

Conference Update & Findings



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On June 3, the Cape Breton Partnership was proud to host the Next Gen 2010 one day conference

Over 200 16-40 year olds from all over Cape Breton-Mulgrave united to discuss what can be done to make Cape Breton an even more attractive place for younger generations to live, work and play.

This is what Cape Breton's younger generation had to say...

Top 10 reasons to live in Cape Breton:

1. Friends/family (roots & ties)
2. Sense of community (tight-knit)
3. Beautiful place to live (scenery)
4. Safe place to raise a family
5. The lifestyle (laid-back, etc.)
6. Affordable living
7. Outdoor & indoor recreation
8. Opportunities/potential for business
9. Easy to be involved with/give back to your community
10. The culture

Top ten things that have to be addressed to make Cape Breton an even better place to live:

1. More employment opportunities/ better job security
2. Improve public transit and roads
3. More recreational facilities
4. Increased support for local business
5. Additional entertainment/nightlife offerings
6. Increased cultural diversity
7. Improve downtown and community centres
8. Better promotion - local post secondary institutions
9. Further support for tourism
10. More conferences similar to Next Gen 2010

Top 10 challenges you are facing in Cape Breton:

1. Finding employment opportunities to fit my career goals
2. Gaps in post secondary education programs
3. The cost of post-secondary education
4. Transportation (*road conditions*)/lack of public transit
5. Lack of entertainment/social activities
6. Financial issues (managing debt, student loans)
7. Lack of a common vision for the future
8. Better wages elsewhere
9. Negative attitudes
10. Unique shopping experiences

Top 10 Dreams for Cape Breton:

1. For Cape Breton to have a vision for the future
2. Increase pride in Cape Breton and promote success stories
3. A focus for growth in green energy
4. For a youth retention and attraction strategy to be developed and implemented
5. Increased Eco-tourism
6. To be a leader in renewable resources energy production
7. More nightlife and entertainment
8. More accessible post secondary education
9. Promote positive attitudes about Cape Breton
10. Reignite interest in the Gaelic language and other cultural aspects

Next Steps

- ◎ *Develop a youth retention and attraction strategy similar to that of Newfoundland*
- ◎ *Further Cape Breton wide youth consultation*
- ◎ *Develop Next Gen into an ongoing initiative*
- ◎ *Umbrella group for existing youth organizations*
- ◎ *A focus on: networking, leadership advocacy/voice, policy suggestions*