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## CENTRE D'ÉTUDES COLLÉGIALES DE LAC-MÉGANTIC (CECLM)

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ISSUE: Refocusing on youth

### ITINERARY 6C

Date: Thursday, September 12, 2013

Location: Centre d'études collégiales de Lac-Mégantic

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## PROMOTER

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Jean Hamel, Centre d'études collégiales de Lac-Mégantic | E-mail: [jhamel@cegepba.qc.ca](mailto:jhamel@cegepba.qc.ca)

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

Provide a first level of higher education in a rural setting, to counter the exodus of young people towards the major urban centers, and to meet the region's labour force requirements. Because, historically, high-school graduates had to go outside the region to continue their studies, and the vast majority of them found employment in their host region thereafter, and would not return.

### **Project description:**

The establishment of a center for collegial studies, from initiative to start up (mobilization of the partners, information to the young population, etc.), through receiving certification (training of an administrative team, implementation of appropriate services, etc.) and the construction of the new CECLM (new requirements, finding partners, etc.).

### **The key elements according to the promoter:**

- convince the secondary 4 and 5 high-school students to continue their studies at the CECLM;
- engage the partners in the process and maintain the development committee;
- offer programs that meet the needs of both the environment and the students;
- provide a stimulating environment;
- involve students and teachers in the college life;
- enhance the diversity of the student services;
- make the CECLM an attractive option by providing new facilities.

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## SPEAKER

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Johanne Vachon, City of Lac-Mégantic | E-mail: [jvachon\\_2@axion.ca](mailto:jvachon_2@axion.ca)

### Summary of the speaker's presentation:

Mrs. Vachon tells her "love story": since the inception in 1998, when she was the sole actor of the project and had to see to everything: from meetings with the Department and other school councils to validate their interest, through to the completion of the project, with everything in between.

### The key points to remember as suggested by the speaker:

- willingness of the community;
- technical programs based on the region's labour force requirements;
- quality education and committed staff;
- continued presence of the partners.

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## RESEARCHER

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Jean Bernatchez, UQAR | E-mail: [jean\\_bernatchez@uqar.ca](mailto:jean_bernatchez@uqar.ca)

### Summary of the researcher's presentation:

To pursue higher education close to our place of belonging generally contributes to a higher academic achievement. Mr. Bernatchez, a researcher at the Université du Québec à Rimouski, presents related statistics. He focuses on the young people affected/targeted by the creation of the CECLM.

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

- accessibility is the main vector of the public policies;
- academic success depends on several key factors (lifestyle, etc.).

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## QUESTION PERIOD

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Q.: During the second year, what were the benefits for Cégep de Beauce in supporting Lac-Mégantic?

A. (Johanne Vachon): The Lac-Mégantic student financing was theirs. Being alone with one secretary two days/week, this was very profitable for them.

Q.: Is there still room to develop centers for collegial studies in rural areas?

A. (Johanne Vachon): Yes, for example, Thetford is presently developing. The municipalities always win.

A. (Jean Hamel): However, initiating a project is very difficult.

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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 Hamel, Centre d'études collégiales de Lac-Mégantic, and from Johanne Vachon, City of Lac-Mégantic

PowerPoint from Jean Bernatchez, UQAR

Centre d'études collégiales de Lac-Mégantic web site: [www.cegepba.qc.ca](http://www.cegepba.qc.ca)