

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

on the move partnership



On the Move on the Rock

December 2016

ISSUE 7

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 *On the Move Partnership*.

Research for the *On the Move Partnership* is taking place over seven years all across Canada. This newsletter highlights the exciting research being conducted here in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL).

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 (E-RGM) 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 co-investigator Heather Hall on her new position as Assistant Professor at the School of Environment, Enterprise and Development, University of Waterloo.

Save the Date!
The annual NL Team meeting will be held January 27, 2017

Co-investigator **Stephanie Premji**, Paul Kennedy and the CBC Ideas team have produced a new radio documentary featuring *On the Move Partnership* research. Ideas with Paul Kennedy is broadcast on CBC Radio One weekdays at 9:00pm (9:30 NL time). Tune in on January 6, 2017!

Our Researchers

Introducing Elise Thorburn



Elise Thorburn is a Postdoctoral Researcher with *On the Move* and in collaboration with the Vanier Institute of the Family, based at Memorial University. Her postdoctoral project – “Work Scheduling, Algorithmic Shifts, and Work-Family Balance Amongst Mobile Workers in Canada” – examines the com-

plex mobility patterns of low-waged workers in health care and retail sectors. In particular she is looking at how mobility is impacted by advanced automated shift scheduling technologies, and how such algorithmically-designed schedules and worker’s mobility patterns then go on to affect family rhythms at home and beyond. She wants to discover what role contemporary changes in the working landscape, especially including unpredictability and mobility, play in the rise in 24-hour daycare centres opening across parts of Ontario.

To this end she is completing a survey to be circulated to union representatives and shop stewards across the country, and is participating in a survey recruiting Human Resources professionals. She has also developed a large body of material and is constructing a literature review looking at the gaps in the literature at the intersection of mobility, unpredictable shifts, and family demands, particularly in the realm of child- and elder-care.

Elise is also the Principle Investigator on a SSHRC-funded project called “Between the Office and the Prison Yard” which examines the increasing use of mobile monitoring technologies across a variety of institutional settings, including as an alternative to immigration detention, but also in various workplaces from extractive industries to shipping and warehousing to corporate offices.

Catching up with Joshua Barrett

Joshua Barrett, who was introduced in the December 2014 edition of ‘On the Move on the Rock’, is now in the final stages of his Master of Arts thesis. We asked him to update us on his research looking at E-RGM in the nickel processing sector.

My Masters research explored the social and economic impacts of E-RGM on source communities, with a focus on Vale’s nickel processing plant in Long Harbour and how workers spend their time and money in their source communities. 53% of my questionnaire respondents work a 12 hour rotational shift, which includes day, night and weekend shifts, which, in combination with a commute over 50km one way, results in a 14-15 hour work day. This affects a worker’s ability to remain engaged with their community, as they have less time at home and are tired from the long day. However, many respondents that reside within 50 km have more time to spend in community activities since they started working at Vale – at times higher than the provincial and national averages. Further, while respondents prefer to purchase many goods and services locally to reduce travel time, in many cases they must travel to a nearby urban centre to avail of appropriate goods and services. As such, the impact on spending on rural source communities may be limited. More research is needed to understand how communities and local businesses are specifically impacted by E-RGM. With my Masters thesis near completion, phase 3 of the nickel processing component will begin in late 2016/early 2017 to address these outstanding research questions.



Team Updates

Bell Island

By Sharon Roseman and Diane Royal

Trainee Diane Royal is completing her Master's thesis examining data from 2014 and 2015 on the experiences of several generations of Bell Islanders who have commuted to work on the ferry. Diane and her faculty supervisor Sharon Roseman also continue to do research on the broader project about ferry transportation and work, including how key changes since last fall may be affecting ferry users travelling from and to Bell Island. Like other residents of Newfoundland and Labrador, ferry commuters' household budgets have been impacted by various rate and tax changes stemming from the spring provincial budget. However, they have also had to contend with significant increases to ferry rates. For the Bell Island service, there is considerable anticipation about what will



happen after the much-delayed arrival of the new ferry MV Legionnaire (shown here). The vessel is currently docked in the St. John's harbour and will not be able to begin operating out of Portugal Cove and Bell Island until the completion of major wharf modifications.

Sharing our Findings

On the Move researchers in NL have had a busy year. Whether publishing articles or participating in conferences, OTM findings are being disseminated within NL, across the country, and abroad.

In 2016 alone, over 20 presentations, posters, and panel sessions were given by or contributed to by members of the NL team. In addition, 6 peer-reviewed articles and one book chapter have been accepted and/or are currently under review.

Some of this year's outputs, in addition to the presentations noted on page 5, include: A special issue of *The Canadian Journal of Sociology* co-edited by Stephanie Sodero and contributed to by Christine Knott; publications by Kelly Vodden, Heather Hall, and Lachlan Barber in the July 2016 special edition of *The Extractive Industries and Society*; and presentations given by Barbara Neis, Sharon Roseman, Diane Royal, Joshua

Barrett, Doug Lionais, Lachlan Barber, and Leanna Butters at conferences held in Montreal QC, Mexico City (Mexico), San Francisco (USA), St. John's NL, Guelph ON, Calgary AB, and Tromsø (Norway). A Regional Advisory Board to the NL component was formed in 2016 and will provide advice to the team on future knowledge mobilization activities.



For more information on these and more, visit www.onthemovepartnership.ca!

Partner Article

Working with Project Partners to Explore Local Economic Dependancies on E-RGM

Travelling for work is not new for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians; whether traveling out at sea for weeks at a time or logging in the woods. In recent years, industrial development projects within communities such as Long Harbour, Marystown and Muskrat Falls have relied on mobile workforces to sustain their operations, as have projects outside the province in Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, the North and elsewhere where provincial residents travel for employment.

While travelling for work isn't new, little research has been done on the implications of E-RGM for local economies within source communities. Community Impacts Co-investigator Doug Lionais pointed out at the 2016 team meeting that Cape Breton and NL are the areas in Atlantic Canada most economically dependent on interprovincial employment (IPE), particularly to Alberta. In 2011, IPE in Alberta generated 6.7% of aggregate wages and salaries in Cape Breton and 4.8% in NL (Lionais 2016, citing Statistics Canada T4 and T1 data).

Seeking to better understand economic impacts at the community level, OTM researchers reached out to the **Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency (NLSA)**, a project partner, and to the Atlantic Canadian Opportunities Agency (ACOA) to examine existing data on Inter-Provincial Employment (IPE). Available statistics

at the regional level reveal that the Stephenville-Port aux Basques and the Burin Peninsula Rural Secretariat regions have the highest rates of IPE in the province (see tables 1 and 2). However, no information of this kind on the community level is currently available in Canada. This limits the ability of researchers and governments to identify how IPE affects economic characteristics of local communities.

To examine the economic impacts of IPE for individual communities Kelly Vodden, along with co-investigators Doug Lionais, Heather Hall, and Doug May, have been awarded an Applied Research Fund (ARF) grant from the Leslie Harris for Regional Policy and Development. The ARF grant will support a pilot study to be undertaken in two IPE dependent communities within Atlantic Canada: Parker's Cove, NL, and New Waterford, NS. The research, which will include household surveys, key informant interviews and community focus groups, is scheduled to begin in January 2017. Be sure to monitor future issues of *On the Move on the Rock* for project findings and updates!

References:

Lionais, D. (2016). *Mobile Workforce: Atlantic Canada and the Alberta Oil Sands*. Presentation at the On the Move Partnership NL Field Component Team Meeting, 29 January 2016 in St. John's NL.

Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency Community Accounts (2016). Stephenville—Port aux Basques Rural Secretariat Region: Newfoundland and Labrador Interprovincial Workers by Region 2007-2012, Statistics Canada, Canadian Employer-Employee Database (CEED), 2002-2012.

Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency Community Accounts (2016). Burin Peninsula Rural Secretariat Region: Newfoundland and Labrador Interprovincial Workers by Region 2007-2012, Statistics Canada, Canadian Employer-Employee Database (CEED), 2002-2012.

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total workers reporting income outside NL	3,075	3,125	2,685	2,530	2,530	2,565
% of the total labour force working inter provincially	19.44%	19.36%	16.66%	15.59%	15.50%	15.98%

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total workers reporting income outside NL	1,870	2,175	1,830	1,715	1,730	1,640
% of the total labour force working inter provincially	15.77%	17.60%	15.02%	14.19%	14.36%	13.74%

Table 1. Percentage of the total labour force working inter-provincially. IPE of the Stephenville – Port aux Basques Rural Secretariat Region, 2007-2012 (NLSA, 2016).

Table 2. Percentage of the total labour force working inter-provincially. IPE of the Burin Peninsula Rural Secretariat Region, 2007-2012 (NLSA, 2016).

Picture Profile



Parker's Cove NL (left) and New Waterford NS (below), two new case study communities for the Community Impacts team. (Photos by Kelly Vodden, 2016).



What We've Been Doing...

- With their partner **Mark Dolomount** (Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board), researchers of the fisheries component of OTM NL **Barbara Neis, Nicole Power, Paul Foley, Christine Knott, and Courtenay Parlee** have conducted research with fish harvesters. Case studies have been completed in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and NL. This research is part of a project with the Canadian Council of Fish Harvesters.
- *On the Move NL* researchers attended the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation/Rural Policy and Learning Commons

conference in Guelph, ON, October 12-15, 2016. **Barbara Neis, Doug Lionais, Joshua Barrett, and Leanna Butters** presented as part of three joint sessions titled "Moving in and Out of Rural Communities: Beyond Internal and International Migration Binaries".

- **Barbara Neis** gave a public keynote address at the conference *Petrocultures 2016: The Offshore*, held in St. John's NL August 31-September 3, 2016. A double special session entitled "Cutlures of Mobility in Oil Production Zones: Worker and Community Experiences amid Boom and Bust" was also organized by **Marcella Cassiano, Sara Dorow, Sandrine Jean, Lachlan Barber** and **Barbara**

Neis. The sessions featured several OTM academics and partners as presenters/panelists.

- **Barbara Neis** organized a session at "CARWH 2016: Advancing Research to Improve Work and Health", October 18, 2016. It included presentations by On the Move team members **Stephanie Premji, Lachlan Barber, Katherine Lippel** and **Kathy Fitzpatrick**.

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

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Happy Holidays from Kelly and Nicole!