

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



## On the Move On the Rock

June 2016

*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 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 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?

#### **Congratulations to Stephanie Soder!**

Stephanie successfully defended her PhD thesis titled *Navigating disruption: Mobile society and Hurricanes Juan and Igor*.

She accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Lancaster University Centre for Mobilities Research, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Good luck with your future mobilities work!

#### **Petrocultures 2016: The Offshore**

Public Keynote address from Dr. Barbara Neis  
August 31, 2016, 7:00pm-10:00pm  
Memorial University of Newfoundland

For more information, visit [petrocultures2016.ca](http://petrocultures2016.ca)

Stay up to date with all of *On the Move's* ongoing activities through our calendar of events! Visit [onthemovepartnership.ca](http://onthemovepartnership.ca) for details.

# Provincial Apprenticeship and Certification Board

The Provincial Apprenticeship and Certification Board (PACB) was established in 1953 to assist the provincial Government in the development of policy under the provisions of the Apprenticeship Act. The mandate of the PACB is to set policies to ensure that the Apprenticeship and Certification Training Act is implemented, accredit institutions to deliver apprenticeship programs; designate occupations for apprenticeship training and/or certification; establish Provincial Advisory Committees for each designated occupation; establish examination committees to conduct practical examinations for apprentices and trade qualifiers; approve Plans of Training; and provide advice to government on labour market matters related to training and certification.

Over the subsequent 60+ years, the Provincial Apprenticeship and Certification Board has worked closely with industry, training institutions and Government to develop and promote the apprenticeship system in Newfoundland and Labrador. Key accomplishments include the development and approval of 37 Plans of Apprenticeship Training for the designated trades; certification of approximately 24,000 journeypersons; and accreditation of 63 apprenticeship training programs in private and public post-secondary training institutions.

Most recently the PACB has been involved in three important initiatives. *First, Atlantic Apprenticeship Harmonization Project* is an initiative between the four Atlantic Provinces to harmonize 10 trades, align 21 policies and processes, and to develop a common information management system. *Second, the Apprenticeship Program Accreditation Project* provides an auditing mechanism to ensure that all apprenticeship programs are meeting the accreditation requirements as set by the Board. Third, the Board is involved in *Atlantic and National mobility initiatives* whereby apprentices from Newfoundland and Labrador can work in another province while maintaining residency in this province. The mobility agreement also ensures apprentices maintain their apprenticeship level while moving from one province to another.

A key mandate of the PACB is to create policies and programs that ensure that Newfoundlanders & Labradorians have the opportunity to become successful and seize opportunities locally, across the country and around the world. In order to do this, we need the best possible information. This is why we support the *On The Move* project! It is a quality source of reliable, well-researched data that can help us as we move forward. We are pleased to have board member James Loder sit as our advisor and liaison.

### Board Members

David Harris, *Chair*  
Sandra Bishop, *Director of Apprenticeship and Trades Certification Division*  
James Loder  
Mike Lee  
Craig Randell  
Angela Rowsell  
Eli Dean  
Gerard Shea  
Mike Goosney  
Annie Randell  
Karen Rowe  
Gordon Dunphy  
Karen Walsh  
William James O'Neill  
Travis White  
Martin Harty

### Contact Information

#### Provincial Apprenticeship and Certification Board

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# Putting a Family Lens on Mobility Research



**Julie Gosselin**

In Fall 2015, I was happy to join the On The Move Partners hip as the Family Lead. I had just moved to

Memorial

University of Newfoundland after spending the last seven years at the University of Ottawa where I had built a psychology research lab focused on studying psychosocial adjustment in marginalized family settings. Relocating to Newfoundland provided an opportunity to develop research projects on a group of families I hadn't studied before: 'living apart together' (LAT) families.

Over the past six months, I have developed a particular interest in the lives of the women who are often left behind while the men work away from home, as well as issues related to fertility in LAT families. In collaboration

with Sandrine Jean (Department of Anthropology, MUN), we are starting a new mixed-methods project this year on the maternal experiences of women living in Newfoundland, with a particular interest in those in a relationship with a mobile worker.

In addition, I am looking forward to hosting an OTM virtual workshop on the topic of families in September 2016, which should bring together OTM researchers whose projects have yielded interesting and novel findings related to family adjustment to mobility challenges. This is the next step for the Family workgroup I am leading within OTM. The workgroup was formed recently and met on two occasions during the Winter 2016 semester. It currently comprises a number of researchers and community partners that have an interest in the various impacts mobility can have on families in Newfoundland. The Fall workshop will represent an important opportunity for sharing our work on families with other researchers affiliated with OTM, and helping with the development of a Connections grant proposal for the organization of a conference next year, tentatively titled: 'Families on the Move!'

I look forward to continuing to meet with fellow researchers, community partners and students interested in these issues, with a focus on supporting the dissemination of family-relevant findings within OTM and to various audiences locally and on the national stage.

## NL OTM Project Update

### Update from Apprenticeship, Youth, and Mobility Project

The Apprenticeship, Youth and Mobility Project aims to understand how youth, especially skilled trades apprentices, move around for work, how these mobility practices are organized, and the consequences on young people's experiences of work and their prospects for future work. To date we've talked to over 42 pre-apprentices, apprentices, and skilled trades workers; as well as representatives from organisations that are involved with training delivery, certification process or recruitment and employment support. We are continuing our data collection this summer by conducting focus groups with youth at post-secondary institutions about their ERGM experiences, as well as interviewing employers about their perspectives on employment-related geographical mobility of skilled trades workers and apprentices. Our partner, Edwina McCarthy (Community Youth Network) and Nicole Power are working together to develop a project that taps into the rich experiences of CYN's front line workers and their views on the impacts of ERGM on youth in their communities. We will use what we learn from the CYN front line workers to plan the next stage of research with youth.

On April 26, 2016, the On the Move Partnership along with its partners, the Canadian Home Builders' Association – Newfoundland and Labrador (CHBA-NL), Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), Municipalities NL (MNL), and the Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development held a housing forum with funding support from the Office of Public Engagement Accelerator Fund. This housing forum, which attracted approximately 45 participants, addressed several issues the province is facing related to both housing and E-RGM and their interrelationship. These issues include housing market trends, including construction, real estate, rentals and renovations; affordable housing and housing affordability for mobile workers; finance, debt, and property taxation; and implications for planning and policy. A great deal of discussion related to housing-related pressures for communities in the context of high job-related mobility as well as the impacts of the economic downturn on housing and labour markets. The forum featured presentations from a variety of different perspectives on housing, including: CMHC, CHBA-NL, ReMax, the City of St. John's Department of Community Services, in addition to mayors and planning staff the communities of Deer Lake, Labrador City, Witless Bay, and Parker's Cove. These participants provided updates regarding E-RGM, the current housing market situation and their intersections in their specific

areas along with related challenges such as the rise in housing cost in their communities, and issues and concerns expected in the future. A number of topics were raised by attendees regarding issues such as the importance of the housing industry to the province's economy, housing affordability/costs and the problems of homelessness that we are facing, different challenges facing homeowners and renters, and the importance of infrastructure and how these factors can affect people's well-being and decisions about where to live and where to work. The housing forum also highlighted the significant differences and challenges that exist from community to community with regards to mobile workers. Moving forward, there is a need for regional and multi-sectoral cooperation in housing decisions, particularly in the development of a larger-scale provincial housing policy. Housing needs differ depending on context, which should be taken into consideration when putting policies and plans in place while also considering provincial needs (e.g. the suggested need for a provincial planning policy). E-RGM is a complex issue and more research is needed to better understand how E-RGM and housing trends intersect as well as the different policies, strategies and planning options available when addressing the housing issues in Newfoundland and Labrador. For more information about the forum or to view the presentations delivered, visit <http://www.onthemovepartnership.ca/research/forum-on-housing-and-mobile-workforce-in-nl/>.

## Fisheries Component

The Fisheries Component team is preparing for summer fieldwork. Team members Paul Foley, Nicole Power, Barbara Neis and Christine Knott are collaborating with the Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters (CCPFH) to carry out a federally funded project examining the existing patterns and future feasibility of "occupational pluralism" as a strategy to sustain the labour force in communities where seasonal fisheries employment is prevalent. Occupational pluralism refers to a situation where a person works in multiple jobs to make a living. As part of the CCPFH's national project that includes broader literature review and statistical analysis at the national level, the Fisheries Component team is

working with the Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board (PFHCB) of NL to carry out the regional case study sub-projects. The case studies include Focus Groups and Key Informant Interviews in Southwest Nova Scotia, Southeast New Brunswick, and the Bonavista Peninsula in NL. The overall objective is to document the challenges and conditions for success for occupational pluralism for harvesters within fisheries dependent communities, in other marine sectors, and in non-marine, out-of-community employment. The team expects to gather substantial E-RGM relevant data from this research. Team members will be in the field in July and August.



# Picture Profile



Industry panelists at the Housing Forum. From left to right: Victoria Belbin, Jim Burton, Chris Janes. Photo Credit: Sandrine Jean.



Dr. Robert Greenwood Facilitating Discussion at the Housing Forum. Photo Credit: Sandrine Jean.



Municipal leader panelists at the Housing Forum. From left to right: Karen Oldford, Mayor of Labrador City; Damon Clark, Town Planner, Deer Lake; Sébastien Deprés, Mayor of Witless Bay; Harold Murphy, Mayor of Parker's Cove.

## What We've Been Doing...

- Heather Hall and Kelly Vodden are editing a special section in Extractive Industries & Society called "**Long-distance Commuting in the Mining, Oil and Gas Sectors: Implications for Rural Regions**" which will be released in the summer of 2016.

Questions about the On the Move Project?  
Please feel free to contact:

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Newsletter Editor: Joshua Barrett

The On the Move Partnership Regional Advisory Committee is made up of community-minded individuals with a keen interest in the research and information resulting from the project. The Committee volunteers include a cross-section of dedicated professionals working in the public sector, post-secondary institutions, and industry and labour organizations. The objective of the Regional Advisory Committee is to connect the communities in Newfoundland and Labrador with the On the Move Partnership. Through the work of the Committee, On the Move hopes to connect into existing discourse surrounding work, mobility, and their impact on everyday life. The initial meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee will be held in Summer 2016. On the Move would like to thank the Harris Centre for their efforts in organizing a key conduit for connecting our researchers with the communities they've studied and informed to date as well as the advisory committee members.

- Trainees Joshua Barrett and Leanna Butters organized back-to-back special sessions titled "Employment-Related Geographical Mobility: Implications for Workers, Families, and Communities" at the 2016 Canadian Association of Geographers held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Six presentations were delivered on employment-related mobility research, and over 60 people were in attendance.
- George Gmelch is in Newfoundland for three weeks June 2016 to conduct follow-up research from previous field seasons in the transshipment sector.
- Lachlan Barber is also in Newfoundland for two weeks in June 2016 to conduct follow-up research from previous field seasons with construction workers.