

Commuters and Communities: How Employment Mobility Affects Community Development in Source Communities

Joshua Barrett

MA Candidate, Geography

Memorial University of Newfoundland

September 17, 2015

Outline

- ‘On the Move’?
 - Definition of employment mobility
 - Research objectives
- Methodology
 - Conceptual Framework
 - Data collection methods
 - Study Area
- Preliminary Findings
 - Questionnaire results
 - Implications on source communities
 - Future research directions

What is employment mobility?

Employment-related mobility takes into account people who commute for work away from their place of residence that involves more than 2 hours daily to more extended absences and journeys lasting weeks, months or even years (Temple et al., 2011).

On the Move Partnership



- Working in seven Canadian provinces and abroad
 - British Columbia
 - Alberta
 - Ontario
 - Quebec
 - Nova Scotia
 - Prince Edward Island
 - Newfoundland and Labrador
 - Norway, Iceland, the United Kingdom, the United States
- Multiple sectors
 - Oil and gas
 - Mining
 - Nickel processing
 - Retail service
 - Health
 - Construction
 - Trucking
 - Shipping
 - Tourism
 - Forestry
 - Fisheries

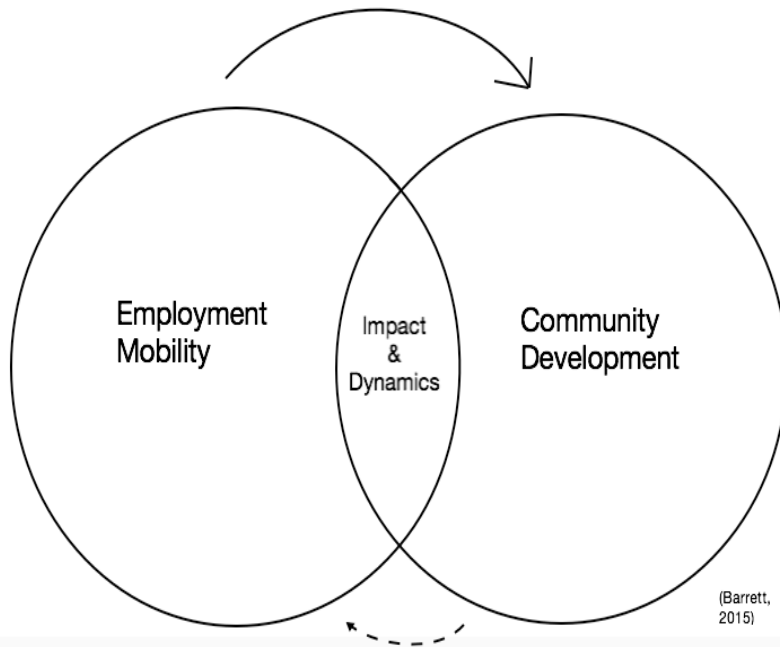
Research Objectives

- What are the impacts of commuting on community development in source communities?
 - Community involvement (volunteering)? (Hall, 2014)
 - Spending patterns (buying property, goods)? (Esteves, 2006)
 - Emotional attachments to place? (McDonald, Mayes, and Pini, 2012)



Conceptual Framework

Community Mobilities Framework



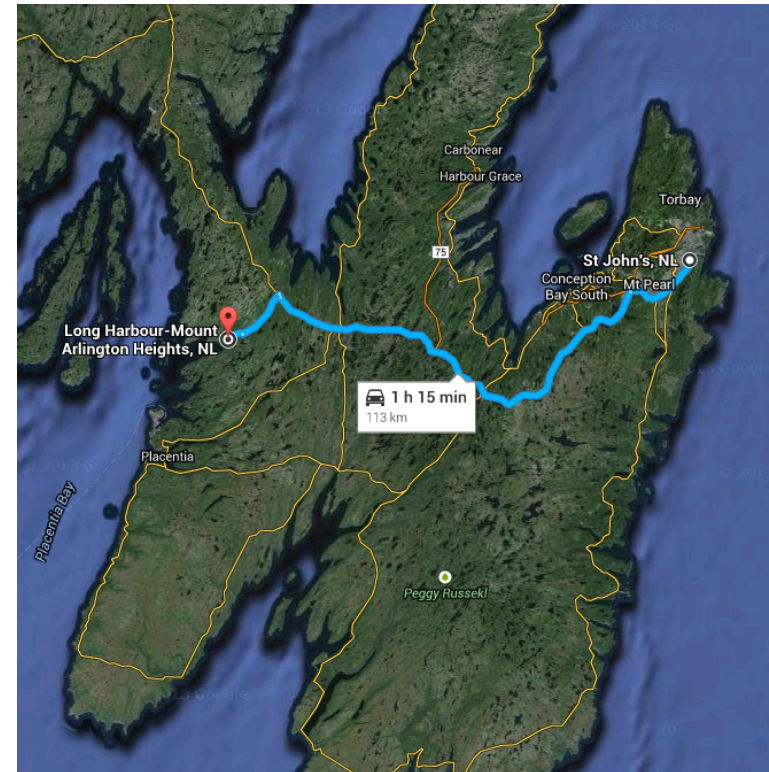
- Positioned within the ‘new mobilities paradigm’ emphasizing the importance of systematic movements – work, family, leisure, politics, and protest (Sheller and Urry, 2006)
- Community development: “a purposeful and systematic intervention through public policy(ies), programs, projects...to influence change towards a set of desired economic, social, cultural, physical, environmental outcomes” (Douglas, 2010)

Data Collection Methods

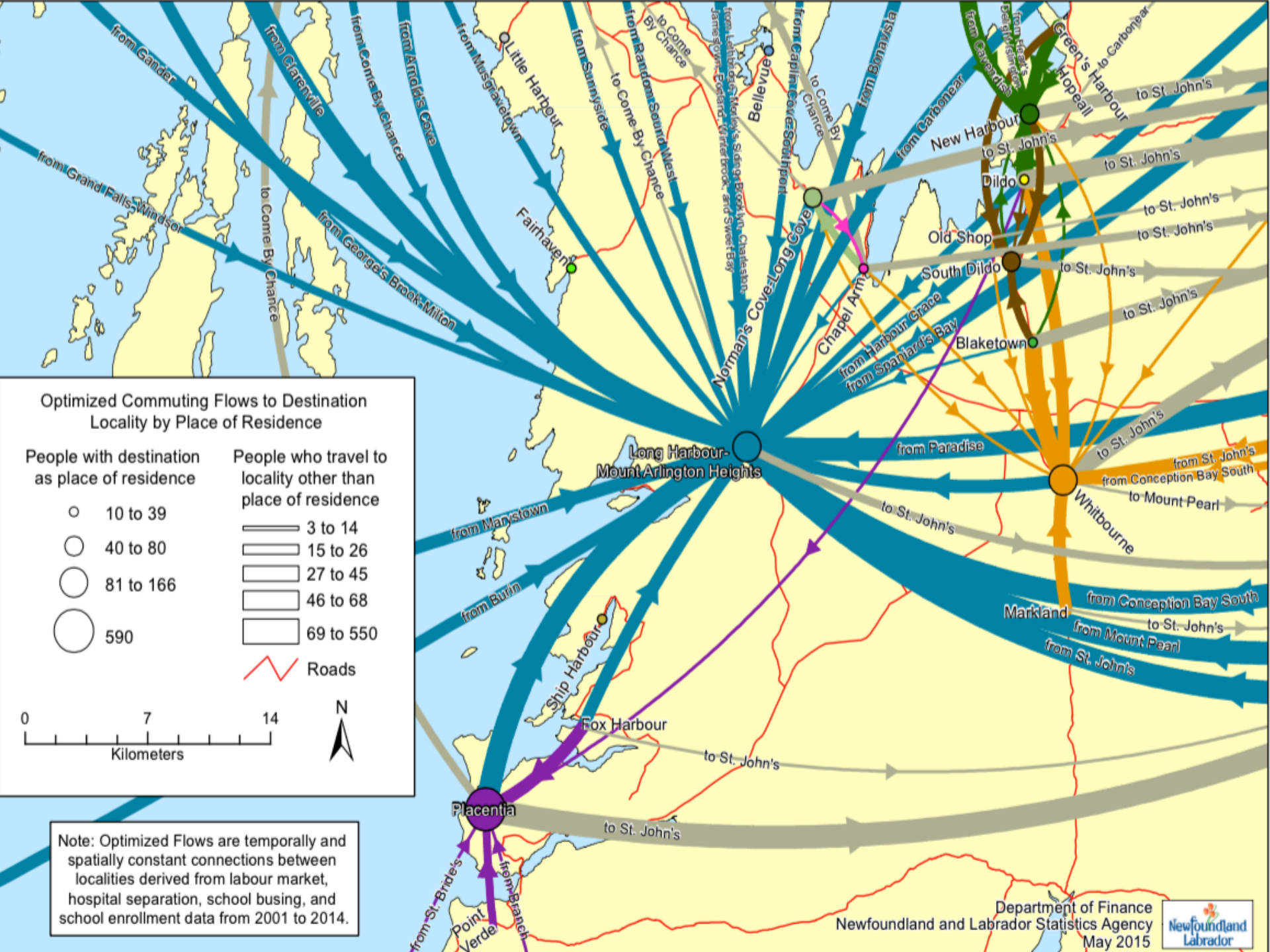
To date ...

- Four community consultations have taken place since 2012
- Phase 1 of research on host communities completed in fall of 2014
- 131 completed questionnaires received from nickel processing employees
- 3 semi structured interviews completed, more to follow

Nickel Processing Facility Long Harbour, NL



(Vale, 2014)



Optimized Commuting Flows to Destination Locality by Place of Residence

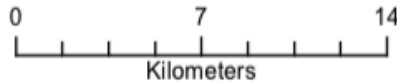
People with destination as place of residence

- 10 to 39
- 40 to 80
- 81 to 166
- 590

People who travel to locality other than place of residence

- ▬ 3 to 14
- ▬ 15 to 26
- ▬ 27 to 45
- ▬ 46 to 68
- ▬ 69 to 550

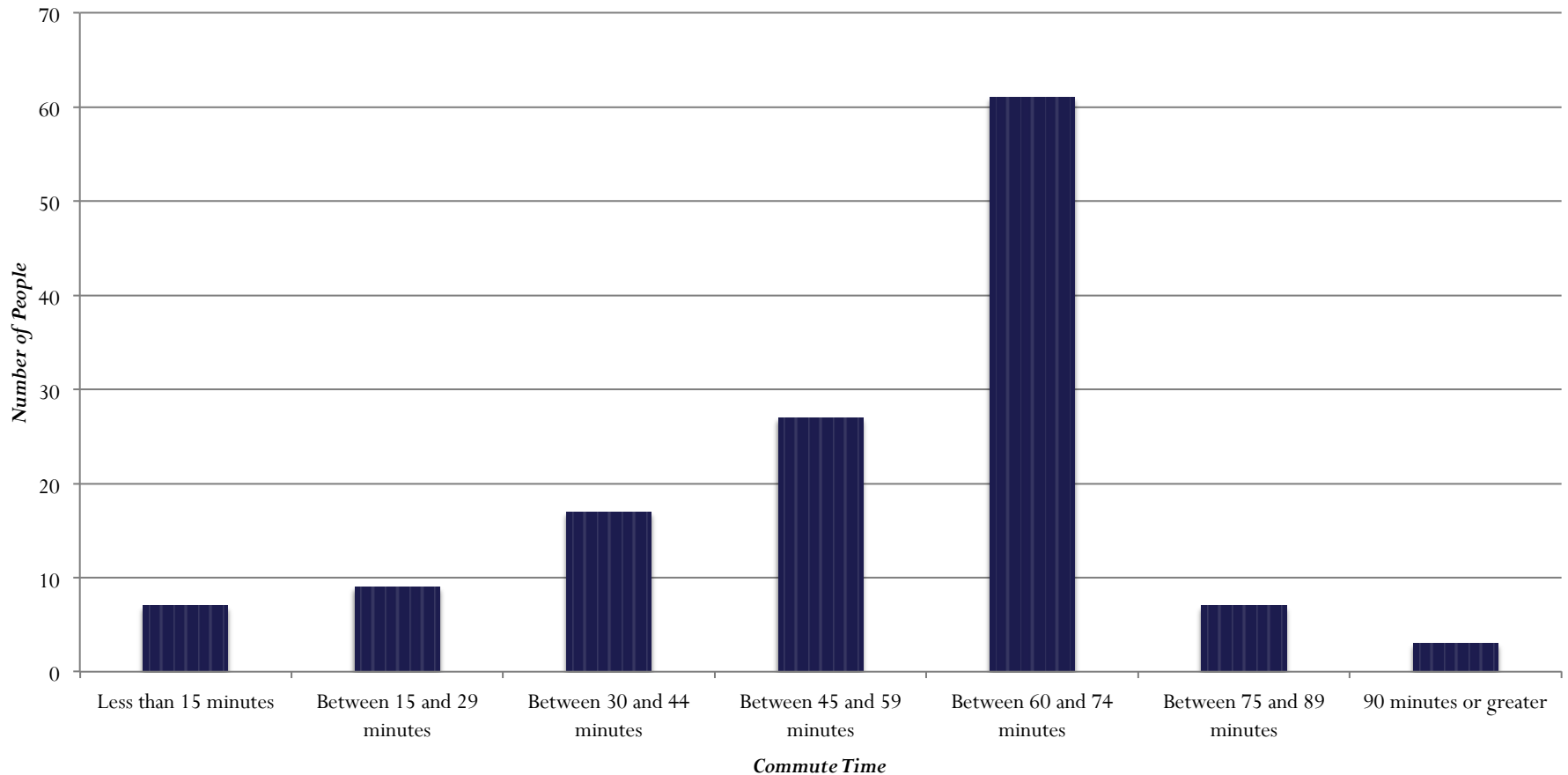
▬ Roads



Note: Optimized Flows are temporally and spatially constant connections between localities derived from labour market, hospital separation, school busing, and school enrollment data from 2001 to 2014.

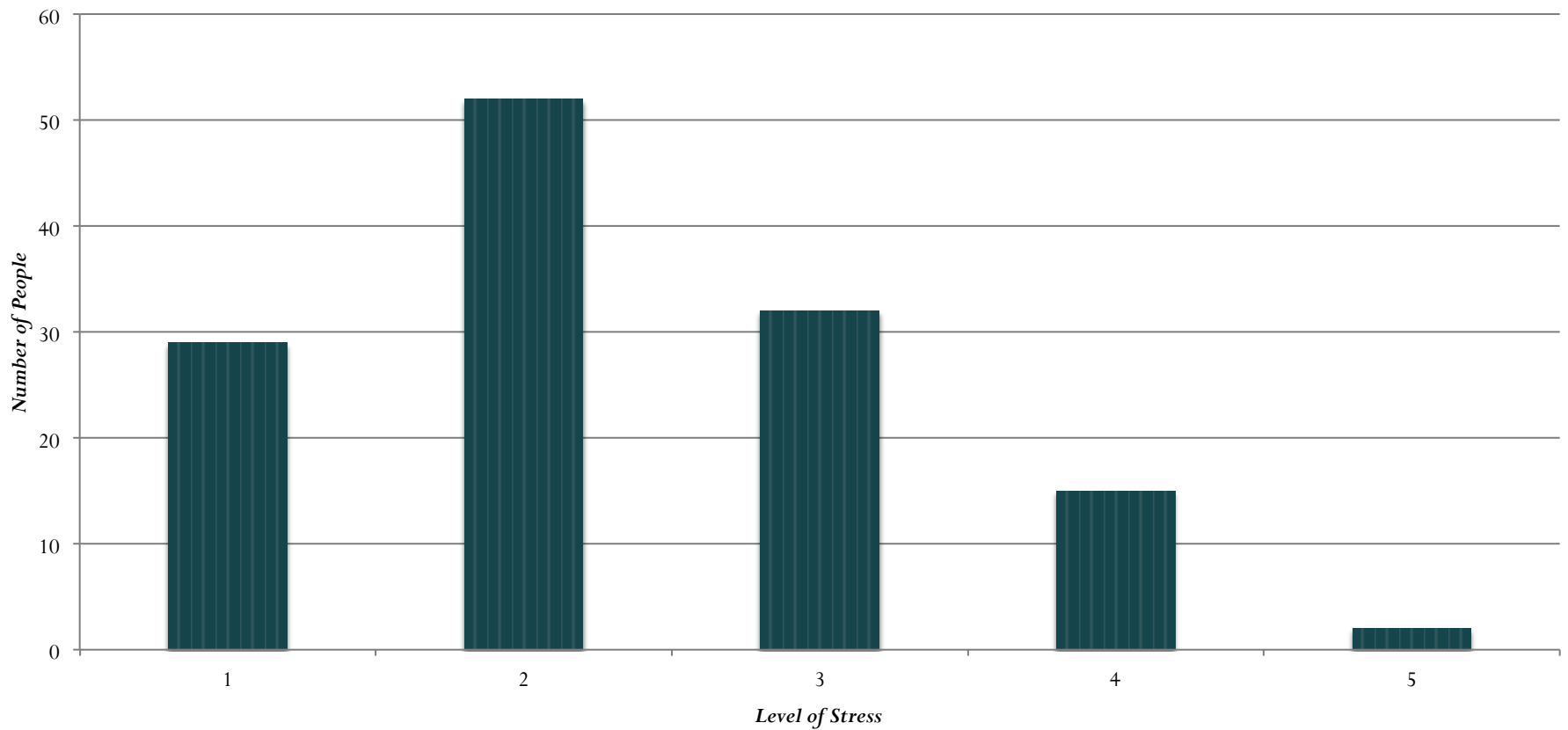
Questionnaire Findings: Commute Time

Commute Time to Nickel Processing Facility - One Way



Questionnaire Findings: Stress of Commute

How stressful do you find your commute (1-Not stressful, 5-Very stressful)



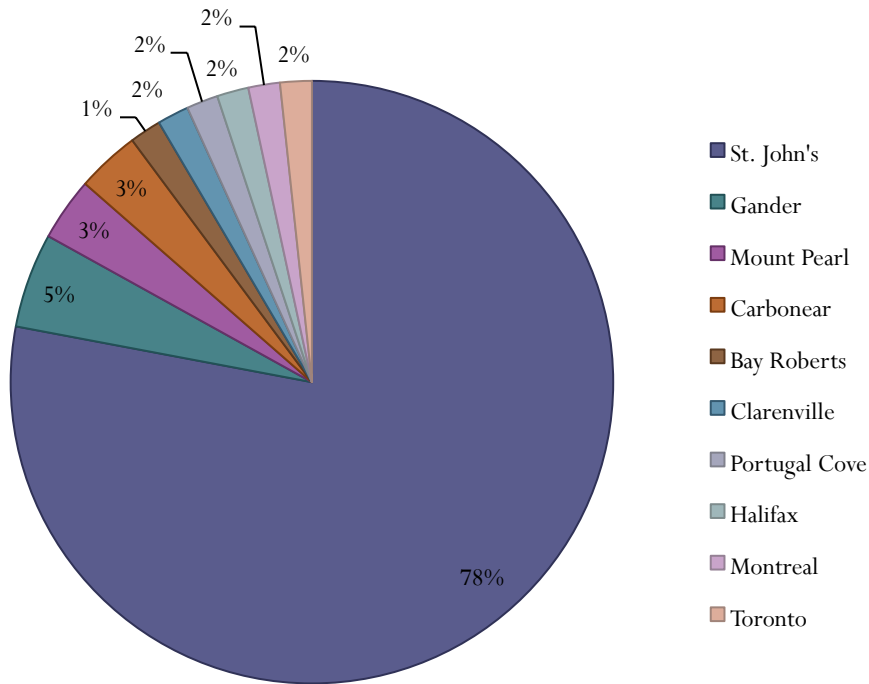
Questionnaire Findings: Community Investment

Have you volunteered in your local area in the last six months?		
<i>Response</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Number of People</i>
<i>Yes</i>		37
	Recreation	23
	Church	9
	School programs	6
	Fire department	6
	Lions/Service Club	2
	Municipal Politics	2
	Canadian Blood Services	1
	Special Events Committee	1
	Bowl for Kids	1
	First Lego League	1
	Psoriasis Society of NL	1
	Fundraisers	1
	Scouts	1
	SPCA	1
	Musician	1
<i>No</i>		95

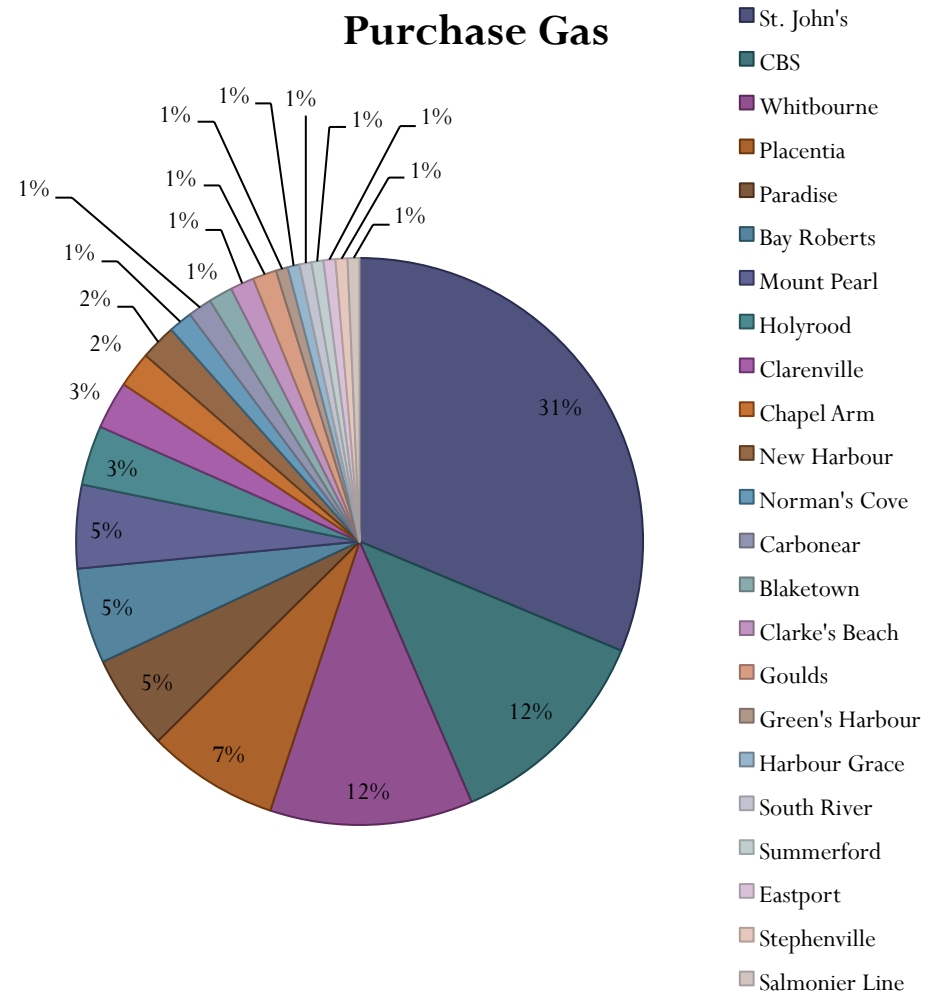
Activities Mobile Workers Participate in their local area	
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Number of People</i>
Recreation	68
Community Festivals	50
Holiday Parades and Festivities	43
Fundraisers	27
Church	20
Bingo	2
Red Cross	1
Social Events	1
Hobbies	1
Outdoors	1
Tourism	1
No response	36

Questionnaire Findings: Spending

Communities Where Workers Purchase Automobiles

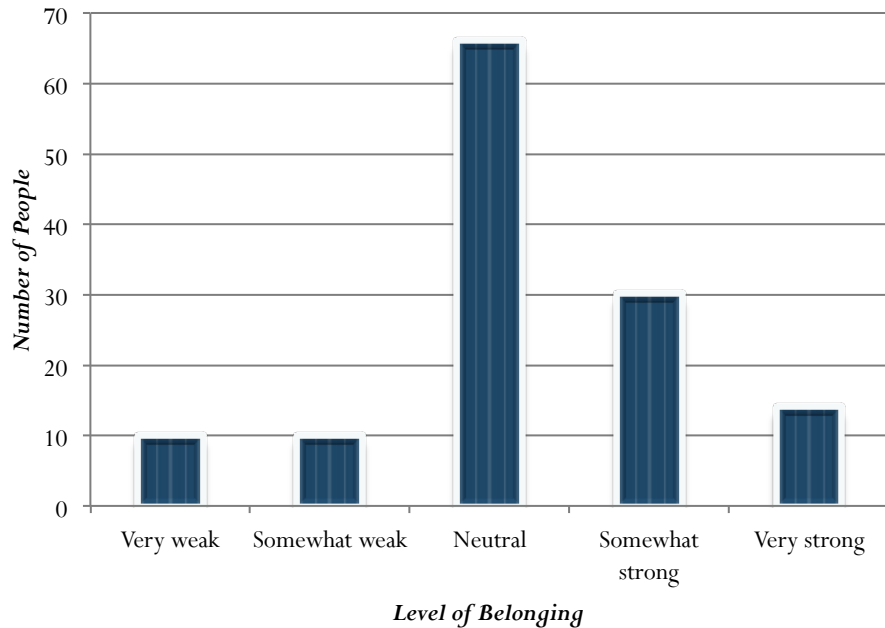


Communities Where Workers Purchase Gas

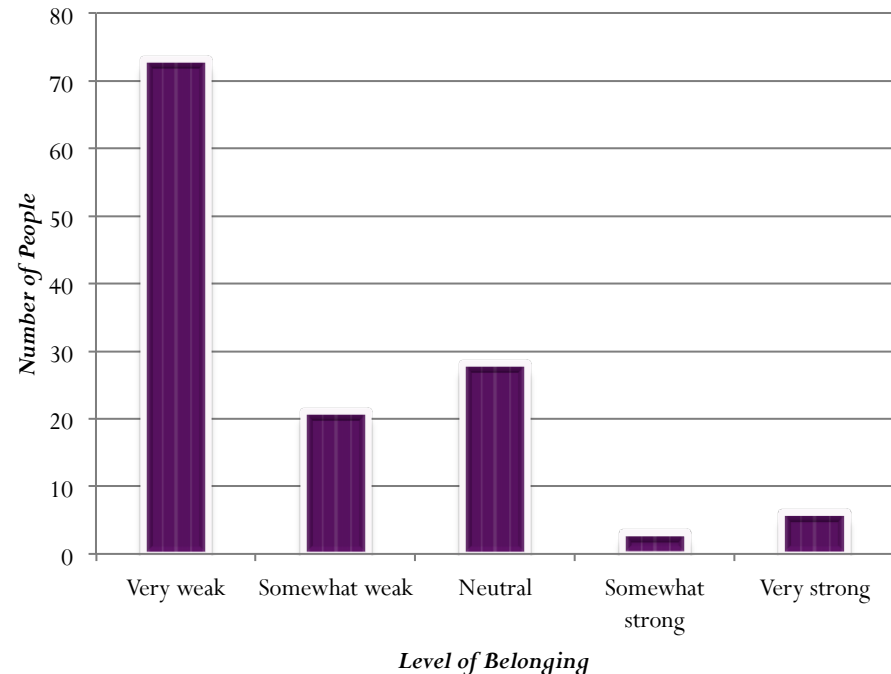


Questionnaire Results: Sense of Belonging

How would you describe your sense of belonging to the community where you primarily reside?



How would you describe your sense of belonging to the community of Long Harbour?



Implications for Source Communities



How employment mobility *enhances* resiliency:

- Allows residents to remain in permanent place of residence
- Stimulate local economic development opportunities in local communities

How employment mobility *deters* resiliency:

- Losing human resources for local opportunities
- Negatively affecting social development, camaraderie, and sense of belonging

What can communities do?





Conclusions and Future Directions

- While extended commuting is common, it has yet to take a stressful toll on most workers
- Significantly less mobile workers volunteer vs. non-mobile workers; impacts community resiliency
- Local economic development opportunities can be stimulated by mobile workers' income
- At what threshold will workers relocate vs. commute?
Does 'sense of place' matter?

Acknowledgements



Thank you!
jbarrett@mun.ca



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada
Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

The On the Move Partnership is a project of the SafetyNet Centre for Occupational Health & Safety Research at Memorial University. On the Move is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Research & Development Corporation of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Canada Foundation for Innovation, and numerous university and community partners.

Le partenariat en mouvement est un projet du Centre *SafetyNet for Occupational Health & Safety Research* à l'Université Memorial. En mouvement est subventionné par le Conseil de recherche en sciences humaines du Canada, par la *Newfoundland and Labrador Research & Development Corporation*, par la Fondation canadienne pour l'innovation, ainsi que par de nombreux partenaires et universités.