

# The Community Impacts of E-RGM in the Clarenville-Isthmus Region

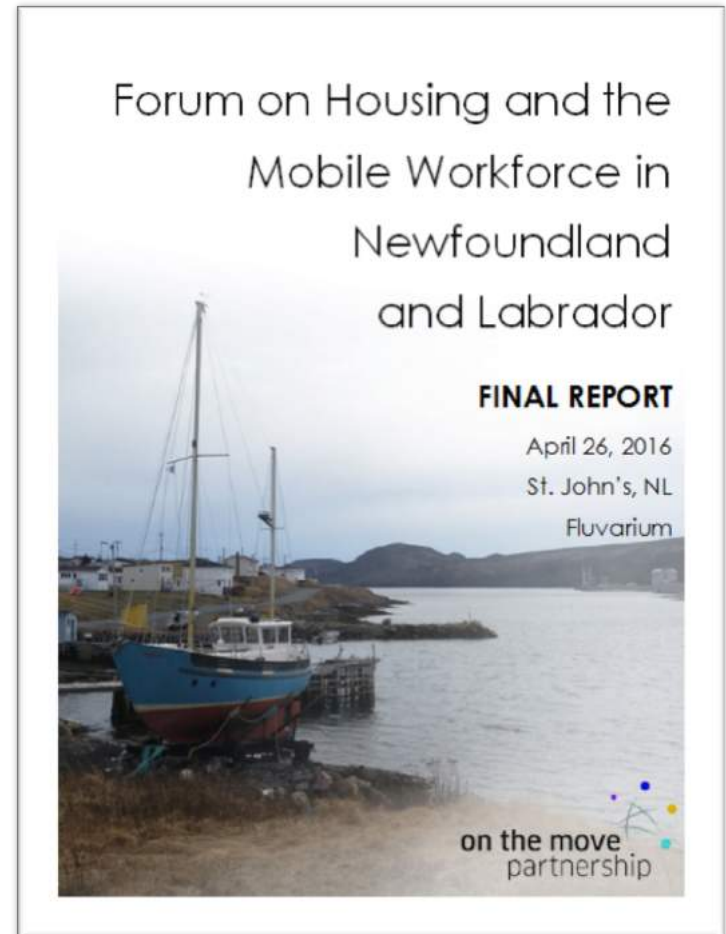
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Clarenville, NL

# Research Questions

- 1) What are the impacts of E-RGM for the communities of E-RGM (source/home, host, hub)?
- 2) What are the respective responses by companies, union leaders, policymakers, and non-government organizations at the local level?
- 3) How does context (i.e. legislation, community history, proximity to work sites, corporate policies, labour policies, etc.) affect E-RGM and related impacts and responses?

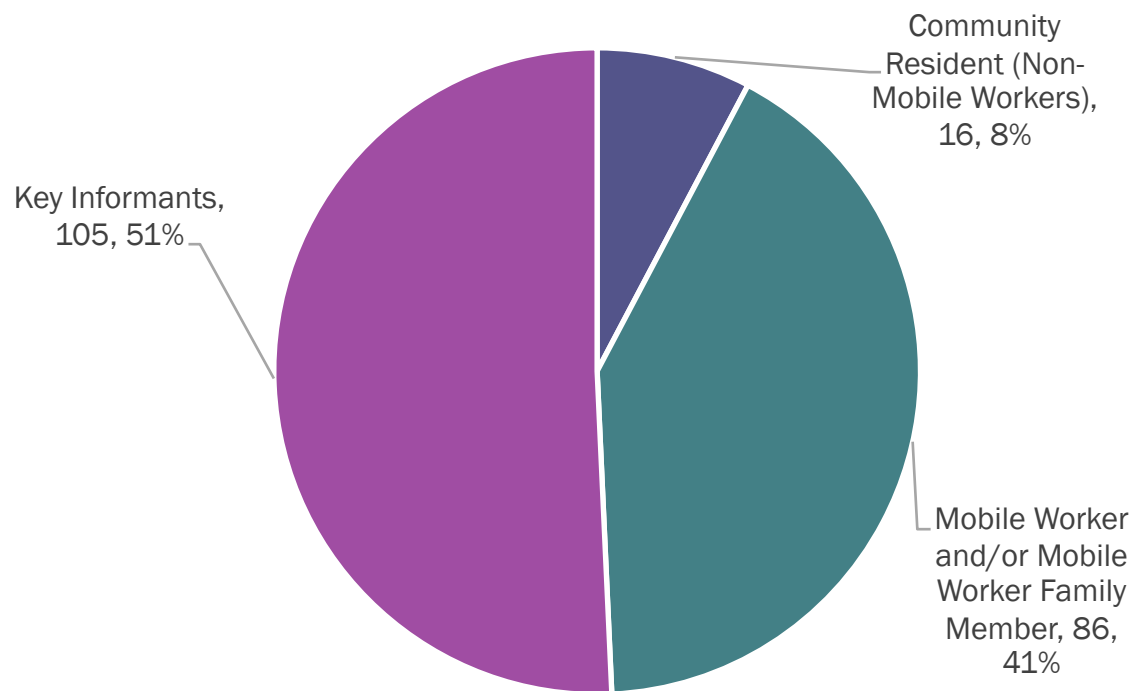
# Methods

- Door-to-door surveys (Parker's Cove, New Waterford, Deer Lake)
- Re-coding interviews from various OTM components (49 interviews)
- Interviews with key informants (133 interviews)
- Engagement activities
  - Community /regional meetings
  - Forum on Housing and the Mobile Workforce (April 26, 2016)



# Methods: Interviews

## CI Interview Transcripts By Interviewee Type



KI Participants	#
Municipal Reps	30
Businesses	21
Industry Reps	8
Education	8
Community Groups	7
Ec Dev and Bus Orgs	6
Non-Profits - other	5
Provincial Government	4
Airports	3
Labour Orgs	3
Federal Government	3
Aboriginal Orgs	2
Harbour Authorities	2
Health Orgs	2
Religious	1

# Dominant Themes

## INFRASTRUCTURE/SERVICES

Housing (114/182 sources, 389 references)

## ECONOMIC

Employment (111 sources, 310 references)

Spending (108 sources, 284 references)

Income (73 sources, 119 references)

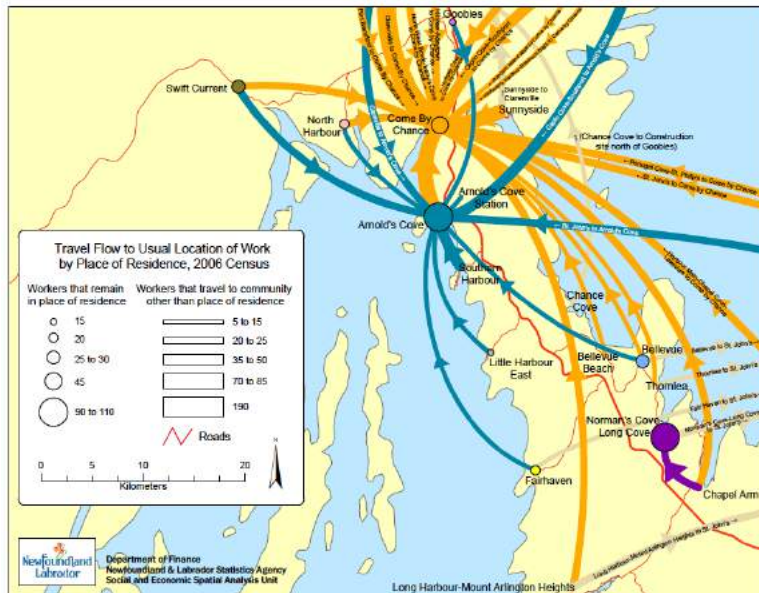
## SOCAL CULTURAL

Family Dynamics (111 sources, 349 references)

Community Engagement (84 sources, 184 references)

Sense of Place (83 sources, 181 references)

# Findings from the Clarenville-Isthmus Region





## Data Collection:

- 25 interviews with key informants and mobile workers in Clarenville, Sunnyside, and Arnold's Cove

## Data Analysis (ongoing):

- Thematic content analysis (Nvivo)
- Statistical analysis (descriptive)

# Dominant Themes in this Region

**SUSTAINABILITY** (23/25 sources, 51 references)

## **SOCIAL-CULTURAL**

Community Dynamics ( 22 sources, 77 references)

Community Engagement (19 sources, 56 references)

Family Dynamics (18 sources, 42 references)

Volunteerism (17 sources, 43 references)

## **INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES**

Housing (20 sources, 78 references)



# Sustainability



- Temporary nature of local construction/resource jobs
  - Some choose to work in Alberta for relative stability
- No incentive for workers to settle in host communities
- Questions about whether large projects are sustaining (and will sustain) communities

- Lack of community engagement
- Concerns about substance use
- Increased traffic and safety concerns
- Family impacts
  - Child-parent relationships
  - Challenges for couples (e.g. single-parenting, isolation)
  - Changing role of grandparents and extended families

# Infrastructure and Services

- Housing pressures
  - Boom: increased demand, decreased availability/affordability
  - Bust: housing vacancy, trailer park closures
- Increased road traffic due to DIDO
- Service pressures due to use by mobile workers
  - Limited ability to track use of services, roads, etc.
  - Limited ability to address impacts of increased use of services (e.g. road degradation)



# Economic

- Spending on big ticket items (particularly youth)
- Some new business development
- Businesses benefiting from transmission line construction
- Wage pressures for local businesses
- ‘Boom and Bust’ business trends
  - Some businesses closed (downturn)



- ‘Bulldozing’ practice
  - Hope that useable equipment from Bull Arm would be salvaged and donated
- Sewage waste
  - Due to population increases in the boom
- Hebron recycling program

# Planning and Governance

- Council challenges
  - Running for council, making council meeting
- Volunteer capacity challenges
  - Draining of talent in the community
- Lack of inter-community cooperation
- Need for strategic planning, policy and regulatory support for productive/healthy community-industry relations
- Hebron Community Liaison Committee
  - Positive community-industry relations (e.g. partnership with REACH, holiday donations)

# Local Responses

- To needs of families: Family Resource Centre, Clarenville
  - Program, 'Nobody's Perfect'
  - 'Strongest Families' online support program
- To housing demand:
  - RV parks developed in Sunnyside
  - REACH board and Habitat for Humanity
  - NewLife Community Church affordable housing development



# Local Responses

- To safety concerns
  - Town of Sunnyside partnered with RCMP for new traffic signs and drug-related challenges
- Industry contributions:
  - Hebron Community Liaison Committee
  - Recyclable wood from Bull Arm donated to Sunnyside
    - Sold to community members for \$25/pick up truck
    - \$ put into a legacy fund
  - Grant in lieu of taxes (Sunnyside)
  - Small Towns Big Industry partnership



# What We Have Learned

- Community impacts of ERGM in Canada are complex and context-specific
- Compound community types exist in the Canadian context (e.g. source-hub, source and home)
- Mobile work perceived and experienced as both threat and opportunity
- Need for greater knowledge and preparedness/  
response capacity

# Remaining Questions

- How do impacts and responses vary in different contexts, and shift over time?
- How can “communities” effectively plan for the presence of mobile workers?
- Role of various actors: companies, union leaders, municipal associations, government policy makers, others? and relationships between them?

# Policy Recommendations

**1. Prepare and engage with mobile labour issues**

**2. Emphasize job readiness**

**3. Support functional lone-parent households**

**4. Manage 'home' community impacts**

**5. Prepare 'host' and 'hub' communities**

**6. Address benefits and royalties agreements**

**7. Develop comprehensive information programs**

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