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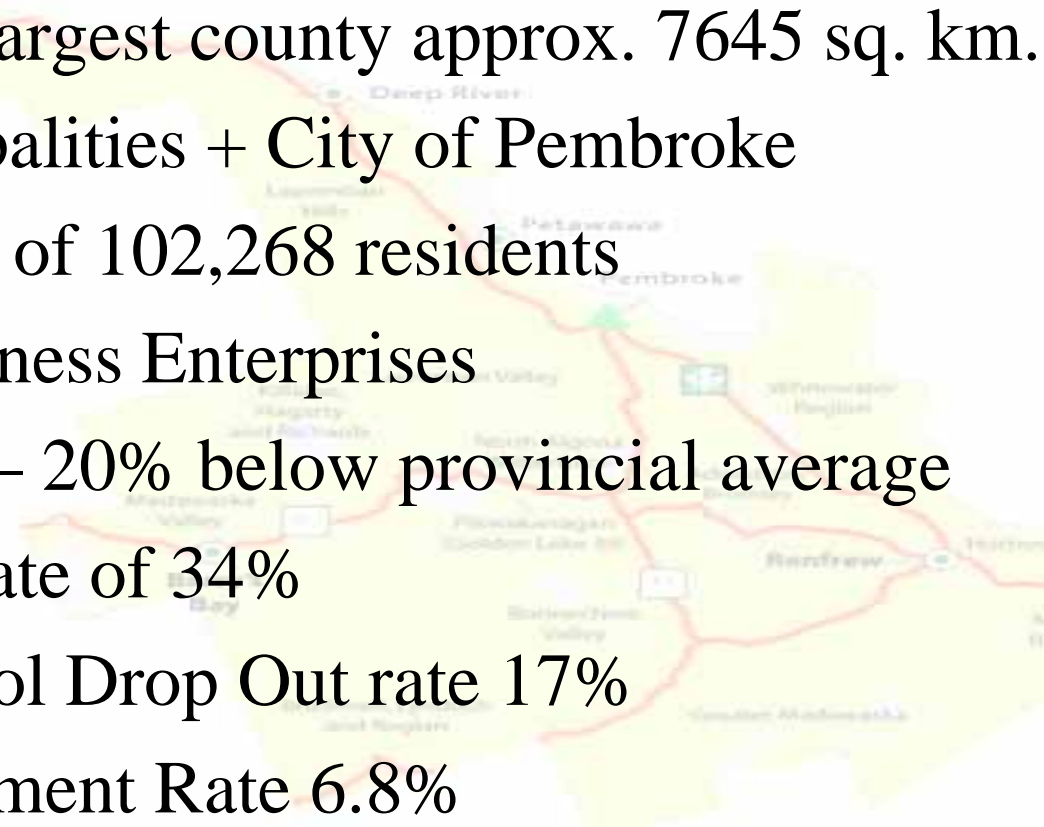
October 8, 2008  
Discovery Workshop

Community Futures Development Corporation  
serving Renfrew County



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# 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%
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# 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



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# 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
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# 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



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# 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



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# 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
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# 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.

