

**ACTION PLAN TO REVITALIZE THE BEDFORD AREA:
A CALL TO CITIZENS FOR THEIR OPINIONS**

Cowansville, MAY 11, 2021 – The members of the steering committee for the Bedford area’s socio-economic recovery plan (including elected officials from the municipalities of Bedford, Canton de Bedford, Notre-Dame-de-Stanbridge, Pike River, Saint-Armand, Saint-Ignace-de-Stanbridge and Stanbridge Station), in collaboration with the MRC Brome-Missisquoi, gathered this morning for a press briefing to announce the launching of their participatory initiative.

The Bedford area’s economy is based primarily on activities related to the agricultural industry, natural resource extraction and a few key industries. To a lesser degree, the area also offers activities relating to tourism and culture. However, for several years now, the region has been dealing with a significant demographic decline, mainly due to the aging of its population. Many businesses have shut down, maintenance of several essential services is questioned and the real estate market is less active. In order to counter the negative effects of the current situation, the steering committee wishes to consult the region’s citizens and businesses to obtain their opinion concerning different possibilities for increasing the economic and social vitality of the municipalities in the Bedford region.

From May 11th, 2021, until June 3rd, 2021, three surveys will be conducted in order to obtain comments, suggestions and ideas from the community concerning the future of their municipalities. These include a telephone and online survey carried out with the citizens of the municipalities included in the Bedford area, as well as a second telephone survey that will question citizens residing in neighboring towns.

Subsequently, throughout next autumn, focus groups and workshop sessions will be held to define an economic recovery plan and concerted actions for the Bedford area. The revitalization plan will be ready by the end of 2021.

We’re inviting the region’s citizens and businesses to complete the survey in large numbers by visiting our webpage realisonsbm.com/en/project/bedfordarea/

If you have any questions, we invite you to communicate with Tania Szymanski tszymanski@mrcbm.qc.ca.

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