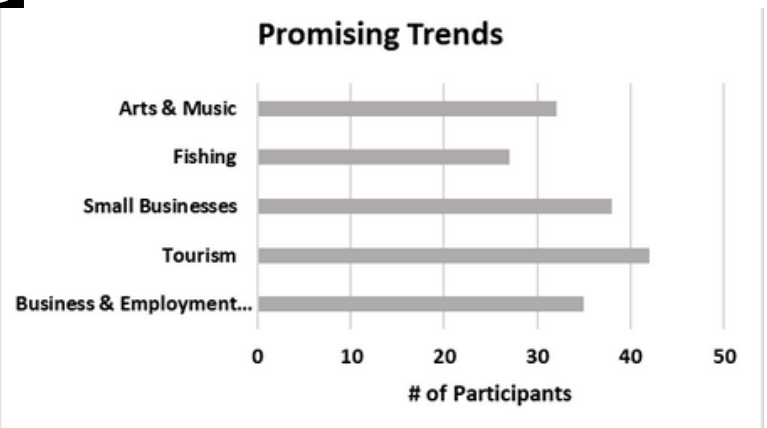
- Lack of jobs, especially good jobs;
- Poverty and equity; and
- Difficulties for small businesses.



PROMISING TRENDS

POSITIVES IN THE ECONOMY

- Tourism
- Employment and business opportunities
- Small businesses
- Fishing
- Arts and music



55%

WORRIED OVER AGING & DECLINING POPULATION, PROSPECTS FOR YOUTH AND LACK OF NEWCOMERS

Of those concerned about employment and the economy, 55% suggested that they were worried about a declining, aging population. These concerns include lack of local opportunities for youth and that there are no jobs to entice people to move here or to stay here

