On the Move on the Rock is a biannual newsletter that aims to share the progress of ongoing research, training and activities by members of the NL field component of the On the Move Partnership.

Research for the On the Move Partnership is taking place over 7 years all across Canada. This newsletter will highlight the exciting research being conducted here in Newfoundland and Labrador. The NL field component team is comprised of university researchers, students and partners, including government departments, community organizations, industry and labour. Together we hope to better understand employment-related mobility (for example, long distance commuting) in our province, how it is changing and how it impacts individuals, families, businesses and communities.

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In the Field

Kelly Vodden will be undertaking preliminary key informant interviews to examine community impacts and responses.

There will be four people in Arnold’s Cove this summer. George Gmelch, Diane Royal, Heather Mendiola, and Madison Neece will be talking to oil transshipment workers and their families. They will be hitting the field June 1st.

2014

Nicole Power will be interviewing members of organizations that focus on apprentices and youth employment.

Heather Hall will be in Long Harbour continuing her research on Nickel Processing together with Joshua Barrett.

Sharon Roseman will be working on the Bell Island-Portugal Cove Ferry route this summer.
Examining How Communities Experience Employment-related Mobility

by Matt Grills

Matt has been involved in a number of research projects in Manitoba looking at the impact of immigration on communities. Matt’s Master’s thesis examined strategies of municipal governance in the face of unprecedented growth as well as the planning processes these communities undertook in order to facilitate or limit growth.

Now, living in beautiful St. John’s, Newfoundland Matt will be continuing his research project will examine the different strategies used at a community level to deal with the impacts of work-related commuting. He will examine, for example, potential pressures placed upon local infrastructure and community social networks. An understanding of these impacts on both individuals and organizations in communities will help governments and communities create better policy.

Newfoundland Bound

by Diane Royal

Diane Royal, who has been working alongside George Gmelch, will begin a new project of her own with the ferries sub-component within the On the Move partnership beginning in September.

George Gmelch and Diane Royal spent June 2013 in Newfoundland and are returning again June 1, 2014 to continue research in the oil and gas industry transshipment sector. For the first few weeks, they will work in St. John’s, and will later shift their work to other communities. Two research students who received summer fellowships from Union College in upstate New York and Augustana College in Illinois will be assisting in this research. Diane is looking forward to returning to Newfoundland.

Visit us on our website at www.onthemovepartnership.ca!
An informal meeting in front of the Kindergarten of Bergsfjord. Photographs were taken by Terje Haugen.

By Edwina McCarthy

Since 1998, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has been committed to the ongoing development of a provincial Community Youth Network (CYN) to assist at-risk youth. There are 34 Community Youth Networks in the province.

CYNs are involved in many important initiatives in their communities. We are proud to say that the CYN in Port aux Basques was an instrumental partner with the Community University Research for Recovery Alliance in a research project exploring youth and employment in Newfoundland and Labrador, focusing particularly on youth living and working in fisheries communities.

CYNs engage youth who are marginalized and traditionally hard to reach; involve youth in addressing issues that affect them and their communities; provide appropriate supportive services; work collaboratively with community partnerships; increase employment/work/volunteer opportunities; and enhance learning opportunities for youth that require assistance with educational outcomes and/or transition to post-secondary education.

The partnership with On The Move is very relevant to Community Youth Network. Many young Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are employed outside their regions and youth outmigration has received a lot of attention in the media and public domains in the past 10 years. As a partner with CYN, researchers have access to the knowledge and insights of youth and people working directly with youth in the province.

Here, Siri Gerrard and Hans Roald just arrived by ferry in Bergsfjord on a snowy day in March.
An Interview with Paul Foley

Amyanne—Paul Foley is the head of the fisheries sub-component of the On the Move project and he has agreed to talk with me about the research he is working on. Thank you so much for taking the time to talk to me today.

Paul—No Problem.

Amyanne—So, for those of us who don’t know a whole lot about the project, could you tell me a little bit about your role in On the Move?

Paul—My main role as co-investigator is to lead the fisheries sub-component research, a small project within the Newfoundland Component. I’m currently working with Nicole Power and Barbara Neis to finalize plans for fieldwork and key informant interviews.

Amyanne—I know that you come from a political science background. How has that informed your research?

Paul—I think my political science background has influenced my interest in understanding how power and political institutions, including policy, regulation, and governance, constrain, enable, and interact with certain kinds of livelihoods and employment relations. Much of my graduate work was in the field of political economy, which pays attention to how industrial production and markets are shaped by power from local to global scales.

Amyanne—that is a wide range of interests that sound like they could really contribute to the On the Move project. How do you think your research relates to mobilities studies?

Paul—My entrance into mobility studies is recent and basically started when I joined the On the Move project. So I’m learning a lot from the project and from thinking about fisheries and other sectors from a mobility point of view. So, part of my interest is to understand what our research on fisheries work, which has always been associated with some employment-related geographic mobility, can contribute to mobilities studies and to understand what mobilities studies can contribute to fisheries studies.

Amyanne—As you have studied, you have also been mobile yourself. What drew you to Newfoundland?

Paul—I was drawn back by an employment opportunity at Grenfell Campus, Memorial University, where I’ve worked as an Assistant Professor since 2012. I say drawn “back” because I grew up in Tilting, Fogo Island, off Newfoundland’s northeast coast. I heard about the position at Grenfell Campus when I was about half way through a 1-year Postdoctoral Fellowship at Memorial, but at the time I was still residing in Ontario, where I completed my PhD.

Amyanne—Thank you so much for taking the time to talk to us Paul!

What We’ve Been Doing

• Lindsay Bell gave a presentation titled “For the first time in decades, there will be good jobs at home: Making Offshore Oil Work in Newfoundland and Labrador” at The Society for Cultural Anthropology bi-annual Meeting.

• A PechaKucha slideshow presentation coauthored by Sharon Roseman, Nicole Power, Michael Haan, Kathy Fitzpatrick, and Christine Knott was presented as part of the Harris Centre’s event “MUNButtoned: A Three Night Festival of Research”. The presentation was entitled “Work Mobilities: Studying Practices, Policies and Implications”. This event was held at the Rocket Room in downtown St. John’s and was presented by Sharon Roseman and Kathy Fitzpatrick.

• On the Move, Cinema Politica St. John’s, and the Department of Sociology at Memorial held a film screening of The End of Immigration, followed by a panelist discussion including Mary Shortall, President, Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour; Cathy Bennett, CEO, Bennett Group of Companies; and James Baker, PhD Candidate, Dept. of Sociology. The event was organized by Kathy Fitzpatrick and Barb Neis.