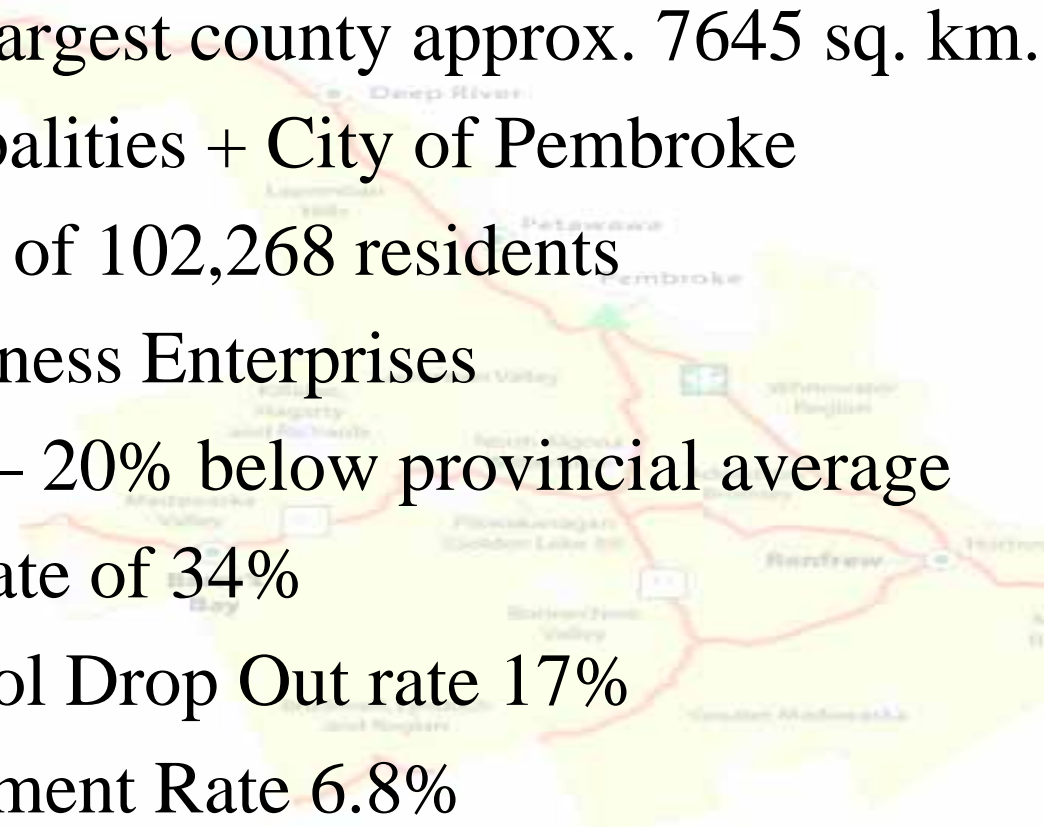

October 8, 2008
Discovery Workshop

Community Futures Development Corporation
serving Renfrew County



Renfrew County Snapshot

- Ontario's largest county approx. 7645 sq. km.
 - 17 municipalities + City of Pembroke
 - Population of 102,268 residents
 - 4,425 Business Enterprises
 - Wages 10 – 20% below provincial average
 - Illiteracy rate of 34%
 - High School Drop Out rate 17%
 - Unemployment Rate 6.8%
- 
-

Discovery Workshop Participants (60)

- Algonquin College
- Town Councillors
- Member of Parliament
- First Nations
- Seniors
- Business Associations
- Chambers of Commerce
- Economic Development Officers
- Small Business Owners
- School Boards
- Employment Assistance Providers
- Youth
- Manufacturers
- Francophones



Identified Business Needs

- Broadband infrastructure for community and business communication
 - Long-term strategic vision and action plan to strengthen existing business and create new business
 - Host a series of partnership meetings countywide to strengthen communications among political leaders, economic development planners and business people
-

Community Economic Development Priorities

- Support Forestry, Tourism, Agriculture and Manufacturing
- Address declining population and employment opportunities
- Explore creative business opportunities
- Improve communication capabilities
- Support skilled trades and apprenticeship opportunities
- Explore public transportation options
- Recruit health care professionals



Moving Forward

- November 2008 Algonquin College announced new waterfront campus (2012)
- Construction started on a new 5 storey medical complex. Upper Ottawa Valley Health Centre is expected to open in December 2009
- Feasibility Study for an inter-provincial commuter train connecting Pembroke to Ottawa



Labour Market Partnership

- Negotiating contract with MTCU
 - Assess and prioritize labour market issues
 - Research, identify and develop partnership opportunities that can provide solutions
 - Improve communication and strengthen sustainability of existing partnerships
 - Recommend actionable projects to stakeholders
 - Implement CED projects fostering job creation and retention
-

Thank You

- “Thank you” to the Knowledge Impact in Society project for making academic knowledge available to meet Renfrew County’s rural economic development needs.
- We look forward to the challenges and opportunities that the future holds.

