



Families, Mobility and Work Atlantic Canadian Symposium **May 15-17, 2018** **University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island**

Are you working with families that are separated due to employment in oil and gas, construction, trucking, health care, forestry, the military, fishing, agriculture, education, tourism, or some other type of work?

If so, join us – be a presenter, a delegate, or a sponsor of the Families, Mobility, and Work Atlantic Canadian Symposium.

Call for Expressions of Interest in Partnering, Presenting, and Participating

Families in Canada are diverse and continually adapting to the realities of a changing labour market. These changes include sectoral shifts in employment and the growth in precarious and mobile work that often require complex and extended travel for work. This employment-related geographical mobility includes extended and complex daily commutes to work as well as less frequent commutes with extended absences from home. These commutes can be to a regular place of work, or to multiple, transient, remote and sometimes, as in trucking, mobile worksites. Many Canadians and a growing number of people from outside of Canada work in other regions, provinces and countries often resulting in prolonged daily, weekly, monthly or even longer periods away from loved ones and home communities.

The **Families, Mobility, and Work Atlantic Canadian Symposium** will examine intersections between diverse families, work situations, and employment-related geographical mobility in the Canadian context. Some research has documented the challenges associated with *some* types of work-related mobility (such as long distance commuting or short but lengthy daily commutes) for *some* kinds of families (professionals or migrants performing jobs in unskilled positions). However, little attention has been paid to different types of families engaged in the full spectrum of employment-related geographical mobility in diverse sectors of the Canadian labour market.

The Symposium will facilitate dialogue and sharing between those studying, serving and supporting families who are experiencing work-related mobility with a focus on leading and emerging policy and practices at home, at work, and in the community. It will bring together (face-to-face and virtually) policy and civil society leaders from multiple sectors, researchers studying the intersectionality between families and employment-related geographical mobility in Canada, and families directly impacted by work-related mobility.

Some potential themes for discussion will include:

In the Home:

1. What role does work-related mobility play in family planning, conception/fertility, and parenthood?
2. How is parenting and child care, caregiving and elder care, or care for persons with disabilities, impacted by employment-related geographical mobility? How are these care relationships impacted by extended absence due to mobility for work?
3. How does coming to Atlantic Canada for temporary work impact international labour migrants and their families who reside in their place of origin?

In the Workplace:

1. How are labour and professional organizations and employers accommodating family status in response to extended absences?
2. In what ways do precarious employment or atypical work schedules combine with work-related mobility to impact the familial and individual well-being of mobile workers?

In the community:

1. How does mobility impact the communities that mobile workers live in/leave from and work in/go to? How does this reverberate back to impact their families?
2. How are diverse health care professionals, community service providers, educators, spiritual advisors/faith leaders and others, responding and adapting to best meet the needs of families affected by extended commuting for work?

The Symposium is being organized with support from the SSHRC-funded Tale of Two Islands and [On the Move Partnership](#) projects and in collaboration with the [Vanier Institute of the Family](#), the [University of Prince Edward Island](#) and [Memorial University of Newfoundland](#). We invite participation and partnership with other research programs and groups, including those in government and civil society, interested in enhancing our understanding of how work/employment and families interact with, have an impact on, and are affected by employment-related geographical mobility. We also invite participation from families directly impacted by employment mobility.

Those interested in partnering with, presenting at, and/or participating in the Symposium should contact Dr. Christina Murray, Faculty of Nursing, University of Prince Edward Island cfmurray@upei.ca or Danielle Devereaux at the On the Move Partnership, Memorial University devereau@mun.ca no later than September 15, 2017.



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