

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NOVA SCOTIA

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In 1965, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing initiated a rural development program as part of its rural extension effort. Studies showed that in the future, the basic industries of agriculture, forestry, and fishing would not be able to employ productively all of the available manpower in rural Nova Scotia, due to increasing technology in the production process and a farm consolidation program. It was agreed that there was a need to assist people in training for new jobs associated with these industries or for employment in other areas.

A joint committee of provincial and federal officials agreed that a counseling service should be established to advise and assist rural residents on training and new job opportunities. The initial problem was to motivate people to identify their needs and seek all possible assistance to overcome their deficiencies. Household surveys were conducted by "resource development representatives," mature individuals with a high degree of training in human relations. It was found that many residents would not move to established training centers for training. As a result, basic and vocational courses were organized within the county. This local availability resulted in increased participation of students.

The resource development representatives established a close relationship with other departments of government, both provincial and federal. This enabled them to counsel people on all available assistance programs. A close working relationship was established with Canada manpower officials, as representatives searched out and directed rural people to their offices for training and employment. In 1970, about 650 clients received counseling and assistance.

The second part of the rural development program was in the area of community development. Councils, associations, or other local organizations of people were formed into action groups. The first problem the resource development representatives faced was to gain identity with local action planning groups. Such groups were organized in all areas and were composed of people concerned with local development programs.

The resource development representatives provided assistance

in organization, completed surveys, developed resource materials, and gave direction in the process of community development. The process emphasized the development of people in solving their own problems. A major role of the representatives was to become acquainted with all government assistance and technical programs so the communities concerned could be made aware of these services.

The results achieved in this program can be broadly classified as follows:

1. Development of village sewer and water systems.
2. River control work to develop rivers for fishing, recreation, and protection of agricultural lands.
3. Land use planning and mapping.
4. Development of recreational complex.
5. Establishment of cottage craft industry.
6. Development of community halls and facilities.
7. Establishment of community youth programs.
8. Tourist industry promotion.

Each representative worked with unique county situations and helped the local people reach some of their goals to make their area a better place in which to live.

The rural development program in Nova Scotia is based on the principle that the resources owned by people in rural Nova Scotia have many alternative uses. The problem is to develop these resources further and employ them more effectively. The rural development program is further based on the concept that the local people must be motivated to change, and hence the process of assisting people in their development becomes most important. Our department is committed to this challenge.