

Newsletter of *On the Move's*
Newfoundland and Labrador Field Team



On the
Move on
the Rock

December 2014

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 highlights 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 geographical 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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What's On the Go?

December 4th, 2014

Community Meetings

Clareville
11am-1pm
CNA Building
Room 107

Long Harbour-
Mount Arlington
Heights
4-6pm
Long Harbour
Community Centre

rsvp to attend: cheriew@mun.ca

January 30th, 2015

Newfoundland
Field Component
Team Meeting

11am-4pm
JR Common
Room,
MUN

May 30th-June 5th, 2015
Congress 2015

Humanities
and Social
Sciences

Ottawa,
ON

Our Researchers

Joshua Barrett

Born and raised in Newfoundland and Labrador, Josh has a strong interest in rural development. He recently graduated from Memorial University's Bachelor of Arts program, where he focused his studies on community development and public policy. Josh is also a part of Memorial University's Rural Resilience regional development research team, where he has been engaged in a number of community development projects for the past several years.

Josh began his Masters program at Memorial University in the Department of Geography in September 2014. His research will examine how E-RGM affects rural communities, focusing on the nickel processing plant in Long Harbour. Josh will also explore why nickel processors are willing to commute rather than relocate. The nickel processing plant provides long-term employment opportunities for workers, whereas people often commute long distances because they hold temporary, short-term and/or seasonal positions.



Josh will begin conducting key informant interviews for his research this winter, and will distribute questionnaires to processing workers in the Long Harbour region in the spring of 2015.

Sandrine Jean

Sandrine Jean is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Anthropology at Memorial University. She joined the On the Move Partnership and will be working in the coming year on a project entitled "Between Mobility and Attachment: Families' Residential Trajectories in St. John's Metropolitan Area". Sandrine plans on starting in-depths interviews with working families in and around St. John's this December until the end of Summer 2015. Through this research, she hopes to be able to shed light on families' residential strategies and their experience of balancing home and work lives. She is also concerned with practices of mobility to- and from-work and its impacts on families' lives and on attachment to place.



Sandrine's work enhance our understanding of the ways in which mobility is experienced by working families in St. John's and surrounding communities in the contemporary period. Her research is one of the first to look at mobility and housing in and around St. John's and to provide recent information on overlooked urban and suburban settings and their development.

Partner Article: Women in Resource Development Corporation



Women in Resource Development Corporation (WRDC) is a provincial non-profit organization committed to increasing women's participation in trades and technology careers in NL. Through our holistic lifecycle approach, we provide career exploration opportunities for girls, offer career counselling services for women, and work with employers to identify and implement best practices to attract, select, and retain women in careers where women are underrepresented.

Image copyright © Women in Resource Development (WRDC), all rights reserved.

WRDC is committed to working with industry stakeholders to create effective diverse workplaces, addressing labour shortages and diversity challenges. To address recruitment and retention challenges, WRDC partners with companies to develop effective diversity practices through the assessment of their individual needs and development of customized tools. Our experienced team can conduct an assessment of workplace diversity policies and procedures, and provide recommendations for the development of Diversity and Women's Employment Plans. Large-scale natural resource development projects often involve unconventional work schedules, Fly-in Fly-out arrangements, and long work commutes, which may act as barriers to women's participation. The On the Move Partnership is an opportunity for the WRDC to participate in research that aims to better understand how mobility policies impact employment opportunities for women in trades and technology.



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Fieldwork Partners: From Norway to Newfoundland

SIRI GERRARD, SHARON ROSEMAN, AND DIANE ROYAL

Siri Gerrard is spending part of the semester at Memorial University, working with Sharon Roseman and Diane Royal of the Newfoundland Field Component. Siri is an *On the Move* co-investigator and the leader of a corresponding Norwegian project: *Mobile Lifestyles- Perspectives on Work Mobilities and Gender in the High North*, focusing on seven municipalities in Finnmark County.

The project is a part of Kvinnforsk (Centre for Women and Gender Research) at UiT the Arctic University of Norway (Tromsø) and involves seven researchers and three administrative staff members:

http://uit.no/prosjekter/prosjekt?p_document_id=356461



The ferry and express boat docks by the recently closed fish plant. Bergsfjord, municipality of Loppa, Finnmark County, Norway (October, 2014) Credit: Sharon Roseman

The team members study commuting and the in- and outmigration of workers from a range of sectors including the fishery; mining; offshore oil and gas; construction; hospitality and tourism; and health care providers at the counties' two hospitals.

Siri Gerrard,
Mobile Lifestyles fieldwork
Bergsfjord, Finnmark, Norway
(October, 2014) Credit: Sharon Roseman



The Loppa sub-project examines the situation for communities that are not linked to road systems. Sharon participated in some fieldwork, talking to a planner as well as local women and men about the system of publically-subsidized transportation in Finnmark. This is a multi-modal system, involving ferries, express boats, buses, and taxis run by commercial operators. However, the overall system is planned and financed on the county level.

A focus is placed on the various mobility and immobility practices and experiences of women and men, children and youth who are dependent on boats and ferries. In addition to general residents, these include 1) the crews on the vessels, shop- and shipyard owners, and home-care workers and 2) medical personnel and other civil servants located in the municipal centre who regularly travel to the smaller communities.

Siri has a long experience in mobility/immobility-studies, especially examining the fishery and fishery communities through a gender perspective. Over the years, both women's and men's mobility practices have increased in scope and extent. Now established fisher families as well as young people out-migrate to centralized areas where women may secure work for which they are educated. In such cases, there are examples of fishers commuting back to the community and where their vessel is anchored. In families that stay put, women and schoolchildren may commute to work and schools over mountain passes to the municipal centres, also during tough winter months.

Sharon and trainee Diane Royal are doing fieldwork on the Bell Island-Portugal Cove ferry route and Siri has been able to accompany them as a co-investigator on some of their initial fieldwork while she is in Newfoundland.



Diane Royal and Sharon Roseman waiting to get on the ferry to Bell Island (November, 2014) Credit: Siri Gerrard

Nickel Processing

HEATHER HALL

Over the last year, Dr. Heather Hall has been researching E-RGM in the nickel-processing sector in Long Harbour NL and Sudbury ON as part of the Faculty of Arts postdoctoral fellowship and Phase I of the nickel-processing component for the On The Move partnership. Key findings from this report explore the nature and extent of E-RGM in the nickel-processing sector in Sudbury and Long Harbour, the factors that can influence labour mobility, and the impacts of E-RGM on communities. A number of factors were identified by key informants that can influence labour mobility including personal preferences and access to amenities, the location of the community in relation to other communities, the nature of the occupation, industrial history, the size of the community, scale of the project and labour supply, corporate policies and government policies. Key informants viewed E-RGM as a necessity in Long Harbour for both the construction and operations phases due to the small supply of local labour compared to the scale of the facility. Plus, Long Harbour's close proximity to St. John's was seen as a strong incentive for people to commute daily. On the other hand, Sudbury's larger population size and long history with the mining industry were cited as factors influencing people to live and work in the city.

This report also highlights how the impacts on communities are diverse and complex for both source and host communities. For example, labour mobility can bring increased demand for rental housing and while some benefit economically by renting rooms and properties, others lose as the supply of affordable housing declines.

Labour mobility can also bring new opportunities for local economic development and business development, however community development can suffer if people are too busy or tired to participate in civic life due to their mobile lives and schedules. Increased mobility can also place new demands on local infrastructure and services that are not met through the current municipal taxation system. Mobile workers can further impact corporate operations and productivity if transportation is prevented by inclement weather. Another interesting finding is the potential impact mobile workers can have on corporate-host community relations whereby local residents might feel little ownership towards a company and its operations due to a lack of local employment.

Finally, this research argues that municipalities in NL are largely unequipped to deal with the dynamic and multifaceted impacts of E-RGM and megaproject development. Despite this, many are trying. For example, there are efforts underway by the Town of Long Harbour and the Long Harbour Development Corporation to encourage local business and residential development, prepare the local workforce, and strengthen corporate-community relations. However, more is needed to counteract the impacts host communities are facing including stronger provincial-municipal government relations to prevent development agreements and other discussions from happening at the "30,000 foot-level" but not at the local community level.

The report, *Regional Development, Nickel Processing, and Labour Mobility: A Comparison of Sudbury ON and Long Harbour NL*, is available at: www.onthemovepartnership.ca

Picture Profile



Processing Facility in the fog,
Long Harbour, Newfoundland and Labrador
(July 2014) Credit: Heather Hall

A windy day in Bergsfjord,
municipality of Loppa,
Finnmark County, Norway
(October, 2014)
Credit: Sharon Roseman



McBride B.C. Heritage
Railway Station
(September 2014)
Credit: Heather Hall

What We've Been Doing...

- Stephanie Sodero (Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology) has received a SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement and the Scotiabank Bursary for International Study from MUN. This funding will support her research from January to April 2015 at the Superstorm Research Lab at New York University on hurricanes, resilience and transport systems.
- Sharon Roseman delivered a keynote address titled "'Home Girls' and 'Home Boys': Indentured Child Labour, Multiple Mobilities, and Gender in Canadian History" for Gender, Mobile Lifestyles and Places: An International Workshop, Kvinnforsk (Centre for Women's and Gender Research), UiT, The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, October 14-16, 2014.
- Barb Neis organised a session titled "'Work, Health, Policy and Employment-Related Geographical Mobility in Canada'" at the Canadian Association for Research on Work and Health Conference, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, October 19-22, 2014. The NL papers included "Geographical Mobility and Health and Safety among Skilled Trades Apprentices in NL." (Nicole Power and Barb Neis) and "Employment-Related Geographical Mobility and Occupational Health and Safety: Policies and Experiences of Newfoundland Home Care Workers" (Kathy Fitzpatrick).
- Heather Hall and Kelly Vodden organized a session titled "ERGM and implications for rural economic resilience" at the New Realities, New Relationship Annual CRRF Conference, Prince George, B.C.: September 25th, 2014. Heather delivered a paper titled "Community Impacts & Responses to Labour Mobility in the Nickel Processing Sector: Insights from Newfoundland and Northern Ontario" and Kelly gave a talk titled "The On the Move Partnership: Studying Employment-Related Geographical Mobility in the Canadian Context."
- Sandrine recently presented preliminary results at the ACSALF Annual Conference (Association Canadienne des Sociologues et Anthropologues de Langue Française) held in Ottawa in October 2014 under the theme of Mobilité(s). Her presentation, « Entre Mobilité et Ancrage, de Montréal (Québec) à St. John's (Terre-Neuve et Labrador) » [Between Mobility and Mooring, from Montréal (Québec) to St. John's (Newfoundland and Labrador)] was well-received and confirmed a strong research interest in underexplored urban and mobility dynamics in NL.
- Members of the NL team took part in a Digital Storytelling June 23-27, 2014. The workshop was delivered by Sharon Roseman and Derek Norman (partner, Digital Research Centre for Qualitative Fieldwork, Faculty of Arts, MUN).
- Paul Foley and colleagues received ethics approval for their research on fisheries and began key informant interviews this fall.

Questions about the On the Move Project?

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