



Northern Maine Development Commission

Northern Maine Development Commission is a membership organization comprised of participating communities & counties in the Aroostook Washington Economic Development District. NMDC provides federal and state services at the regional and local levels. NMDC is one of 7 Economic Development Districts in Maine and 350 nationwide.

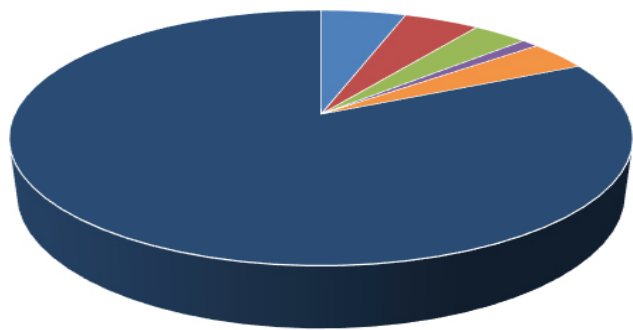
NMDC also provides management and support for Aroostook County Tourism (ACT), Aroostook Municipal Association (AMA), Aroostook Partnership, Aroostook/Washington County Local Workforce Investment Board (LWIB), and Northern Maine Solid Waste Management Committee.

WHY BE A DUES PAYING MEMBER OF NMDC?

- * 20% reduction on costs of contracted services
- * Preferred status when requesting assistance
- * Representation on Exec. Board and committees
(Residents of non-member communities are not eligible for board positions or to serve on committees)
- * Participation in cooperative purchasing

NMDC WORKING FOR FORT KENT AND ALL OF THE ST. JOHN VALLEY Direct services and savings to Fort Kent in fiscal 2014-15

\$42,815



Regional projects, such as Aroostook County Tourism, World Acadian Congress, Aroostook Partnership, transportation planning grants and others, are valued at more than **\$50,771** to Fort Kent.

Fort Kent Dues 2015-16

\$7,456

(no dues increase in 11 years)

Return on

Investment Highlights

- 8 Fort Kent residents received \$22,786 in workforce development funds to increase their skill levels and find employment.
- NMDC assisted with Fort Kent Downtown Committee for business attraction. Assistance valued at more than \$1,000.
- CMA Export Seminar sponsored by NMDC and Aroostook Partnership drew more than 100 people to Fort Kent in August of 2014.

(more details on back)

For more information, contact Exec. Director Robert Clark, rclark@nmdc.org or by phone at 498-8736.

SERVICES

Local

INVESTMENT

Regional

World Acadian Congress 3-year Investment

Northern Maine Development Commission was actively involved in World Acadian Congress activities. In addition to acting as the fiscal agent for the Maine organization, NMDC also secured a \$60,000 marketing grant for the event and a solid waste grant to accommodate anticipated greater solid waste stream from the event. NMDC and the Aroostook Partnership also invested \$10,000 in an export conference at the University of Maine at Fort Kent during the Congress.

\$83,464 **\$237,185**
3-year total

Cooperative Purchasing

NMDC organizes a municipal cooperative purchasing program on winter road salt, road paint, computers, culverts, etc. This past year Fort Kent purchased 750 tons of winter road salt.

Savings over state purchase in 2014-15
\$1,792.50

Northern Forest Products Industry Cluster

The Aroostook Partnership and NMDC formed the Northern Forest Products Industry Cluster to help grow value added processing, address workforce challenges, mitigate barriers and encourage more research and development. More than 30 businesses and organizations make up the cluster, with members from Fort Kent. The work is supported through a grant from the Maine Technology Institute and USDA Rural Development.

\$5,111 **\$90,000**

Aroostook County Tourism

NMDC provides public relations, marketing, print and online advertising, staffs tradeshows, is the contact for visitor inquiries, and is home of the Aroostook County Tourism Board. ACT has also drafted letters of support for projects in the St. John Valley. ACT is responsible for printing the Aroostook County Visitor Guide each year. In other tourism related activity, NMDC has held multiple business training sessions to help tourism related companies better compete. Last year the annual Aroostook County Tourism Summit was held in the St. John Valley.

\$7,099 **\$125,000**

Empowerment Zone

NMDC helped establish Empowerment Zone status for many areas of Aroostook County, of which the entire Fort Kent Township is included. NMDC has successfully advocated for the extension of the Empowerment Zone Tax Credit, which benefit businesses in most the St. John Valley. The credit has been extended for the next two years, up to \$3,000 per employee, per year.

Business Finance

NMDC staff in the Business Finance Division have worked with businesses in the Fort Kent area, which includes handling loan applications, business counseling, work with existing customers and loan closings. In Fort Kent in the past year, a hardware store, barber shop and computer service company were awarded loans from NMDC. The Business Finance Division also wrote off one Fort Kent loan of \$13,984.

TOTAL loan information for Fort Kent in NMDC history:

Loans: \$3,817,950 (30 loans)
Leveraged: \$23,710,776
Jobs Retained: 729
Jobs Created: 736
Total: 1465

TOTAL loan information for Fort Kent in 2014-15:

Loans: \$47,500 (3 clients)
Jobs Retained: 7
Jobs Created: 4
Total: 11

Workforce Development

NMDC staff provides services for the Aroostook & Washington Workforce Investment Board. The Board provides policy and program guidance for workforce development activities through contracts with service providers at the CareerCenters in Presque Isle, Calais and Machias. 8 Fort Kent clients were aided by the various programs in 2014-2015.

Program	Residents/Clients	Amount
LWIB Adult	5	\$15,332
LWIB Youth	2	\$3,270
JAC	1	\$3,467

TOTAL OF SERVICES = \$22,786

Current Projects of Note to Fort Kent

Brownfields

NMDC has funding to complete environmental site assessments (ESAs) on properties potentially contaminated with petroleum products or hazardous substances. This program can pay for Phase I ESAs which would typically cost a developer between \$3000 and \$3500 and Phase II ESAs which usually begin in the \$12,000 range and can go up from there. This program is free to eligible property owners and municipalities. Currently NMDC completed a Phase 1 ESA on the former St. Francis Elementary School. The assessment saved taxpayers in SAD 27 more than \$3,000. The Brownfields program has also helped rehabilitate property, like the old Fort Kent Armory, in previous years. In total the Brownfields program has invested more than \$44,000 in Fort Kent

Diversified Agriculture

NMDC is helping growers and other food producers better market their products downstate and to the rest of New England. Thanks to a USDA Rural Development Rural Business Development Grant we are linking production to distribution networks and performing a gap analysis on how to improve the distribution system. A growth trend in the local food movement and less expensive land locally, may help in attraction efforts countywide.