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## CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN LAC-DROLET

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ISSUE: Building on mobilization and involvement from local communities

### ITINERARY 2C

Date: Thursday, September 12, 2013

Location: Dominique-Savio School

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## PROMOTERS

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Francine Laliberté, Municipality of Lac-Drolet | E-mail: [agentecommunautaire@lacrolet.ca](mailto:agentecommunautaire@lacrolet.ca)

Marielle Fecteau, Municipality of Lac-Drolet

### **Presentation of the issue:**

The City's leaders notice a disengagement of the citizens, and they are tiring out. The straw that broke the camel is that nobody wants to deal with the skating rink. They call a meeting where 50 people attend.

### **Project description:**

Support request to the MRC's Citizen Participation Committee, which led to the planning and implementation of the pilot project "Community Development Dashboard."

The local Development Officer founded a committee of +/- 15 people from diverse backgrounds; clearly identified the problem; acted quickly; took charge; found support; generated a lot of publicity to keep the people informed on the project's progress; chose the following as the possible solution: Estrie Community Development Dashboard; evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of the community.

### **The key elements to remember according to the promoters:**

- identify the problem and act quickly to address the issue;
- support from the MRC's Citizen Participation Committee;
- use of a Community Development Dashboard;
- awareness and involvement from the city council;
- recruit a core of citizens already aware about the importance of volunteering;
- inform the people of the project's progress;
- set up a local development committee;
- support, collaborate and promote events stemming from citizen initiatives;
- recognize the importance of volunteer work and citizen involvement with special feasts; pursue the process over the medium and long term;
- initiatives must come from the citizens in order to have their support;
- receive support and recognition from the city council;
- hold festive activities to strengthen the ties.

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## **RESEARCHER**

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Jean-François Allaire, University of Sherbrooke | E-mail: [jf.allaire@usherbrooke.ca](mailto:jf.allaire@usherbrooke.ca)

### **Summary of the researcher's presentation:**

Several organizations established tools such as the Estrie Dashboard to help the citizens manage important changes needed in their community.

### **The key elements to remember according to the researcher:**

- the dashboard promotes a structured, collaborative and inclusive participation;
- having a visionary leader contributes to the project's success;
- financial support and resources such as ADQ, OC, SADC, CDC, etc.;
- lead concrete and consistent actions such as Mont Gym, school-park, La petite séduction, Le printemps des artistes, community gardens, community kitchen, etc.;
- seize opportunities;
- give a real sense of control to the citizens by delegating authority and by establishing a partnership between the various groups;
- take the generational changes into consideration as the young do not necessarily share their elders' vision; this is a challenge.

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## **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

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**NOTE: All linked documents (PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.) are only available in their original French version.**

[PowerPoint from Jean-François Allaire, University of Sherbrooke](#)