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Community-Based Education Program



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Promotional Copy

4206 Issues and Opportunities for Rural Transportation

Organization Information

The vision of the host organization is to facilitate active, broad based citizen participation in shaping healthy communities in Peterborough city and County; act as a catalyst for positive, sustainable social change; and promote the understanding that social justice is in everyone's interest. Through research, community development, and public education, the host organization works to build a strong community. The host organization's mandate is to improve quality of life through documenting community trends and needs.

Project Information

The purpose of the project is to undertake an environmental scan of issues and opportunities for change related to transportation in rural Peterborough County. We are hopeful that students will help us do the groundwork that will lead to the development of a resilient strategic plan. The pieces of the project may look like this. . . .

- A literature review of what other communities/countries have done to address rural transportation issues/options
- Interviews with county residents
- Interviews with service providers (e.g. Community Care Peterborough re: driving service)
- Information gathering through focus groups and a community survey
- Secondary data analysis (e.g. population trends and projections, data from Community Care Peterborough re: numbers of requests for driving supports, etc)
- Write a report based on the environmental scan described above

Benefit to the Host Organization and the Community

This project will develop the picture of what transportation needs are today. It will:

- Lead to the development of a strategic plan for rural transportation;
- Provide the PSPC with young researchers who will hopefully develop an interest in community research;
- Contribute to a better quality of life for those in the community who don't have access to transportation;
- Contribute to the environmental health of Peterborough County reducing our reliance on single passenger commuting;
- Contribute to the reconfiguration of a service system;
- The project will help us evaluate community and system changes needed to develop and adapt to development pressures, economic realities (fuel prices), demographic shifts (aging population), Peterborough realities, regionalization of services, policy changes;
- Articulate the problems and identify challenges in order to develop change by identifying gaps in services, legal issues, policies in place (by-laws, provincial laws), zoning for carpool lots (for example);
- Identifying solutions through the literature review. For example: what have other communities done to find solutions (Europe, Great Britain and in Canada)? Steps towards a charter?

- Putting solutions into place – community capacity building, steps towards a strategic plan, monitoring and evaluating REAL solutions (i.e. what can be done here?)

What Students Might Learn

- Facilitation skills
- Research tool development, tool implementation and data analysis
- Community research and its important role in social change

Skills or Experience Needed

- GIS mapping capabilities
- Data mining
- Ability to work independently as well as within a group
- Interpersonal skills – communicating with citizens and key individuals
- Computer skills

Resources Required for Project that will be Provided by Host

The Host organization will mentor the student(s) and provide guidance in the development of the research tools and data collection methods. Further, the host will assist with the facilitation of any community focus groups/meetings. The host strives to be a paperless organization and prefers not to print whenever possible. The host will review each expenditure request for transportation, meeting needs, etc on an as-need basis. All expenses must be pre-approved by the host.