Building on Middle River School's entrepreneurial experiences, examine the option to develop and pilot an elementary entrepreneurship curriculum unit as a locally initiated pilot project.

**Consideration**

The Middle River School has over the years enjoyed support from an engaged community. Parents, teachers, artisans, and entrepreneurs have worked together to support students through activities in both the school and community.

The Middle River School community recognizes that one of the factors involved in rural decline is a lack of employment. Unfortunately, the public school curriculum does not offer skills training in entrepreneurship until grade 11, when it is offered as an elective. The community believes that students should have early exposure to successful local entrepreneurs and learn basic entrepreneurship skills at the elementary level. Encouraging children to consider creating employment for themselves gives them a wider range of opportunities for the future, and may make it possible for more school children to choose a life in rural communities.

In 2011 Middle River School partnered with the Baddeck and Area Community Market on a grade 3-6 entrepreneurship project. Building on the school's pre-existing garden program, the children performed market surveys, interviewed farmers, and decided what to grow for eventual sale at the market. The children learned about business plans, marketing and promotion, and determined what regulations their products had to comply with. They preserved and pickled their produce, and designed signage and packaging with the help of a graphic designer. Selling the product at the market required them to practice their communication skills, and deciding what to do with the profit brought math skills into play. This past fall, the children sold their garden produce to the Dancing Goat Restaurant, whose
owner also did a presentation on his business. Middle River School would relish the opportunity to build on this project and develop a pilot curriculum unit for elementary entrepreneurship.