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MRC Pontiac Mayors' Council Adopts the Municipal Amalgamation Feasibility Study Report

Campbell's Bay, February 6, 2013 – *Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton and Co.*, the firm hired last June to conduct a Municipal Amalgamation Feasibility Study for the MRC Pontiac, presented its final report at a special MRC Council meeting held on February 5th.

The firm's mandate was to conduct an analysis of the current situation in the Pontiac and its constituent municipalities and identify issues affecting socio-economic and political aspects, and municipal services and finances, and make recommendations for a more efficient governance approach.

As in a vast majority of Canadian municipalities, the gap between the financial needs of municipalities and their ability to pay, the cost of the transfer of responsibilities to municipalities from the provincial and federal governments, and the shortage of skilled manpower are major issues that are weakening the future of Pontiac.

Following the firm's presentation of its findings, the mayors passed a resolution accepting the Municipal Amalgamation Feasibility Study report, which outlines three municipal amalgamation scenarios. Regardless of the scenario, the report shows that from a regional perspective, the current situation can only improve. Other scenarios may also emerge during upcoming meetings between elected officials, municipal employees, citizens, cottagers, and other stakeholders in the community. However, the report clearly shows that the status quo is no longer a viable option.

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The situation analysis was conducted from focus groups, interviews, questionnaires and all other information collected during the firm's mandate. Let's not forget that governance and the territory's organisational quality were identified as key success factors in the implementation of the *Vision Pontiac 2020* Strategic Plan.

The Municipal Amalgamation Study report and its summary document are available online at www.mrcpontiac.qc.ca. Citizens are invited to submit their comments using the comment form on the website's Amalgamation Study page. They can also subscribe to the Pontiac News Portal at www.portailpontiac.qc.ca if they wish to keep abreast of the news and notices of consultations throughout the municipal amalgamation process.

SOURCE :

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