

RELEASE

OPRO

Opportunit s Prescott-Russell Opportunities

Regular Municipal Council meeting on September 24, 2018. - Mrs Carole Lavigne, Director and Mr Olivier Berthiaume, Project Officer at the United Counties of Prescott-Russell, Economic Development, presented an overview of the Opportunit s Prescott-Russell Opportunities (OPRO) project results.

It was pointed out that the Town of Hawkesbury is in very good economic health. The surveys' findings and conclusions are the following :

- o Hawkesbury is the municipality in the United Counties of Prescott and Russell (UCPR) that has the most significant number of large businesses (100 employees and over).
- o Increase of new businesses in the community, commitment of businesses to clients and good success of contractors all create a conducive business environment.
- o The numerous job opportunities available to help meet skilled workforce requirements represent a big incentive for the community.
- o Access to a high level of medical services is the main community strength.
- o Bilingualism is a remarkable cultural enrichment for the community.
- o Excellent quality of living within the community favours good business development.
- o The lack of succession planning of certain businesses fragilizes projections about the future and poses a potential threat to the closing of certain institutions.
- o A strong portion of citizens are living in precarious socio-economic situations.

- Shortages of qualified workers pose a significant threat to community businesses.

Following the study, to maintain local economic growth, we developed an action plan, the roadmap of our future strategy. This action plan will be reviewed by the newly-elected officials, prioritized and provided the necessary resources for its implementation.

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Hawkesbury is a town in Eastern Ontario, near the Quebec-Ontario border. It lies on the south shore of the Ottawa River about halfway between Downtown Ottawa and Downtown Montreal in the United Counties of Prescott and Russell. The Long- Sault Bridge (replacing the Perley Bridge) links it to Grenville, Québec, to the north. Hawkesbury is touted as the third most bilingual town in Ontario, with about 70% of its inhabitants being fluent in English and French, the two official languages of Canada.