Addressing Barriers To Economic Development In Aroostook County

Press Conference
Wednesday, December 21st, 2016 at 1 p.m.
Edmunds Conference Center
Northern Maine Community College

Background Information

Why the report was created:

Aroostook County leaders are rightfully concerned about outmigration, particularly among youth. Employers worry about who will replace the region's aging workforce, as economic developers work to diversify the area's employment base in the wake of changes in the region's traditional industries of forest products and agriculture. Aroostook has many unique strengths to build on. By making strategic investments to capitalize on these strengths and to bolster already growing educational attainment and incomes, Maine's largest county can ensure its economic health in the coming years and decades.

Summary of Report:

This report documents recent trends in the educational attainment and economic indicators in Aroostook County compared with Maine and the nation. It provides context from studies within the County and around the state and the country to suggest how County leaders can invest to ensure an economically vibrant future.

Main topics of the report:

Population Trends
Educational Attainment Trends
Migration Patterns
Rural Economic Development

Question suggestions for the media:

1. How is the work of Aroostook Aspirations Initiative important in addressing many of the main concerns discussed in this report?

2. Why is it important that people of all ages in Aroostook County realize the role they play in the future of Aroostook County?

3. Why is it important that we not only keep high school graduates in Aroostook County for college, but also after they finish college?

4. The educational attainment and per-capita income in Aroostook County has gone up slightly each year since 1990. Can the trend be expected to continue in the coming years?

5. Why is it important a report like this one exists, not just for statistics, but in continuing positive trends in Aroostook County?