

Best Practice

Economic Research and Development Project

CONTACT

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THE PRACTICE

The Town of LeRoy council realized the slow outward migration of the population in the region and understood the desire of local residents and business owners to retain services and the current standard of living. In order to address this challenge, it was suggested that municipal staff actively research, develop and implement any and all projects that improve the local and regional economy.

THE PROCESS

Before undertaking a project designed to improve the economy of the area, the public is asked for their input. Usually, this is in the form of a newsletter and survey questionnaires. In addition, advice from other communities and local economic development groups is considered.

This project did not require any additional resources. Individuals conducting the research were already employed by the municipality, and as economic development became a priority for the region, staff focused their attention to examine opportunities for growth.

THE RESULTS

Since the Town of LeRoy has prioritized economic development as the primary issue in the municipality, a number of projects have been completed. A new, high production well to service a new Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment System has been completed. In the business community, council initiated the development of a high speed internet company as a result of being approved for a \$625,000 grant from Industry Canada. The focus on economic development within the community has resulted in council implementing incentives to rent, purchase or build a home or business in LeRoy, which have succeeded in encouraging new residents and businesses to relocate in LeRoy.

LESSONS LEARNED

Council has learned that by having the right attitude, it is possible for economic development to occur in smaller towns. A combination of determination and effort can result in the development of new projects that may not otherwise occur without the desire to succeed.