

# Almaguin Highlands

## Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan

### Community Feedback Survey

The Villages of Almaguin are in the process of collaborating to set a regional Economic Development Strategic Plan, and we need your help.

The process includes 14 municipalities across East Parry Sound, and is being led by the Village of Burk's Falls, in partnership with the Burk's Falls & Area Community Economic Development Committee (BACED), the Central Almaguin Economic Development Association (CAEDA), the Municipality of Powassan, and the Labour Market Group (LMG). Through this planning process, we intend to shed light on the important issues and uncover the most exciting opportunities faced by the Almaguin Highlands.

As part of this process, the Villages of Almaguin are reaching out to gather perspectives on the following: What is working well in the region? What are the opportunities and gaps? How can we better position the region for economic growth? Your input will help shape the future strategic directions for the Almaguin Highlands Regional Economic Development and inform how they will look in action.

This survey will take approximately **ten minutes**. Please return your completed copy to the location you received it by **Friday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM.**

It's open to anyone, including but not limited to: municipalities, businesses, social and cultural organizations, residents, cottagers, other stakeholders, and the general public.

The questions are straightforward, and the final question allows space for written feedback.

Your opinions and ideas matter! Filling in this survey is an important way for you to have your voice heard, and to inform a strategic plan that will guide development in the region for the next five years.

#### **Privacy**

Rest assured, your privacy will be protected. This survey is anonymous and is being conducted for us by a third party that will provide results to us as grouped data. Individuals cannot be identified. It is possible that excerpts from your anonymous comments may be included in a report that summarizes the survey results; however, the third party will not use, or will mask or remove information that could be used to identify you. Please do not "self identify" by writing your name or other identifying information in the comments section.

**Thank you for taking the time to help us create our regional Economic Development Strategic Plan. We appreciate your interest and assistance!**

### Question 1

How well-positioned is the broader region of Almaguin Highlands for economic growth and sustainability?

Please circle a number on this scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being excellently positioned and 1 being very poorly positioned.

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

### Question 2

Knowing that the Almaguin Region includes 14 municipalities, do you agree that a regional approach to economic development is more likely to achieve results than each municipality proceeding on its own?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

### Question 3

Which of the following key objectives should be included in a regional economic development strategy?

- Attraction of new businesses
  - Creation of new jobs
  - Increased wealth for local residents
  - A more diversified business and employment base
  - Attraction of new public-sector jobs
  - Increased investment in economic infrastructure
  - Environmental sustainability
  - Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
-

#### Question 4

Thinking about possible actions to assist in economic development, on a scale of 1 to 10 – with 10 being very important and 1 being not important at all – how would you rate the importance of the following activities?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Workforce development and attraction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community improvement and place making	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Business support, retention and attraction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tourism development and regional marketing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Are there any other activities you would include?

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#### Question 5

What factors did you consider when providing your ratings?

- Feasibility of the proposed action
- Likelihood of increased employment
- Sources of public funding to pursue
- Likelihood of triggering private sector investment
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

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### Question 6

On a scale of 1 to 10 – with 10 being very important and 1 being not important at all – how would you rate the importance of each of these economic sectors to the Almaguin Region?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Tourism – including the impact of seasonal residents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Retail Trade	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Senior Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building & construction trades	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Manufacturing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agriculture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health Care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forestry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Question 7

What factors did you consider when providing your ratings?

- Number of people employed
  - Spin-off economic activity
  - Existing infrastructure that supports the sector
  - Existing labour force
  - Natural and cultural heritage
  - Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- 

### Question 8

What type of measurements of success should be included as part of a regional economic development strategy?

- Number of jobs created
- Increase in average/medium income
- New businesses locating to the area
- Investments in economic infrastructure
- Increase in visitors to the area

### Question 9

There is an assumption that stable and long-term core funding will be essential to implement an ongoing successful economic development strategy. Do you agree or disagree with this assumption?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

### Question 10

In order to establish long term stable funding for regional economic development and growth, partnerships are integral. Who do you believe should fund a permanent economic development office? Please indicate the percentage of funding you believe each should provide.

	0%	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
Federal Government	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provincial Government	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Municipal Government(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Private Sector	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Question 11

Are you a:

- Resident
- Seasonal resident
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

### Question 12

What sector do you represent?

- Agriculture
- Artisans
- Education
- Forestry
- Healthcare
- Manufacturing
- Municipality/Government
- Professional organization
- Retail
- Seniors' organization
- Social/Cultural organization
- Tourism
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

