

*Report of General Survey  
Completed for  
Twillingate- New World Development Association  
Strategic Planning Committee*



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## **Introduction**

The purpose of this survey was to get insight into the social and economic needs of the Twillingate – New World Island area. The Strategic Planning Committee of the Twillingate – New World Island Development Association requested that a survey be conducted to find out what was needed to improve or to change the social and economic climate of the area.

The survey consisted of a list of questions that would give the Association some insight into what the serious concerns of the people of the area are. It was decided that a telephone survey be conducted with fifty participants from Twillingate and fifty from New World Island. The statistician, Donna Hale, who is doing a work term with the Association, completed the survey. It was difficult for Donna to decide on the people to call because she had worked with the public in the area for twenty six years and was quite familiar with the people of the area. To the best of her ability, participants were chosen in the most impartial way, with no particular sequence.

It was difficult to tabulate the results of the survey with a particular format because of the variety of questions asked. Some of the questions required yes or no answers, while other questions prompted suggestions or opinions. How to interpret the results will be presented at the beginning of each question.

## Results of Survey

Question 1: Do you or anyone you know have to move away either permanently or seasonally to find work? Where?

*The results are in number form.*

Of the one hundred people surveyed, eighty seven (87) said YES. Of the eighty seven who said yes, fifty nine (59) said the Province of Alberta.

Question 2a What can the Association do to keep people in the area, to keep them from moving away either permanently or seasonally.

*The results for question 2a are presented in bullet form, starting with the most popular suggestion and the number of respondents who made the suggestion, with some having more than one suggestion. Comments are also added at the end.*

- Create or help to create new jobs (35)
- Don't know what they can do (17)
- There's nothing the Association can do (8)
- Lobby government for higher wages - e.g. Alberta wages (7)
- At least create seasonal jobs (6)
- More projects (6)
- It shouldn't be the Association's responsibility. It's the provincial or federal government's responsibility (4)
- More education opportunities, especially for youth (4)
- Have no answer for it (3)
- Encourage government to open more industry (3)
- Improve on getting businesses to move in (3)
- More emphasis on tourism (2)
- Provide *ideas* and *direction* if not jobs (1)
- Lobby government for more aquaculture (1)
- Lobby government to ensure that our fishery stays in our hands (1)
- Be more aware of what employment is available, not only in our area, but also in the province. Have someone come and hold information sessions pertaining to different companies who are hiring (1)
- Get HRDC to fund more businesses (1)

Comments:

"Centralization changed everything. It's difficult to change what the government has done."

"The government **can** do something. They can pay to have doctors come in here and won't help Nflders with student loans. They **would** work here if they had help with student loans."

"The provincial government **never** had any input into the fishery. They haven't done **anything** and they have **no** interest in the main industry in the area."

Question 2b    What can be done to help the single parent families when someone *has* to move away to work? e.g. support groups, children's activities, etc.

*The results for question 2b are presented in bullet form, starting with the most popular suggestion and the number of respondents who made the suggestion, with some having more than one suggestion. Comments are also added at the end.*

- Children's activities (46)
- Support group for single parents (41)
- Help with babysitting (10)
- Get wood, shovel snow, etc (6)
- Daycare (6)
- Don't know(6)
- Community Activity Centre (daycare for children, and activities for parents such as craft classes) (5)
- Tax breaks (double expense when one goes away to work) (2)
- Transportation (2)
- Maintenance around the house (there's no professional to call) (2)
- Government assisted daycare (1)
- Tutorial services (1)
- no comment (1)
- Not applicable (1)

Comments:

"Friends and family helped. We didn't need outside help."

"There's nothing anyone can do. Both should go together."

"A widowed friend and mother of three had to move her family to Ontario. There's no industry here."

"If there was more work no one would have to move."

"Parents are occupied if they are employed."

"Schools have lots of activities."

"There are lots of things for children to do, lots of groups to get involved in. This opens up social activities for parents."

"Companies should do more to get workers back home more often. Neglecting families can be costly for companies."

Question 3: There are several vacant buildings in the area such as schools, department stores (e.g. Twillingate). How can they be used to create jobs in the area? e.g. training facilities, set up business (selling crafts)?

*The results for question 3 are presented in bullet form, starting with the most popular suggestion and the number of respondents who made the suggestion, with some having more than one suggestion. Comments are also added at the end.*

- Factory – making purses, cardboard boxes, jams, crafts, clothing, or a canning factory (16)
- Adult Basic Education and training. - e.g. welding and scaffolding, with ways to get tickets for these trades (11)
- Clothing store or Wal-Mart type store (10)
- Tourism related (making crafts) (10)
- Can't answer (9)
- Any type of business (Government should look at giving tax breaks and lower costs of operating). There are too many restrictions (9)
- Day care for children (8)
- Paid gym, especially for children (7)
- Seniors' Home (6)
- Call Centre (5)
- Restaurant (2)
- Encourage outside businesses to come in (2)
- Seniors' Day Care ((1)
- Museums (1)
- Theatre (1)
- Office buildings (1)
- Library (1)
- Arena (1)
- Bed and breakfast (1)
- Town Hall (1)
- Car dealership (1)
- Flea market (1)

Comments:

"First, marketing needs to be done to determine what services are needed."

"The main problem in this area is lack of local support. Someone from Gander is brought in to teach art."

"A lot of small businesses are going down. I can't see anyone wanting to invest. I own a business and it's going down - no population to support it. Existing businesses can't seem to make it. Everything has been tried."

"Businesses would have to pay a substantial wage to keep workers."

"If the buildings were used for training, would it be for people to move away?"

"Twillingate is dying. There's going to be more vacant buildings."

"The economy isn't booming - needs competition for existing clothing and hardware stores to keep shoppers in the area."

"In small communities there's nothing that can be done - fishing is gone."

Question 4: What other uses might the buildings have? (Volunteers to help children with homework, sports for children, activities for seniors, etc.)

*The results for question 4 are presented in bullet form, starting with the most popular suggestion and the number of respondents who made the suggestion, with some having more than one suggestion. Comments are also added at the end.*

- Recreation facilities (especially for children) (71)
- Activities for seniors (e.g. indoor walking) (29)
- Help children with homework (27)
- Community Centre (children and parents together) (4)
- No idea (4)
- Library (3)
- Be torn down (3)
- Crafts (e.g. quilting) (2)
- Apartment buildings for low income families (2)
- Store fishing gear (2)
- Year round dinner theatre (1)
- Recycling depot (1)
- Help centre (1)
- Food bank (1)
- Driving school (1)
- Child care (1)

Comments:

"The buildings will have to be maintained if used for sports activities."

"Seems that things have been tried, but no interest is shown"

"For a **community** centre you need a **community** effort."

Question 5: Do you think that communities or organisations should provide free sports facilities for children whose families can't afford to pay for it?

*The results for question 5 are in bulleted number form with comments following.*

- YES 80 respondents
- NO 17 respondents
- NO COMMENT 3 respondents

Comments:

"Where would you draw the line between afford and can't afford?"

"Everyone should have equal opportunity with no discrimination."

"This could create controversy, may not be fair to others, or it could be abused."

"If parents are full-time employed, yes. some can afford beer and cigarettes but have no money for their children."

"Those others are luckier than mine, especially Social Assistance recipients."

"Fees could be lower, but I don't want to pay more."

"There should be a second hand exchange."

Question 6a Is there a need for Meals on Wheels in this area?

*The results for question 6a are in bulleted number form with comments following.*

- YES 55 respondents
- NO 22 respondents
- VARIOUS COMMENTS 5 respondents

Comments:

"No one would take advantage of it because they think it's degrading."

"Hungry or not, your neighbours would have something to say about it."

"This is a large area to service."

Question 6b Do you know of anyone who could use this service where *you* live?

*The results for question 6b are in bulleted number form with no comments.*

- YES 43 respondents
- NO 57 respondents

Question 7a Do you think the needs of seniors in the area are being met?

*The results for question 7a are in bulleted number form with comments following*

- YES 29 respondents
- NO 56 respondents
- NOT SURE 15 respondents (e.g. no family as seniors, don't know of any)

Comments:

"Those without families need help."

"Some have family care and home care."

"There are cottages for those who can take care of themselves."

"The churches and Lions Club have lots of activities for them."

Question 7b What things can be done to help them? e.g. groceries delivered, mail picked up, etc.

*For those who answered yes to question 7a, part b of the question did not apply. The numbers are for the suggestions of those who answered no. Those suggestions are presented in bullet form, with comments following.*

- Help with chores around the house, e.g. to help cook, shovel snow, mow the lawn, maintenance, etc (20)
- Transportation, e.g. to go shopping, pick up groceries, go to the doctor, etc (19)
- More social activities (13)
- Meals on Wheels (9)
- More home care (7)
- Home visits, especially church groups (need for moral support, just take them shopping, just listen, etc) (5)
- Financial help, e.g. for utilities especially for widows and widowers (5)
- Outings (3)
- Seniors Complex, if self-sufficient (3)
- Long-term care facilities and trained therapists, e.g. for stroke victims.

Comments:

"I know of a ninety year old lady who is alone most of the time because she can't get enough home care."

"Family members and neighbours help out in rural areas."

"It's everyone for themselves. I'm lucky to have friends. There's Social Services for those who need transportation."

Question 8 How about people who have developmental problems, what can be done for them? e.g. Special Olympics training or activity centre.

*The results for question 8 are presented much the same as the other questions except the responses were more varied. Those respondents who had comments or opinions are grouped under the comments section and are not numbered.*

- Social activities and transportation to activities (34)
- More home care (11)
- Volunteers to stay with them to give parents a break (9)
- More therapists and medical facilities for stroke victims and autistic children (6)
- Don't know any (4)
- More financial help (2)
- Day care (2)
- Wheelchair accessible buildings (1)
- Own living arrangements (1)
- Group crafts such as recycling furniture (1)

Comments:

"There are social programs already in place."

"There are enough student assistants in schools and there's Community Living."

"There should be one on one preparation for the working environment."

"It's hard to get things started in small centres."

"There's no help, only call a friend."

Question 9      Some tourists who visit our area buy homes and stay seasonally. What services are needed to get more to stay longer? Do you have any skills to offer?

*There were very few suggestions for question 9. Most of the respondents had an opinion or comment rather than a suggestion. Part two of the question was not asked because it was omitted in error at the beginning. The results of the survey would not have been accurate. The suggestions are in bullet form and the opinions and comments follow.*

- Don't know anyone who fits into that category (21)
- More social activities, e.g. recreational fishery (6)
- Laundry facilities (2)
- Internet (2)
- Everything is seasonal - restaurants open too late and close too early in the season (1)
- Local directory for services (1)
- More stores (1)
- More tours and hiking trails (1)

Comments:

"They're only here for the summer months, anyway. It's just a retirement home."

"The ones I know don't have any complaints. If they wanted more, they wouldn't come *here*. It's a small town attraction."

"We don't need any more. You don't recognise anyone now when you walk down the street. They may try to change our towns."

"Everything must be here that they're looking for. If not, they wouldn't come here. As for the winter, the weather is not suitable."

"They can bring a lot to the town, if the tourist season was year round."

"Some homes are older, not suitable for winter living."

"There's lots of homes for them to buy now - all of our own people are leaving."

"They came here to get away from city life. They can take care of themselves."

"They just come for the scenery in the summer. They know what they're getting into."

"I would rather address the needs of the local people. Tourists know what they're getting into when they come here. They see rocks as enjoyment, we see them as unemployment."

"No need for more services, property taxes are going up as a result of tourists buying houses, although it is nice to see them."

"No services needed. *How* can you be a tourist if you live here all year long?"

"We're doing all that we can. We're victims of circumstance. The Canadian government and the Canadian dollar influences this."

"Weather conditions keep people away."

"We provide all the basics - hospital, police, ambulance, etc."

Question 10a Can we count on you if we held a brainstorming session to address some of the issues we discussed?

*The results for question 10a are in bulleted number form. There are no comments.*

- Yes (44)
- No (29)
- Time permitting /Maybe (27)

Question 10b Would you or anyone you know be a volunteer if some of these activities were put in place?

*The results for question 10b are in bulleted number form. There are no comments.*

- Yes (39)
- No (19)
- Time permitting /Maybe (42)

## **Conclusion**

The results of the survey recap the concerns of the residents of Twillingate - New World Island about the social and economic problems of the area. The results of question 1 especially should be of great concern to businesses, schools and organisations. The comments section of the survey results gives further insight into the feelings of the residents of Twillingate - New World Island and speaks just as clearly as the Yes and No responses. The information gathered from the survey can be a valuable tool for any existing organisation or business and any that might be considering starting up in the area.

## **Appendix A**

Copy of Survey

# Twillingate-New World Island Development Association

(My name is Donna) I'm calling from the Twillingate-New World Island Development Association, Newville. Are you familiar with what the Association does? Then if not, give a brief description. (It looks for ways to improve the social and economic needs of the area, such as job creation, help new businesses start up, improve, or create new social activities for the area, etc.)

We are doing a short survey in the area to find out what people feel is needed to improve or change things. Can you spare a few minutes of your time?

1. Do you or anyone you know have to move away either permanently or seasonally to find work? Where?
2. (a) What can the Association do to keep people in the area, to keep them from moving away either permanently or seasonally?  
  
(b) What can be done to help the single parent families when someone *has* to move away to work? e.g. Support groups, children's activities, etc.
3. There are several vacant buildings in the area such as schools, dept. store (Twgate). How can they be used to create jobs in the area? eg. training facilities, set up business (selling crafts)?
4. What other uses might the building have? (Volunteers to help children with homework, sports for children, activities for seniors, etc.)
5. Do you think communities or organizations should provide free sports facilities for children whose families can't afford to pay for it?
6. (a) Is there a need for Meals on Wheels in this area?  
  
(b) Do you know of anyone who could use this service where *you* live?
7. (a) Do you think the needs of seniors in the area are met?  
  
(b) What things can be done to help them? eg. groceries delivered, mail picked up, etc.
8. How about people who have developmental problems, what can be done for them? eg. (Special Olympics training, or activity center)?
9. Some tourists who visit our area buy homes and stay seasonally. What services are needed to get more, to stay longer? Do you have any skills to offer?
- 10 (a) Can we count on you if we held a brainstorming session to address some of the issues we discussed,  
Record Tel# \_\_\_\_\_  
  
(b) Would you or anyone you know be a volunteer if some of these activities were put in place? Tel # \_\_\_\_\_

## **Appendix B**

Meals on Wheels brochure