

Summary of the feasibility report
of the establishment of the local service district (LSD)
of the parish of Grimmer and the Village of Kedgwick
as a Rural Community

September 2011



Summary of the feasibility report of the establishment of the local service district of the parish of Grimmer and the Village of Kedgwick as a Rural Community

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CANADA

A plebiscite (vote for or against) will be organized in the local service district of the parish of Grimmer on October 3, 2011, in accordance with Regulation 2005-95 of the *Municipalities Act*. The date, place, and time of the advance and regular polls will be sent to you by Elections New Brunswick.

All residents who are qualified to vote will be asked to answer the following question:

Are you in favour of the establishment of the local service district of the parish of Grimmer and Village of Kedgwick as a rural community, as proposed in the summary of the feasibility report of September 2011?

There will be deemed to be sufficient local support if a majority (50% + 1) of those voting at the plebiscite vote in favour of the establishment of a rural community.

This document provides important information to help the residents concerned to make an informed decision during the plebiscite.

Local support in the Village of Kedgwick for the rural community proposal **will be deemed sufficient** if the village council passes a resolution supporting the establishment of a rural community no later than October 3, 2011.

1. Current situation (population, tax base and property tax rates)

	Population (according to 2006 census)	2011 Tax base	Property tax rate per \$100 of property assessment	
			* Local rate	** Combined rate
Village of Kedgwick	1,146	\$42,515,550	\$1.4867	
LSD of the parish of Grimmer (Rang sept et huit/Chassé subdivision)	1,105	\$50,654,200	\$0.5456	\$1.1771
LSD of the parish of Grimmer (Thibault)			\$0.5681	\$1.1996
Remainder of the LSD of the parish of Grimmer			\$0.5027	\$1.1342

* The **local tax rate** applies only to the costs of local services such as street lighting, solid waste collection, fire protection, land use planning, and community and recreational services.

** The **combined rate**, which applies only to owner-occupied residential properties, includes the local rate plus the provincial rate of 0.6315 cents for policing and road maintenance.

2. What are the shared characteristics and interests of the LSD of the parish of Grimmer and the Village of Kedgwick?

The LSD of the parish of Grimmer and the Village of Kedgwick have a number of characteristics and interests in common. Here are a few examples:

- The history of Grimmer and Kedgwick is closely related. Most of the people from the village and the LSD identify themselves as being people from Kedgwick.
- The residents of the LSD of the parish of Grimmer and the Village of Kedgwick share a good number of public and private services including the school, library, fire protection services, sport and recreation facilities, and retail businesses.
- The people of the LSD and the Village work together in various community organizations, such as the Knights of Columbus, the Golden Age Club, and the Historical Museum.

3. Why consider forming a rural community - What benefits are sought?

By forming a rural community, both the village and LSD would benefit from a number of improvements to their quality of life, for example:

- It would be easier for the residents of the LSD and the Village to work together with regard to economic development and tourism by focusing on natural resources such as the forest and the Restigouche River.
- The rural community would have the power to draw up a rural plan in order to ensure that different types of development are set up at the appropriate locations and that natural resources and the environment (Restigouche River, drinking water, etc) are protected.
- A rural community, as an incorporated entity, could own land, buildings, and equipment, and it would have the power to borrow money and access grants for various projects in order to meet the needs of the community. These things are difficult to achieve as a LSD.
- LSD residents would have the right to manage their own affairs as do the residents of all other New Brunswick municipalities and rural communities, with elected local representatives (council) who have the power to make decisions that are in the community's best interest.
- The rural community council will be able to regularly identify the needs of the residents, property owners, businesses, and community organizations with regard to local services, review the local services it is providing, and align the provision of services with what the community wants, needs and is willing to fund.

4. Proposal for a rural community

- **What would be the name of the rural community?**

The name of the rural community would be "Kedgwick."

- **Would the addresses of the residents of the LSD of the parish of Grimmer and the Village of Kedgwick change?**

The establishment of a rural community would have no impact on current civic and postal addresses in the LSD and the Village.

- **Where would the rural community office be located?**

The Village of Kedgwick's administrative office would become that of the rural community.

- **What would be the geographic boundaries of the rural community?**

The rural community of Kedgwick would include the LSD of the parish of Grimmer and the Village of Kedgwick.

- **What would be the composition of the council?**

The municipal council and the LSD advisory committee will be dissolved if the rural community is established.

The rural community council would be composed of seven members including the mayor and two councillors elected at large as well as four other councillors – one elected in each of the four wards.

The rural community council could establish citizen and advisory committees to work with the council to meet community needs.

- **How would the wards be divided and what is the number of residents qualified to vote in each ward?**

Ward #1 (436 residents qualified to vote):

Route 265, Arpin Street, Bélanger Street, Bosse Street, Boulay Street, Dr. R. Boulay Street, Gagnon Street, Jeanne Mance Street, Little Main Street, Notre-Dame Street, Richard Street, St-André Street, St-Jean-Baptiste Street, St-Joseph Street, Des Peupliers Street, Des Pins Street, Quatre Milles Street, Rang 1 and 2 Street, Rang 1 and 2 South Street, Rang 5 and 6 Street.

Ward #2 (451 residents qualified to vote):

Bellevue Street, Bergeron Street, Des Collibris Street, De l'École Street, Deschênes Street, Des Merles Street, Domaine Jacques Road, Eva Road, Fraser Road, LeBlanc Road, Leopold Street, Michaud Road, Noranda Street, Du Parc Street, Rang 7 and 8 Road, Restigouche Street, St-Camille Street, St-Paul Street, Savard Road, Vanier Street.

Ward #3 (372 residents qualified to vote):

Route 17, Allain Street, Armand Street, Bélanger Street, Bélanger Cross Road, Chassé Street, Des Cèdres Street, Daniel Street, De l'Arcadie Road, Dion Street, Gauthier Street, Héritage Street, Petit West Street, Des Pionniers Road, Rang 3 and 4 Road, Savoie Street, St-François Street, St-Jean Street, St-Pierre Street, St-Thomas Street.

Ward #4 (386 residents qualified to vote):

Des Bouleaux Street, Des Érables Street, Gallant Road, Jeanne d'Arc Street, Lavoie Road, Lurette Road, Des Merisiers Street, Des Montagnes Street, Rang 9 and 10 Road, Des Sapins Street, Route 260.

- **What services would the rural community be responsible for providing?**

The rural community council would be responsible for providing land use planning services, emergency measures, and administration services for the entire area of the rural community.

The rural community council would also be responsible for providing all of the local services in the former village that become a part of the rural community (e.g., policing, fire protection, highway maintenance, street lighting, garbage collection, and community and recreational facilities).

The provincial government would continue to ensure the provision and the financial management of local services for the former LSD within the rural community, including policing, road maintenance, fire protection, street lighting, community and recreational facilities, animal control, and garbage collection, until the rural community decides to assume responsibility for the provision of these services.

The rural community would have the option of gradually taking on responsibility for the provision of these other local services, at a pace it is comfortable with. Such a decision would be made through the adoption of a by-law by the rural community council, following an assessment of the benefits and costs, which would provide an opportunity for all members of the rural community to have input and influence the decision-making process.

- ***What would be the anticipated changes to local property tax rates should a rural community be established?***

The table below presents the anticipated changes to local property tax rates when the rural community is established. The rate for the Village of Kedgwick would be lowered by 3 cents per \$100 of assessment and the rate for the LSD of the parish of Grimmer (Rang sept et huit/Chassé subdivision, Thibault, and other areas) would increase by 3 cents per \$100 of assessment for a residential property occupied by the owner.

The difference would be 4.5 cents/\$100 for a non-residential property.

	Current property tax rate for a residential property occupied by the owner	Property tax rate for the rural community for a residential property occupied by the owner	Property tax increase or reduction for a residential property	Difference on the property tax bill for a residential property assessed at \$50,000
Village of Kedgwick	\$1.48	\$1.45	-0.03 cents	- \$15.00
LSD of the parish of Grimmer (Rang sept and huit Chassé subdivision)	\$1.18	\$1.21	+ 0.03 cents	+ \$15.00
LSD of the parish of Grimmer (Thibault)	\$1.20	\$1.23	+ 0.03 cents	+ \$15.00
Remainder of the LSD of the parish of Grimmer	\$1.13	\$1.16	+ 0.03 cents	+ \$15.00

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