



Initiative on the New Economy

**Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Places:
A Report for Taschereau, Québec**

March 2006



A project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation
Un projet de Fondation Canadienne sur la Restructuration Rurale

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page Number
Initiative on the New Economy - About the Project	ii
About the Service Inventory	iii
Availability	v
Site Description - Taschereau, Québec	vi
Population Profile - Taschereau, Québec	vii
Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Places	1
Educational Services	1
Health Services	2
Protection Services	4
Legal Services	4
Financial Services	5
Communications	6
Elderly and Childcare Services	6
Government Services	7
Community Services	8
Transportation	8
Recreational Services	9
Shopping	10
Economic Development Organizations	11
Housing	12
Challenges and Opportunities for Taschereau, Québec	13
Sources of Interest	14

INITIATIVE ON THE NEW ECONOMY - ABOUT THE PROJECT

The *Initiative on the New Economy* project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation works closely with residents, service providers, voluntary organizations, business members, and decision makers to identify factors that contribute to building capacity in rural and small town places across Canada. Capacity is the ability of people residing in a place to mobilize their assets and resources to cope with stress and transition, or to capitalize on opportunities. Such capacity is built from trust and relationships grounded in institutions, organizations, businesses, and services alike. The Initiative on the New Economy is built on four key themes to explore capacity including *local governance, communications, services, and the environment*. This report explores the relationship between services and capacity.

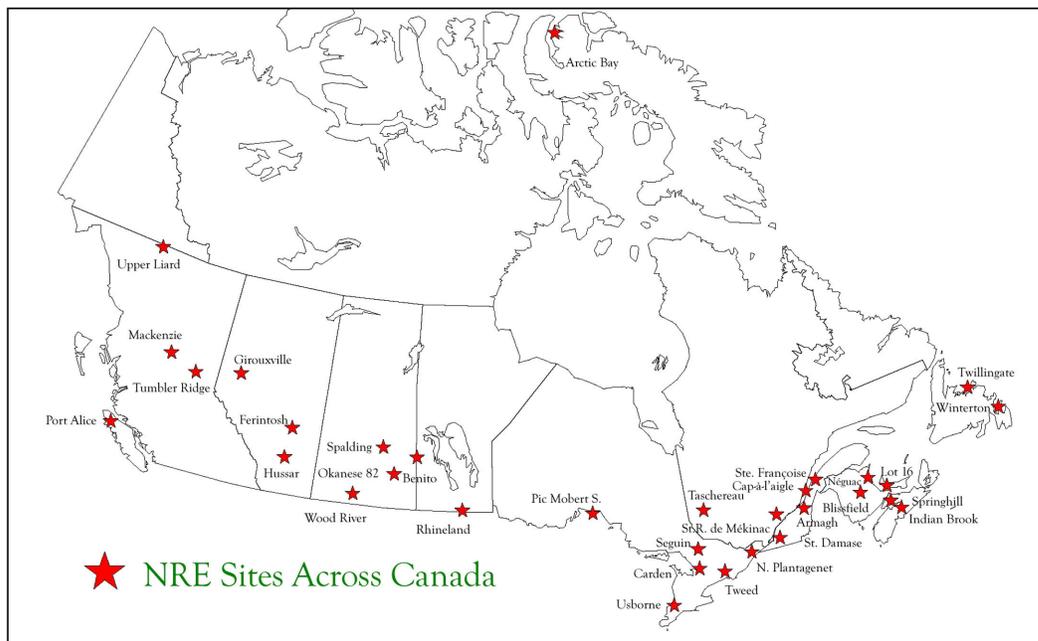
The Services Research theme conducted site profile surveys in the summer of 2005. This is the fourth survey conducted since 1998 with a goal to track services over time. Services play two key functions in building capacity. First, services help rural and small town places to cope with restructuring and transition as a result of economic downturns or plant closures. Job losses stemming from industrial restructuring or closure can place increased demands on local services for education and training, business development, counselling, health care, and other support services. Without such services, residents would have to cope with the additional burden of having to leave their town to access assistance. Job and service losses present a significant challenge to rural and small town places.

Second, services provide opportunities for building relationships, partnerships, and trust. Together, these can lead to new partnerships and innovative ways for delivering services where they might otherwise not exist. For example, schools or seniors' centres can act as multi-functional facilities for the community where local volunteer groups, sporting clubs, local theatre, and others can do their work. Another example might be the way that post offices can act as a one stop shop for a range of government services. This report focuses on the current service provision levels in rural and small town Canada. In particular, this report will compare the availability of services in Taschereau, Québec with services available in other research sites across Canada, as well as with services available in other study sites within Québec. In each of the tables in this report, the availability of services in Taschereau is compared to the 24 sites surveyed across Canada and to the 4 study sites in Québec.

Information for this report was collected in Taschereau by: Patrice LeBlanc, Mylène Sénéchal, and Luc Bisson.

ABOUT THE SERVICE INVENTORY

The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation has been conducting research in 32 rural and small town sites from across Canada. These sites form a type of “rural observatory” in which aspects of the *Initiative on the New Economy* project may be examined. The sites participating in this project reflect the diversity of the Canadian landscape, and include forestry and mining towns, farming and fishing communities, and tourism towns. Furthermore, some of these places are located adjacent to metropolitan areas, while others are more isolated.



In the summer of 2005, researchers visited 24 sites across Canada to update a service provision inventory. This included 9 sites in Western Canada, 5 sites in Ontario, 4 sites in Québec, and 6 sites in Atlantic Canada. The population of these rural and small town places varies from 150 to 5,205 people.

Distribution and size of INE participating sites

SITES	POPULATION SIZE – 2001
Western Canada	
Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia	1,851
Mackenzie, British Columbia	5,205
Port Alice, British Columbia	1,126
Hussar, Alberta	181
Ferintosh, Alberta	150
Spalding, Saskatchewan	261
Wood River, Saskatchewan	370
Benito, Manitoba	415
Rhineland, Manitoba	4,183
Ontario	
Seguin, Ontario	3,698
Tweed, Ontario	1,540
North Plantagenet, Ontario	3,848
Carden, Ontario	888
Usborne, Ontario	1,490
Québec	
Taschereau, Québec	534
Cap-à-l'aigle, Québec	720
St. Damase, Québec	1,327
St. Françoise, Québec	453
Atlantic Canada	
Blissfield, New Brunswick	674
Neguac, New Brunswick	1,697
Lot 16, Prince Edward Island	688
Springhill, Nova Scotia	4,091
Twillingate, Newfoundland and Labrador	2,615
Winterton, Newfoundland and Labrador	560

Source: CRRF NRE 2005; Statistics Canada 2001.

Data were collected to examine the availability of a range of services including:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| education | community |
| health | transportation |
| protection services | recreational |
| legal | basic Shopping |
| business services | commercial shopping |
| communication | economic development organizations |
| elderly and childcare | housing |
| government | |

AVAILABILITY

Copies of all service availability reports were distributed within the participating sites. Additionally, copies have been posted on the INE website (nre.concordia.ca) and on Greg Halseth's website (<http://web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg>).

Copies of the larger *Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Canada* report are available in a number of locations. At the University of Northern British Columbia, copies have been deposited at the Weller Library or can be accessed on Greg Halseth's website: <http://web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg>. Copies are also available on the Initiative of the New Economy website at: nre.concordia.ca.

For further information about this report or other available reports on services, please contact Greg Halseth at:

Geography Program
University of Northern British Columbia
3333 University Way
Prince George, B.C.
V2N 4Z9
Telephone: (250) 960-5826
E-mail: halseth@unbc.ca

For further information about other INE reports, please contact:

Bill Reimer
Projet NÉR²
Concordia University
Dép. de sociologie et d'anthropologie
- 1455 boul. de Maisonneuve ouest
Montréal, Québec
H3G 1M8

Téléphone : (514) 848-2424
Courriel : reimer@vax2.concordia.ca

Patrice LeBlanc, Professeur
Département des Sciences du
Développement Humain et Social
Université du Québec en Abitibi
Témiscamigue
445, boulevard de l'Université
Rouyn-Noranda, Québec J9X 5E4

Téléphone : (819) 762-0971 ext. 2331
Courriel : Patrice.LebLANC@uqat.ca

Booklet Contributors: Greg Halseth, Laura Ryser, Chelan Hoffman, Regine Halseth, Patrice LeBlanc, Mylène Sénéchal, and Luc Bisson.

Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council - Initiative on the New Economy

**INITIATIVE ON THE NEW ECONOMY
SERVICE PROVISION IN RURAL AND SMALL TOWN PLACES: A REPORT FOR TASCHEREAU, QC**

Description du site – Taschereau, QC

Le village de Taschereau a été fusionné avec le territoire de la paroisse de Taschereau en décembre 2001. Après cette fusion, Taschereau a annexé une partie d'une terre qui était précédemment contrôlée par la municipalité de Poularis. Ce territoire inclut une route qui rejoint la route 101.

À Taschereau, le village est plutôt plat et est composé de 15 rues. Un des plus grands atouts est la proximité des lacs Lois, Chavigny, Robertson, et Taschereau, qui offrent des activités de canotage et de pêche. On retrouve un quai au lac Robertson. En outre, Taschereau (village) bénéficie de sa proximité à l'entrée du Parc national d'Aigüebelle, ce qui amène de l'activité touristique à la communauté.

La municipalité a été établie sur les rivages des lacs Robertson et Taschereau. Les premiers habitants sont arrivés en 1911. Le village de Taschereau était le centre ferroviaire le plus important dans l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue jusqu'à la fermeture des installations du C.N. en 1956.

Les forêts riches et naturelles des environs ont alors pris de l'importance en 1960, date où la Fédération régionale des chantiers coopératifs de l'Ouest québécois a installé une scierie dans l'usine fermée par le CN. En 1975, la scierie de Taschereau a pris possession des installations et a continué les activités de transformation. En 1987, la compagnie Tembec Inc. a pris les opérations en main. Aujourd'hui, cette entreprise emploie presque 120 personnes (environ 49% de ces ouvriers habitent à Taschereau), et est l'employeur le plus important de la municipalité.



PROFIL DE LA POPULATION - TASCHEREAU, QUÉBEC

La population de Taschereau a connu une baisse importante entre 1996 et 2001, années des deux derniers recensements de Statistique Canada. En effet, 20,4 % de la population de 1996 n'y résidait plus en 2001. Cette baisse est surtout attribuable à une diminution de la population dans le village de Taschereau (baisse de 16,7 % de sa population), tandis que la population de la municipalité était plus stable (baisse de seulement 3,7 % de la population). Il faudra voir si ces tendances se maintiennent lors du prochain recensement de 2006.

Par ailleurs, l'âge moyen de la population de Taschereau est de 37,05 ans, ce qui se compare avec l'âge moyen du Québec (38,32 ans), mais est un peu plus vieux que celle de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue (âge moyen de 35,86 ans). Plusieurs enfants résident également à Taschereau (55 enfants de 0 à 4 ans et 150 de 5 à 14 ans), ce qui est de bonne augure pour l'avenir surtout parce que cela devrait assurer une certaine pérennité à l'école du village.

	Total	Village	Municipalité	Homme Village	Homme Muni.	Femme Village	Femme Muni.
Population en 2001	1048	534	514	X	X	X	X
Population en 1996	1175	641	534	X	X	X	X
Changement de population, 1996 à 2001 (%)	-20,4	-16,7	-3,7	X	X	X	X
Total – Tous les individus	1045	535	510	265	265	270	250
Âgés de 0-4	55	30	25	10	10	15	10
Âgés de 5-14	150	65	90	30	40	35	45
Âgés de 15-19	95	45	50	20	20	25	25
Âgés de 20-24	75	35	40	15	20	20	20
Âgés de 25-44	280	145	135	80	70	65	70
Âgés de 45-54	145	65	80	40	50	25	35
Âgés de 55-64	100	60	40	25	25	30	15
Âgés de 65-74	90	50	40	25	20	25	20
Âgés de 75-84	40	30	10	15	5	20	5
Âgés de 85 et plus	10	10	5	5	5	0	0
Âge moyen de la population	37,05	39,5	34,6	40,5	36,6	38,8	32,6

SERVICE PROVISION IN RURAL AND SMALL TOWN PLACES

Services play an important role in retaining and attracting residents and businesses. However, rural and small town places across Canada are experiencing tremendous change stemming from economic and social restructuring in an increasingly global economy. As a result, some small towns have been experiencing population declines. At the same time, federal and provincial government policies have been withdrawing some of the service infrastructure that can provide a foundation for revitalizing rural and small town places and assist residents to cope with stress. Some rural and small town places adjusted to transition through establishing innovative services or diversifying their local economies. These types of innovation suggest one way by which services help to build capacity within a place.

Services also help to build capacity by providing opportunities for building relationships, partnerships, and trust, which subsequently can lead to new partnerships and innovative ways for delivering services where they might otherwise not exist. Together, services can help to enhance local quality of life and mitigate out-migration.

Educational Services

Educational institutions are playing a changing role in maintaining quality of life in rural and small town places. Schools have provided other amenities through their libraries, theatres, and art galleries in places that would otherwise not have access to such services. They have also played a larger economic development role. Community colleges or CEGEP can provide skilled and professional workers, act as a broker of services, and act as a repository of information. They can also design programs and services that are relevant and respond to the changing labour market conditions of small places.

Table 1: Availability of Education Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Taschereau:	
	Canada		Québec		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Pre-school/kindergarten	50.0	62.5	50.0	50.0	✓	
Elementary school	63.6	66.7	75.0	75.0	✓	
High school	27.3	37.5	0.0	0.0	X	✓
CEGEP / College	18.2	16.7	0.0	0.0	X	X

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

With the exception of community colleges, educational services are available in more sites across Canada in 2005 compared to two years ago. With the exception of elementary schools, educational services are more limited in the Québec sites compared to the national sample (Table 1). In particular, none of the Québec sites offer a high school or a CEGEP / community college. Taschereau is equipped to meet the educational needs of young families. However, a concern for

the community is that school children must leave to access high school education approximately 30 kilometres away in Macamic. The closest CEGEP is located beyond 30 minutes in Amos.

Health Services

Health services play an important role in attracting new labour and retaining residents. During times of economic and social restructuring, closures in hospitals and the centralization of physical and mental health services can be difficult on the elderly and the poor who do not have access to a vehicle or who live in a place with limited transportation services. However, it is not just the utility of health services that is of concern, but also the potential loss of health care jobs that can lead to a further decline in the local economy and population.

Table 2: Availability of Health Infrastructure - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Taschereau:	
	Canada		Québec		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Hospital	18.2	12.5	0.0	0.0	X	X
Health centre / CLSC	27.3	37.5	25.0	25.0	✓	
Medical clinic	40.9	37.5	25.0	25.0	X	X
Blood / urine testing facility	36.4	41.7	50.0	50.0	✓	
X-ray facility	22.7	20.8	0.0	0.0	X	X
Baby delivery facility	4.5	4.2	0.0	0.0	X	X
CT scan facility	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	X
Nursing home	18.2	16.7	0.0	0.0	X	✓
Pharmacy	40.9	37.5	25.0	25.0	X	X
Ambulance	36.4	41.7	25.0	0.0	X	X
Emergency services	18.2	16.7	0.0	0.0	X	X

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Health facilities are limited in most of the rural and small town places examined (Table 2). This has changed very little over the last two years. Of particular interest is that fewer than 40% of sites across Canada in 2005 have a health centre, hospital, or pharmacy. This carries important implications for residents commuting for medical emergencies or health care reasons. Sites in Québec have more limited health facilities compared to the national sample. Half of these sites, though, have blood / urine testing facilities in their community. Taschereau has a health centre and a blood / urine testing facility. The closest nursing home is located in Macamic. Other health care facilities, however, are only available beyond a 30 minute drive from Taschereau. This may produce additional pressure for residents who must commute to access health care services, but who may have limited transportation options.

Table 3: Availability of Health Professionals - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Taschereau:	
	Canada		Québec		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Doctors	36.4	41.7	25.0	25.0	X	X
Nurses	36.4	41.7	25.0	25.0	✓	
Dentists	27.3	25.0	25.0	25.0	X	X
Dental surgeons	9.1	8.3	25.0	25.0	X	X
Optometrists	18.2	16.7	0.0	0.0	X	X
Home care visits	54.5	70.8	50.0	50.0	✓	
VON	13.6	20.8	0.0	25.0	✓	
Social workers	22.7	29.2	0.0	25.0	✓	
Public health nurse	31.8	37.5	0.0	0.0	X	✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

The availability of health care professionals is also limited in small places. In fact, only home care visits are available in more than half of the sites across Canada in 2005 (Table 3). Even those services considered as essential, such as doctors, are only available in just over 41% of the sites across Canada. The presence of health professionals is more limited in Québec sites. None of these sites have an optometrist or a public health nurse. Taschereau residents have more limited access to health care professionals compared to some of the other sites across Canada. Residents may visit a nurse, VON, social worker, and receive home care visits within their community. Furthermore, a public health nurse is accessible within 30 minutes. However, a concern for maintaining residents in an aging population may be that residents must travel approximately 50 kilometres to visit a doctor, dentist, dental surgeon, or optometrist in either Amos or La Sarre.

Table 4: Availability of Health Programs / Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Taschereau:	
	Canada		Québec		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Physiotherapy	22.7	25.0	0.0	25.0	X	✓
Speech therapy	31.8	25.0	0.0	0.0	X	X
Occupational therapy	13.6	17.4	0.0	25.0	✓	
Respite care	22.7	21.7	0.0	0.0	X	✓
Prenatal care programs	*	39.1	*	33.3	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

The availability of health care programs and services is also low in the sites examined across Canada. However, new services being tracked in 2005, including prenatal care programs are more widely available (Table 4). Health care services and programs are less widely available in Québec sites compared to the national sample. However, more sites in Québec offer

physiotherapy and occupational therapy compared to 2003 results. Taschereau residents may access occupational therapy and prenatal care programs locally. Physiotherapy and respite care are obtainable within 30 minutes in Macamic. However, residents must go beyond 30 minutes to Amos or La Sarre if they wish to access speech therapy.

Protection Services

Protection services contribute to community capacity in a number of ways. For example, volunteer fire departments and various crime watch programs provide opportunities for community involvement and interaction, both of which can build trust and leadership.

Table 5: Availability of Protection Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Taschereau:	
	Canada		Québec		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Police (Local / RCMP)	22.7	33.3	0.0	0.0	X	✓
Fire department	68.2	79.2	50.0	50.0	✓	
911 emergency line	86.4	83.3	100.0	50.0	✓	
Security services	4.5	12.5	0.0	0.0	X	X
Alarm services	22.7	37.5	25.0	25.0	X	X
Neighbourhood watch	31.8	29.2	0.0	0.0	X	X
Rural crime watch	13.6	16.7	0.0	0.0	X	X
Victim's services – police based	*	16.7	*	0.0	X	X

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

Protection services are more available than most other services (Table 5). Most notably, fire departments and the 911 telephone number are available in more than half the sites across Canada. Since 2003, some sites across Canada appear to have recovered policing and fire department services. While half of the Québec sites have a fire department and 911 service, the availability of other protection services is more limited. Furthermore, while all Québec sites offered a 911 emergency line service in 2003, just 50% of these Québec sites continue to do so today. Taschereau is able to offer its residents basic protection services that are common in other Quebec sites, including a fire department, and access to a 911 emergency line. Other protection services may be obtained in Amos or La Sarre.

Legal Services

Legal services are another example of specialized services that are often not found in rural areas. The absence of legal services has important implications as residents must commute to go to court, to access legal services such as preparation of wills or for purchasing real estate, or to have passports or affidavits signed.

Table 6: Availability of Legal Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Taschereau:	
	Canada		Québec		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Lawyer	18.2	16.7	0.0	0.0	X	X
Notary	40.9	45.8	25.0	25.0	X	X
Court	18.2	12.5	0.0	0.0	X	X

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Overall, legal services are very limited in the study sites across Canada (Table 6). The availability of legal services in Québec sites is more limited when compared to the national sample. In fact, none of these sites have a lawyer or a court. Taschereau residents and business members have limited access to legal services compared to other sites across Canada. In fact, none of the protection services are available within 30 minutes. Instead, residents and business members must commute approximately 50 kilometres to access these services in Amos or La Sarre.

Financial Services

Businesses also play a role in providing a range of activities that enhance the quality of life of a place, as well as the viability and stability of the local economy. Business members also play an important role in community development as they can provide leadership in, and support for, local volunteer groups. Small local businesses are also an important source for fundraising and sponsorship of specific local organizations or events.

Table 7: Availability of Financial / Business Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Taschereau:	
	Canada		Québec		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Banks	36.4	33.3	25.0	25.0	X	X
Credit Union / Caisse Populaire	50.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	✓	
ATM	50.0	54.2	25.0	25.0	X	✓
Micro-financing	9.1	16.7	0.0	25.0	X	X
Insurance office	50.0	50.0	25.0	25.0	✓	
Industrial park	22.7	20.8	25.0	25.0	X	X
Real estate office	18.2	20.8	25.0	25.0	X	X
Accounting	50.0	50.0	25.0	25.0	X	X

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

In general, credit unions, ATMs, insurance offices, and accounting services are found in half the rural and small town sites across Canada (Table 7). The availability of these services has remained fairly stable over the last two years. In 2005, more Québec sites have a caisse

populaire and micro-financing offices compared to the national sample. Fewer Québec sites have banks, ATMs, insurance offices, or accounting. Taschereau residents benefit from the availability of a caisse populaire and an insurance office within its community. The closest community with an ATM is located in Macamic. Other financial services are located beyond 30 minutes in either Amos or La Sarre.

Communications

Connectivity is crucial in the new economy. Communication services also allow residents to maintain contact with family and friends. With improved communication infrastructure, rural and small town places can improve local employment opportunities, and support business networks.

Table 8: Availability of Communication Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Taschereau:	
	Canada		Québec		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Cell phone – analog	86.4	91.7	50.0	100.0	✓	
Cell phone – digital	40.9	83.3	25.0	75.0	X	X

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Overall, analog cell phone service is widely available across the study sites in Canada (Table 8). Approximately 83% of the sites in the national sample also enjoy digital cell phone service. All of the sites in Québec offer analog cell phone service. While fewer Québec sites have digital cell phone service, there has been a substantial increase in the proportion with digital cell phone service since 2003. Taschereau residents and businesses benefit from the availability of analog cell phone service.

Elderly and Childcare Services

Childcare services provide an important part of the educational and care services in rural and small town places. Childcare also provides men and women with children an opportunity to participate in the labour force. Other services of importance are seniors' services including nursing homes and retirement homes. These services are particularly important given the aging of the Canadian population.

An inventory of 24 sites across Canada indicates that while many are equipped to meet the needs of young families, others are not yet well equipped with seniors' care facilities (Table 9). In contrast to the national sample, sites in Québec are well equipped to meet the needs of young families and senior citizens. More Québec sites offer daycare services and senior citizen retirement homes compared to the national sample, although none of these sites have a nursing home. Taschereau is well equipped to meet the needs of young families and seniors with its

daycare facilities and its senior citizen's retirement facilities. The closest nursing home is located in Macamic.

Table 9: Availability of Elderly and Daycare Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Taschereau:	
	Canada		Québec		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Daycare	45.5	54.2	75.0	100.0	✓	
Senior citizen's nursing home	18.2	20.8	0.0	0.0	X	✓
Senior citizen's retirement home	33.3	37.5	50.0	75.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Government Services

Town halls and post offices are the most frequently available government services in rural and small town places. Post offices not only provide a service and identity, but also opportunities for routine social interaction to build relationships. Other government services play an important role in community capacity by providing a local source of expertise and knowledge upon which the community can draw.

The rural and small town sites examined across Canada do not have access to many government services (Table 10). Of particular concern to sites experiencing social and economic restructuring is that few of the sites have Employment Insurance or social assistance offices. Consequently, during restructuring or plant closures, households experiencing stress will have to go outside the site for information and assistance.

Table 10: Availability of Government Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Taschereau:	
	Canada		Québec		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Employment Insurance	4.5	4.2	0.0	0.0	X	X
Provincial auto license office	18.2	16.7	0.0	0.0	X	X
Social assistance office	22.7	16.7	0.0	0.0	X	X
Town hall	68.2	70.8	75.0	75.0	✓	
Post office	81.8	83.3	100.0	100.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

While more sites in Québec have a town hall and a post office compared to the national sample, none of the Québec sites have other government services. This may put additional pressure on households who may need to travel to access assistance during periods of change. The availability of government services in Taschereau, including a town hall and a post office, resembles the service provision in other Québec sites. Taschereau residents, however, must

commute more than 30 minutes to Amos or La Sarre to access other types of government services.

Community Services

Community services can provide an important foundation from which to build relationships, and can be important sources to draw upon during times of economic and social stress. The availability of community services in rural and small town places varies considerably (Table 11). While fewer sites across Canada have second hand stores compared to two years ago, more sites in the national sample offer clothing depots and senior drop-in centres.

Table 11: Availability of Community Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Taschereau:	
	Canada		Québec		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Food bank	31.8	25.0	25.0	25.0	X	X
Clothing exchange / depot	18.2	29.2	50.0	25.0	X	X
Second hand stores	40.9	29.2	50.0	25.0	X	X
Youth drop-in centre	22.7	25.0	0.0	0.0	X	X
Women's drop-in centre	22.7	16.7	25.0	0.0	X	X
Senior's drop-in centre	31.8	41.7	0.0	25.0	✓	
Half-way house	4.5	4.2	0.0	0.0	X	X
Women's resource centre	9.1	8.3	25.0	25.0	X	X
Women's safe house	*	8.3	*	0.0	X	X
Personal aid services	31.8	37.5	0.0	50.0	✓	
Victim's services						
– comm. based	*	25.0	*	25.0	X	X
Churches	*	95.8	*	100.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

Overall, sites in Québec did not have as many community services when compared to all the sites across Canada. In fact, the availability of clothing depots and second hand stores has declined in the Québec sites since 2003. At least half of these sites, though, have personal aid services and churches. The availability of personal aid services will be important during periods of social and economic change. Taschereau residents benefit from the availability of a local senior's club, personal aid services, and a church. Other community services, however, are located approximately 50 kilometres away in Amos or La Sarre.

Transportation

Transportation infrastructure can have important implications not only for attracting economic activity to a place, but also for enhancing the quality of life of vulnerable groups in rural and small town places. Transportation services, especially freight services, can play an important role in attracting industry by providing additional options to export products. However, without

adequate, affordable transportation options, mobility can be difficult for women, seniors, or those with disabilities to move within the community and to access services in adjacent centres. Being mobile enables citizens to have access to services, to be involved in the community, to develop local friendship ties and support networks, and to experience social activities.

The higher availability of gas stations and automobile repair services in these places reflects Canada's general reliance on the automobile (Table 12). Other transportation services are less frequently available, most notably local transit service, passenger rail service, and airport service.

Table 12: Availability of Transport Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Taschereau:	
	Canada		Québec		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Local bus transit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	X
Inter-community bus station	31.8	29.2	0.0	25.0	X	X
Train – passenger	4.5	4.2	0.0	0.0	X	X
Train – freight	36.4	29.2	0.0	25.0	✓	
Airport	18.2	16.7	0.0	0.0	X	X
Helicopter port	22.7	25.0	0.0	0.0	X	X
Boat / ferry terminal	18.2	25.0	25.0	25.0	X	X
Taxi	27.3	25.0	0.0	0.0	X	X
Gas station	86.4	87.5	100.0	100.0	✓	
Automobile repair	63.6	70.8	25.0	50.0	X	X

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

When compared to sites across Canada, more Québec sites have a gas station. However, fewer Québec sites have most other transportation services. A greater proportion of Québec sites have an inter-community bus station, freight train service, and automobile repair shops compared to two years ago. Taschereau has a gas station and freight train service. This provides an important foundation to not only maintain, but to attract other economic development opportunities. A concern for the community, however, may be the limited transportation options available to residents. Limited transportation options may lead to out-migration as residents require access to services in other centres.

Recreation Services

When examining all of the sites, recreational services show the greatest range of availability compared to any other service category (Table 13). This bodes well for the retention and attraction of residents, as well as the overall quality of life of these places. More notable recreational services available include community playing fields, community centres, libraries, municipal parks, hiking trails, and campgrounds. Many of these services can be important places where events can foster a sense of community. Across Canada, most sites are also able to offer either an indoor skating rink or a community gym. Recreational services less frequently available across Canada include fitness facilities, such as athletic clubs and swimming pools, as well as entertainment features such as cinemas. Since 2003, live theatre and tennis courts are

found in more sites in the national sample. Declines in recreational services between 2003 and 2005 in the national sample include outdoor municipal swimming pools and skiing trails.

Table 13: Availability of Recreation Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Taschereau:	
	Canada		Québec		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Curling rink	31.8	37.5	0.0	0.0	X	X
Bowling lanes	22.7	20.8	0.0	0.0	X	X
Indoor municipal swimming pool	13.6	12.5	0.0	0.0	X	X
Outdoor municipal swimming pool	18.2	8.3	0.0	0.0	X	X
Indoor municipal skating rink	50.0	54.2	25.0	25.0	✓	
Outdoor municipal skating rink	31.8	33.3	75.0	75.0	X	X
Community playing field	81.8	79.2	75.0	50.0	✓	
Community gym	50.0	50.0	25.0	50.0	✓	
Community centre	81.8	75.0	50.0	50.0	✓	
Municipal athletic club	18.2	16.7	25.0	0.0	X	X
Theatre (live performance)	13.6	33.3	0.0	0.0	X	X
Cinema (movie theatre)	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	✓
Museum	36.4	41.7	0.0	25.0	X	✓
Library	77.3	79.2	100.0	100.0	✓	
Municipal parks	77.3	79.2	75.0	50.0	✓	
Provincial parks	22.7	16.7	50.0	25.0	✓	
Tennis courts	31.8	45.8	25.0	50.0	✓	
Skiing trails	50.0	37.5	0.0	0.0	X	X
Hiking trails	63.6	62.5	25.0	25.0	✓	
Golf courses	36.4	37.5	0.0	0.0	X	X
Campgrounds	68.2	66.7	0.0	0.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

In 2005, a greater proportion of sites in Québec offer recreational amenities such as outdoor municipal skating rinks and public libraries when compared with sites across Canada in 2005. However, some recreational services, such as a curling rink, bowling lanes, municipal swimming pools or athletic clubs, live theatre, movie cinema, skiing trails, and golf courses are not available in any of these sites. Taschereau is able to offer recreational amenities to residents and visitors of various ages and fitness levels. These amenities include an indoor municipal skating rink, community playing field, community gym, community centre, library, municipal and provincial parks, tennis courts, hiking trails, and campgrounds. Furthermore, there is a movie theatre within 30 minutes in Macamic, and a museum is just 15 kilometres away in Authier. Other recreational amenities may be accessed in Amos or La Sarre.

Shopping

Shopping services contribute to the success of the local economy and are considered to be an important gauge of economic health of rural and small town places. Shopping is also an

important recreational activity and provides opportunities for social interaction. Low levels of shopping services can lead to out-of-town shopping and perhaps even out-migration.

Table 14: Availability of Basic Shopping Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Taschereau:	
	Canada		Québec		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	<u>% Yes</u>	<u>% Yes</u>	<u>% Yes</u>	<u>% Yes</u>		
2003	2005	2003	2005			
Grocery store	68.2	70.8	50.0	50.0	✓	
Farmer's market	13.6	25.0	0.0	0.0	X	X
Liquor store	54.5	62.5	25.0	25.0	✓	
Bakery	27.3	37.5	0.0	0.0	X	X

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

The service inventory indicates that most sites across Canada are able to offer shopping services that residents would need to access on a more frequent basis, such as grocery stores (Table 14). In fact, basic shopping services have been increasing in the 24 sites examined in the national inventory. However, a lower proportion of sites in Québec have basic shopping services. While Taschereau residents may shop for groceries or liquor locally, they must travel beyond 30 minutes to visit the closest farmer's market and bakery in La Sarre or Amos. For more specialized shopping, Taschereau residents commute approximately 50 kilometres to Amos, La Sarre, or Rouyn Noranda (78 kilometres away).

Economic Development Organizations

Economic development organizations can play an important role in promoting the community to attract not only additional businesses, but also to attract a wider population base. While there is not a wide range of economic development organizations in these sites, it is particularly critical to note that only approximately 20% of the sites across Canada have a Chamber of Commerce (Table 15). As these organizations are comprised of local business individuals, they are important sources to draw upon during economic and social change. On the other hand, more sites in the national sample offer financial and business consulting services compared to two years ago. While half of the Québec sites have a women's leadership group, a challenge will be accessing leadership and assistance from other types of economic development organizations. While Taschereau has a women's leadership group, other economic development organizations and programs are accessible only beyond 30 minutes in Amos, La Sarre, or Rouyn Noranda.

Table 15: Availability of Economic / Development Organizations - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Taschereau:	
	Canada		Québec		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Business Dev. Bank of Canada	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	X
Community Futures Dev. Corp.	0.0	8.3	0.0	0.0	X	X
Chamber of Commerce	18.2	20.8	0.0	0.0	X	X
Local bus. dev. corp.	18.2	8.3	0.0	0.0	X	X
Economic / community trust	4.5	4.2	0.0	0.0	X	X
Career training / placmt. prgm.	13.6	12.5	0.0	0.0	X	X
Financial / business consulting	27.3	37.5	0.0	25.0	X	X
Real estate boards	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	X
Tourism associations	27.3	12.5	0.0	0.0	X	X
Rotary clubs	18.2	12.5	25.0	0.0	X	X
Retraining programs – general	*	8.3	*	0.0	X	X
Retraining programs – women	*	0.0	*	0.0	X	X
Women’s leadership groups	*	41.7	*	50.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Housing

Housing has been used as an incentive to attract residents to rural and small town places. However, lack of housing options as a population changes, or ages, can be a problem and can lead to out-migration. Housing options can improve the quality of life of residents, especially the more vulnerable citizens, including senior citizens or those with disabilities.

Table 16: Availability of Social Housing Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Taschereau:	
	Canada		Québec		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Co-op housing	13.6	8.3	25.0	0.0	X	X
Rent supplement units	22.7	20.8	0.0	0.0	X	X
Asstd / sub. housing – seniors	31.8	50.0	0.0	50.0	✓	
Asstd / sub. housing – families	31.8	29.2	0.0	0.0	X	X
Asstd / sub. housing – singles	9.1	12.5	0.0	0.0	X	X
Asstd / sub. housing - disabled / special needs	13.6	12.5	0.0	0.0	X	X

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Although, social housing does not appear to be widely available in sites across Canada, there have been some important changes (Table 16). Most notably, there has been an increase in the availability of assisted or subsidized housing for seniors from approximately 32% of the sites across Canada in 2003 to 50% in 2005. While the availability of social housing is generally limited in Québec, half of these sites offer assisted or subsidized housing for seniors. An asset

for Taschereau residents is the availability of assisted or subsidized housing for seniors. However, to access other types of social housing, residents must move beyond the community to places such as Amos and La Sarre.

Challenges and Opportunities for Taschereau, Québec

Taschereau has a foundation of services for a young, family-oriented population typically found in a forestry community. With a number of residents approaching retirement, the presence of social housing options for seniors is another asset that is not often found in other sites across Canada. Furthermore, the community has a variety of recreational amenities to meet resident needs that will enhance local quality of life. Important challenges for Taschereau residents may include the limited availability of shopping, community, post-secondary, and health care services. Multi-purpose out-of-town trips may arise as residents leave the community to access a variety of services elsewhere. As residents must travel approximately 50 kilometres to Amos or La Sarre, it will be important to maintain current programs and services to prevent further out-migration due to the isolation of this community.

SOURCES OF INTEREST

Books

Bruce, D. and G. Lister. 2003. *Opportunities and Actions in the New Rural Economy*. Sackville, New Brunswick: Rural and Small Town Programme.

Essex, S., Gilg, A. and R. Yarwood with J. Smithers and R. Wilson. 2005. *Rural Change and Sustainability: Agriculture, the Environment, and Community*. Wallingford, Oxfordshire, UK: CABI Publishing.

Ilbery, B. 1998. *The Geography of Rural Change*. Essex: Longman Ltd.

Halseth, G. and R. Halseth. 2004. *Building for Success: Explorations of Rural Community and Rural Development*. Brandon, Manitoba: Rural Development Institute and Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation.

Halseth, G. and L. Sullivan. 2003. *Building Community in an Instant Town: A Social Geography of Mackenzie and Tumbler Ridge, B.C.* Prince George, B.C.: University of Northern British Columbia.

McLaren, L. 2002. *Information and Communication Technologies in Rural Canada*. Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin. Vol. 3. No. 5. Catalogue no. 21-006-XIE. 1-26.

Pierce, J. and A. Dale. 1999. *Communities, Development, and Sustainability across Canada*. Vancouver: UBC Press.

CRRF Reports

These reports are accessible through the project website of the Initiative on the New Economy: nre.concordia.ca.

Bruce, D. 2003. *Connecting to the Connecting Canadians Agenda: Rural Internet Use for Government Information*. Sackville, New Brunswick: Mount Allison University. Draft Working Paper: <http://www.mta.ca/rstp>.

Bruce, D. and L. Lyghtle. 2003. *Internet Use for Health Information Among Rural Canadians*. Sackville, New Brunswick: Mount Allison University. Draft Working Paper: <http://www.mta.ca/rstp>.

Bruce, D. 2001. *The Role of Small Businesses and Cooperative Businesses in Community Economic Development*. IWG Final Report. Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation.

Emke, I. 2001. *Community Newspapers and Community Identity*. Québec City: Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association Annual Meetings. Unpublished presentation.

Reimer, B. 2005. *A Rural Perspective on Linkages Among Communities*. Prepared for: Building, Connecting and Sharing Knowledge: A Dialogue on Linkages Between Communities. Discussion paper for the Canadian Policy Research Networks and Infrastructure Canada workshop.

http://nre.concordia.ca/_ftp2004/reports/Linkages_Reimer%20-%20EN.pdf.

Reimer, B. 1999. *Voluntary Organizations in Rural Canada: Final Report*. Montréal: Canadian Rural Restructuring Foundation, Concordia University.

Internet Sources

Center of the Study of Rural America. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.
www.kc.frb.org.

Community Development Institute. University of Northern British Columbia.
www.unbc.ca/cdi.

New Rural Economy. nre.concordia.ca.

Statistics Canada. <http://www.statcan.ca>.

Statistics Canada, Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletins.
www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/21-006-XIE.free.htm.