

COME AND SPEAK TO US ABOUT YOUR FUTURE

On March 17, 2010, a meeting will be held to hear what our successors have to say

Maniwaki, March 8, 2010 – Next Wednesday, March 17 at the Chateau Logue in Maniwaki, a meeting will be held where, for the first time, our successors will have an opportunity to discuss their future in the same room with adults, who are actors in various capacities in the area.

The Gatineau Valley Société d'aide au développement des collectivités (SADC) and its proud partners/collaborators are quite enthusiastic at the idea of bringing together close to 200 students, mostly fifth year high school students from Maniwaki and Gracefield, who will participate in a lively discussion of their future based on the following four themes – 1. Their pride and the feeling of belonging in the region; 2. Their future; 3. Employment; and 4. The keys to success.

This was made possible thanks to the invaluable cooperation of the Commission scolaire des Hauts-Bois-de-l'Outaouais and its establishments, the Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi and its team, the Local Development Centre, the Local Employment Centre, the Gatineau Valley Caisses Desjardins and the Fondation Jean-Claude Branchaud. In addition to making a financial contribution to make this day a success, these partners generously loaned out some human resources from their organizations to help achieve the objectives sought. The Town of Maniwaki also made a contribution along these lines, and the organizing committee would like to thank them for this.

The young people in attendance will take in an opening conference by speaker and author Carol Allain, M.Sc., M. Ed. He will discuss, among other things, the values of their future employers (baby boomers) and the fact that many will be retiring in a few years, thereby freeing up positions to be filled by the successors, the very people attending this meeting. There is a gap between the various generations such as Generation Y (these secondary students) and baby boomers, and that gaining a good understanding of this difference would make the adaptation easier. Finally, adults will attend the plenary session in the afternoon, which will be facilitated also by Mr. Allain. Topics of discussion will include the importance of thinking collectively about a strategy that would bring about a change in mentality and address the beliefs of some young people to the effect that there is no future in the region. Another major issue to be discussed is how crucial it is for socio-economic development organizations in the Gatineau Valley to continue the efforts already made to stem the exodus of young people and attract and retain labour in the region.

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