

Commission de services
régionaux de Kent



Kent Regional
Service Commission

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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Annual Report of the Kent Regional Service Commission 2024

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1. INTRODUCTION

The goal of the Annual Report 2024 of the Kent Regional Service Commission (KRSC) is to present the organization's activities over the last year, along with its financial statements for 2024. Anyone wishing to obtain an electronic copy of this report will find it on the KRSC website www.krsc.ca.

2. MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings, dear citizens of the Kent region! It is with great pleasure that I submit to you my report as Chair of the KRSC. The year 2024 was a very positive one for the Kent region. The KRSC is continuing to implement its regional strategy and is carrying out some excellent initiatives for the benefit of the people of the region. What's more, the region is experiencing a demographic and construction boom. It is breaking construction records!

With the major changes linked to the local governance reform, we also added new employees. Thanks to an excellent recruitment process, the KRSC has hired employees who are highly knowledgeable in their respective fields and is now implementing the many services on its territory. These services include economic development, tourism promotion, community development, regional transport, recreational planning and cost-sharing, and public safety.

Immigration continues to be a very important issue for the Kent Region. The partnership established with the New Brunswick Multicultural Council is going very well, and even exceeding our expectations. We have set up comanagement of immigration employees, which brings a sense of belonging to the KRSC.

The partnership with the Vitalité Health Network continues. The Network is in constant communication with the KRSC and we were able to participate in the planning process for the Stella-Maris-de-Kent Hospital. There are still challenges in terms of health care, but communication between Vitalité and the KRSC allows for a better understanding of the situation Vitalité is facing. This model of partnership between the community and health professionals is new in New Brunswick and will make it possible to identify and implement projects that affect health services in the territory and the delivery of health promotion programs. This relationship with Vitalité will certainly be an asset for the region and fits in well with our new responsibilities in terms of community development.

We have continued to work with our public safety agencies to provide more services. Whether it's through our Public Safety Committee or our initiatives like the positive ticket program, we at the KRSC are convinced that it's essential to promote relationships between our population and our public safety service providers. Over the past few years, the KRSC has also continued its partnership with the RCMP to help local food banks. Several food drives have been held in the region and the public has responded in large numbers.

We have continued our efforts around agriculture. Our Board recognizes the importance of local food and supporting local agriculture for the development of our region. Thanks to the Community Development and Social Inclusion Department, food security and the development of community gardens will add to the KRSC's efforts to

have as much food produced here as possible and to feed as many people as possible with local food. Agriculture is certainly a sector on which we want to focus more.

Transport is always a very important issue. With the purchase of the van, we can help our residents having mobility issues. What's more, the agreement we've just signed with Vitalité will allow residents to access health care without worrying about the cost and availability of their transport. Vitalité is investing in Kent by covering the cost of transport for their patients. What a great way to work together!

Thanks

I would like to thank all the members of the Board for their dedication and great interest in the Kent region. Despite our rural location and the challenges this poses for our communities, the members of the Board believe strongly in the regional approach. Our leaders always speak of harmony and the desire to work together. The Board members' contribution to the region was invaluable, and it kept the KRSC moving forward. I would also like to welcome Roméo Bourque, who will replace Jean Hébert as mayor of the Rural Community of Beausoleil. Although Jean is no longer mayor, he will continue to contribute to the development of our region by sitting on the Kent Planning Advisory Committee.

Finally, I would like to thank the KRSC staff for their professionalism and dedication to the Kent region, particularly during this time of reform. We are fortunate in the organization to have staff who believe in the region's potential and want to see it continue to progress. It has been a pleasure for me to represent you over the past year and I hope that my work has met your expectations as the people of the Kent Region.

Aldéo Saulnier

KRSC Chair



3. REPORT FROM THE CEO

ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES OVER THE PAST YEAR

I am pleased to present the report of the KRSC CEO for 2024. Now that services are well established following two very eventful years, the staff of the KRSC are focusing their efforts and energy on ensuring the implementation of the strategic plan. This five-year plan is in its second year, and already the successes are measurable. What is most remarkable is the energy and positive spirit that prevails in the region, and this wind is driving the KRSC staff and Board to contribute to regional development.

Numerous statistics are available to show that the Kent region is a great place for economic, tourism and community development. It's also a region that values the contribution of its businesses, its recreational and tourism attractions and infrastructures, and most importantly, its people, who contribute to this growth! The region welcomes many newcomers who want to raise a family here and contribute to the development of our beautiful region. Thanks to government investment, the KRSC will be able to offer training opportunities so that these people can learn French and English. In terms of construction, 2024 was a record year! Nearly \$100 million worth of building permits were granted in Kent! We are also helping the most vulnerable members of our community by providing specialized transit. And finally, we're encouraging cooperation by acquiring a piece of equipment to help municipalities properly maintain their sanitary and storm sewer systems. These successes are just a small part of all the projects that KRSC is working hard to implement. Below is a presentation of these many projects.

Despite all these wonderful successes, there are still some challenges that we continue to address, the first one being housing. There is a huge shortage of housing in the region, particularly affordable housing. The region's municipalities are working closely with developers and the KRSC to increase the number of housing units available, but there is still a major shortfall. Another challenge facing the region is transportation. We're seeing a huge increase in the population's need to get around. The lack of public transportation and taxis is adding an additional burden to the 30 or so volunteers who provide transport for our hundreds of residents. We can celebrate the fact that we have dedicated drivers, but the demand for travel is outstripping our capacity to act. That's why, in 2025, the KRSC will have to look more closely at the issue of transport in order to continue to meet the needs of our residents.

This year, we had to say goodbye to one of our seven Board members and we welcomed a new member. Jean Hébert of Beausoleil stepped down as Mayor in the fall, leaving a vacancy on the Board for a few months. The Deputy Mayor of Beausoleil, Louis Babineau, held his seat until Roméo Bourque was elected. We welcome Mr. Bourque as Mayor of Beausoleil and member of the Board of the KRSC.

I would like to sincerely thank all the staff for the dedication and energy they put into developing the region. Nearly 30 employees invest a great deal of time and effort in their jobs to ensure that the services provided by the KRSC are delivered professionally and wholeheartedly. The employees have a deep desire to improve people's lives, and it shows in the way they deliver services to citizens. They understand the realities of the rural environment and their human approach to citizens is appreciated!

Projects Completed in 2024

After two years of transition and great uncertainty, 2024 was a year in which we could put the emphasis on fulfilling the mandates given to the RSCs under the local governance reform. Numerous projects have been completed, others have begun, and some are being planned. The KRSC Board and its staff made sure to maintain a high level of rigour and compliance with the objectives set out in the regional strategy. This has enabled the various departments of the KRSC to carry out the priorities set by the Board. Below is an overview of projects completed in 2024 and some prospects for the future.

Budget 2025

The KRSC Board approved a budget of just over \$8 million in 2025 last October. Thanks to the Regional Services Support Fund, the contribution from Circular Materials and other funds transferred to the KRSC for its operations, we have been able to reduce KRSC members contribution by several tens of thousands of dollars. This funding goes a long way to helping municipalities and the rural district continue to support initiatives that contribute to the development of the Kent region.

We would like to thank our partners, such as the Government of New Brunswick, for their major contribution to the activities of the KRSC.

Economic development and immigration

The economic development, tourism and immigration sector was very busy in 2024. The agricultural revitalization project continued, and we can begin to celebrate some successes. Two Anabaptist groups (Mennonites and Amish) acquired more than 1,500 acres of farmland and agroforestry in the region, including 1,000 acres in the community of Acadieville and 500 acres in the community of Bass River. In addition, the Mennonites built their first home, an encouraging sign that a permanent settlement is planned.

The KRSC has revived the importance of holding a gala to celebrate its business community. In November, after nearly a dozen years without holding an event, the Kent Entrepreneurial Gala took place in Grand-Bouctouche. The room was packed, the entrepreneurs were celebrating, and we felt a wind of optimism in the Kent business community. Recognition awards were handed out, and plans are already underway for the 2025 gala.

In terms of immigration, the region is organizing a pilot project for Francophone immigration. With so many newcomers wanting to learn French, the KRSC has received funding to organize integration and training activities, all in the French language. We're proud to be able to initiate this pilot project and ensure that newcomers have the chance to develop their French language skills.

Community Transportation

After more than two-year wait, the KRSC is now offering a specialized transportation service to people in wheelchairs or with major mobility challenges. The purchase of a Dodge ProMaster vehicle, paid for entirely by federal, provincial and community funds, means that we can now offer a transportation service to the most

vulnerable citizens in our region. We now have a full-time driver to ensure that these citizens can be moved around safely. What's more, on November 1, we signed an agreement with the Vitalité Health Network that covers the transportation fees of the region's residents in need of Horizon's health services. This contribution from Vitalité is excellent news!

Shared Municipal Services

One of the long-awaited initiatives by some of the region's municipalities was the purchase of a hydrovac truck to maintain sanitary and storm sewer systems. The \$780,000 purchase as well as the hiring of a permanent employee to operate the equipment is a joint effort by three Kent municipalities and one in the south-east.

We continued to coordinate the street sweeping service for three municipalities in the region. With the great success of this initiative, the current municipalities and that of Cap-Acadie have shown interest in continuing this collaborative approach for the next five years. An RFP for the service will be published in 2025.

The KRSC CEO and the KRSC leadership team meet monthly with the six CAOs and the local services manager in the LSDs to discuss various opportunities for shared services. These meetings enable the KRSC CEO to give updates on the KRSC projects and initiatives underway. The discussions that take place at these meetings are promising and will enable the communities and the KRSC to work together even more closely.

Communication

Communication is a necessary part of our duties as KRSC directors. With the wide range of services and initiatives that the KRSC offers its citizens, we have a duty to communicate well with the public. Our communication tools include our newsletter, published twice a year, our radio advertisements, our mailings, our Facebook page, our website and our mobile application. People in the region have plenty of ways of finding out what's going on at KRSC and we're continuing our efforts to keep the public informed. We've also given our website a facelift. People will now have easier access to public notices and information about the KRSC. We encourage people to visit www.krsc.ca!

Another communication tool that the KRSC has added to its list is the Voyent Alert platform. The KRSC has entered a partnership with the region's municipalities to acquire this platform. It will enable the KRSC and the municipalities to communicate notices to the public via its application, by text message, by email or by telephone.

Other projects

Health care: Stella-Maris-de-Kent Hospital

The KRSC was fortunate to be able to participate in the Stella-Maris-de-Kent Hospital Master Plan Committee. The Vitalité Health Network conducted a planning exercise for 2024 to determine the investments needed to maintain and add services to Kent's only hospital. The KRSC, through its CEO, was able to represent regional interests in the planning process. We look forward to seeing the outcome of this planning, which will take place in 2025.

Thanks

Once again, this year, the members of the Board have shown leadership and a great willingness to collaborate and work together as a region. It's no surprise that other regions in the province are taking a close look at our region, since collectively you want to move the Kent Region forward. Thanks to the excellent cooperation and open-mindedness of the Board and staff, it's easier for the CEO to move forward on issues that affect the citizens of the Kent Region. In 2025, we will continue to implement the initiatives identified in the regional strategy. It will be vital to continue this spirit of collaboration so that all the communities in the Kent region come out winners in this reform. The KRSC will always be there to support communities through these major changes. It will be a pleasure to continue working for you in 2024 to make the Kent Region stronger and more resilient.

Paul Lang

CEO



4. MANDATE AND BACKGROUND OF THE COMMISSION

The KRSC began its activities on January 1, 2013. The *Regional Service Delivery Act* lays down the roles and responsibilities of Regional Service Commissions all over the province. Since 2023, the KRSC has been responsible for a number of issues that have arisen since the reform was implemented.

The KRSC, with its dynamic Board and leadership from its administrative team, works on and brings up matters that go beyond its legislated responsibilities. People in the region see the KRSC as an organization that defends the public's interests and is a vehicle for non-governmental, municipal and local organizations to communicate to elected officials and LSD advisory committees what's going on in the area. The KRSC is also known as a success among the 12 other RSCs in the province. Respect among members of the Board is primordial, and this has created a climate of trust on the Board. Thanks to this collaboration and desire to work together, Board members are constantly seeking to improve relationships both within the organization and with its different partners and funders.

5. REGIONAL PROFILE

The KRSC is located in eastern New Brunswick and covers all of Kent County, as well as the communities of Rogersville, Collette, Rosaireville, Pleasant Ridge, Murray Settlement, Baie-Sainte-Anne, Hardwicke, Escuminac, Shediac Bridge and Shediac River, which are located in Northumberland and Westmorland counties respectively. The region has an area of a little over 5,000 km² and a population of 37,000 people. It has six municipalities (three towns, two villages and one rural community), one rural district and three First Nations communities (see Figure 5.1).

However, the Kent region receives uniform regional services. The entire territory is served by the KRSC, including planning, solid waste (including collection), tourism, economic development, community transportation, community development, recreation and public safety. The KRSC is also served by a police force and an emergency measure coordinator.

6. FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

In July 2023, the KRSC Board adopted a five-year strategic plan. The Board of Directors identified its major strategic directions following guidelines from the Department of Local Government. As thoroughly explained in the Annual Report, the staff and the Board have continued to deliver services and steer projects for the benefit of citizens in the region. The 2024 Annual Report will present the strategic objectives as laid down in the provincial regulation on regional strategy. **You'll find the KRSC regional strategy in Appendix A.**

7. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Organizational structure, committees and meetings

The KRSC has two structures, one consisting of the Board Directors (Table 7.1), and its committees its thirteen (13) committees (Figure 7.1). Committees whose members are not listed in figure 7.1 are detailed in their respective sections. The second operational structure derives from the Board and includes the KRSC staff (see figure 7.2).

TABLE 7.1 - ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND REPORT OF EXPENSES

BOARD MEMBERS AND SUBSTITUTES	MEETING ATTENDANCE (Board only)	HONORARIUMS (Board, committees and other occasions)	EXPENSES (Board, committees and other occasions)
BABINEAU, Louis	5	\$1,300.00	\$421.40
BABINEAU, Marc	1	\$38.00	\$56.00
BEERS, Tina	13	\$4,592.00	\$1,948.10
BOURQUE, Jimmy	9	\$1,985.00	\$798.00
DAIGLE, Jean-Charles	9	\$2,115.00	\$819.00
HÉBERT, Jean	7	\$2,605.00	\$1,318.80
HÉBERT, Pauline	1	\$175.00	\$42.00
LIRETTE, Paul	1	\$175.00	\$12.60
RICHARD, Jean-Pierre	10	\$2,315.00	\$588.00
SAULNIER, Aldéo	8	\$7,001.08	\$746.90
VAUTOUR, Arnold	10	\$2,700.00	\$513.10

Figure 7.1

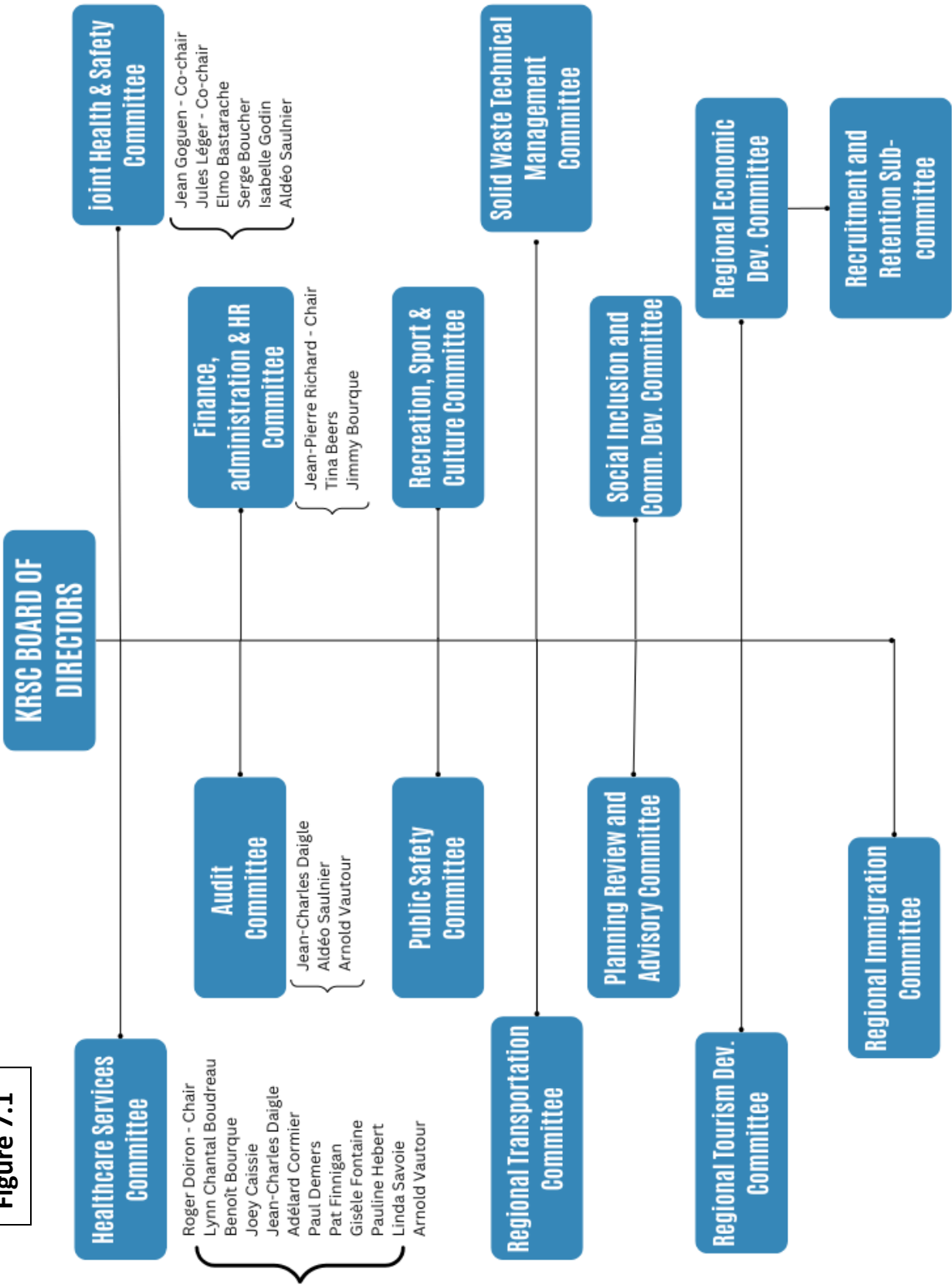
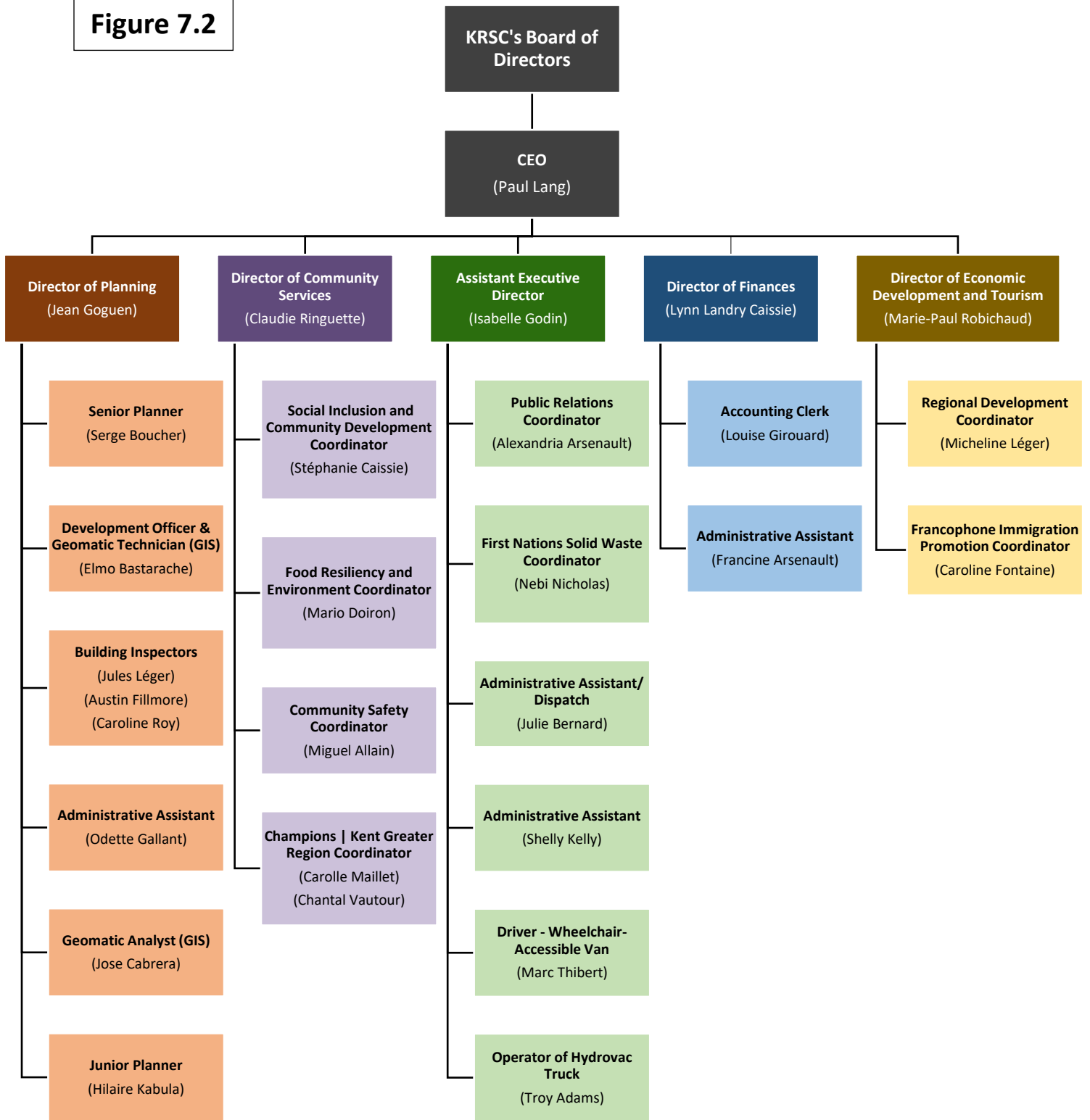


Figure 7.2



8. REPORT OF THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The KRSC, which agglomerates the six municipalities and one unincorporated area, has a Planning Department on this territory. I am proud to present the Planning Department activities for 2024.

Land use planning consists of concerted planning of policy and technological steps to ensure orderly and harmonious development. In accordance with provincial requirements, our department must create, review and modify five (5) land use development plans. Our employees have been very active during this planning period, to the point where a service delivery schedule was approved by the Commission's Board in November 2022. Our timeline for the Grand-Bouctouche and Beaurivage plans is coming to an end, and preparations for the Beausoleil and Five Rivers plans are already underway.

The KRSC's mission with respect to land use planning is to establish a framework that fosters responsible development, in partnership with the local population and all socioeconomic stakeholders while preserving a future that respects the environment of our region.

In this period of increased growth, the Planning Department is engaged in an incredible number of consultations with our partners and customers/developers to ensure desirable development. Several amendments were made to the by-laws to allow some projects to go ahead that were sometimes less in keeping with the by-laws in force. According to our administrative function, we are responsible for ensuring that development complies with laws and regulations while meeting our short-, medium- and long-term objectives.

This year stands out again because the value of permits is a little under 100 million in licence values. Our professional service was maintained throughout the region, and our inspectors remain at the cutting edge of their profession. They attended the mandatory continuing education sessions offered by the New Brunswick Building Officials Association (NBBOA). Austin Fillmore announced that he was leaving Commission at the end of December to pursue another career. We are therefore looking for a qualified person to fill his position at the KRSC.

Our Planning Officers continue to provide exceptional service. This personalized, friendly and professional service makes clients comfortable in discussing their projects and concerns. Our officers play an essential role with actors in the field of development: lawyers, surveyors, government officials, politicians, developers, service providers, neighbours and employees of their department. Moreover, our officers provide information based on the legislation, regulations and by-laws that govern us before undertaking an analysis or validation or rendering a decision.

Our cartographers serve several internal departments and always keep up with the various requests from the Commission, colleagues and clients. Cartography plays a fundamental role in the development of our regions, and this is why the Commission is carrying on the initiative of promoting cartographic technology in consultation with subject experts. In this time of change, the public needs to understand sectoral analyses, and people strongly prefer visual presentations for understanding issues and opportunities. Our department works closely with the 911 service to measure and suggest numbers before development begins.

Above all, we must mention our employees who welcome clients and direct them to the right service provided by our organization, and the smooth operation of the services provided by our department.

To meet requirements, the KRSC Board appointed a Planning Review and Advisory Committee. The PRAC continues to play an indispensable decision-making (quasi-judicial) and advisory role on behalf of the communities. This role is essential to the ongoing study and administration of land use plans and zoning, subdivision and construction by-laws. Decisions by the PRC may have major repercussions on the form and implementation of services in a community and without its consent, many projects would remain at the conceptual stage. Its functions are laid out in various provisions of the Community Planning Act, which has the ultimate goal of planning land use and encouraging coherent strategic development that is advantageous for the whole community.

Members of the Planning Review and Advisory Committee studied, at their **12 monthly** meetings, **153** cases requiring a waiver or recommendation. The committee holds its monthly public meetings the last Tuesday of each month with two exceptions: if there aren’t enough cases or if the date is a statutory holiday. Meetings start at 4:00 p.m. at the KRSC’s Richibucto office. Presentations can be made and questions asked pertinent to the various cases on the agenda, but a prior request to address the committee is appropriate and very much appreciated.

- The cases studied are as follows:
- Nine (9)** zoning cases require a recommendation to municipal councils
 - Seventy-eight (78)** subdivision plans
 - Sixty-six (66)** construction waivers

TABLE 8.1 – PRAC MEMBERS ATTENDANCE & EXPENSES

Members of the Committee	Regular Meeting	Honorariums	Expenses
Rhéal Leblanc	12	\$1,500.00	\$670.40
Pauline Hébert	9	\$900.00	\$376.80
Richard Thébeau	10	\$1,000.00	\$349.00
Gérard Thébeau	11	\$1,100.00	\$0.00
Jean Hebert	12	\$1,200.00	\$698.90
Claude LeBlanc	9	\$900.00	\$384.30

In 2024, the Commission delivered **five hundred three (503)** building permits with a total value of **\$100,540,200.00**. This represented four hundred and seventy-nine (479) permits in the municipal regions with a value of **\$98,771,200.00** and twenty-four (24) permits issued in the unincorporated region for a value of **\$1,769 000.00**.

Table 8.2 presents building permit data by region, while Figure 8.1 shows the type of permit issued.

TABLE 8.2 - BUILDING PERMITS

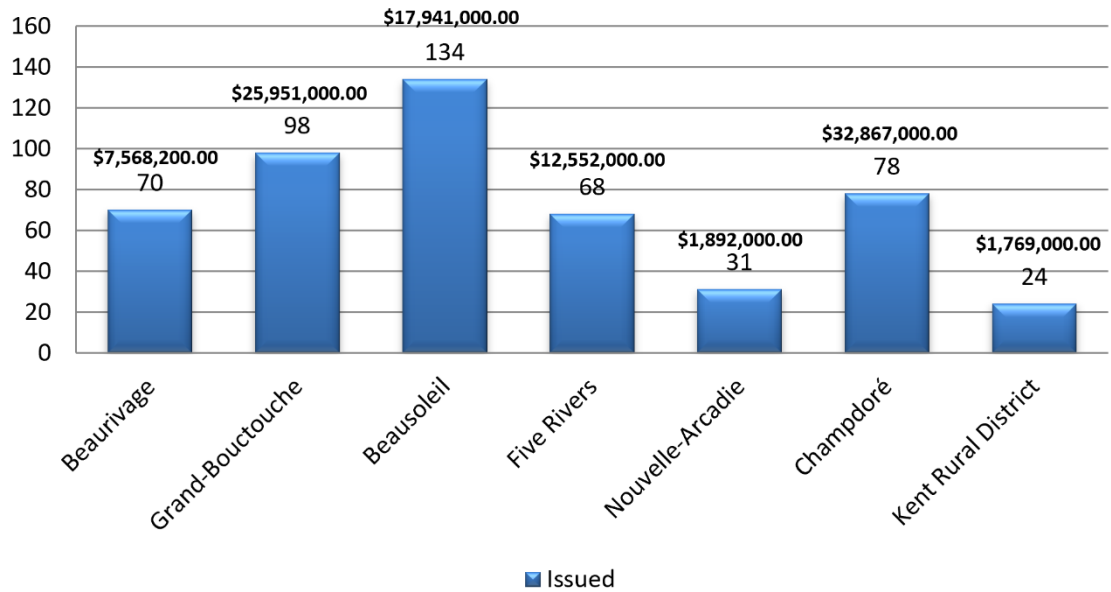
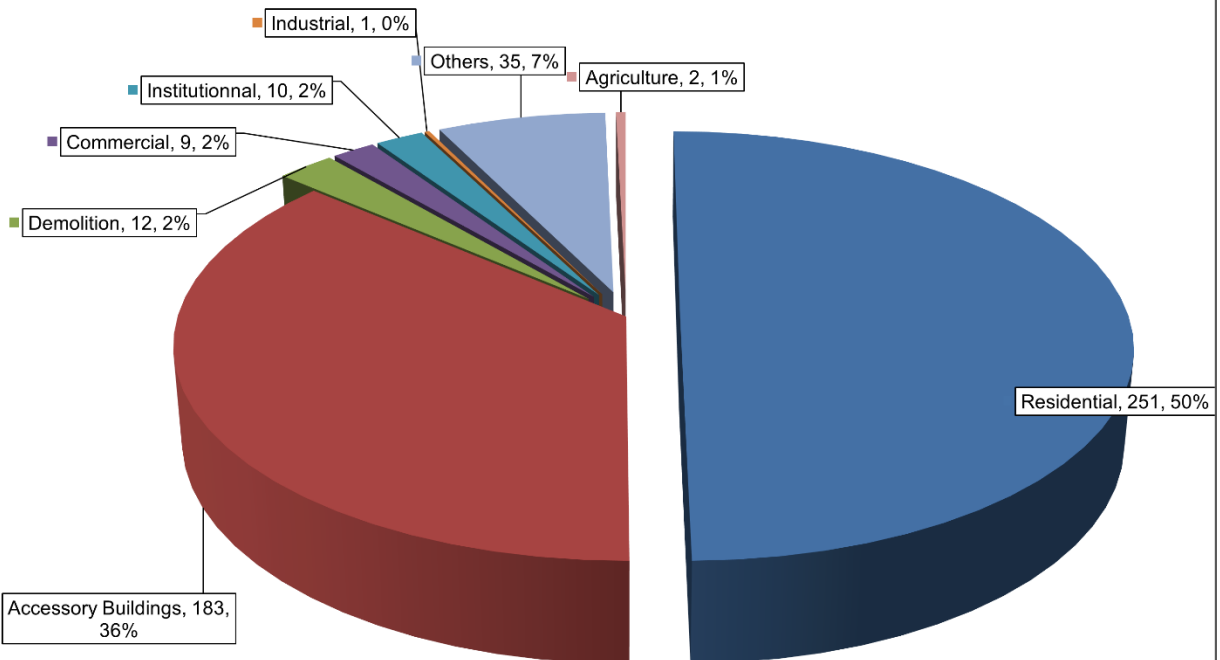
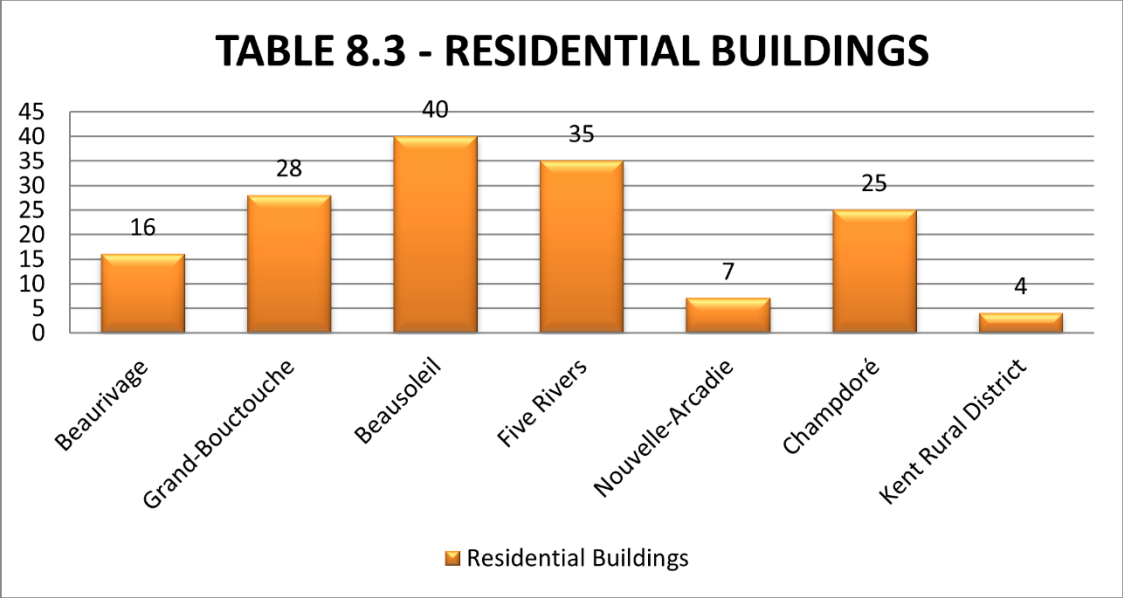


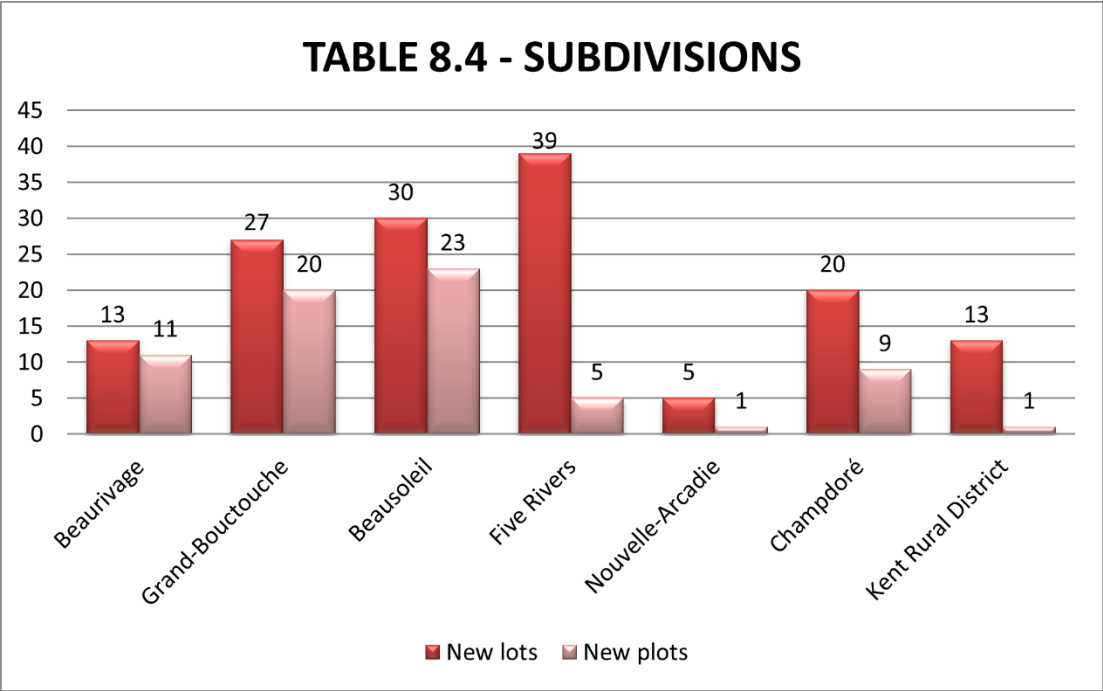
FIGURE 8.1 - TYPE OF BUILDING PERMITS



Our region increased its inventory of new residential buildings by **one hundred fifty-one (151)** in the municipal sector and by **four (4)** in the unincorporated sector. Additionally, **two hundred and twenty-eight (228)** 911 numbers have been validated and issued predevelopment. Table 8.3 shows the distribution of these new residential buildings in our communities.



In 2024, **two hundred and thirty-five (235)** subdivision plans were studied and **one hundred and ninety-six (196)** were approved, explaining the creation of **two hundred and two (202)** new lots and **ninety-four (94)** new plots.



One hundred and eighty-seven (187) documents, i.e. survey plans and transfer deeds, were approved during the year.

Funding and budget

In 2024, the total Planning Services budget was **\$1,356,185.00** out of the overall KRSC budget. The municipalities and local service districts contribute to the budget via their property assessments.

Training and Conferences

Serge, our Senior Planner, took part in a national MCIP conference in Edmonton in July. The two planners and the planner developer attended the API Atlantic Conference in Saint John in October. Our Junior Planner, Hilaire, was duly registered as a provisional member so she could obtain the title of certified planner. Our planners have also attended numerous online training courses to meet the CIP's professional requirements. Jules is the zone 5 (east and northeast) representative on the executive of NBBOA and Caroline is treasurer of that same organization. Elmo, our Development Officer/Geomatic Technician, took training sessions from the New Brunswick Development Officers Association specific to the practice of his profession. Our inspectors, Caroline and Austin, are taking part in NBBOA training courses so that they can be certified to levels 2 and 3 as quickly as possible.

Municipal/Rural Plans

The plans for Grand-Bouctouche and Beaurivage are in the final stages of being adopted at the start of the 2025 season. At the end of the year, mapping and preliminary planning began for the communities of Beausoleil and Five Rivers. By-law updates and zoning changes are always very popular with our partners. Several meetings of the working committee have been held with the various councils and in the rural areas to prepare the relevant subjects required under the *Community Planning Act*. We are continuing to work diligently to get ready for open houses and public hearings in the respective regions. Of course, our leaders are looking for answers to their questions.

To certify compliance in certain matters, a total of **eighty-five (85)** zoning confirmation reports were issued, allowing certain projects to go ahead.

I want to thank the members of the KRSC, the members of the Planning Review and Advisory Committee, the various Boards of Directors, and most especially our staff members, for their support in the past year. The staff and members alike have worked diligently to administer all aspects of land use planning. I'm proud to say that KRSC provides a distinctive Planning Department to people in our region, as well as to the many remote users, who consult us more often than ever, before making substantial investments.

Jean Y Goguen, UPC, MICU, AUNB / RPP, MCIP, NBAP

Planning Director, KRSC

9. REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

In 2024, we continue to work with business partners, community leaders and government bodies. We are following the work plan developed from the KRSC Strategic Plan. The goal is to create communities that are receptive to investment and to support a healthy business milieu in their region without offering services already offered at the provincial or federal level. Emphasis will be placed on workforce development and retaining newcomers.

The KRSC is the government of New Brunswick's (GNB) main point of contact for regional economic issues, facilitating effective coordination. It collaborates between municipalities for shared services resulting in economies of scale.

Three sectoral priorities have been identified: attracting new workers, highlighting regional economic opportunities and strengthening collaboration to support new economic initiatives. The KRSC has created two positions to support this mission: one for the economic development and tourism and another for regional development coordination.

The Regional Economic Development Committee is composed of entrepreneurs and partners in the region who represent priority sectors. This committee met twice, on February 28 and November 6, 2024.

TABLE 9.1 – MEMBERS ATTENDANCE OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members of the Committee	Sector	Meetings	Honorariums	Expenses
Jean-Charles Daigle	Representative of the KRSC Board	-	-	-
Jean-Pierre Richard	Representative of the KRSC Board	1	\$100.00	\$56.00
Roger Richard	Entrepreneur, agriculture sector	-	-	-
Jean-Pierre Gagnon	Entrepreneur, food service sector	-	-	-
Mathieu LeBlanc	Entrepreneur, forestry sector	-	-	-
Andrée Caissie / François Houde	Entrepreneur, manufacturing sector	-	-	-
Rémi LeBlanc	Entrepreneur, tourism sector	-	-	-
Caroline Fontaine	Ex-officio – Francophone Immigration Promotion Coordinator	-	-	-
René Côté	Ex-officio – Executive Director, CBDC Kent	1	-	-
Donald Hammond / Brigitte Julien	Ex-officio – Staff members of Opportunities NB	1	-	-
Marc King / Véronique LeBlanc	Ex-officio – Staff members of the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries	2	-	-
Roberta McIntyre / Cynthia Drysdale	Ex-officio – Staff members WorkingNB	2	-	-
Gilles Cormier	Ex-officio – Staff member of the Regional Development Corporation	-	-	-

The Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee is a subcommittee of the Kent Learning Community Committee. Its vision is that all needs for human resources in the health care sector will be filled and its mandate is to highlight the benefits of working and living in the Kent region. This subcommittee is made up of members of the public and community partners. The subcommittee met on January 28, April 10, June 6 and September 11, 2024.

TABLE 9.2 – MEMBERS ATTENDANCE OF THE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Members of the Committee	Sector
Roger Doiron	Chair, Kent Learning Community
Aldéo Saulnier	Member of the KRSC Board
Laverne Allain	Clinical Coordinator – Child/Youth Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Services
Jennifer Peck	Department of Health – Recruitment advisor
Rachel Bernard	Department of Health – Nursing recruitment Advisor
Yves Larochelle	Acting Manager - Stella-Maris-de-Kent Hospital
Roberta McIntire	WorkingNB, Regional Director
Cynthia Drysdale	WorkingNB, Workforce Consultant
Charline Morrison	Vitalité, Senior Director, Commitment
Micheline Léger	KRSC, Regional Development Coordinator

This subcommittee is presently working on a marketing strategy for recruitment and retention. The Move Here tab was added to the KRSC website in November. A package has been put together to promote our region. The goal of this initiative is to raise awareness of our region and serve as a promotional tool that recruiters will use at recruitment fairs. The subcommittee also highlighted the exceptional work of our health care workers with an appreciation coffee break initiative. We held three appreciation coffee breaks:

May 7, 2024, at the Rexton Health Centre

October 29, 2024, at the Rogersville Health Centre

November 27, 2024, at the Stella-Maris-de-Kent Hospital

Analysis of the region's needs

A report on the status and needs of 21 nursing homes and 3 community organizations for people with special needs was prepared and submitted to the Kent Learning Community Committee. In summary, the challenges facing the Kent region fall into several interconnected categories. In terms of working conditions, competition for better-paid and more flexible jobs is driving many workers out of nursing homes and into other sectors, such as education or hospitals. The lack of childcare places, inflexible working hours and wage gaps between establishments are exacerbating retention problems. Training also poses a challenge, particularly in terms of access to language courses and adapted training for patient care attendants, which is mainly online, making learning difficult for many employees. Immigration is one solution being explored, but the complex administrative

process, language barriers and lack of recognition of foreign qualifications limit its effectiveness. Housing and transportation remain major obstacles, with a lack of affordable housing and adequate public transportation hampering workers' recruitment and retention. Operating costs are rising, while government funding remains insufficient, forcing some homes to consider closure. Social development suffers from a severe shortage of staff, leading to delays in patient assessments and centralization of services which reduces their local effectiveness. Despite these challenges, several opportunities are emerging, such as collaboration between homes to optimize services, promotion of the sector in schools, and the development of appropriate training in the regions to improve the situation and support the local workforce.

Kent Region Group of Chambers of Commerce

In 2024, the Transition Committee - the Kent Region Chambers of Commerce in collaboration with the KRSC Economic Development Department - decided to focus their efforts on organizing an entrepreneurial gala. The Kent 2024 Entrepreneurial Gala was held on November 2, 2024, in Bouctouche to celebrate the region's entrepreneurs. The event honoured businesses and entrepreneurs who had made a significant impact on the economic and community development of Kent.

The winners were:

- Tourism Business of the Year 2024: Pays de la Sagouine
- Emerging company of the year 2024: Creekside RNR
- Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2024: Ryan Leger (Home Hardware Building Centre)
- Company of the Year 2024: O.C. Maillet Transport Ltd.
- A special mention was also given to Luc Leblanc for his 30-year career in the region.

The Gala highlighted the Kent region's dynamic entrepreneurial spirit and demonstrated the capacity of its businesses to innovate and grow.

Thank you to the selection committee: CBDC Kent, WorkingNB, OpportunitiesNB, Places aux compétences, Destination Southeast and to the KRSC staff. Your involvement is essential to the success of this event.

New Farmers in Nouvelle-Arcadie

The KRSC was tasked by the Kent farming community during a forum held in May 2019 at the Acadieville Community Centre with developing a strategy to help relaunch the farming potential in Kent County. One part of this strategy was to encourage newcomers to settle in the region. The KRSC partnered with retired agronomist Gérard Thébeau, originally from the Acadieville / North Branch Road area, and he succeeded in developing a strategy. In 2024, people from the Amish community visited the region on several occasions. They subsequently purchased land and quickly constructed their first building. Another initiative is developing in Bass River, Beersville and Smith's Corner, another group from Ontario's Amish community that wants to settle in the region. In fact, they have just purchased 500 acres of land. That said, their first phase of the project is now underway.

Training and other events

Cultural awareness training has been set up to foster collaboration with municipal authorities and various employers in the region.

Meetings between the KRSC and the District scolaire francophone Sud have been held on several occasions. Community agents from the region's schools were consulted to learn about the needs of the region's schools and to see how they could help with training and cooperation between the schools and the community.

I want to thank all our community partners, the members of the Economic Development and Tourism Committee, the KRSC Board, the KRSC employees and the municipal employees for their support and cooperation this year.

Marie-Paul Robichaud

Director of Economic Development and Tourism



10.REPORT OF THE TOURISM PROMOTION DEPARTMENT

The KRSC is working with tourism entrepreneurs, entrepreneurs supporting the tourist industry, community leaders and government bodies to provide a strategic direction for the development of tourism on a regional scale. The KRSC, via its Regional Tourism Development Committee and management, works to create a climate favourable to innovation, to the development of tourism products and to promoting the region with its attractions, accommodations and activities. The Regional Tourism Development Committee collaborates with the staff of the Planning Department on the development of a regional destination marketing organization.

The Regional Tourism Development Committee's vision is that the Kent Region be the favourite destination for visitors to New Brunswick. Its mandate is to maintain a service agreement with Destination Southeast for one year to meet the objectives of the tourism mandate.

The service agreement with Destination Southeast, which ensures that the tourism development mandate is carried out. The Economic Development and Tourism Department has asked KRSC to sit on the provincial advisory committee on tourism. This committee met on April 19, 2024. We also sit ex-officio on the board of Destination Southeast. The committee met twice, on February 24 and on November 6, 2024.

TABLE 10.1 – MEMBERS ATTENDANCE OF THE REGIONAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members of the Committee	Sector	Meetings	Honorariums	Expenses
Aldéo Saulnier	Representative of the KRSC Board	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Arnold Vautour	Representative of the KRSC Board	1	\$100.00	\$92.48
Monique Poirier	Entrepreneur – Pays de la Sagouine	-	-	-
Angèle Miller	Entrepreneur – Creekside RNR Glamping Atlantic Canada	2	\$200.00	\$46.24
Rémi LeBlanc	Entrepreneur – Auberge Bouctouche Inn	1	\$100.00	\$0.00
Mireille Doiron	Ex-officio – Kouchibouguac National Park	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ginette Doiron	Ex-Officio – Destination Southeast	2	-	-
Donald Hammond	Ex-officio – Staff member, OpportunitiesNB	1		
Marc King	Ex-officio – Provincial Director, Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries	2	-	-
Brigitte Julien	Ex-officio – Staff member, OpportunitiesNB	2	-	-
Gilles Cormier	Ex-officio – Project Manager - Regional Development Corporation	-	-	-
Cynthia Drysdale	Ex-officio – Workforce Consultant, WorkingNB	2	-	-

The KRSC will be the main point of contact for the government of New Brunswick (GNB) for questions concerning tourism in the region. This will allow the establishment of a shared tourism development vision and strategy in the region and constitute a single coordinated partner for GNB. Collaboration among Regional Service

Commissions is also encouraged to achieve other economies of scale when desirable. The GNB will help the KRSC to set a regional strategy and understand its new mandate for tourism development. The Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, Opportunities New Brunswick, Environment and Local Government and several other provincial departments and bodies will use the facilitation team to support the RSCs throughout the facilitation process.

We have received support from the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture. A grant of \$50,000 was awarded through the marketing support program.

We also took part in a few initiatives in collaboration with Destination Southeast. Here are a few examples:

- A partnership was created with influencer *Hub City Foodies*, which highlighted restaurants serving lobster rolls and fried clams. This was an excellent way of promoting local cuisine and attracting visitors who are also foodies. It promoted regional specialties while supporting local restaurants.
- At the *Kent Entrepreneurial Gala 2024*, an event that honours the region's innovative initiatives and outstanding leaders, Destination Southeast presented an award to a business that has made a significant contribution to the economic and community development of the Kent region this year. *Le Pays de la Sagouine* was named Tourism Business of the Year 2024 and *Luc Leblanc* received a special mention in recognition of his 30-year career with *Le Pays de la Sagouine*.
- We also took part in the New Brunswick Indigenous Tourism Summit, an initiative between the Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI) and the Indigenous Tourism Association of New Brunswick (ITANB). We attended this summit to establish links with Indigenous communities and to meet Indigenous tourism operators in our region.

I want to thank all our partners, the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, Destination Southeast, the members of the Economic Development and Tourism Committee, the KRSC Board and employees and the municipal staff for their support and cooperation this year.

Marie-Paul Robichaud

Director, Economic Development and Tourism



11.REPORT OF IMMIGRATION ACTIVITIES

I am proud to present the report on immigration activities for 2024. This year was marked by significant growth in the number of immigrants, as well as in the services offered by the KRSC and the Rural Settlement Network (RSP).

The Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour has granted funding to the KRSC to raise awareness of the benefits of Francophone immigration and to promote better integration and retention of newcomers in the Kent region. As a result, in September 2024, the KRSC hired a Francophone Immigration Promotion Coordinator to further support the promotion of the French language in our region.

Many newcomers choose the Kent region as a place to work and settle. The KRSC has added objectives its regional strategy to help newcomers settle in successfully. In addition, with the local governance reform, the integration of newcomers has been added to the KRSC Board's mandate. A Regional Immigration committee was therefore created in September 2024. The first meeting took place on December 12, 2024.

TABLE 11.1 – MEMBERS ATTENDANCE OF THE REGIONAL IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

Members of the Committee	Sector	Meetings	Honorariums	Expenses
Jean-Charles Daigle	Representative of the KRSC Board	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jean-Pierre Richard	Representative of the KRSC Board	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Siegfred Benolirao	Person with immigration background	1	\$100.00	\$2.80
Frances Balmaceda	Entrepreneur representative	1	\$100.00	\$25.20
Jocelyn Amante	Newcomer	1	\$100.00	\$6.30
Sylvain Trahan	Voluntary sector (AFPNB)	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Monica Sanchez	Newcomer	0	\$0.00	\$0.00

The vision of the Regional Immigration Committee is facilitating the integration of newcomers to the Kent region in order to foster a sense of belonging and inclusion. Its mandate is as follows:

- Work with local organizations and community partners to offer comprehensive support to newcomers.
- Identify the specific needs of newcomers and direct them to the appropriate resources.
- Encourage greater diversity and inclusion in Kent's communities.
- Make recommendations on immigration issues to the KRSC Board.
- Identify gaps and opportunities so that newcomers can settle successfully in our region.
- Enhance cultural diversity and promote intercultural dialogue in the region.
- Regularly evaluate the impact of immigration initiatives and adjust the strategy according to the results obtained.

Activities

Throughout the year, we offered various activities and information sessions to immigrants and the public. The aim of these activities is to help immigrants create a new social network and to promote the different cultures present in our region. The following list of activities is what our sector has undertaken in collaboration with our community partners in 2024:

- Francization courses
- English conversation circle
- Day of multicultural celebration
- Activity day for newcomers at Kouchibouguac National Park
- Pumpkin carving activity and Halloween information session
- 211 information session
- Information session on family rights
- Information session on public safety and emergency preparedness
- Information session on preparing for the winter season
- Information session on municipal by-laws
- Cultural competence training for employers
- CV writing workshop
- Career exploration workshop
- Skate rentals at the Imperial Kent North Centre
- Participation in the Beaurivage Christmas Parade
- Participation in the Baby Palooza event
- Participation in the flag-raising ceremony for the Filipino community
- Participation in the Richibucto Filipino community Christmas party

In addition, 125 welcome packs for newcomers have been prepared. They include several essential items, such as information on services in the region, essential items, local objects and much more. A list of daycare centres and schools in the region, as well as a directory of resources, has also been updated.

During the year, we participated in several forums, including the NBMC Feedback Channel Forums and the RIFNB annual forum. The coordinator sits on the Kent Resilience Committee and helps to organize a subcommittee with the NBMC, DSFS, WorkingNB and the Rural Settlement Network to create a resource for employers in the region to facilitate the hiring of newcomers.

Finally, I want to thank all our partners, volunteers, members of the Regional Immigration Committee, the Board, KRSC staff and everyone else, especially the newcomers who took part in our activities throughout the year.

Caroline Fontaine

Francophone Immigration Promotion Coordinator

12.REPORT OF THE SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

I'm proud to present the Solid Waste Department's 2024 activity report. This year was marked by numerous changes and periods of adjustment, the most important of which related to collection contracts and the signing of an agreement with Circular Materials.

The Solid Waste Management Technical Committee continued its work supporting the Solid Waste Department staff with recommendations and supervision of operations.

TABLE 12.1 – MEMBERS ATTENDANCE OF THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Members of the Committee	Meetings	Honorariums	Expenses
Barry Spencer	3	\$375.00	\$176.40
Achille Bastarache	4	\$400.00	\$28.00
Daniel Bourgeois	3	\$300.00	\$126.00
Eugère Cormier	2	\$200.00	\$46.20
Jacques Cormier	4	\$400.00	\$173.60
Douglas MacDonald	4	\$400.00	\$302.40

The KRSC works closely with numerous partners to ensure adequate solid waste management service are provided in every corner of our region. Without their support, our residents wouldn't have the benefit of such a diverse and accessible service. Hearty thanks go to the following organizations:

- The government of New Brunswick
- Recycle NB, Recycle My Electronics New Brunswick, Product Care, Circular Materials, Encorp Atlantic, Tire Recycling Atlantic Canada Corporation (TRACC), Atlantic Used Oil Management Association (UOMA New Brunswick) and Health Products Stewardship Association (HPSA)
- Eco360 South East and RSCs
- Kent Region municipalities and rural community
- Kent Rural District
- Place Lebourg, Bouctouche
- Place Cartier, Richibucto
- Omni Market, Pointe-Sapin
- Cocagne Variety
- Marché Tradition – La Coopérative de St. Louis limitée
- HIGHO, Sainte-Marie
- Notre centre de Grande-Digue
- Marché Tradition – La Coopérative de Rogersville limitée
- Saint-Antoine Bottle Exchange
- Home Hardware stores (Rogersville, Richibucto, Saint-Antoine and Baie-Sainte-Anne)

Managing collection contracts

Two collection contracts were due to expire in 2024. Requests for proposals were therefore issued in July 2024 for contracts K1 (South Kent) and K5 (North Kent). These two contracts saw territory added to ensure the complete transition of responsibility for the territories acquired during the 2023 local governance reform. The addition of the territories of Shediak Bridge, Shediak River, MacDougall Settlement, Baie-Sainte-Anne, Escuminac and Hardwicke represented a significant increase in the territory and number of residences to be served. This, combined with adjustments for inflation and the cost of fuel, resulted in very significant increases in contract costs. In total, contract costs will increase by 23.5% between 2024 and 2025. The new K1 contract took effect on November 3, 2024, and the K5 contract began on December 29, 2024. The KRSC also had to sign a two-month contract with M Gaudet Garbage Inc. to ensure the collection of recyclable materials in November and December 2024 to meet the requirements of the agreement signed with Circular Materials.

The signing of these two contracts means that the diesel cost adjustment clause is now on hold. The contingency funds have therefore been reduced in the 2025 budget. The clause remains in place in all our contracts and will be activated again if diesel costs rise above the 35% mark as indicated in each contract.

Although the increase in collection contract costs was a significant factor of 2024 for the Solid Waste Department, the event that most marked the year was the signing of a three-year agreement with the non-profit organization Circular Materials to make the transition to the packaging and paper products (PPP) recycling program in May 2024. By signing this agreement, KRSC has become a service provider for Circular Materials and is compensated for the costs of collecting recyclable materials. In 2024, Circular Materials paid us just over \$350,000.00 for collection and \$30,000.00 for promoting the program, in addition to the related administrative costs. Finally, since May 2024, Circular Materials has covered 100% of the costs of dumping recyclable materials, saving our municipalities a sum approaching \$165,000.00. Since the agreement was only signed in winter 2024, these figures could not be included when creating the operating budget for the Solid Waste Department. We therefore end the year with a considerable surplus, even though \$210,000.00 was deposited in the contingency fund.

Analysis of the Tonnage of Waste Produced

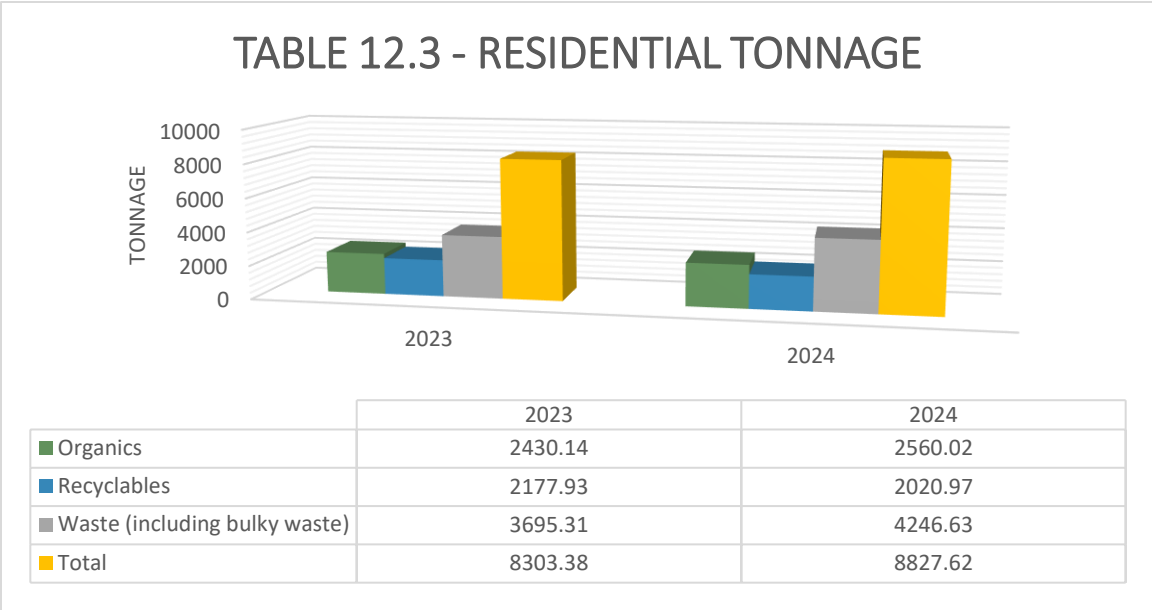
The first thing to notice when comparing the tonnage for 2023 with that for 2024 is the large decrease in the total residential tonnage that has been accounted for. This table is used to calculate the tipping costs that our members will have to pay and therefore, since May 2024, no longer includes blue bag tonnage. This represents a decrease of 853 tonnes, or 10.27%, compared with 2023. When we add the total of 1,377 tonnes of missing recyclables, we end up with an increase of 524 tonnes, or 6.3%.

This quite normal increase is due to the problems faced by the Elsipogtog and Indian Island First Nations in 2023 when during several months their tonnage was recorded as commercial rather than residential due to a major mechanical breakdown that led to the purchase of new equipment. It should also be noted that the tonnage of bulky waste increased significantly, as the service was available all year round in 2024, compared with nine months in 2023.

Kent Waste Report/Rapport de déchets pour Kent
For 2024/Pour 2024

TABLE 12.2 – ANALYSIS OF TOTAL TONNAGE FOR THE KENT REGION - 2024

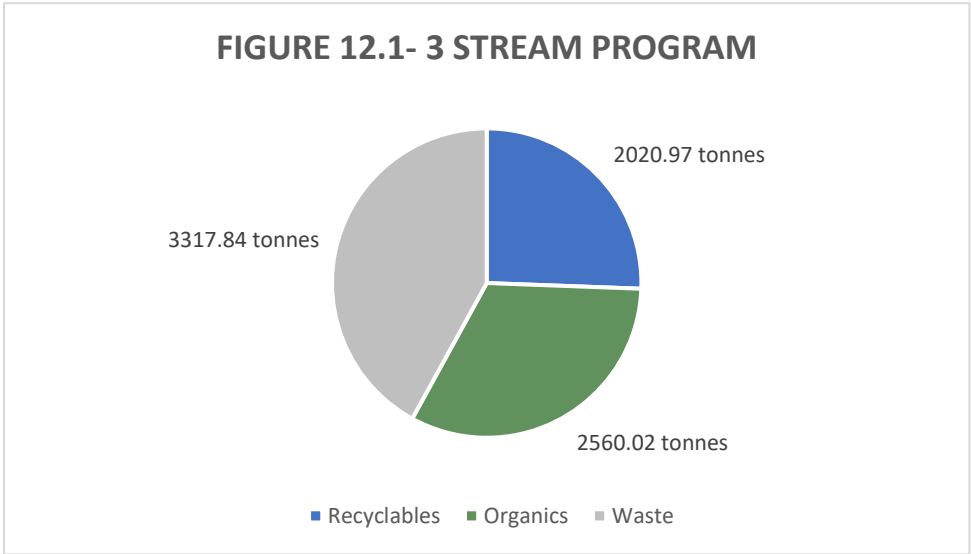
Non optimized communities/Communautés non optimisées	Jan	Fév	Mars	Avril	Mai	Juin	Juillet	Aout	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Nov-23	YTD/CAJ	YTD/CAJ	YTD/CAJ	Difference	%
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Nov-23	2023	2024	2024	Difference	%
Elsipogtog First Nation Band	30.43	20.14	32.45	31.79	31.55	24.10	26.89	25.38	33.92	28.03	29.50	29.25	32.52	167.78	343.43	175.65	104.69%	
Municipality of St-Antoine	35.16	23.61	26.48	36.46	25.72	23.78	27.02	22.26	23.34	23.85	24.65	14.82	27.09	335.32	307.15	-28.17	-8.40%	
Indian Island First Nation Band	5.66	0.00	6.06	3.81	3.48	5.32	7.34	10.65	0.00	11.69	6.14	10.10	0.00	44.02	70.25	26.23	59.59%	
Subtotal/Sous-total	71.25	43.75	64.99	72.06	60.75	53.20	61.25	58.29	57.26	63.57	60.29	54.17	59.61	547.12	720.83	173.71	31.75%	
Optimized collection/Collecte optimisée																		
K1 (Fero)	190.36	147.08	135.39	185.22	151.87	132.81	192.09	168.47	147.88	153.94	146.44	158.21	155.85	2218.52	1909.76	-308.76	-13.92%	
Gladeside/Dundas/St-Damien/Pelerin																		
Haut St-Antoine/St-Antoine Nord/McKees Mill																		
St-Joseph-de-Kent/St-Grégoire/Boucouché-Sud																		
Dixon-Point/St-Thomas-de-Kent/Cocagne																		
Renauds Mills/St-Antoine-Sud/Notre-Dame																		
Grande-Digue																		
K2 (Fero)	121.33	125.98	115.28	117.27	95.31	86.53	95.40	103.43	90.49	94.69	82.07	92.39	116.21	1534.20	1220.17	-314.03	-20.47%	
Ste-Marie-de-Kent/Bailia Philip																		
Boucouché, St-Edouard/Ste-Anne-de-Kent																		
Boucouché Cove/Buctouche First Nation/St-Maurice																		
McIntosh Hill/Baie de Boucouché																		
K3 (Fero)	116.26	98.56	78.01	110.45	84.01	80.40	112.85	91.28	82.10	98.81	78.91	94.15	96.51	1330.15	1125.79	-204.36	-15.36%	
South Branch/Richibouctou-Village/Galloway/East Branch																		
Jardineville/Mundleville/Childs Creek/Upper Rexton																		
Bass River/Targetville/Main River/Saint-Norbert																		
Municipality of Rexton/Municipality of Richibucto																		
K4 (McAction)	76.46	84.72	72.65	83.10	61.40	58.78	73.86	67.95	66.27	68.23	60.35	79.46	70.70	1007.86	853.23	-154.63	-15.34%	
Murray Settlement/Collette/Rosaireville																		
Rogersville-Est/Rogersville-Ouest/Acadieville																		
Acadie Siding/Noirville/Kent Junction/Harcourt																		
Gails Mills/Smith's Corner/Fords Mills/Browns Yard																		
Municipality of Rogersville/St-Paul/Hébert																		
Coal Branch/Adamsville/Clairville/Beersville																		
K5 (Fero)	111.00	91.70	88.79	106.49	73.95	77.68	121.71	88.63	83.53	88.26	79.22	94.48	100.44	1295.43	1105.44	-189.99	-14.67%	
St-Charles/St-Ignace/Canisto/St-Louis(LSD)																		
Portage St-Louis/Aldouane/Kouchibouguac/Laketon																		
Pointe-Sapin/Municipality of Saint-Louis-de-Kent																		
K6 - Bulky (Fero)	20.13	10.39	7.62	30.68	56.06	81.67	69.96	31.12	70.25	64.22	49.19	23.82	24.68	370.10	515.11	145.01	39.18%	
All optimized regions																		
subtotal optimized collection/Sous-total collecte optimisée	635.54	558.43	497.74	633.21	522.60	517.87	665.87	550.88	540.52	568.15	496.18	542.51	564.39	7756.26	6729.50	-1026.76	-13.24%	
Total Residential Waste/Déchets résidentiels total	706.79	602.18	562.73	705.27	583.35	571.07	727.12	609.17	597.78	631.72	556.47	596.68	624.00	8303.38	7450.33	-853.05	-10.27%	
ICI Waste/Déchets ICI	324.70	341.00	236.46	346.76	391.77	344.56	306.35	336.50	276.48	291.91	270.56	229.97	496.08	5078.77	3697.02	-1381.75	-27.21%	
CD Waste/Déchets CD	14.23	8.72	7.55	9.06	4.94	6.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	52.71	51.03	-1.68	-3.19%	
Grand Total	1045.72	951.90	806.74	1061.09	980.06	922.16	1033.47	945.67	874.26	923.63	827.03	826.65	1120.08	13434.86	11198.38	-2236.48	-16.65%	
Eco-Depot tonnage/Tonnage éco-dépôt	NA	7.30	NA	26.27	NA	NA	36.44	NA	NA	NA	64.19	NA	27.34	97.10	134.20	37.10	38%	
# of vehicles at the Eco-Depots/# de véhicules aux éco-dépôts	NA	115	NA	235	NA	NA	349	NA	NA	NA	536	NA	340	1363	1235	-128	-9%	



3 Stream Program

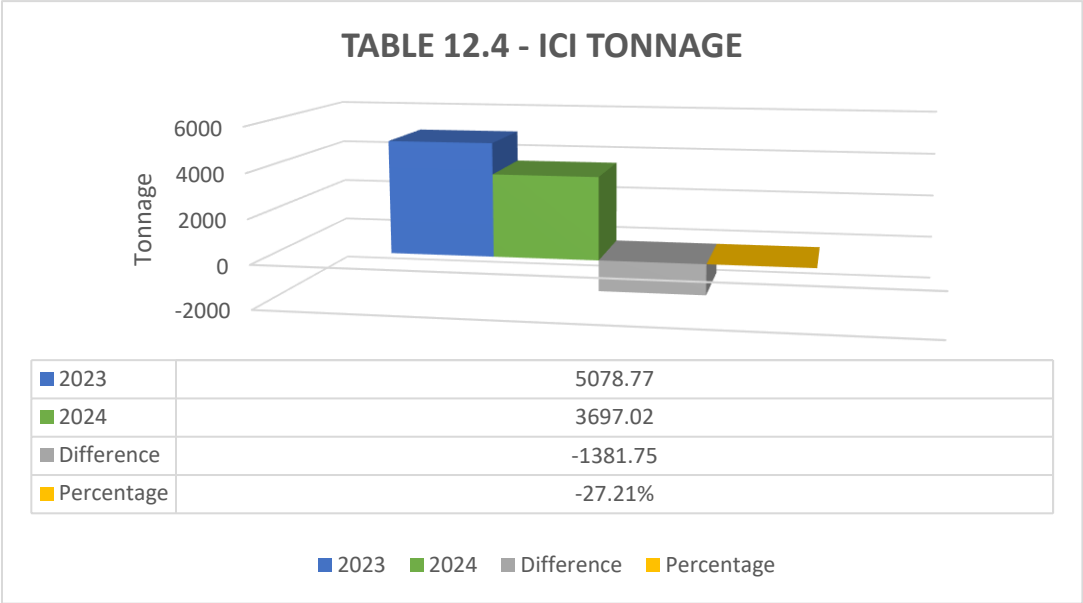
Since 2016, thanks to the 3-Stream program residents of the Kent region have been able to participate from home in diverting recyclable and organic material from the Southeast Eco360 landfill. The tonnage of bags entering the Eco360 sites is 26% for recyclables, 32% for organics and 42% for waste. It is important to continue educating the public about sorting their waste to bring these figures closer to one third for each source.

Promotional efforts continued in 2024 through a variety of communication tools such as publications in our newsletter ‘Let’s Talk Kent,’ public presentations, publications on social media, and so on. Our messages to the public and the work carried out by our garbage collectors ensure that the 3-Stream Program remains a cornerstone of sound solid waste management in the region.



ICI Sector

In the industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) sector, the pendulum swung back between 2022, 2023 and 2024. The tonnage produced in 2023 rose by a substantial 43.42%, to 1,537.52 tonnes. The difference between 2024 and 2023 is a decrease of 27.21%, or 1,381.75 tonnes. This represents a return to a much more normal situation for our region. This variation is attributed in part to the residential tonnage from Saint-Antoine, Elsipogtog and Indian Island in 2023, which had been identified as ICI due to major mechanical breakdowns over several months. We expect this tonnage to remain stable in the coming years.



Eco-depot 2024

This is the second year that the Mobile Eco-Depots service has been offered under a modified schedule of four visits a year for a total of seven days. As usual, a mailing was sent out at the beginning of the year to promote the dates on which we would be visiting the various communities. The regions that had not benefited from this service in 2023 were delighted to see it return in 2024. We had a record year in terms of accumulated tonnage, even though we had fewer individual events. A total of 1,235 vehicles - the lowest participation rate since the service was added in 2019 – attended 4 events for a total of 134.20 tonnes collected. This represents an average of around 309 vehicles and 34 tonnes per event.

Challenges arose on two occasions in 2024 when residents disregarded the service's hours of operation and left waste around and in Eco360 containers, causing major logistical problems and delays in opening the containers so that staff could properly sort the waste left behind. The Bouctouche event was particularly chaotic, ultimately forcing us to put security on the site to ensure that schedules were respected. It remains to be seen whether it will be necessary to do the same in 2025.

This service is made possible with the collaboration of Southeast Eco360 and funding from the Government of New Brunswick through the Environmental Trust Fund.

TABLE 12.5 – MOBILE ECO-DEPOTS 2024		
Number of vehicles/participants		Grand total
1,235		134.20 tonnes
Items	Description	Quantity
Tires	Total of tires	510
Metal	Number of cages	61
Ash	Number of Barrels	3
Glass	Number of bags	4
Electronics	Number of cages	8.75
Appliances	Fridges	55
	Freezers	43
	Stoves	46
	Dishwashers	33
	Washers	45
	Dryers	43
	Microwaves	50
	Dehumidifiers	69
	Air conditioners	45
	Water coolers	27
	TVs	84
Other	Lobster traps	5
Total tonnage of items		49.91 tonnes
Cardboard		2.26 tonnes
Construction and demolition waste		0.02 tonnes
Bulky waste		67.15 tonnes
Hazardous waste		14.86 tonnes
GRAND TOTAL		134.20 tonnes
*1 cage = 121 cm x 91 cm x 91 cm (4' x 3' x 3')		
*1 bag = 106 cm x 106 cm x 106 cm (3.5' x 3.5' x 3.5')		

Battery recycling

KRSC has officially launched its new, safer used battery recycling depots, which reflect our entity rather than the Kent Solid Waste Commission. The 12 units, built by Hilltop Fabrication Welding & Repair, were delivered to 11 sites in February 2024, and a promotional campaign accompanied the launch.

An unexpected obstacle during the launch was the closure of two sites with which KRSC had been doing business for years. Caissie Recycling in Rogersville and Recyclage Kent Recycling in St. Louis closed their doors in March, so we had to find new locations for our depots. Unfortunately, the promotional brochure for the service was sent out before KRSC was made aware of the closure of Recyclage Kent Recycling, so the information mentioned to residents was partially misleading until an alternative was confirmed. Les Marchés Tradition - Coopérative de St-Louis-de-Kent and Coopérative de Rogersville have agreed to offer this important service to their communities.



First Nations

The project coordinator for the Elsipogtog and Indian Island First Nations, Nebi Nicholas, continued working on the implementation of residential waste management programs. Among other things, he notes that 2024 saw the Elsipogtog First Nation update its website, which contains information on good domestic waste management practices. He also supported the setting up of clean-ups in the community and with school groups. The KRSC has provided materials to help with this program. Finally, he took part

in a virtual meeting with Circular Materials and the KRSC about recycling programs in Elsipogtog and Indian Island First Nation. This latter Nation joined the program in November 2024, with blue bags collected every fortnight. Elsipogtog is open to the subject, but no green light was given in 2024. The two First Nations are discussing the possibility of having a transfer station to help with waste management on the reserves, and Nebi is working with them to determine the feasibility of this project.

The collaboration between the KRSC and the Elsipogtog and Indian Island First Nations is unique in New Brunswick. Actions since 2019 have given an overview of existing services and opportunities for future years. The project developed by the First Nations' Project Coordinator is broad in scope and takes in not only collection but also waste diversion service right on the Elsipogtog First Nation. The Commission is enthusiastic about continuing this collaboration to implement efficient services that meet both the expectations and the needs of the population of these two First Nations.

Thanks

I would like to thank our many partners, the members of the Solid Waste Management Technical Committee, the KRSC Board of Directors and the employees who support our customer service offer and the promotion of solid waste management services. Your support has a positive impact on my workload and makes working to protect our environment all the more rewarding.

Isabelle Godin, MAP

La directrice générale adjointe



13.REPORT OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Le gouvernement provincial a donné aux CSR le mandat d'élaborer des plans et des stratégies de transport régional pour offrir des moyens de transport abordables et accessibles aux résidentes et résidents.

The Regional Transportation Committee is an advisory committee comprised of residents of the Kent region who represent priority groups. A change to the composition of the committee was voted on in December 2024 because it was difficult to meet quorum for meetings. These changes will come into effect in January 2025. Four meetings were held in 2024, one of which did not meet quorum and the others where dates had to be changed repeatedly to meet quorum.

TABLE 13.1 – MEMBERS ATTENDANCE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Members of the Committee	Sector/Priority Group	Meetings	Honorariums
Claudette Dupuis - Chair	Driver	3	\$375.00
Jean-Charles Daigle	Member of the KRSC Board	1	\$100.00
Jean Hébert	Member of the KRSC Board	3	\$300.00
Jeremy LeBlanc	High school students	-	\$0.00
Norman Maillet	Driver	4	\$400.00
Bea Patterson	Client	-	\$0.00
Rey Portugaliza	Newcomer	2	\$200.00
Shivran Siddhu	Client	2	\$200.00
Christel Robichaud	Client	3	\$300.00

Since 2023, the Regional Transportation Committee and KRSC employees have been working toward procuring a van that is wheelchair accessible. The aim of this purchase was to improve the existing service by offering a better transportation option for people with reduced mobility. The van was delivered in July 2024. Marc Thibert, driver of the wheelchair-accessible van, was hired that same month and the service began operating in August. To promote the new service, a tour was made of care homes to meet managers and employees so that they could see the vehicle and meet our new employee. In addition, a major mail-out, radio adverts and a presence at community events such as the Beausoleil Seniors' Day and the region's Christmas parades provided excellent visibility for the program.

Since the acquisition of the van has changed the way KRSC provides regional transportation service, the general regional transportation policy had to be modified to reflect this reality. This policy continues to provide guidelines for drivers, volunteers and clients, while defining the differences between the service provided by volunteers and by our employee in the van.

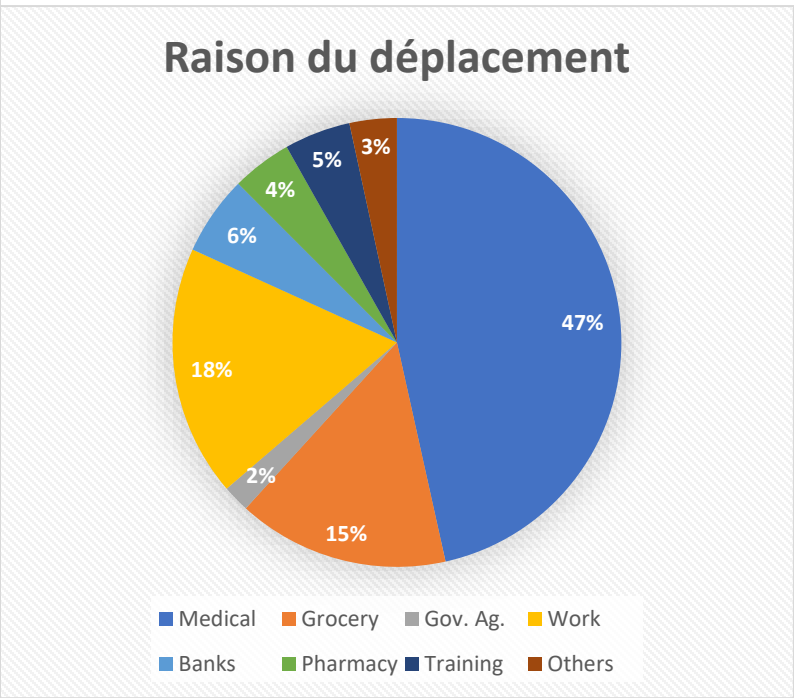
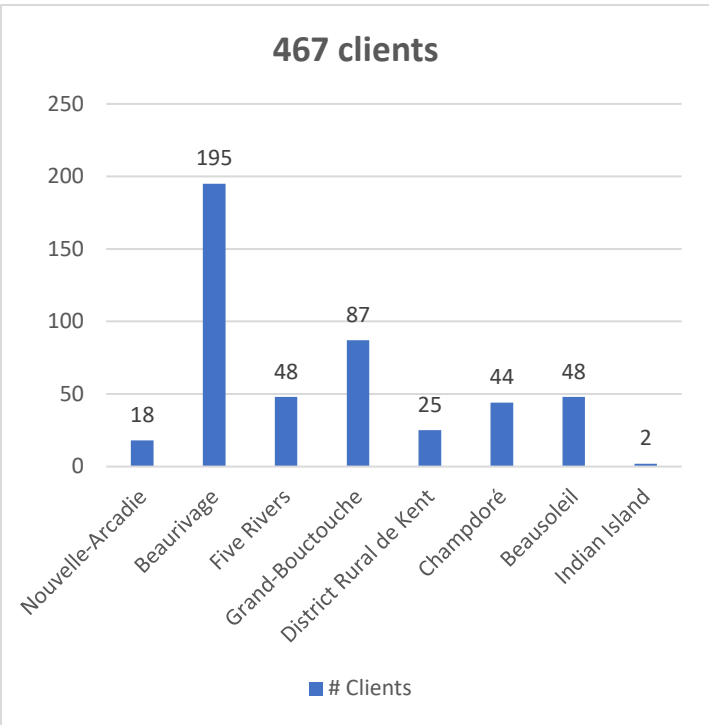
Transport Kent provides safe, dependable, and affordable transportation services to essential destinations with the help of our kindhearted volunteer drivers. Our database underwent a major change during the year as we cleaned up the information it contained to eliminate duplicate clients, removed the files of drivers who no longer wished to provide the service, and eliminated all inactive client accounts since the program was taken over by the KRSC in July 2022.

Despite these changes, the number of drivers increased from 27 to 32 at the end of the year. It had decreased to 20 in 2023 following the update of the database. These people have generously devoted countless hours to transporting our clients with respect, empathy and compassion. **Our volunteers are the backbone of our program, and we are grateful for their invaluable contribution.**

Following the cleaning of the database, Transport Kent has gone from 611 clients in 2023 to 467 in 2024. The breakdown by region is shown in Table 13.2. Despite this significant reduction in the number of clients, transportation demand in the Kent region had a record year, **increasing by 45% between 2023 and 2024.** The statistics below and shown in Figure 13.1 confirm that the service is essential for the region!

TABLE 13.2 - CLIENTS

FIGURE 13.1 - TRIPS



3,397 trips / 13,588 stops / 315,162.50 km travelled / 4,408 driving hours (not including waiting time) / 674 cancellations

One of the major achievements of 2024 was the signing of a Pilot Project Agreement with the Vitalité Health Network. Since November 2024, this agreement has enabled our clients travelling to the Stella-Maris-de-Kent Hospital and the Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre to receive free transportation. We took similar steps with the Horizon Health Network to extend this coverage to their health care facilities as well, but no agreement was reached before the end of the year.

Further restructuring took place in 2024 to meet customer expectations and ensure smooth operations. Alexandria Arsenault, who played a coordinating role for regional transportation, relinquished these

responsibilities to focus entirely on communications. The role of new driver support has been transferred to Shelly Kelly, while Isabelle Godin is responsible for supervising the service, holding committee meetings and managing the transition process to the Blaise Transit Inc. dispatch platform selected by the province of New Brunswick. The implementation process for this platform was heavily delayed, and KRSC was not really involved until very late in 2024. The platform should be operational before the summer of 2025.

Coming in 2024

To ensure the smooth running of the transport service for people with reduced mobility, a casual position will be created in the spring of 2024 to cover the holidays and sick leave of our full-time driver, Marc. The preparation and launch of the new Blaise Transit Inc. dispatch platform will take up a lot of our time at the beginning of the year to facilitate data transfer and report creation.

Maintaining agreements with our many partners, and setting up pilot projects with other entities, such as the Horizon Health Network in a project like the one signed with the Vitalité Health Network, remains on our radar in order to offer a quality service at the lowest possible cost to our population. The active recruitment of volunteers remains one of our main priorities to extend our services and improve their scope. Finally, the KRSC will be taking steps to develop a strategic plan for regional transportation early next year, with the goal of presenting and adopting the plan in the fall of 2025.

Thanks

The Transport Kent team is very grateful and would like to thank our dedicated volunteers who have been instrumental in helping us achieve our goals. Their hard work and commitment have been invaluable in providing reliable transportation services to our community. We are proud to work alongside such passionate and selfless people who have had a positive impact on the lives of so many. We would also like to extend our warmest thanks to all of our community partners, the members of the Regional Transportation Committee and the KRSC Board for their unwavering support and cooperation in our efforts to improve transportation in the region.

Isabelle Godin

Assistant Executive Director

14.REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION DEPARTMENT

The year 2024 was marked by outstanding activities in the social inclusion and community development sector. The KRSC and the Kent Regional Resiliency Committee was awarded a Prix Soleil 2024 by the *Mouvement Acadien des Communautés en Santé (MACS-NB)* for this unique collaborative approach!

The following report is a summary of the achievements of our sector in partnership with the other KRSC activity sectors and our partners.

Although four meetings of the Community Development and Social Inclusion Regional Committee were planned for 2024, only one took place due to unforeseen circumstances: the resignation of a committee member¹, the inability to reach quorum at two meetings, and a power outage at the December meeting.

**TABLE 14.1 – MEMBERS ATTENDANCE OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION
REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

Members of the Committee	Sector/Priority Group	Meetings	Honorariums	Expenses
Cherisse Andal	Newcomer	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tina Beers	Member of the KRSC Board	1	\$100.00	\$60.20
Joanne Maillet	Person experiencing or having experienced poverty	1	\$100.00	\$74.80
Lisa Batarache	Association sector	1	\$100.00	\$0.00
Aldéo Saulnier	Member of the KRSC Board	1	n.a.	\$42.70
¹ Nicole Thébeau	Social entrepreneur	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Garet Francis	First Nation	0	\$0.00	\$0.00

A review of the mandate was therefore necessary and initiated during the summer. An update was approved by the KRSC Board on October 24, 2024. This restructuring was proposed with the aim of better achieving a quorum of voting members and ensuring that the mandate fully reflects the objectives and actions of the KRSC's regional strategy. Among the changes made is the addition of a representative from the fields of mental health, addictions and homelessness prevention as a voting member of the committee.

The active participation of representatives from the Kent Rural Settlement Network, regional resiliency stakeholders and other community service coordinators remains important at committee meetings.

Renewal of the Economic and Social Inclusion Plan

The process of renewing the provincial Economic and Social Inclusion Plan began in January 2024 throughout New Brunswick. In our region, an online survey was launched (n = 161 respondents), accompanied by five town halls (n = 39 participants) and three focus groups (n = 19 participants), which ran until the end of April 2024. The data collected during this public consultation was analyzed and compiled to define the priorities and directions of the next poverty reduction plan, which will be officially presented in early 2025.

Food Resiliency

Grants from the Community Action Fund (ESIC) and the Community capacity and Resiliency Branch Department have supported various projects to address food insecurity in our region. For example, the project "*Bien équiper nos écoles pour leur programme de petits-déjeuners*" (*equipment to help our schools have a breakfast program*) has enabled more than half the schools in the greater region to acquire the equipment they need to offer this program. Thanks to the support of our Food Resiliency and Environment Coordinator, Mario Doiron, a number of schools, daycare centres and First Nations communities, including Bouctouche and Indian Island, have benefited from workshops on food production from 'seed to plate,' school and community garden management, and environmentally friendly practices such as sustainable composting and watershed management.

Preliminary work has started to develop a regional food resilience strategy. A Request for Proposal was issued in November 2024 to begin development of this strategy in early 2025, guiding the Coordinator's initiatives and steering the KRSC toward concrete and viable actions to strengthen food resiliency of our communities.

Health and Wellness Promotion

A need for senior support was identified in the 2022-2023 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). Thanks to funding from the federal New Horizons for Seniors Program, a Project Coordinator was hired for the "Our amazing Place Adventure - Kent Edition" initiative. The October 5 event brought together five multi-generational teams to explore the Kent region, taking on challenges in each municipality and rural district. The event was well received by participants and volunteers alike.

In 2024, mental health awareness efforts continued with funding from the ESIC. The provincial strategy 'Working on my well-being' was launched, and the KRSC is part of the regional working group. This program targets workplaces, employees and employers (www.monbetravaille.com/en).

In early spring, an internal subcommittee made up of representatives from Vitalité, Public Health and the KRSC was formed to review and adjust the Kent learning community process. This adjustment led to a reassessment of the prioritization exercise for the recommendations resulting from the CHNA. The process of hiring a community learning coordinator for Beauséjour-Kent was also launched.

Initiative for Youth

The Champions of the Greater Kent Region program (formerly P.R.O. Kids Kent) hired its first project coordinator in February 2024. The goal of this initiative is to overcome barriers to young people's participation in sporting, cultural and recreational activities.

The KRSC also received funding from the ESIC in 2024 for a new project aimed at promoting physical activity outdoors and reducing barriers to access to equipment. The project involves installing play boxes in green spaces (e.g., playgrounds, parks, etc.). In our large, rural region, where recreation opportunities are limited, this project will make up for the lack of accessible equipment in certain community spaces.

Coming in 2025

A consultant will be hired in February 2025 to help develop the regional food resiliency strategy. Work on various food resiliency issues and projects will continue, in the meantime, including the organization of a public food resiliency gathering in March 2025.

The game boxes will be installed and promoted in spring 2025. The implementation of the *Champions* program and its official launch also remain a priority in 2025, following the arrival of a new Champions Program Coordinator, Chantal Vautour, in September 2024.

The Kent Learning Community initiative will also continue to gain momentum as soon as the position of community learning coordinator is filled.

Thanks

In conclusion, I want to highlight the exceptional commitment of all the stakeholders who contributed to the achievements of our sector of activity in 2024: my colleagues in Community Services, the members of the KRSC "growing family," our community partners and the Kent Regional Resiliency Committee, our volunteers, the members of the Regional Committee for Social Inclusion and Community Development, our elected representatives and municipal staff, and our Board. Thank you for your support, your confidence and your willingness to continue this non-linear, collective work that is community development. I sincerely appreciate it!

Stéphanie Caissie

Social Inclusion and Community Development Coordinator

15.REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT

2024 was a year filled with activities, learning opportunities and collaboration for the Community Safety sector of the KRSC. Miguel Allain, who is currently the Community Safety Coordinator as well as the Planet Youth Coordinator for the Kent Region, has worked with many other departments as well as the many partners of the KRSC to coordinate activities in the communities served by the KRSC.

The Public Safety Committee includes members who represent and work in the area of public safety, two members of the KRSC Board and the Committee Chair, Arnold Vautour, who sits on the Committee as President of Crime Stoppers. During the year, the Committee held four (4) meetings. At these meetings, members were able to share their various projects with the group to inform members and seek potential collaborations. Members also took the opportunity to share certain safety issues they noted our communities.

TABLE 15.1 – MEMBERS ATTENDANCE OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Committee members or priority sector	Meetings	Honorariums	Expenses
Jean Hébert	1	\$100.00	\$60.20
Tina Beers	4	\$400.00	\$240.80
Arnold Vautour (Chair)	4	\$375.00	\$65.10
RCMP	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
Emergency Measures NB	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ambulance NB	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
Justice and Public Safety Department	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
Crime Stoppers	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fire Marshal's Office	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kent Region Fire Chiefs	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
Resource Development	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Richibucto Community Mental Health Centre	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
Family Resource Centre	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vitalité Health Network	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kent Violence Prevention Centre	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Community resilience	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
Parks Canada	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
By-law Enforcement	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
District scolaire francophone Sud	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tri-County Ground Search and Rescue	4	\$0.00	\$0.00

Planet Youth Program for the Greater Kent Region

The Planet Youth Program was officially launched on February 15, 2024. Throughout the year, the Planet Youth Kent coalition focused on recruiting new members and promoting the substance abuse prevention program. The coalition also took part in and contributed to numerous events, including Babypalooza and Familypalooza, community activities to promote the services available to families (organized by the Kent

Family Resource Centre), the Planet Youth Conference in Iceland, Public Safety Days in June and October, and Multicultural Day.

As part of the 2024 action plan, the local coalition has offered various micro-grants totalling over \$30,000, divided between the 17 schools in the greater Kent region. These micro-grants were awarded to schools so that they could organize activities linked to at least one of the four key areas of Planet Youth's work. They were invested in activities that promote family time, such as community movie nights, the creation of dream catchers to give to local fishermen, family picnics, the creation of a space for students and the community to play soccer and pickle ball, an educational school trip for students at the Centre de formation secondaire de Bouctouche, and so on. The micro-grants also supported initiatives linked to the development of useful life skills, such as cooking courses and activities with the purchase of a new oven, and activities related to the development of gardening skills with the creation of a school garden. Other micro-grants have supported activities related to mental health, well-being and peer support, such as the creation of a student group offering peer tutoring services, outdoor classes, school outings for outdoor activities and an improvisation group.

Community Safety Plan

The KRSC is continuing its efforts to reduce crime by relying on the support of the RCMP and other members of the Public Safety Committee to ensure existing projects continue and new initiatives are implemented.

The coordinator of the KRSC's Community Safety sector participated in the planning of various initiatives and activities, such as Public Safety Fays in the spring and fall of 2024, Multicultural Day, the RCMP Regimental Ball and the positive ticketing program, which encourages young people to do good deeds. It also worked with the Vitalité Health Network to promote the safe disposal of dirty needles. In addition, forestry skills courses (e.g. safe handling of a chainsaw) offered as part of school programs were also supported during the year.

In 2024, "*with a cop*" activities were introduced and helped to improve the bond between citizens and RCMP officers in our regions. These activities included "Halloween with a Cop" (handing out candy to youngsters on Halloween night) and "Holidays with a Cop" (patrol officers gave out candy to spectators during local Christmas parades). Finally, the "Gift Cards with a Cop" activity enabled officers to hand out 100 Tim Hortons gift cards worth \$5 each during safe driving and sobriety checks carried out during the holiday season.

In addition, information sessions on safety-related topics were held throughout the year. For example, level 1 of the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) course was delivered in spring 2024 in the Beausoleil region, and the Incident Command System (ICS200) course was held in Champdoré in the fall of 2024. Working with the New Brunswick Multicultural Council, an information session was held for newcomers on topics related to emergency measures.

Food Drives Collecting Non-perishable Items

Again, this year, food drive collecting non-perishable items for our regional food banks were held at four different locations in November, in collaboration with the RCMP. A total of \$2200 was raised and non-perishable food items were collected (valued at approximately \$3,500\$). Here is the breakdown:

- Champdoré | Independent Store: \$289.30
- Grand Bouctouche | COOP: \$607.70
- Five Rivers | Foodland: \$463.30
- Nouvelle-Arcadie | COOP: \$893.95

Training and Conferences

The coordinator has completed cultural competency training and received CPTED Level 1 training as well as SCI 100 and SCI 200 training in 2024. He has also attended various in-person and online conferences, such as the Criminology Conference on Resilience in Fredericton in May 2024, the Planet Youth online conference in December where he was on the panel to represent the Kent Coalition, the Criminology Symposium at the Université de Moncton where he presented the Kent Community Safety Plan with the Executive Director. He also attended numerous online meetings regarding the creation of a regional partnership among several municipalities for the sharing of emergency equipment and resources.

Thanks

As Community Safety Coordinator, I want to thank the Department of Justice and Public Safety, members of the RCMP, the Department of Health, Public Health NB and the Vitalité Health Network for their valuable contributions to the projects we've undertaken. I also want to thank all our community partners, generous donors such as the Kent Suicide Prevention Committee and Shoppers Drug Mart Richibucto, our members who are part of the *Planet Youth Kent* coalition, our members sitting on the Public Safety Committee and all municipal employees for their valued collaboration.

As Community Safety Coordinator, I would like to thank the Department of Justice and Public Safety, members of the RCMP, the Department of Health, NB Public Health, and Vitalité Health Network for their invaluable contribution to our projects. I would also like to thank all our community partners, our members of the Youth Planet Kent coalition, our members of the Public Safety Committee, all municipal employees and my colleagues at the KRSC for their ongoing assistance and cooperation.

Miguel Allain

Community Safety Coordinator

16.REPORT OF THE REGIONAL RECREATION PLANNING DEPARTMENT

As in previous years, the commitment and active collaboration of a wide range of community and provincial partners have played a key role in enriching regional recreation planning. Their constant involvement, marked by a shared desire for innovation and cohesion, has helped to consolidate local initiatives and ensure a more inclusive approach that is tailored to the needs of the various communities.

The Regional Recreation, Sport and Culture Committee met three (3) times. A restructuring of the constitution was necessary during the year to reach quorum. All in all, the following table highlights the involvement of each member in the various activities and initiatives supported by the Committee, illustrating their active contribution to the development of regional projects. This participation plays a key role in achieving our organization's strategic objectives, by fostering collaboration and the exchange of ideas to enrich programs and improve the services offered to the community.

TABLE 16.1 – MEMBERS ATTENDANCE OF THE REGIONAL RECREATION, SPORT AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

Members of the Committee	Sector/priority group	Meetings	Honorariums	Expenses
Arnold Vautour	Member of the KRSC Board	3	\$300.00	\$65.10
Lucie Martin	Representative of the rural district and President	3	\$375.00	\$348.60
Tina Bitcon	Local Government representative	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
Philippe Savoie-Vienneau	Consultant on sports and recreation	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cécile LePage	Consultant on Culture	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kylie Francis	First Nation	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Daniel Castonguay	Employee of a cultural company	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fernand Pellerin	Representative of motorized trails (snowmobile and ATV)	1	\$100.00	\$46.90
Guyline Jean-Gagnon	Representative of a green trails' organization (non-motorized)	2	\$200.00	\$285.60
Manon Vautour	Member of a community centre or recreation council	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Elaine Warren	Representative of seniors or a golden age club	3	\$300.00	\$15.40
Natalie Léger	Volunteer in the recreation sector	3	\$300.00	\$100.80

Cost sharing for recreational infrastructure

With regard to the mandate to oversee regional recreational infrastructure, the Village of Five Rivers complied with the terms of the agreement concerning the Rexton Sports and Recreation Centre, in particular by offering curling programming and submitting its annual report (2023) to the KRSC Board. For its part, the Town of Beaurivage did not receive any financial contributions from other communities in

2024, due to the unavailability of the pool, which was closed for major renovations. The AquaKent Center's annual report (2023) should be presented to the Board early next year.

Physical Literacy for Communities (LP2C)

The goal of this community project is to improve young people's physical literacy by building their confidence, skills and motivation to be active. In February 2024, the sharing of a human resource with community development was consolidated, marking a key step forward. Support from *Sport for Life* was extended until 2025, ensuring the independence and sustainability of the project. The presentation of the concept at major events - such as the Sport for Life National Summit, the congress of the Association francophone des enseignants d'éducation physique du N.-B. and that of Communauté loisirs Nouveau-Brunswick (CLNB) - highlighted the innovative approach of the KRSC, which is becoming a provincial model. At the same time, thanks to community development initiatives, funding from the ESIC will allow us to install play boxes in green spaces, a project being carried out jointly by the two sectors. Finally, one of the biggest successes remains the Superhero training in May and June 2024, which reached over 50 recreation professionals and summer camp counsellors. They were trained in the principles of healthy child development HIGH FIVE®, fundamental movement skills and the promotion of physical literacy through stimulating and safe play experiences.

Trails

Consistent with the regional strategy, a strategic assessment of the feasibility of a regional active trail network and community engagement was undertaken. A Request for Proposal was launched in May 2024, followed by a planning exercise over the summer. An extensive community consultation process took place in the fall, involving all municipalities and the rural district. Town halls ended in December, and the remaining targeted groups will be met in 2025. A final report is expected in mid-2025. Furthermore, the regional trail guide was updated in collaboration with the Kent Regional Resilience and Community Capacity Committee. A geomatics analyst from the KRSC mapped all the trails in the guide and a marketing firm provided the graphic and visual design. The guide, which is published every year, is an essential tool for promoting the community and tourism and showcasing the assets of our great region.

Culture

As a result of the relationship established in 2023 with the Arts and Culture Branch and the Association acadienne des artistes professionnel.le.s du Nouveau-Brunswick (AAAPNB), the KRSC is now a member of the Table en aménagement culturel du territoire de la stratégie globale. In the spring of 2024 the KRSC Board, to promote the cultural development of its territory, the KRSC Board adopted a resolution to develop a regional cultural policy, with the support of the AAAPNB. A grant has been awarded to launch phase 1 of this project. In collaboration with Planet Youth Kent, an ArtsNB grant was used to develop community arts projects in the high schools targeted by the program, with cultural mediation initiatives planned for 2025. Finally, in partnership with the Kent Regional Resilience and Community Capacity Committee, micro-grants were offered to the region's four cultural societies and to the Historical Society of Five Rivers, facilitating access to cultural programs.

The recreation sector plays a cross-cutting role by actively contributing to various projects carried out by other KRSC sectors. It is involved on a daily basis in a number of initiatives, including: 1) community development and social inclusion, by supporting the creation of Champions of the Greater Kent Region and the green space play box project; 2) community safety, by participating in the regional Planet Youth coalition program and with community arts projects; 3) immigration by obtaining funding to support recreational activities for young newcomers and their families; 4) economic development and tourism by exploring recreational tourism opportunities for coming years.

Thanks

I want to point out that the success of regional recreation planning requires daily involvement from our valued community partners devoted to the development of their citizens and communities. Together, we are aiming for a community life where everyone can flourish because recreational opportunities are diversified, inclusive, available and accessible.

Many thanks to all those responsible for actions, such as the members of the KRSC Recreation, Sport and Culture Committee, the Kent Resilience Steering Committee, the Planet Youth coalition and the KRSC Board. Thanks as well to municipal and school employees for their involvement. Thanks to the many organizations and other partners with whom we have the privilege of working and on whom we can count. And finally, thanks to those whose financial support allows us to develop and execute all these projects, such as the Public Health Agency of Canada, the New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, and the government of New Brunswick. Your support is the key to our success!

Claudie Ringuette, MAP

Director of Community Services and Head of Regional Recreation Planning

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régionaux de Kent



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