



**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 for Progress (APP), Aroostook/Washington County Local Workforce Investment Board (LWIB), Tri-County Workforce Investment Board, Leaders Encouraging Aroostook Development (LEAD), and Northern Maine Solid Waste Management Committee (NMSWMC).

WHY BE A DUES PAYING MEMBER OF NMDC?

- * 20% reduction on costs of contracted services
- * Preferred status when requesting assistance
- * Representation on 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
HOULTON AND ALL
SOUTHERN AROOSTOOK**

Direct services, savings and loans
in the past 3 years

\$762,113

Regional projects, such as Aroostook County Tourism, Mobilize Northern Maine, Aroostook Partnership for Progress, transportation planning grants and others, are valued at more than **\$318,000** to Houlton.

General Business Assistance Activity

- Provided TIF technical assistance on a number of projects.
- Wrote successful MELMAC grant for SAD 29.
- Continue to secure Empowerment Zone status for Houlton businesses, which provides essential tax breaks.
- Provided business leads to Southern Aroostook Development Corporation.
- Provided 164 government contracting client sessions in the past three years to Houlton businesses.
- Manufacturing Extension Partnership conducted 45 meetings/sessions with Houlton manufacturing companies in the past three years.

**Houlton Annual Dues
Approx. \$10,450**

**3-Year Return on
Investment Highlights**

- 70 Houlton residents received nearly \$168,000 in workforce development funds to increase their skill levels and find employment.
- Business Finance Division made 5 loans totaling \$450,000 to Houlton clients retaining 43.5 jobs and creating 3.5.
- Cooperative salt purchase has saved Houlton more than \$35,000 over the state purchase price.

(more details on back)

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

SERVICES

Local

Food Coop/Food Hub

Northern Maine Development Commission and Aroostook Partnership for Progress worked with the organizers of The County Coop and Farm Store on different issues and prepared a USDA Rural Development grant application on behalf of the Coop.

\$2,275

Cooperative Purchasing

NMDC organizes a municipal cooperative purchasing program on winter road salt, road paint, computers, culverts, etc. This past year Houlton purchased 1600 tons of winter road salt.

Savings over state purchase in the past 3 years

\$35,200

Brownfields

The Northern Maine Development Commission was awarded \$400,000 by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assist in the revitalization of the Brownfield sites for future economic investments and environmental benefit. The new County Federal Credit Union site in Houlton is a reclaimed Brownfield.

\$34,078

\$400,000



Northern Maine Development Commission secured nearly \$10,000 for a soil management and radon removal plan for the future County Federal Credit Union property. The latest round of brownfield funding will also be used to assess and clean up properties suspected of being meth labs, including properties potentially in Houlton.

Aroostook County Tourism

NMDC provides public relations, marketing, print and online advertising, staffs tradeshow, is the contact for visitor inquiries, and is home of the Aroostook County Tourism Board, which has two representatives from the Houlton area. ACT has also letters of support for the Houlton Visitors Center and a snowmobile bridge reconstruction project in Houlton. ACT is responsible for printing the Aroostook County Visitor Guide each year. In other tourism related activity NMDC has held multiple business training sessions in the Shiretown to help tourism related companies better compete.

www.visitaroostook.com

INVESTMENT

Regional

Business Finance

NMDC staff in the Business Finance Division have worked with businesses in the Houlton area which includes handling loan applications, business counseling, work with existing customers and loan closings.

TOTAL loan information for Houlton in NMDC history:

Loans: \$2,744,351 (24 clients)
Leveraged: \$9,324,929
Jobs Retained: 378
Jobs Created: 176.5
Total: 554.5

TOTAL loan information for Houlton in NMDC in 2011-14:

Loans: \$459,951 (5 clients)
Leveraged: \$750,000
Jobs Retained: 43.5
Jobs Created: 3.5
Total: 47

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. 70 Houlton clients were aided by the various programs in 2011-2014. Some of the workforce development programs were administered by an NMDC employee working at the Houlton office.

Program	Residents/Clients	Amount
LWIB Adult	21	\$50,075
LWIB Dislocated Workers	36	\$79,309
LWIB Healthcare Sector	5	\$11,388
LWIB NEG	3	\$10,516
LWIB Youth	4	\$14,154
LWIB Aging Worker Initiative	1	\$2,093

TOTAL OF SERVICES = \$167,535

Aroostook Partnership for Progress

NMDC provides human and financial resources to support APP for business attraction specifically working to market existing facilities to business prospects. APP has attended the SADC Alternative Energy Expo, promoted alternative energy to County businesses, established an "Education to Industry" initiative and formed forestry and manufacturing working groups.

\$2,867

\$195,000

Houlton Demographics

	Houlton	Aroostook
Population		
Total (2010 US Census)	6,123	70,868
Educational Attainment		
High School graduate or higher (2010 US Census)	86.90%	83.90%