



*inclusiveness broad-based ownership
,building of partnerships*



DRAFT

Country Towns Futures Conference

Communiqué

The organisers of the conference wish to thank all the participants for making it such a tremendous success. The high quality presentations, the networking and discussions, and the media coverage have all served to stimulate an ongoing dialogue about the future of our country towns. There are many issues which require creative thinking, and a cooperative effort, if we are to move toward finding acceptable solutions. The positive and spirited discussions that flowed through and from the conference serve to highlight the critical role that individuals and healthy communities can play in finding those creative solutions.

To develop a meaningful communiqué from the Conference, and to ensure real ownership by both the participants and the wider group of stakeholders, you are invited to contribute via an email-based chat line. We also ask that the attendees of the conference encourage others, who were not present, to also participate.

The evolving communicate will be posted to this website for a period of 2 months. By the end of August we hope to have produced a sound document ready for wider distribution.

Rules: Please provide suggested wording to be included in the communique rather than broad statements.

We believe the communique should:

1. provide an overview of the conference deliberations,
2. draw out key issues, and
3. provide suggested recommendations for action by both government and communities .

Suggested topics to be addressed include:

- building the resilience and strength of our communities
- finding new models for service provision
- job creation and the role of business clustering and region-wide value adding
- sustainability issues including infrastructure and the maintenance and development of community assets
- opportunities - urban myth/rural life, culturalisation, indigenization
- the implications of a government policy that accepts the notion that 'some towns are not sustainable';
- implications of a plan to relocate/resettle people from unsustainable communities;
- how to define what constitutes an unsustainable community.

Drawing on the keynote presentations it seems clear that the future of our country towns is dependent on:

- a clear vision of a future

- based on good information
- a commitment to success
- a framework to assist government to assist communities
- a statement of confidence about the future

Growing Sustainable Towns is a Journey

An agenda for action must aim to develop a sustainable future for country towns, recognizing the importance of the following elements.

- Fertile Ground - People can only learn what they can understand
- Local Enterprise - Self Awareness
- Build Capacity - Ability to Work as a Team
- Empower Communities - Strive for Shared Outcomes

LOCAL ENTERPRISE

We must develop a preferred future that includes

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| • Creativity | • Attitude |
| • Initiative | • Courage |
| • Energy | • Tenacity |

BUILD CAPACITY

Communities must celebrate difference and exploit potential

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Fostering leadership | • Learning |
| • Co-operation | • Developing Partnerships |
| • Shared Ideas | |

EMPOWER COMMUNITIES

If we empower the communities in our towns then we build lasting legacies that:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • build confidence | • Can Implement Practical Strategies |
| • build relationships | |
| • build trust | |

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