

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For immediate release  
September 2, 2009

### **RESIDENTS VOICE CHALLENGES THEY FEEL COUNTY MUST ADDRESS DURING PREPARATION OF 20-30 YEAR VISION**

**ANNAPOLIS CO.** – County residents were very upfront about the challenges they feel Council will be facing when developing a 20-30 year vision for the County of Annapolis.

The municipality went to residents asking them to share their opinions in developing a vision that will reflect the County's efforts for a strong and bright future. This was done as part of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP).

“The key to success for this Plan is getting honest answers from our residents,” said Annapolis County CAO Brenda Orchard. “Throughout this process, everyone has been very truthful and open in their thoughts for the County's future. It is these honest responses that provide Council with information essential in making choices that best represent the people who live in, or are involved with, the County.”

An important aspect of the Plan was to determine what the residents see as challenges for the County. The hired consultant, Stantec, reflected the following information (collected up to August 9<sup>th</sup>) as part of their interim report:

- Lack of strategic county-wide and land-use enforcement;
- need for improving transparency and communication with public;
- declining tax base and resources to begin new or maintain existing social and cultural services;
- lack of support for local entrepreneurs and agriculturalists;
- unsophisticated when working with developers and businesses considering locating in the County;
- need for self-sufficiency through distributed renewable energy systems, use of alternative energy technologies, attention to food security;
- need for protection of natural environment, climate change, resources, natural systems;
- avoiding burn-out of volunteers and addressing shifting demographics and affects on local community services;
- need to maintain local health care services, meeting future needs
- lack of jobs/opportunity for employment, downturn primary industries;
- school closures
- promoting the identity of the County – individual communities are what people identify with- strength; and
- community competition for resources.

“Constructive criticism is extremely important in providing Council with knowledge that is vital in preparing a prosperous 20-30 year vision for the County,” said Orchard.

The draft ICSP document is scheduled to be completed by the end of September, with the final ICSP document due in March 2010.

Residents who have inquiries regarding the ICSP may contact Laurie Emms, Municipal Services Director, at (902) 584-2255 or [acps@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:acps@ns.sympatico.ca).

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## **For Broadcast Use:**

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Annapolis County CAO Brenda Orchard said constructive criticism is extremely important in providing Council with knowledge that is vital in preparing a prosperous 20-30 year vision for the County.

Stantec's interim report, which reflects information gathered at public meetings up to August 9<sup>th</sup>, will be placed on the County website. Residents and other stakeholders will continue to be invited to give feedback which will be integrated into the ICSP strategy. The draft ICSP document is scheduled to be completed by the end of September, with the final ICSP document due in March 2010.