

REN 1 Yarmouth

- like region, lobster industry common to all
- Too large a region, 4 units max
- Large region captures a more diverse culture, a good thing
- Number of units a challenge
- Danger that one unit will dominate, not enough resources to go around
- Annapolis, Digby, Clare? Would use a smaller administration
- Each doing their own, cost less?
- Strength of a larger size - creates a larger voice
- Can go too big, but can't go individual
- Governance- is there one board of elected to set strategy, and another group to administer/ operate? Some confusion
- Common reporting to all REN? should allow some differences, reflecting what's important in each region.
- Should be more RENs, will lose money on travel, so should allow a REN to decide if they want to be smaller. Will need more staff to serve a larger region
- But could locate staff throughout the region, working from home or in their local community, would save travel costs, not all housed in one location, open to how region sees best way to allocate staff
- What about keeping top people in the RDA, loss of institutional memory, resources, files?
- Unique situation here with no RDA, but Digby does, so concern of losing good people is real
- Concern with previous experience, need to share benefits around the region, not everything going to yarmouth
- Need to be careful about staff not putting in full days if working on their own
- Need to work together, not focus on "me", move past what happened in the past
- Give more say to municipalities
- Tweaking existing model a possibility? Build on good ones
- Distinction between economic development and business development? Population decline not necessarily to be solved by municipalities, but municipalities need to address, tools to implement within municipalities. Report does not define economic development.
- Working with business community is the focus from the panel, need to keep trying to solve the decline, population decline a problem in many countries, global issue. Need to have a mechanism in place to help our communities
- Over emphasis on business development - chambers of commerce, organizations out there, enough, Need more capacity building, templates to be implemented locally (economic commission will deal with some of the bigger issues like population, capacity)
- Let it try, come back in a year and ask how it's going
- Model not specific enough, no timeline
- Number of units an issue, doesn't say if mandatory involvement, what if some don't want to be part of it, what happens to them
- Some distrust, there hasn't been a lot coming to Yarmouth through SWASDA

- This will cost more?
- Economic vs business, yes losing people, can we provide good jobs to compete with out west? We're left with unskilled workers as good people are going.
- Need to get moving
- Need a good team, cracker jack team, need to spend good money to get good people. Team needs to work together, so not sure locating them in distant areas will work. A lot of questions the province needs to answer
- If one decides not to join, may disrupt the whole model, should be mandatory
- Province not making it mandatory, but would provide benefits to those who do. It shouldn't cost you more to join. Municipalities can shape what works for them
- Probability of a repeat of SWASDA is very low
- Airport can help lobster fishermen, there are synergies with a larger region, can work together
- Expect ferry would be the dominant issue the REN would work on? Not necessarily good for all
- REN would be set up by us, so we would set the work and hold them accountable to do the work
- Up front, setting the strategy, is our control
- Thinking regionally a challenge, 5 - 6 hours return trip from one end to the other
- Municipalities on the end might drop off - might not get the services
- How can all the municipalities be equal
- Solid waste model, library board, good models. It's the leadership of the people around the room
- Clare doing an economic strategy now, which will recommend a model.
- What are the consequences of not joining? Suspect REN will get more favorable response to a project. Not determined yet.
- Concerns around the transition, cost of transition, how much to budget for next year? Wind down?
- Hurting bad economically here. Got to have a team, so need to decide if you're on it or not. Then move it forward. Young and old people leaving. Make the team, then start moving forward. Old system didn't work. If something happens on Digby, Weymouth, Yarmouth will benefit, Clare will benefit
- My residents want economic development, we're here off them
- need to decide even if don't have all the answers, gotta do it
- Gap from winding down RDA to ramping up REN? Can go pretty fast to set up a new one, theoretically. April/May quite possible
- But needs to be done right
- has province adopted the report? Not all recommendations, need to discuss, but in general supportive, willing to work with willing partners
- absorption of costs for those involved in an RDA, extra burden for those compared to the others (town of Digby)
- Opting out not an option as would benefit if rest go ahead, what's good for one, is of benefit to all
- Need a bigger picture, new councillors not part of the past, so ready to do it if all on board, like region, not sure of governance as it is not clear. Rather have action

- Vast geographic region, not a lot of people, a lot in common
- Need an IT infrastructure to share info, share resources
- Important to work together, is a big area and hope
- Concern on governance, responsibilities being put on municipal staff
- Area good, fisheries a strong thread, but regionalization deteriorates a unit
- Opportunity to start over
- Equal doesn't mean those with more people pay more, get more.
- Question re skills of people on the board? Business skills? Need business input, but RENs determine

REN 2 Bridgewater

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- HRM? Hubbards split, makes sense to include that part of HRM with hubbards and Chester
- Chester doesn't gravitate to shelburne for anything social or business
- Why this combination of municipalities, any background?
- Whole structure is a beauracracy, what value does the REN have?
- Maybe another structure, CBDCS could perhaps be a better partner? Common economic resource. Don't see the "like" interests in the large region?
- Governance. Question, unclear how it is better than before, how is the municipality better served. So what if we get together once a year and walk away. Not sure what the board is, who is on it, how they get selected, why would anyone offer to serve - not sure what board will do, can't set policy as elected do that.
- Like current RDA structure, half elected, half business, not broken.
- Like greater accountability, municipalities should be on the evaluation
- Elected officials need to be involved, not handed off for a year.
- Like the RDA they have, willing to put their money in it. Happy with it. Businesses have been creating jobs. Good team of staff
- Will the larger REN be responsive enough, quick enough to respond?
- Realize Feds will reduce what can be done, but we're being asked to put in more? Will take maybe 2 years to see results.
- Shelburne met with business community, didn't have an RDA that created jobs
- Co-locating Feds, prov, municipalities worked well
- What if a smaller municipality opts out because they can't afford their share?
- Benefits - carrots and sticks, there should be benefits to being in a REN, not a threat. Has UNSM endorsed this approach? Benefits should be inherent in the REN
- no one punished? When RDAs were set up, businesses wouldn't get funding if not part of a RDA
- Municipalities not being forced to do this. Province asking us to be a partner. They are asking your feedback. Municipalities can decide how to go forward.
- Hubbards might want to go with Chester, Shelburne with Yarmouth? Any flexibility on the borders?
- What does a REN actually do? Case study?
- How do areas in two different RENS work together?
- Hard to see value for smaller units.

- Would like to see province to put their money in place regardless of what the municipalities contribute, maybe not 50/50, one taxpayer
- Focus on helping businesses grow, that will be the benefit, service to the business community, working together, can't stop trying. How else would you propose to do that?
- Increasing the size, rural and coastal activity in common. But practicalities with a larger size, a central office to get to and back in a day, talking to all the businesses - a challenge
- Ties already there between regions, businesses. Feds and other organizations already out there, leave it to the groups that already exist.
- A REN would be a new employer, how do we retain the corporate knowledge in the RDAs?
- Will province be involved in the hiring? Who /what are these people going to be employees of?
- Mayors and wardens met, having another meeting including Shelburne, will discuss concerns again Jan 28th, and will decide
- timeline question. Re when RDA winds down, how will the transition be completed by then? All the strategy done, all employees hired, no gap? Federal funding ends. Business community will expect support with no gap?
- Secondment of staff off the table? Can staff be better integrated without secondment?
- How is the province going to evaluate whether they are getting value for their money?
- Will the deliverables, measurables be known before municipalities sign on?
- How flexible is the province going to be on this model, and on local economic development? Regional economic development should not be done at expense of local economic development - this is key. (there will still be programs to support community economic development)
- Concern this government brings in an independent group to examine an issue they don't have to live with. When is the province going to make up its mind on what it wants.
- (province supporting a partnership with municipalities, province has economic programs it will do regardless, province could have just announced this was the way it was going to be)
- will there be a new act for this structure? Will the RDA act be dissolved? When?
- Why only 6? Why can't the provincial money be split into more?
- making it larger makes it less effective. Let municipalities decide what's appropriate
- Flexibility is key, have no money to spare or waste

REN 3 Kentville

- 3rd rendition of RDAs, so shouldn't be daunted
- Do not want to see people left behind, concerned about those in the RDAs
- Confidential BREE data needs to be secured, and then used by new one
- Hard to say yet about it, it's a large area, so want to know if there will be service throughout the region, or if it will be centralized

- Huge area, so one office? What is the plan? Can't have a lot of offices, with that amount of \$
- After reflection, what if council wants to align with someone outside the proposed ren? Work with existing partner?
- Off to a good start here already, great meeting before Christmas, agree economic development is important, still hurdles, concerned about cost, formulas
- It's a template, but we can build our own, how we want it to work, we can decide where offices will be, projects to continue, talk to our RDAs . We can take the initiative
- Radical restructuring of the province. will the province redistribute staff, programs, to support? (province rewriting criteria, realigning, discussing how regional staff can be more supportive)
- Federal involvement in projects, they criticized integration of priorities with all three levels of government, so need to align 3 levels.
- What about the tourism organizations, RITCs, will they be integrated with this model? Answer, looking at later, not yet, new NS tourism agency just formed and aware
- ACOA, in the past, questioned if working with RDAs, will they continue to ask if these are being done with the RENs? Answer, think they want to align with your strategic initiatives. But it is a political world.
- If it means that you have to be in a REN to get provincial or federal funding, we need to move forward now
- Up to us to make the best of it
- There are already a lot of existing programs to tap into
- Great potential, but need help going forward. Province needs to help communicate what's happening everywhere, so we can learn about solutions, facilitation, strategic planning
- 5 year commitment is a big commitment, concern is that people come to your door to start a project, can't send them to another location- satellites are an answer.
- Have to do something. We have all lost a lot over last few years, and losses impact more than the unit with the location, spin offs of reductions hurting other businesses
- Need to retain existing businesses, who knows if the ship building project will proceed
- Commend attempt to be more focussed
- What about HRM?
- Need to concentrate on rural economic development, we don't have the business community
- board structure recommended to have more businesses, not elected. Flagged, both good and bad
- Scheduling another meeting
- Question on funding, looks like the region is being asked to spend more
- Like idea of satellite offices, would be an enhancement
- Will we look at new programs eg Carolina, encouraging present businesses, more friendly, quicker responses to business applications, we can learn from others
- In reference to business people on the board, elected may feel disconnected and not know what's happening.
- Will the business community be asked to put money in? Could
- If a big business wants to locate in the region, who tells them where to locate? business will decide where's best for them, tax rates could be a factor

- Strategic oversight done by elected, businesses do best at operational, no expectation elected wouldn't be involved but on the longer term perspective, all get advantages if they locate in the valley
- Like business people on the operational board, trying to select which of the 11 would be involved is difficult for politicians to work out. Business people will concentrate on making the best REN. Municipalities need to create the right environment
- Cautious when other levels of government try to make change, working well as it is
- No option here, let's get going
- Need business people on the board, not elected
- We need new business. We need to do whatever we can do
- Good opportunity, need to make it work
- Wondering about transition timing, funding, as it applies to those working now.
- Will DM letter be honored? Carried out as intended? Yes money will be there as needed. Province ready to work with willing partners
- Governance structure should be the same for each. Funding agreement should have same rules. Province would like to see consistencies. Governance framework to cover accountability needs to be consistent. Expect similar, but may be a few tweaks.
- Who makes the selection of who's on the board?
- If we create the template that works for us, not going to wait for other RENS to set a stage.
- Staff working group condensed issues into 3: roles of all the players, funding formula, governance
- Review and monitoring committee could include elected, need to understand this recommendation
- Bridging the gap between RDAs and RENS, need councils to talk now
- How do we improve outcomes compared to RDAs ie more businesses. Answer, greater involvement of business community, more direct monitoring of activity and progress annually by elected officials
- Will there be one contract that everyone will sign. Eg an intermunicipal agreement with the province
- RDAS have been having this discussion for several months, ready for it. Knowing the timing is helpful.
- Very valuable to have province and ACOA on the board or at the meetings
- high level concept, collectively commit \$ matched by province, and municipalities set direction, but it's like paying for something before you know what you're going to get - need some idea of deliverables before you sign - answer Province will standardize many of the deliverables that expect all RENS to use
- Not everyone agrees the existing RDAs weren't working
- A new REN will not immediately bring in all kinds of new jobs, but need to work now on retaining jobs.
- Value added in the REN model, encourage province to provide incentives, needs substance
- What would happen if only half agree to join the REN? Answer - Difficult to provide the services business community needs. There should be consequences of not joining
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REN 4 Truro

- Concerned about lack of consultation
- Throwing out baby with bath water. RDA worked well, prepared to continue working together.
- First nations overlooked
- Group too large, no pattern of trade
- Municipal representation, with only 3 and maybe not elected, won't work. Need municipal
- Dissolution of assets, province shouldn't have claim, municipalities paid for most. Cash, records, need to be looked after. On paper, not necessarily how it will be in practice
- community economic development very important as were other functions of the RDA
- If municipalities go on their own. any provincial money?
- Business hat, we are never sure who to go to for help if want help or to expand, like idea do one stop shop. Would be a good thing
- Anything changed since then report came out? Eg secondment
- Provincial and federal priorities, why not consider the Feds as a tool box, they are not contributing, so why align with their priorities.
- Who else in REN 4 has economic resources, Amherst, Truro, East Hants has 3,
- size is too large for management, coordination, communication. Maybe put subsections, maybe 3
- Big trip from one end to the other, too long
- Concern about sharing economic development staff, when others don't have them
- Tourism missing
- Didn't like old RDA, this is bigger so bigger problems
- Mistrust in that you would be in the forgotten part of the region
- Size too big, communications, each individual area knows its region. Maybe subsections and quarterly meetings with all subsections to market corridor
- Tourism could use a coordinated effort. Getting people to cooperate not always works, tends to creep back to what's in it for each individual
- Look at branding of the Area, we have to address the problems. What are we looking for in economic development. Councils need to identify
- CORDA and CREDA struggled with difference between community and economic development. 4-7 jobs in a rural area are important
- Need to identify real needs, not wants.
- May force us to be more responsive to businesses, and create sense of urgency in dealing with businesses, need to respond quickly
- Model of Moncton, Riverview, (airport) Seems to work well
- Need to have offices open at appropriate times to serve businesses
- HRM into 4 areas, don't want to split. We don't want their areas, as reduces size. Can boundaries be changed?

- Here tonight to get info, info has been sparse. If don't join, will they still get access to capital projects or project funding
- Percy Paris' quote about moving a boundary 1km. Didn't appreciate
- Will the provincial money make up what Feds took away? No
- CORDA model was recognized by province as a model, focused on business. Seems we are throwing the model away without asking if municipalities would pay more
- May not have enough money to do a good job
- Good province keeping its share.
- Organizational structure of the REN not clear. Hypothetical. Need to understand real thing, how it will work
- Report speaks to ensuring a strong model
- Businesses gravitate to growth centers. Cumberland looked at community development, didn't fight for businesses to go rural rather than towns. Community development critical to rural communities. CREDA did great work through the years. Don't think need to throw it out
- Job focus is understandable given limited resource
- Decision making has been too slow, lost opportunities, if this speeds up provincial decision (not referring to NSBI- talking about the government itself)making it would be a good thing
- Need to recognize a provincial election coming up, what would a change in government do to this process? Let's come to a concision and stick with it, can't afford to change it.
- Winding down RDA, no business plan yet for REN, shouldn't there be something in place before you get rid of the old thing.
- Staff left out in the cold, losing good people. No plan in place, irresponsible.
- Fact funding. If RDA was unsuccessful why continuing. If RDA successful, why get rid of it
- Province giving away money to businesses from outside, why not put money here
- If you bring business in, though RDAs, province must have made money.
- Asking for input, or for help. What is the plan? Are we at a focus group? Who sets these committee?
- Staff and officials overworked now. Concerned asking them to work on this, what if municipality doesn't want to.
- September, how come province didn't come to UNSM and say you put a committee together. When RDAS first started, asked how to do it. Government is telling us to put it together but there is big but- you have to do it in a large region. Still fighting over which slice of the pie. Would like to see no restrictions. Would like UNSM to put forward a model

- If not a fait accompli, could you see a radical geographical redesign.
- ACOA caused the problem, otherwise would be continuing
- Heard here tonight it's not cast in stone. Glad to here ideas about satellite offices. As long as you listen, we might make this work
- Board make up with only 3 municipal. Not acceptable
- One minister said we were partners, but not equal. Bet one vote outweighs 9 municipal,
- Report doesn't say satellite
- Need confirmation of the board selection, need more input on board from municipalities
- You're not an equal partner when prov says do it on your own if you don't buy in and partner with these specific groups. Not all arranged marriages work
- Don't understand why we need this layer of bureaucracy to have the province help east hants or Amherst. if true goal is to help municipalities with economic development, more direct way to do it
- Satellite offices also expensive
- Don't know too many businesses who would tear down their business before they had another one
- Would like to see plan before you shut down RDA
- Cut down on expenses using technology, communicating, could eliminate travel, offices needs
- Put us up for a weekend and let us hammer it out
- Spread out the \$2.2 m to each municipality, let them show what they did with it.
- Carrot being dangled for money, wasted money to replace bureaucracy
- East hants has nothing to gain with joining REN, nothing in common, an outlier. Why play a game just to get money. Not going to be community development, immigration, tourism, etc, so how flexible is it? Cumberland, Colchester don't want east hants. So how flexible, what point is there in continuing to discuss
- Can the RENS look different?
- Area too large, afraid will be lost in the shuffle
- We are working with other municipalities
- Like idea of province giving money to a group, let them decide how to spend it
- Satellite offices - will they cost more?
- Why not take what was successful in the RDA and start with them
- Where are the successes. NS had worst growth. So what worked? Panel didn't do enough consultation, research, should have been talking to business
- Agree decisions best made from people in the community, give us the money and we would make better decisions.
- What's the incentive to work in this larger region, for a business to locate in my municipality, we need the tax base.
- Nothing stopping others from working together if that works for them
- One model suppose to work for all, but one model won't. All different.

- Can't suggest municipalities don't work together is incorrect
- To say you have to participate in order to get money is disrespectful.
- Typical provincial stance. Taxpayers in our communities deserve a share of the provincial money

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REN 5 Antigonish

- How were the regions designed, where are the similarities, communities of interest, existing partnerships?
- Forestry is a major player throughout the area
- Timeframe for establishing a new one?
- Will the province be ready so that the gap in service is reduced? April to September?
- Budget to be considered in the municipality for upcoming year
- How will the REN be developed? What course of action?
- Budget for current organizations is twice what the REN is expected to have. How will the REN deliver the same services?
- How was the formula set? Why is there less? What does Halifax get?
- How will the municipal shares be determined? What is the formula? (Municipalities will decide)
- Hard to get consensus between 2 municipalities, let alone many
- So many unknowns, how can it all be answered in just a short time? Seems half formed
- population driven formulas are not great
- Huge investment in HR in RDAs, how do we keep them?
- Too late to come up with another model, government made decision in haste. Still waiting for letter from the province. Should have done it so didn't lose staff, close up an office. Focus might have changed but could have kept going for a year while this was worked out. ACOA said they would have money for projects, bodies around the table might not have changed so much
- Hard to come up with something positive.
- If a municipality decides not to join, especially if it's the biggest municipality, it won't really work
- If one decides not to join, does that impact the REN? Yes
- What if the people at the RDA were not great, do they have to be hired by the REN
- RDA model with three levels of government was great, shouldn't have been changed
- don't like what we see, what is carved in stone? Is the funding? Can there be more money?
- Could the money be put mostly on people, rather than offices, HR and finance functions?
- Container pier in the strait, in this REN, could be a real opportunity, involve a lot of work should involve an RDA, and some of the more distant municipalities may not support allocating resources to this project. With a smaller budget, not enough resources to support the project.
- Geographic size means less focus on each unit, difficult especially for smaller units.

- In the RDA model, even, there was not good service from provincial staff, and not much attention to smaller units
- Getting people out to the areas where help is needed the most, the more rural areas. If office centralized, outer areas won't get much
- Guysborough put a lot of money on the table, big projects, didn't see the province much to help them
- Province should be answering more questions
- Strait area mayors and wardens working well. Speak with one voice. Same vision, to grow the region. Will continue to work together, but Cape Breton model being discussed, not all are sure it's good. All support MIT (terminal). If RENS move forward, hope they can continue to work on the terminal project.
- couldn't afford to be part of an RDA, hope this will be a way to become involved
- Is there flexibility in the geography?
- Really like focus on jobs. RDAs did other things, all good, but not necessarily jobs. Need to look at what we can afford, there is change no matter what, can't afford to look back
- Working group will be formed to hash out the nitty gritty?
- Panel didn't consult with any stakeholders in REN 5
- Size is large, service to all areas will be more difficult, industry similarities not there. Where will there be control of our destiny - larger municipalities will get more attention. Where's the guarantee we will get something?
- If do go on your own, and invest in economic development, will we still get help from the ERDT? Yes, but not contribute \$ to your staff.
- REN 2,4,5. All include HRM? They will get access to funds
- If willing to go forward, it can be done, what assurance the province will continue its funding? Not a lot of trust with the province
- Should have had the panel here, to allow us the option of carrying on with the RDAs, perhaps funding from the province on a per capita share.
- No problem with working with other municipalities, we're doing it, but this is totally unprepared
- If don't join, province will cut funding
- How does the provincial funding compare do the RDAs?
- Expect province will legislate municipalities to participate in the RENS
- Could an option be smaller regions? Need to have something that works. Don't want to say no, but expect need to keep with 6
- Sounds like boundary review.
- If going to do this, need a model agreement, concern about losing people and hiring when don't know how many we need, etc, so need to get some answers quickly. Need to know who's in or not fairly quickly.
- Remote offices can work today, question is if we can pay for the person
- Lot of work to be done
- Can't see any advantage to a unit paying 20 or 30% getting anything out of this, if don't join, will reduce funding for remaining units
- What are the advantages? Need to see something
- Feds eliminated funding, province using us as a scapegoat, if don't join, lose funding. Province saves \$2,2 m
- Would like to see same funding

- The 3 RDAs had more money
- Region without pictou county would work better. Split into 2
- Fact there were bad RDAs, that was a separate issue, and could have been dealt with
- What was wrong with the RDA geographical areas?
- Didn't give the RDA option to work with one third less funding
- Frustrating, government cutting back. Difficult to keep making it work.

REN 6 Baddeck

- What if only 50-60% of the proposed region are willing to join- will the funding be adjusted?
- Size of the REN is large
- For those who are not in, would they still have access to funding?

- Is agreement between who?
- What is in this for community development. if don't have a community, won't have business - would like to see community development

- Province has to be full partner, more openness with NSBI, not just centralized for Halifax, need to have open communicator, no closed door policies, no secrets.
- What about staff secondment?
- How will staffing be determined?

- What is the model for governance?

- Group in CB has been working on a model, not exactly the same as what's recommended. What's the difference?
- What we've been doing is not working, so need to do something different. Not a lot new being presented here.
- Is Port Hawkesbury better off on the island, or with the strait. Need to talk about

- Environment to support innovation needed, need to look at scalability, what we have. Need to have housing, schools, real foundation of the economy. Takes our innovation at our scale, which is the discussion at the RDA. Need to go bottom up, work with young people, help. Talk about social innovation, all things that create a vibrant community

- What about the CB RDAs transition model

- What are RDAs doing now?
- The two CB RDAs working on a new model. What are other RDAs doing, anything proactive?
- On one hand, saying want some consistency, yet saying you can have it your way. Wouldn't like to see every REN different
- RDAs winding down? Time line?

- Any new legislation for RENs?
- RDA work, less people and money, how will that work? Why not let each unit hire their own? Let ERDT do their stuff
- Will RENS continue with village square programs. Or is it just economic
- Agree need businesses, but also need community development. Need a balance
- Councils in strait region looking at what they want, don't want to go to pictou. Would province entertain a strait REN?
- Harbour in the strait not controlled by one unit like Sydney harbour - need to be able to sit down with all to work out. Just came through major economic disaster, people came together to help. Have a group for everyone in NS. Harbour is life blood. Not against joining Sydney, but need to discuss what's best. Community development is important in rural economy. Sydney could support their own. Need to discuss on each of the councils and then come back together. Port Hawkesbury would like to work on quad county. Fear of being penalized if don't join CB, not right. When crisis hit PH, didn't get a call from Sydney chamber of commerce
- Focus on economic development appreciated, but recognize community development is critical, RDA in CBRM did this. Good. Responded to community development. Not happy if just economic. CB councils who working on this, want community development. Been doing community development for 20 years, paying off in attracting people, want to see parks and playgrounds. Don't want governments coming into town dictating what it's going to be, have a right to access government funding for the things we want. Will work with government, but won't be dictated to
- need to continue to have access to funding, REN can focus on economic but can still do community, eg street scapes, there is still funding for community development
- when Feds pulled put, and some RDAs not working well. To Blaine and Eileen's credit, they have been proactive
- Any thought given to cape Breton partnership? Which is fully funded?
- Municipalities haven't done a lot for businesses, do they really want municipal help other than infrastructure
- When talking about aligning with the province, Jobs Here, how will RENS actually align. Innovation driven by businesses, don't see businesses at the table here pushing for what they need. So why not let province do jobs here, why need the REN?
- Were disadvantages to not being a part of an RDA, not a lot of difference between REN and CB partnership, why duplicate. If municipalities can't answer, how will businesses figure it out?
- Timing, will take awhile to figure out who's in, how it will be done?

- Municipalities putting in money? What if support CB Partnership, and take the money to do economic development
- Loss of RDAs, small communities need help, who will they turn to? Loss for every community if focus only on economic. Communities will go backward
- How will boards be established?

- Strength in numbers, majority in CBRM, so what's for rest of island. We have lots of people working on economic development, 32 groups in CB, all publicly funded. Wierd. Setting up for failure? What we have isn't working. Let's be courageous. Make a meaningful change. Is the province open to other ideas? Geography, entity, structure for economic development
- Who is initiating the change?

- Need to take the blinder off and include community development.

- One small area, great community, won't grow much, but won't grow at all if no community development
- Complement panel, but recommendation of the panel influenced by ECBC, bullied.

- Need core funding and project funding.
- Rural CBRM is also large, needs to be looked after