

THE FUTURE IS NOW

Towards a community visioning project for the future of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY OF THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS**

ENGLISH SPEAKING COMMUNITY OF THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS AT A GLANCE

This is a community visioning project called “The Future is Now” which reflects the need to ensure the long-term vitality of the English-speaking community of the Magdalen Islands. The proactive process has been guided by knowledge development and involved community mobilization, strategic planning, and the involvement of partners and local stakeholders in developing a course of action – a road map – that will lay out where the community wants to be in the future.

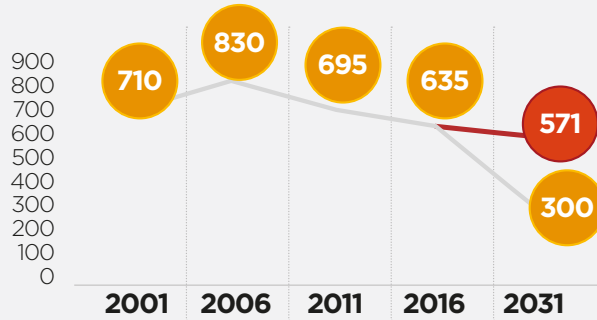


- Greater integration with the Francophone community
- Positive organizational development and capacity
- Good incomes and economic conditions
- Improved infrastructures



- Decrease volunteerism
- Decrease on social interaction among community members
- Decrease in community engagement and participation
- Demographic decline, aging population, decline in school age children, out-migration
- Drop-out rates still high among boys particularly

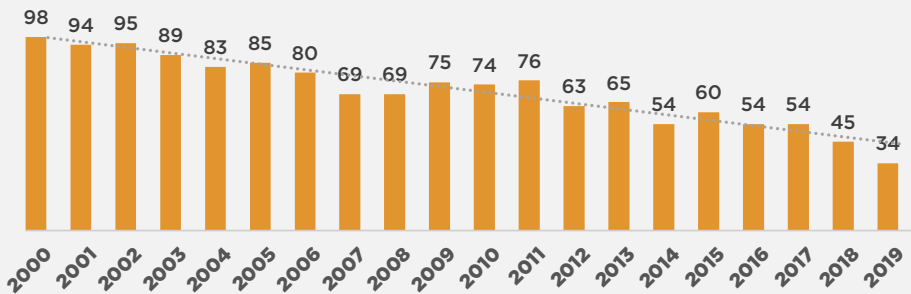
PROJECTED DECLINE 2011-2031



The lower birth rate combined with outmigration is a particularly worrisome trend. The school on Entry Island has already closed and the school in Grosse Ile has only about one third of the students it once housed at the peak of the baby boom in the late 60's

- 15% over 15 years
- If accelerated

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN GROSSE ILE SCHOOL



In 2018 of those who began grade 7 in Grosse-Ile:

- 60% graduated (40% did not)
- 55% are still living on the islands (45% are not)

IN ADDITION

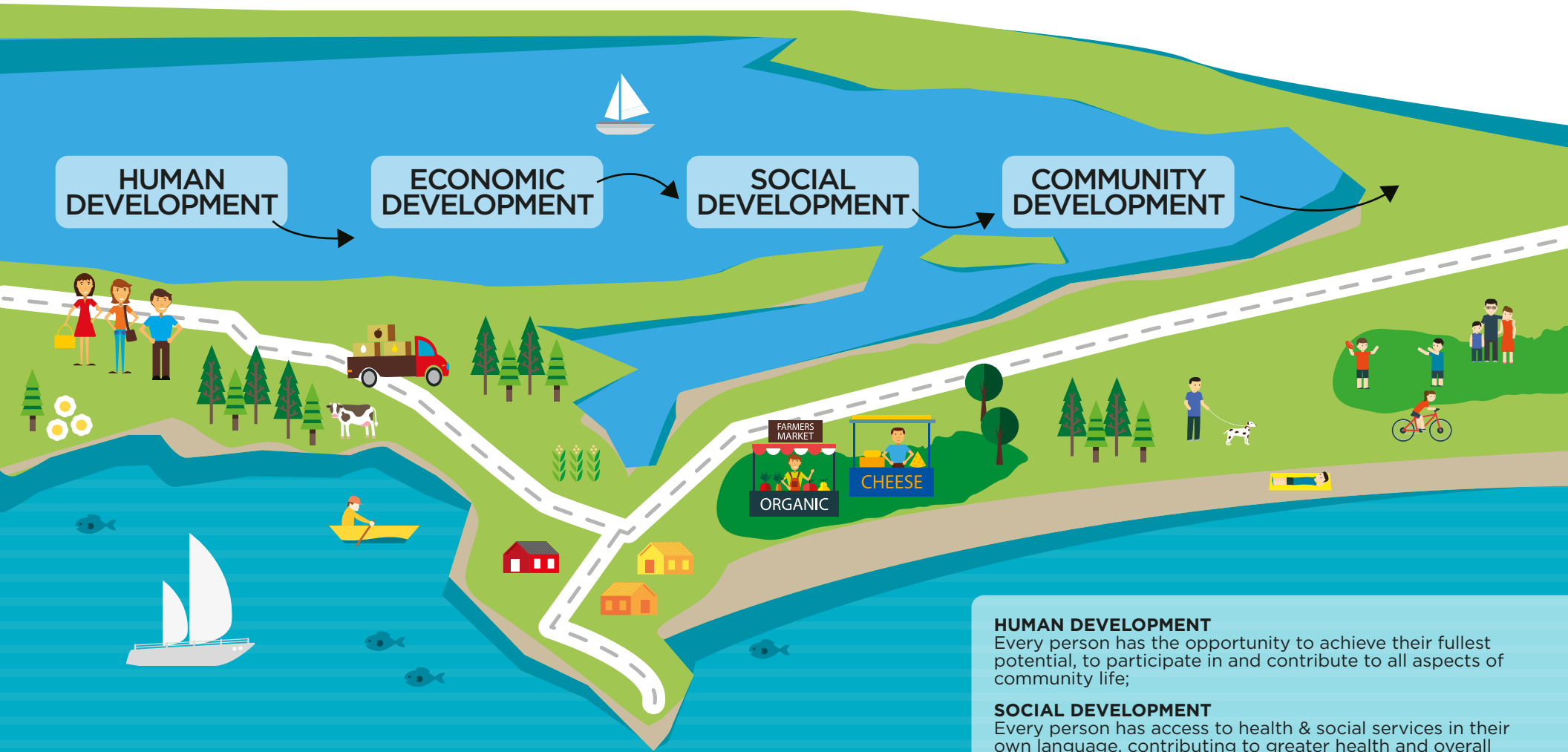
44% OF GRADUATES STAYED

74% OF NON-GRADUATES STAYED

- The population is declining steadily over time.
- This could lead to a situation where the community is no longer viable
- Declining school numbers, potentially affect the quality of school life and access to specialized services for students.
- There is a lack of post-secondary and adult education opportunities in the English language on the Islands
- Many people are very reliant on the lobster fishery, so if there is a downturn, they are extremely vulnerable
- Many residents do not have good enough skills in French to occupy jobs outside of the English-speaking community
- High incomes within the fishery make it difficult to recruit workers for other types of work

- While average household incomes are high, there are disparities in the community, with women often earning much less than men, resulting in disadvantages
- Long-standing institutions such as the municipality, CAMI and the church will face difficulties in recruiting the next generation of leaders and ensuring sustainability.
- The fact that essential services are lacking, makes it extremely difficult to attract newcomers.
- There are few houses and/or apartments to rent
- There are no daycare services

BUILDING COMMUNITY VITALITY through collective action, will bring inspiration and innovation to our community and to our partners



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

GETTING STARTED (1-3 years)

Maintain population Keep the school open Retain

MOVING FORWARD (3-5 years)

Gradually increase the population-Return & Recruit Expand school and scope of activities

ON THE HORIZO (5-10 years)

Maintain increases in population-Recruit Maintain and enhance the scope of activities

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Every person has the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential, to participate in and contribute to all aspects of community life;

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Every person has access to health & social services in their own language, contributing to greater health and overall wellbeing.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The community has a strong economic foundation that ensures resource sustainability, diversity, and well remunerated employment opportunities for all;

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Through leadership development, succession planning and citizen mobilization, there is greater capacity to ensure community sustainability and the overall quality of life for all citizens;