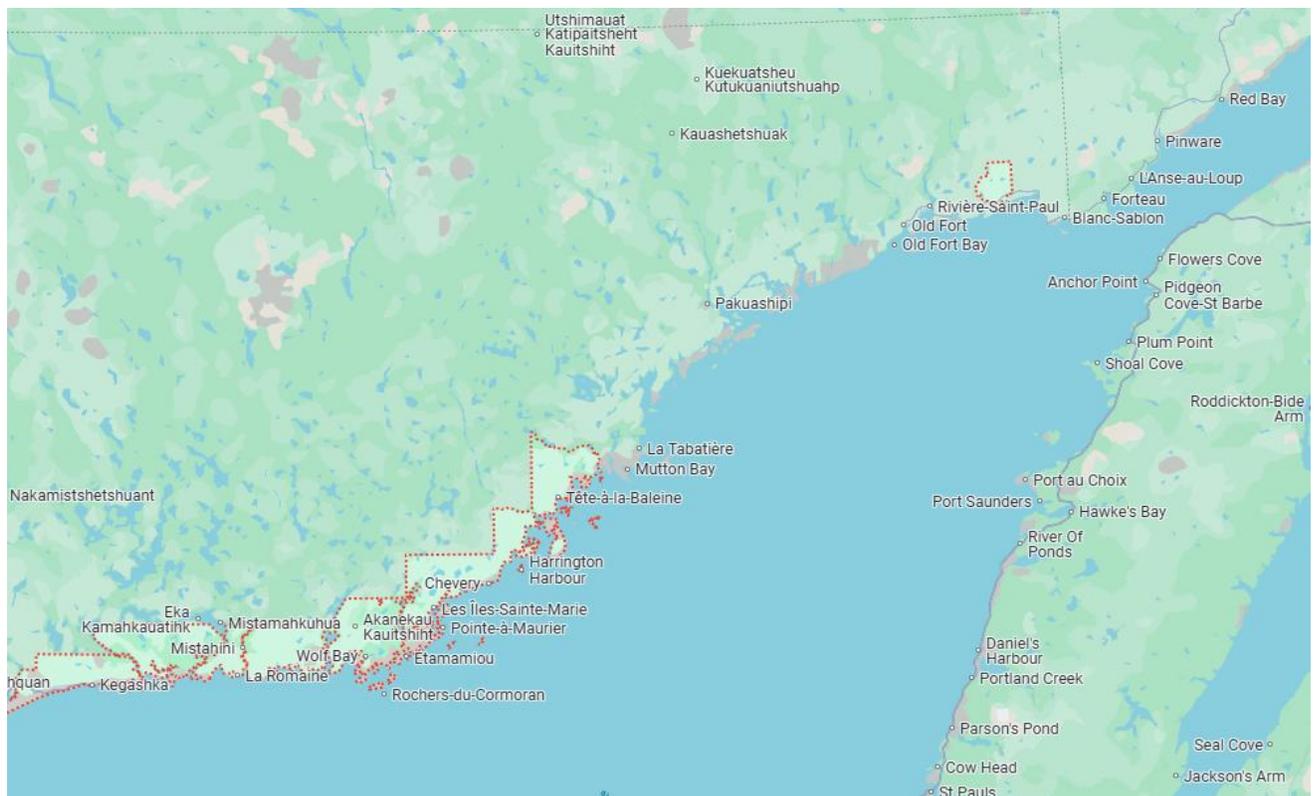




MRC du
Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent

ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

MRC DU GOLFE-DU-SAINT-LAURENT



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Portrait of the Territory

The territory of the MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent, also known as the Lower North Shore, is located at the extreme east of Quebec and is home to 3,382 people (2021 census). This figure does not include the Innu population, which is estimated at approximately 1,200 to 1,700 people and is primarily concentrated in the two Innu communities of La Romaine and Pakua Shipi. The region is characterized by the interweaving of English, French, and Innu cultures. The MRC comprises 14 villages within five municipalities and extends along approximately 375 kilometres of shoreline along the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Characterized by unspoiled nature and beautiful scenery, the absence of road connections between the villages attest to its isolation. Except for the village of Kegaska in the west and the Municipalities of Bonne-Esperance and Blanc-Sablon in the east, 7 villages and 2 Indigenous communities (not associated with the MRC) are only accessible by boat, plane, or the Route Blanche (winter only) as it is a snowmobile trail that provides the only winter overland link between all the communities.

The MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent is classed a devitalized MRC, falling into the 5th quintile. Furthermore, 4 of the 5 municipalities within the MRC also fall in the 5th quintile. The measure used to determine quintiles: the Economic Vitality Index measures the vitality, every 2 years of nearly 1, 100 localities, MRC's and equivalent organizations based on 3 indicators: the labour market, the standard of living and the demographic dynamism.

The Lower North Shore is facing many challenges: transportation, housing shortage, aging, and declining population, reliant on a single industry that faces challenges of its own – climate change, new regulations, etc., closing of businesses, loss of services.

The fishery is the main industry on the territory, with 188 license holders for 300+ licenses. 67% of the working population (53% of the total population) are seasonal employees, including the fishermen, helpers, fish plant workers, and those who leave the territory for work in fishing camps and the construction industry. The remaining 33% are full-time workers, with approximately 50% working in retail or hospitality.

The tourism industry is slowly developing on the territory despite the many challenges that come with being remote and isolated.

Financial outlook of the Lower North Shore

- Population of **3382** - 845 over the age of **65 (25% of the population)**
- Majority of these are on a fixed income of \$16,000 annually or less
- **1205** people draw unemployment (**36% seasonal / part-time workers**)
- **585** people from age **0-20 (17% of the population)**
- 17+ majority students in post-secondary

Poverty and Social Exclusion

In the Government of Quebec's Act to combat poverty and social exclusion, Poverty means the condition of a human being who is deprived of the resources, means, choices and power necessary to acquire and maintain economic autonomy or to promote integration and participation in society. Poverty and social exclusion in remote communities are complex issues characterized by limited access to resources and services, geographical isolation, lack of infrastructure and limited economic opportunities.

The action plan combating poverty and social exclusion for the MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent came to fruition following many meetings with various partners in the community, all with a vested interest to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the Lower North Shore, while respecting the person, their particularities and the cultures.

The priorities around which actions are structured in the action plan can be grouped around, but not limited to:

- Supporting initiatives aimed at improving the living conditions of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion
- Sensitizing and educating the population to build knowledge, skills and confidence
- Promoting social inclusion.

Involving People with Lived Experience of Poverty

A key part of this action plan is to ensure that individuals directly affected by poverty have a meaningful voice in both the design and implementation of initiatives. Their first-hand experience offers essential insight into local realities and helps shape more effective, inclusive solutions.

Our approach will include:

- Community consultations and focus groups that specifically invite participation from individuals and families experiencing poverty.
- Representation on advisory committees to ensure that lived experiences are reflected in decision-making processes.
- Feedback mechanisms (surveys, open discussions, interviews) following each funded initiative to evaluate its impact from the perspective of those most affected.
- Collaboration with local organizations that already support low-income individuals to help engagement and ensure their voices are heard respectfully and safely.
- This participatory approach will strengthen our collective understanding of local challenges and support the development of sustainable, community-driven actions to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion.

Budget Allocation and project support terms and conditions

The budget envelope will be managed rather than divided into different envelopes and among each community

Financing available:

- Residual Amount from earlier allocation years 2018-2024 is \$226,289.76
- Total funding for this Action Plan is \$481,951.70 plus residual amounts from the earlier allocation.

Management Framework

Eligible organizations:

- Non-profit legal entities
- Cooperatives that are considered non-profit organizations by Revenue Quebec
- Municipal organizations, including MRC's
- Band Councils
- Research centers or institutions working to combat poverty and social exclusion

Eligible expenses:

- Expenses necessary and related to the implementation of approved initiatives
- Salaries of human resources related to the implementation of approved initiatives, provided that the salaries are consistent with those normally paid by the organization itself in comparable positions and performing comparable duties, or with salaries paid by comparable organizations in the local or regional community.

Ineligible expenses:

- Expenses allocated to initiatives that were undertaken before their approval
- Financing of debt or repayment of existing or future loans
- Funding for initiatives that have already been carried out
- Expenses reimbursed by another program
- Expenses for the purchase or renovation of real estate, land, or the transportation of vehicles
- Cost overruns during the implementation of initiatives
- Human resources salaries or other expenses related to the regular activities of the beneficiary organization

Calculation of financial assistance and accumulation of government assistance

The amount of financial assistance provided by the FQIS in support of the selected initiative may not exceed 90% of the eligible expenses for that initiative.

The following items may be included in the community contribution representing 10% of eligible expenses.

- The financial contribution of the promoting organization and non-governmental partners

- The equivalent value of human resources loans not covered by the FQIS grant that are essential to the implementation of the initiative
- Material resources made available to the initiative (premises, equipment, technical services, etc.)

The value of services provided by volunteers cannot be included in the community contribution.

The maximum cumulative government assistance includes the total financial assistance granted, including that from the FQIS, for eligible costs of the initiative by all ministries, agencies, Crown corporations, the governments of Canada and Quebec, and municipal entities. In general, this cumulative amount may not exceed 90% of the eligible expenses of the initiative.

Maximum funding threshold

The recommendation committee will consider all eligible applications, the priority rating based on the analysis, and efforts to diversify funding.

However, the request for financial assistance may not exceed 20% of the envelope available for the current year. The annual envelopes vary from year to year. If the project involves several partners, this consideration may be adjusted according to the availability of funds on the recommendation of the sectoral tables recognized by the MRC.

Application process

1. Submission of application form to Mrs. Joanne Jones, Community development Agent who will verify eligibility and submit the project for further verification to the MRC de Caniapiscau.
2. Presentation to the analysis committee, made up of representatives of various community organizations, who will provide a recommendation on the project idea.
3. Final notification of the project by the council of the MRC.
4. Follow-up of the decision to the promoter and signature of the financial aid agreement by the promoter, the MRC Caniapiscau and the MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent.
5. Applications for assistance are submitted on an ongoing basis. Please allow 45-60 days for the project analysis process.

Project Duration

All accepted projects must be completed within the time limits specified in the memorandum of understanding and agreed upon according to the schedule proposed by the promoter and accepted by the MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent. In addition, the duration of a project is determined according to the implementation schedule, subject to the duration of the agreement and the availability of funds.

Commitment of the parties

For each initiative, an agreement of understanding must be established between the MRC Caniapiscau (the trustee), the MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent, and the organization. The agreements cover financial contributions, financing conditions, coordination and monitoring mechanisms, objectives, expectations and performance indicators, implementation period, accountability, and verification measures.

In addition, the agreement includes public communication and visibility clauses binding on the subsidized organizations.

Documents to be attached to applications:

1. Completed and signed form
2. Project cost and financing form
3. Board of directors' resolution (MRC template)
4. A scanned copy of the latest financial statement
5. Detailed breakdown and quotes for project costs
6. Project support document
7. Confirmation from partners

NOTE: To effectively manage the agreement, expenditures will only be authorized until December 31, 2028.

Payment Terms for FQIS

If the financial support is equal to or greater than \$25,000, it is awarded in three payments:

1. A first payment of 50% of the total amount awarded is paid following the signature of the financial agreement by the parties;
2. A second installment of 40% of the total amount is paid during the implementation upon receipt of all documents required for the financial assistance agreement;
3. A third installment of 10% is paid upon receipt of the final report which will have to be filled in the performance indicators

If the financial support is less than \$25,000, it is granted in two installments:

1. A first payment of 90% of the total amount awarded is paid because of the signature of the financial agreement by the parties;
2. A second payment of 10% is paid upon receipt of the final report.

The percentage associated with the payments could vary depending on the project's nature and financial availability.

Payments are always conditional on the availability of the funds.

Advisory Committee

Team member	Position
Caroline Cooper	General Director, CPE Mer et Mousse
Melody Strickland	Community organizer for seniors, CISSSCN
Kelly Fequet	Social worker, CSSL
Dan Zein	General Director, Maison de la famille de la BCN
Ashley Gallichon	General Director, Coopérative de solidarité d'aide a domicile de la BCN
Kayla Kippen	Director of Health Initiatives, Coasters Association

Involvement of People Living in Poverty

Residents experiencing poverty will contribute through **consultations, needs assessments, and participation in planning processes**, ensuring housing projects respond directly to lived experience and real community needs. Residents with lived experience will be engaged through:

- Identifying local needs and service gaps
- Participate in cultural events and planning activities
- Provide feedback to shape the anti-stigma campaign that ensures authentic representation and equitable decision-making.

This ensures policies reflect real community challenges and solutions.

MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent 2024-2029

PRIORITY: Food Security

The Food Security priority aims to ensure that all residents—especially low-income families, seniors, and isolated communities—have **reliable, affordable, and dignified access to nutritious food**. Through coordinated regional efforts, this plan will help strengthen local food production, improve distribution systems, and increase community capacity and food literacy.

ACTIONS	PARTNERS	TIMELINE	EXPECTED OUTCOME / TARGET	COORDINATED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS	TARGETED POPULATION	EXPECTED RESULTS	BUDGET	DESIRED TRANSFORMATION	TARGETED OBJECTIVE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Support community gardens, kitchens, and workshops -Promote the sharing and distribution of surplus food -Linking approaches and financial programs related to food security and resilience -Encourage the creation of mobile markets -Support the regional food security program 	<p>Local municipalities, Community groups, non-profits, food banks, regional organizations, public health agencies, schools, and CSSL</p>	<p>2024-2029</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increased local food production and access to fresh produce -Reduced food insecurity for low-income families -Improved nutrition and healthier eating habits -Help individuals in situations of poverty / social inclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Develop Community Gardens and Community Kitchen -Support the establishment of 2-4 gardens and 1 community kitchen. -Engage in workshops on gardening, cooking, nutrition, and food preservation. -Expand Surplus Food Redistribution -Increase surplus food recovery -Add new partnerships with retailers and restaurants for distribution to local food banks -Install 1-3 community fridges 	<p>Lead: Municipalities, food banks, co-ops, and community organizations Collaborators: Local organizations, CISSSS public health, Indigenous organizations, schools, volunteers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Low-income households / single-family homes / single individuals -Seniors and people with limited mobility -Isolated and rural communities -Immigrant and Indigenous families facing food-cost or access barriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -More fresh food is available locally through gardens and kitchens -Increased food literacy and self-sufficiency among residents -Stronger coordination among food-security stakeholders -Reduced edible food waste through expanded redistribution -200-400 residents supported annually through combined initiatives 	<p>\$50,000–\$100,000 annually, covering garden and kitchen development, surplus food organization, and regional coordination.</p>	<p>To help build a resilient, community-driven food ecosystem where residents can access, grow, prepare, and share nutritious food, while fostering local autonomy and reducing dependence on crisis-based food supports.</p>	<p>By 2029, aid to decrease food insecurity through expanded community food initiatives, increased surplus food redistribution, improved access to affordable food in rural areas, and coordinated regional programming.</p>

MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent 2024-2029
PRIORITY: Housing and Infrastructure

The Housing & Infrastructure priority focuses on improving access to safe, affordable, and adequate housing for vulnerable residents while ensuring essential infrastructure supports healthy, sustainable communities. Through coordinated regional action, the supply of affordable housing assists low-income homeowners and strengthens local infrastructure. The overarching goal is to **increase the affordable housing supply by 10% by 2029** and **improve living conditions for more than 50 households**.

ACTIONS	PARTNERS	TIMELINE	EXPECTED OUTCOME / TARGET	COORDINATED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS	TARGETED POPULATION	EXPECTED RESULTS	BUDGET	DESIRED TRANSFORMATION	TARGETED OBJECTIVE
<p>-Help develop affordable housing projects for vulnerable populations</p> <p>-Help improve access to home repair grants for low-income homeowners</p> <p>-Partner with municipal authorities to enhance public infrastructures</p> <p>-Work with organizations to include people who do not meet the criteria for subsidized housing</p> <p>-Help create a listing of available lodgings in the territory.</p> <p>-Work in complementarity with other programs and ministers</p>	<p>Municipalities, housing authorities, government housing programs, and social services at the CISSSCN</p>	<p>2024-2029</p>	<p>-More housing options for low-income families</p> <p>-Improved living conditions for vulnerable populations</p> <p>-Better access to essential services and facilities (seniors)</p> <p>-Help individuals in situations of poverty / social inclusion</p>	<p>-Support Affordable Housing Projects</p> <p>Aid in the construction of new affordable units in collaboration with municipalities and housing authorities.</p> <p>Prioritize developments near services, transportation, and employment.</p> <p>-Research Home Repair Grants</p> <p>Work with the Municipality to reach financial assistance to low-income homeowners for critical repairs (roofing, heating, accessibility adaptations).</p> <p>Support aging-in-place for seniors and residents with disabilities.</p>	<p>Lead: Municipalities, Housing Authorities, MRC, CISSSCN</p> <p>Collaborators: Community organizations, construction partners, social service agencies, urban planning departments</p>	<p>-Low-income families</p> <p>-Single-parent households</p> <p>-Single individuals</p> <p>-Seniors</p> <p>-Residents with disabilities</p> <p>-Low-income homeowners in need of repairs</p>	<p>-Increased access to stable, affordable housing</p> <p>-Improved safety, accessibility, and comfort for vulnerable households</p> <p>-Stronger neighborhood infrastructure supporting long-term development</p> <p>-Reduced housing-related stress and instability among low-income residents</p>	<p>\$50,000–\$100,000 annually, supporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable housing development Home repair grant programs Infrastructure improvements and registry maintenance 	<p>To create stable, inclusive communities where all residents—especially those with low incomes, disabilities, or limited mobility—can access safe, affordable housing and benefit from well-maintained, modern infrastructure that supports quality of life and long-term community vitality.</p>	<p>By 2029, expand the availability of affordable housing, enhance the safety and quality of existing homes, and complete essential infrastructure upgrades that support vulnerable households and sustainable regional development.</p>

				<p>-Maintain Updated Lodging Listings</p> <p>Create or enhance a centralized, accessible housing registry.</p> <p>Ensure timely updates on available rentals, emergency housing options, and subsidized units.</p> <p>-Complete Infrastructure Upgrades</p> <p>Ensure infrastructure supports new housing developments</p>						
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MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent 2024-2029
PRIORITY: Social and Health Services

The Health & Social Services priority aims to strengthen the well-being of residents by expanding mental health and addiction services, improving access to primary healthcare, and providing supportive programs for seniors and people with disabilities. Through collaboration between health institutions, community organizations, and regional partners, this plan addresses urgent service gaps and supports vulnerable populations. The overarching goals are to **reduce addiction rates by 10%** and **improve healthcare access for 90% of residents in isolated communities** by 2029.

ACTIONS	PARTNERS	TIMELINE	EXPECTED OUTCOME / TARGET	COORDINATED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS	TARGETED POPULATION	EXPECTED RESULTS	BUDGET	DESIRED TRANSFORMATION	TARGETED OBJECTIVE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Strengthen mental health and addiction support services. -Expand access to primary healthcare for isolated communities. -Implement programs for seniors and persons with disabilities to reduce isolation. -Work in complementarity with other programs and ministers 	Health organization, social services, CISSSCN, leisure committees	2024-2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Improved well-being and reduced addiction rates -Increases availability of medical services -Enhanced quality of life for seniors and people with disabilities. Help individuals in situations of poverty / social inclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Expand Mental Health and Addiction Support Services Provide counseling, peer-support groups, mobile outreach, and crisis intervention. Increase availability of addiction prevention and recovery programs. Collaborate with schools, community groups, and first responders. -Improve Access to Primary Healthcare Increase clinic hours and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health organizations CISSSCN Regional partners Co-op Community and social service organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Seniors -Individuals with disabilities -Residents experiencing mental health issues -People with substance-use challenges -Isolated or low-income individuals with limited access to healthcare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Support the expanded access to mental health and addiction services -Improved health outcomes for seniors and people with disabilities -Increased outreach and equitable access in isolated communities -Stronger collaboration among health and community partners - 	<p>\$10,000–\$50,000 annually, covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Staff for outreach and mental health support -Program delivery for seniors and people with disabilities -Expansion of primary healthcare access tools (telehealth, clinics) 	To build a healthier, more inclusive region where all residents—regardless of income, geography, or health status—can access timely, appropriate, and person-centered healthcare and social supports. This transformation prioritizes prevention, early intervention, mental wellness, and equitable access to services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -10% reduction in addiction rates -90% of residents in isolated communities with improved access to healthcare Increased volume of mental health support sessions Decreased wait times for primary care visits

				<p>telehealth options.</p> <p>Strengthen partnerships between the CISSSCN and local service points.</p> <p>-Offer Programs for Seniors & People with Disabilities</p> <p>Provide home support, social activities, respite services, and transportation assistance.</p> <p>Expand fall-prevention, chronic-illness management, and accessibility programs.</p> <p>Coordinate outreach to isolated seniors and caregivers.</p>						
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MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent 2024-2029
PRIORITY: Community Engagement and Inclusion

The Community Engagement & Inclusivity priority seeks to strengthen social cohesion, promote belonging, and ensure all residents—especially marginalized groups—can participate fully in community life. Through inclusive governance structures, cultural and recreational programming, and public awareness initiatives, this plan aims to foster vibrant, diverse, and stigma-free communities. The overarching goals are to **increase community engagement by 10%** and **reduce stigma related to poverty**, as measured through community surveys, by 2029.

ACTIONS	PARTNERS	TIMELINE	EXPECTED OUTCOME / TARGET	COORDINATED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS	TARGETED POPULATION	EXPECTED RESULTS	BUDGET	DESIRED TRANSFORMATION	TARGETED OBJECTIVE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establish community advisory committees to ensure local participation. -Increase cultural and recreational activities to foster social cohesion. -Help implement awareness campaigns and workshops to reduce stigma around host workshops to reduce the stigma surrounding poverty and social exclusion. -Introduce English-speaking children to the French language within a predominantly English-speaking environment. 	<p>Municipalities, community leaders, CISSSCN, CSSL and media outlets</p>	<p>2024-2029</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Greater community participation in decision-making -Stronger community bonds and improved social cohesion -Increased understanding and support for affected individuals -Help individuals in situations of poverty / social inclusion 	<p>-Aid in the Creation of Community Committees</p> <p>Engage in diverse, representative committees including people with lived experience.</p> <p>Assist or participate in training for members on leadership, anti-stigma practices, and collaborative planning.</p> <p>Use committees to guide local initiatives, help evaluate needs, and influence municipal decisions.</p> <p>-Organize Cultural & Recreational Activities</p> <p>Partake in festivals, multicultural events, art programs, and community sports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Municipalities -Community leaders and organizations -Media partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All community members -Specific focus on marginalized groups such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Low-income households -Newcomers -Racialized individuals -People with disabilities -LGBTQ2S+ community members -Isolated or rural residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stronger community cohesion and a greater sense of belonging -Increased participation in civic and cultural life -More inclusive, accessible programs for diverse groups -Reduced stigma and improved public awareness related to poverty and marginalization 	<p>\$40,000–\$60,000 per year, supporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Community events and festivals -Public awareness campaigns -Training and capacity-building for advisory committees 	<p>To build an inclusive region where every resident feels welcome, valued, and empowered to contribute. The transformation focuses on creating community spaces and decision-making structures that elevate diverse voices—including those with lived experience of poverty—while promoting mutual understanding and social connection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Strengthen community participation in local decision-making and civic life. -Expand inclusive cultural, recreational, and social activities accessible to all residents. -Reduce stigma and discrimination, particularly toward people experiencing poverty, through education and awareness. -Improving access to high-quality French-language and nature-based books in a predominantly English-speaking region. A renewed and diverse collection will help children connect with the province’s linguistic culture, support

			<p>Ensure accessibility through free or low-cost admission.</p> <p>Partner with schools, cultural groups, and youth organizations to broaden participation.</p> <p>-Run Public Awareness & Anti-Stigma Campaigns</p> <p>Launch campaigns promoting inclusion, diversity, and understanding of poverty.</p> <p>Use local media, social media, and community events to amplify messages.</p> <p>Provide workshops on equity, diversity, inclusion, and anti-poverty awareness</p>						<p>discussions about family diversity, emotions, neurodiversity, and social skills, and provide educators with tools to address sensitive topics in healthy, age-appropriate ways</p> <p>-10% increase in community engagement (measured through participation data and surveys)</p> <p>-Measurable reduction in stigma related to poverty</p> <p>-Growth in the number of cultural/recreational activities offered annually</p> <p>-Increased representation on advisory committees</p>
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MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent 2024-2029
PRIORITY: Transportation and Access

The Transportation & Access priority aims to improve mobility for residents in isolated areas, seniors, and people with disabilities by identifying transportation gaps, testing innovative mobility solutions, and expanding mobile community services. Through coordinated regional leadership and community engagement, this plan supports equitable access to essential services, healthcare, and community life. The main goals are to **implement at least one adapted transportation solution by 2027** and **increase access to mobile services by 15%** by 2029.

ACTIONS	PARTNERS	TIMELINE	EXPECTED OUTCOME / TARGET	COORDINATED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS	TARGETED POPULATION	EXPECTED RESULTS	BUDGET	DESIRED TRANSFORMATION	TARGETED OBJECTIVE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identify and document the transportation issues in the region. -Research best practices for public and adapted transportation in rural areas. -Create a pilot project to test the feasibility of public and adapted transportation solutions. -Develop and support solutions for mobile services. 	<p>MRC, TSQVie, Municipalities, CISSSCN</p>	<p>2024-2029</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Clear understanding of transportation challenges. -Better targeted solutions to address specific regional problems. -Access to mobile services in underserved areas. -Improved service delivery and accessibility for rural populations. -Help individuals in situations of poverty / social inclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identify Transportation Challenges Conduct community consultations, surveys, and accessibility assessments. Map gaps in service coverage, frequency, affordability, and accessibility. Engage residents living in poverty for firsthand insights and priority setting. -Review Best Practices Study regional, provincial, and national models for rural and adapted mobility. Explore partnerships, volunteer driver programs, and innovative transit solutions. Assess feasibility of integrating transportation services across municipalities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -MRC -Municipalités -CISSSCN -Non-profits/organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Residents of isolated or rural villages -Seniors -People with disabilities -Low-income individuals facing transportation barriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reduced transportation isolation for vulnerable residents -Increased access to essential services (healthcare, groceries, community programs) -More equitable mobility options across the region -Improved quality of life for seniors and people with disabilities -Expanded reach of mobile health and community services 	<p>\$75,000–\$100,000 annually, supporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community consultations and research Best-practice reviews Pilot project design and implementation Expansion of mobile services 	<p>To build an accessible, reliable, and inclusive regional transportation system that reduces isolation, supports independent living, and ensures all residents—regardless of income, geography, or physical ability—can reach essential services and participate fully in community life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identify and address transportation barriers faced by rural and vulnerable populations. -Pilot and evaluate public and adapted transportation solutions tailored to community needs. -Expand mobile services (health, social, administrative, and community programs) to reduce travel needs for isolated residents. -At least one adapted

				<p>-Help Expand Mobile Services</p> <p>Increase deployment of mobile clinics, social service units, and mobile administrative services.</p> <p>Improve outreach routes serving isolated villages.</p> <p>Promote awareness of mobile service schedules and access options.</p>						<p>transportation solution implemented by 2027</p> <p>-10% increase in access to mobile services across the region</p> <p>-Transportation pilot projects launched and evaluated</p> <p>Increased service usage among seniors, residents of isolated villages, and people with disabilities</p>
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MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent 2024-2029
PRIORITY: Poverty and Devitalization

The Poverty & Devitalization priority seeks to strengthen the resilience of devitalized villages and equip municipalities to better understand, prevent, and respond to poverty. Through adjusted funding criteria and targeted training, the goal aims to ensure that local governments have the tools, resources, and knowledge necessary to support vulnerable residents. The overarching goals are to **ensure all municipalities adopt poverty-sensitive policies by 2029** and to **strengthen local capacity to lead effective poverty-reduction initiatives**.

Actions	Partners	Timeline	Expected outcome / Target	COORDINATED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS	TARGETED POPULATION	EXPECTED RESULTS	BUDGET	DESIRED TRANSFORMATION	TARGETED OBJECTIVE
<p>-Consider devitalized villages in FQIS funding criteria, mobilization, and terms.</p> <p>-Provide municipalities with training/toolkits on poverty related roles and strategies.</p> <p>-Continue working with municipalities to review and adapt policies for collective development.</p>	<p>Municipalities , MRC community leaders, Mayors, CISSSCN</p>	<p>2024-2029</p>	<p>-Residents of underdeveloped areas feel more included in development processes.</p> <p>-Municipalities and strategies for addressing poverty.</p> <p>-Local governments are more capable of using available resources effectively to fight poverty.</p> <p>-Help individuals in situations of poverty / social inclusion</p>	<p>-Include Devitalized Villages in Funding Criteria</p> <p>Revise regional funds and project eligibility rules so devitalized areas are prioritized.</p> <p>Develop transparent criteria that consider vulnerability, infrastructure needs, and social indicators.</p> <p>Support municipalities in applying for available funding.</p> <p>-Offer Training and Toolkits</p> <p>Create toolkits to help municipalities design poverty-sensitive projects and evaluate community impacts.</p> <p>Gather feedback from residents with lived experience to ensure training is relevant and grounded.</p> <p>-Review Policies to Address Local Needs</p> <p>Review policies (e.g., housing, transportation,</p>	<p>-MRC</p> <p>-Municipalities</p> <p>-CISSSCN</p>	<p>-Residents of devitalized and rural villages</p> <p>-Communities experiencing elevated levels of poverty or social isolation</p>	<p>-Increased capacity to integrate equity and poverty considerations into decision-making</p> <p>-Improved access to funding and resources for devitalized communities</p> <p>-Enhanced collaboration between municipalities, regional bodies, and community organizations</p>	<p>\$30,000–\$50,000 annually</p>	<p>To create vibrant, equitable communities where devitalized villages receive fair access to funding and where municipal policies reflect the realities of residents experiencing poverty. This transformation focuses on building the capacity of local governments, improving decision-making processes, and empowering communities to address their own socio-economic challenges.</p>	<p>-Integrate devitalized communities into regional funding frameworks to ensure equitable resource distribution.</p> <p>-Strengthen municipal capacity through tailored training, toolkits, and professional development.</p>

				recreation, zoning) to ensure they reduce barriers for low-income residents.							
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