

PORTRAIT OF COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

(According to the Centre for Community Enterprise, Canada)

The Centre for Community Enterprise has defined a resilient community as "one that takes intentional action to enhance the personal and collective capacity of its residents and institutions to respond to, and influence the course of social and economic change".

It has developed a portrait of such a community with the following 23 characteristics:

- Characteristic 1: Leadership is diversified and representative
- Characteristic 2: Community leadership is visionary
- Characteristic 3: Community members are involved
- Characteristic 4: Community feels a sense of pride
- Characteristic 5: People feel optimistic about the future
- Characteristic 6: Spirit of mutual assistance and cooperation
- Characteristic 7: People feel a sense of attachment
- Characteristic 8: Community is self-reliant
- Characteristic 9: Belief in and support for education
- Characteristic 10: Key community economic development functions are served
- Characteristic 11: Organizations have developed partnerships
- Characteristic 12: Employment is diversified
- Characteristic 13: Major employers are locally owned
- Characteristic 14: A strategy for increasing local ownership
- Characteristic 15: Openness to alternative economic activity
- Characteristic 16: Community looks outside itself for resources
- Characteristic 17: Community is aware of its competitive position
- Characteristic 18: Community has a community economic development plan
- Characteristic 19: Citizens are involved in community vision and goals
- Characteristic 20: On-going action towards community economic development goals
- Characteristic 21: Regular evaluation of progress
- Characteristic 22: Organisations use the community economic development plan to guide their actions
- Characteristic 23: A development approach encompasses all population segments

(Reference: Centre for Community Enterprise (1999), the Community Resilience Manual: A Resource for Rural Recovery and Renewal, Port Alberni, British Columbia: Centre for Community Enterprise)