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On the Move in Communities:
Emerging Findings from NL

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MNL Convention

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- 7 years (2012-19), $5 mill+, 100+ researchers and partners, 7 sub-projects in NL field component
- Spectrum of mobility for employment
- Focus on 2 hours plus daily or extended absences

- **What? So what? Now what?**

NL Field Research

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Community Impacts Field research:



Additional CI Research in Labrador, Western Region

Document review, targeted surveys, interviews, engagement activities

- 163 transcripts, 80 coded

Host Communities

- Long Harbour
- Placentia/Argentia
- Sunnyside
- Marystown
- Happy Valley-Goose Bay
- Labrador City
- Wabush



Long Harbour, NL (2016)

Source Communities

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- Blaketown
- St. John's
- Paradise
- Conception Harbour
- Conception Bay South
- Long Harbour
- Mount Pearl
- Holyrood
- Keligrews
- Campbelton
- Bay Bulls
- Witless Bay
- Carbonear
- Tors Cove
- Portugal Cove-St. Philips
- Whitbourne
- Dunville
- Labrador City
- Northern Peninsula

Hub Communities

- Deer Lake (Fly-in/Fly-out)
- Whitbourne, Clarenville (Drive-in/Drive-out) ?



Deer Lake, NL (2016)

"Working away is ingrained in NL culture."

"Terrenceville and Keels have a high proportion of oil workers. There is a community and culture of men leaving for work."

Dominant Sub-Themes

- **Infrastructure and Service**
  - Housing
  - Roads, recreation, schools, hospitals, day care
- **Economic**
  - Employment, spending, income
- **Social-Cultural**
  - Family dynamics, sense of place
- **Governance and planning**
  - Community-corporate relations, ec dev, municipal and regional planning and decision-making

Economic Impacts – Host

- Conflicting views on related business development
- Lack of taxation opportunities (cost vs. benefit)
- Lack of required skills locally encourages outside hiring despite advantages of local employment; tensions related to hiring processes



Economic Impacts – Hub





"So we actually bought a cabin in Whitbourne which we took possession in the end of September and so we've been living there during the weeks ..."

Economic Impacts - Source

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"It is one thing that helps sustain rural Newfoundland."

"If it wasn't for offshore or Alberta [the jobs available there], there wouldn't be anything or anybody here."

	IPE as % of total employed workers	Alta IPE as % of employed workers
NL	9.2%	4.8%
Avalon	5.2%	2.6%
Clarenville-Bonavista	12.3%	8.2%
Burin	**21.7%**	**15.2%**
Stephenville-Port aux Basques	**27.7%**	**12.7%**
St. Anthony-Port au Choix	14.5%	9.0%

Source: Community Accounts. Employment and Working Conditions. Newfoundland and Labrador Interprovincial Workers by Region – Counts (2012); Total workers from National Household Survey 2011: Work Location and Commute

Economic Impacts

- Mobile workers contribute monetarily
- Wage pressures/HR availability for local firms
- Vulnerabilities associated with boom and bust ??

*"**When Kiewit is bust, there's nothing else.** So people know, going into Kiewit, okay I've got eight weeks work. I'll put that money in the bank because the next eight weeks there isn't going to be work."*

Economic Impacts – Regional

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Infrastructure and Service Impacts

- Hub Communities (Deer Lake)
  - Airport has 1237 long-term parking spaces - upgrades in 2011 and 2012
  - Almost 500 homes built in Deer Lake since 2000, many attributed to a FIFO workforce

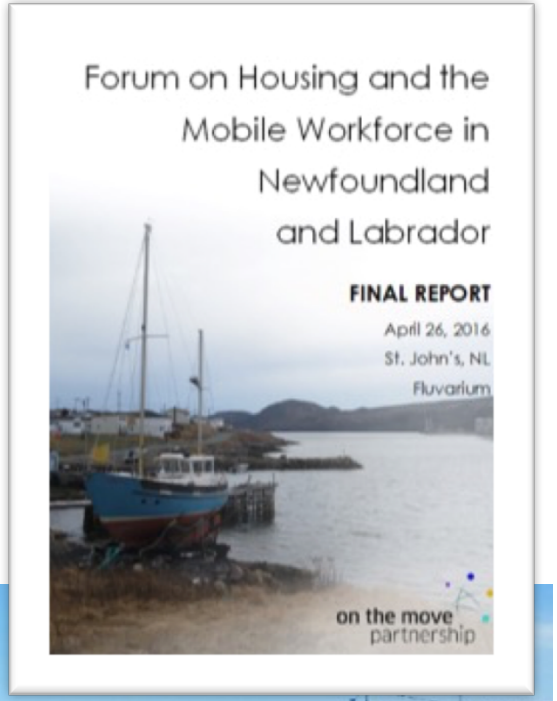
"[Airports of similar size] across Canada, for doing the same level of traffic that we're doing, would have 300, 350 parking spaces."



Infrastructure and Service Impacts

Host Communities

- Housing mobile workers
- Housing costs and affordabilty, e.g. for youth and apprentices
- Road conditions





Forteau, NL (2017)

Source Communities
Traces of Remittances – Burin Peninsula

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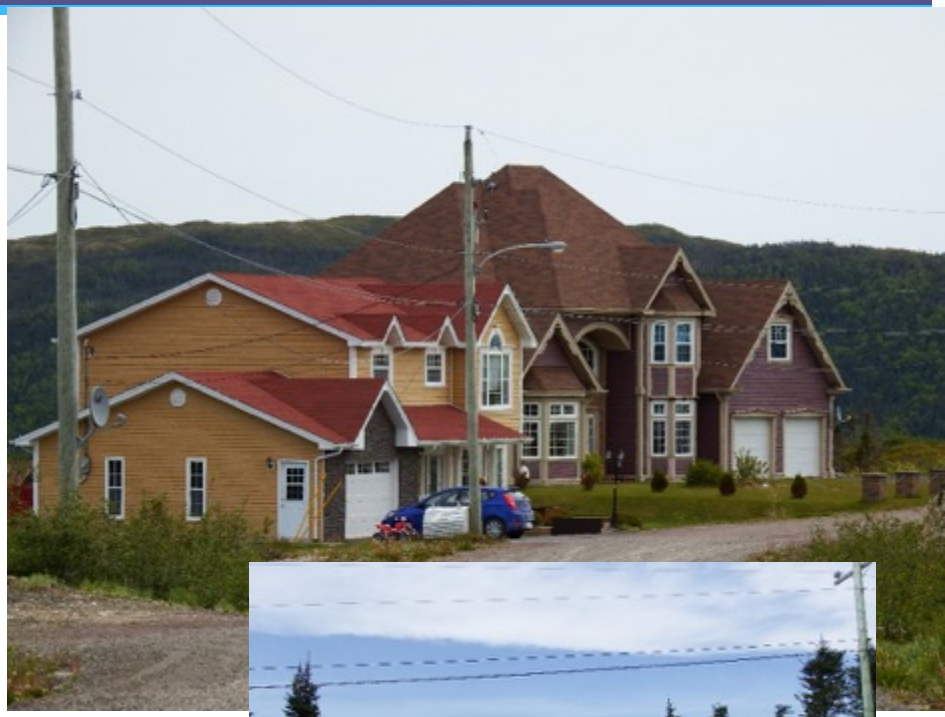



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Infrastructure and Service Impacts

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"it's all about people having this income that they're no longer building bungalows that are three bedrooms. They're building homes that are, you know, that look different than our, you know, aesthetically pleasing kind of thing, right…Two-door—garages that are bigger than houses." (Harbour Grace)

- Housing developments and renovations - can strain local infrastructure, planning capacity

- Services/amenities an important factor in where workers choose to live





Social-cultural Impacts - Source

- Impact on families and vulnerable populations
- Contribution of mobile workers – is financial enough?
- Changing dynamics and/or community character
- Threats to very factors that keep people “home”?



New housing development in Witless Bay (Photo credit: Sebastien Despres)

Governance

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Host Communities

- Local planning efforts to maximize local employment and attract workers through home and amenity development
- Corporate-community relations and hiring policies key
- Attempts to address traffic/safety concerns and to direct investments into legacy infrastructure and key services

STBBi
Small Towns - Big Business Initiative

Governance

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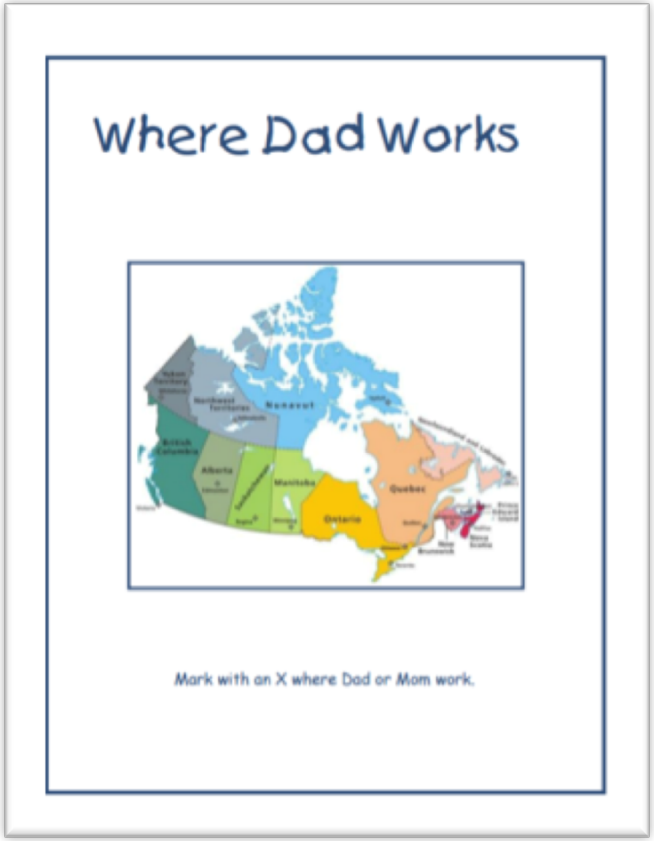
Source Communities – limited

- Increased flexibility in volunteer activities and scheduling of events, use of technology
- Regional agreements, e.g. for emergency response services
- Concerns about poor community planning
- Strategic investments/capturing local incomes?



Treehouse Family Resource Centre, *Home Again, Gone Again (Deer Lake)*

Governance

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"... we have a really week planning system here. Weak or non-existent. And that's something that's got to change because even with the declining communities as well you need to manage decline...they really need to understand how much money you put into a temporary thing, or infrastructure, you bury infrastructure in the ground it's going to be there for 25 years, this project isn't going to last for 25 years or this level of activity isn't going to last for 25 years." (Long Harbour)



Long Harbour, NL (2016)

Policy implications

- Need to increase understanding of mobile workforce and associated opportunities and vulnerabilities
- Supports required for planning, downturns (source), recognition of adjacency and related impacts/needs (host)
- Development in place



- Do you understand workforce mobility in your community?
- Have you considered its implications? How might you respond and adapt to associated challenges – and opportunities?
- Stay tuned for more on research findings!!

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