

Navigating Economic Development Challenges in an Island Context

This document summarizes a presentation delivered by [Audrey Keating](#) (La Vague, Quebec) at the 2024 North Atlantic Forum Conference held in Letterfrack, Ireland in June 2024.

KEY MESSAGES OF RESEARCH

Respecting their unique "island character," the Magdalen Islands have overcome many challenges as Quebec's most isolated archipelago. The provincial government support led to faster development projects, better collaboration among stakeholders, more funding, and a broader approach to addressing the islands' weaknesses.

FINDINGS

- ❑ Remoteness, isolation, and an aging population are major challenges for the Magdalen Islands.
- ❑ In 2016, the Government of Quebec announced by a decree that the islands are unique in their character.
- ❑ The decree provided for a framework within which vulnerabilities could be handled, thus making the government initiatives more effective.
- ❑ This further led to the creation of the [Maritime Community of the Magdalen Islands](#) and its apparatus to improve cooperation amongst all stakeholders
- ❑ This fast-tracked territorial projects and boosted development funding.

IMPACTS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

The following are the implications of this approach for other rural and island communities. Rural communities can:

- ❑ Turn weaknesses into strengths by capitalizing on their unique local characteristics.
- ❑ Invest in strategic planning and innovation to promote sustainable economic development.
- ❑ Develop through enhanced cooperation among stakeholders to improve the quality of life.
- ❑ Seek governmental recognition for specific rural challenges to gain targeted support.
- ❑ Adapt investment attraction strategies to attract businesses to the region.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on this research can be found on the [North Atlantic Forum website](#).

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ABOUT THE SUMMARY AUTHOR

Damilola Oyewale is a recent graduate of University of Guelph and can be contacted at doyewale@uoguelph.ca

