

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

Joshua Barrett

MA Candidate, Geography

Memorial University of Newfoundland

May 31, 2015

Outline

- Research Objectives
- Data Collection Methods
- Conceptual Framework
- Study Area
- Implications on Source Communities

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)

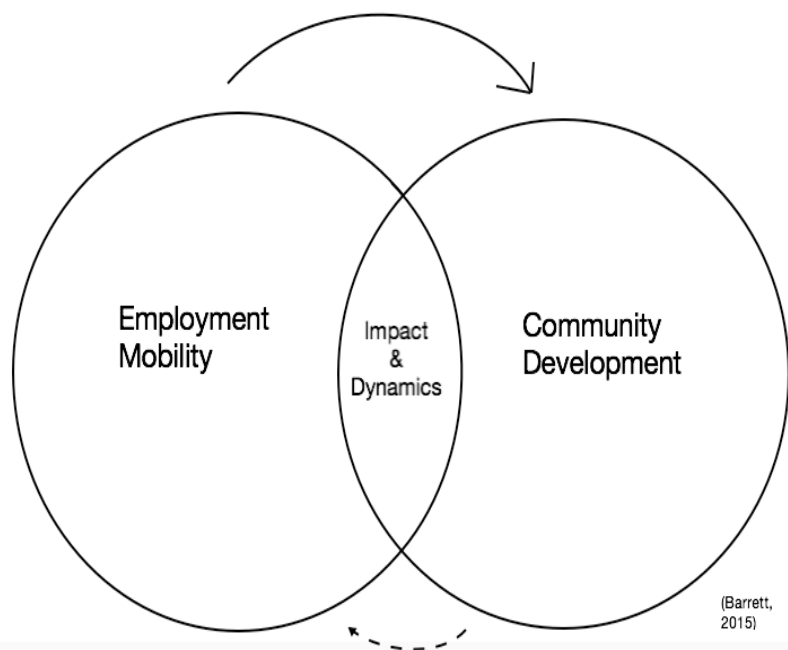


Data Collection Methods

- Phase one study on implications for host communities is complete (Hall, 2014)
- On the Move community consultations took place December 2014
- Questionnaire will be distributed to nickel process operators employed at Vale's Long Harbour facility June 2015 (~400 workers)
- Follow up interviews with questionnaire respondents (~15-25)
- Content analysis and descriptive statistics used to analyze findings

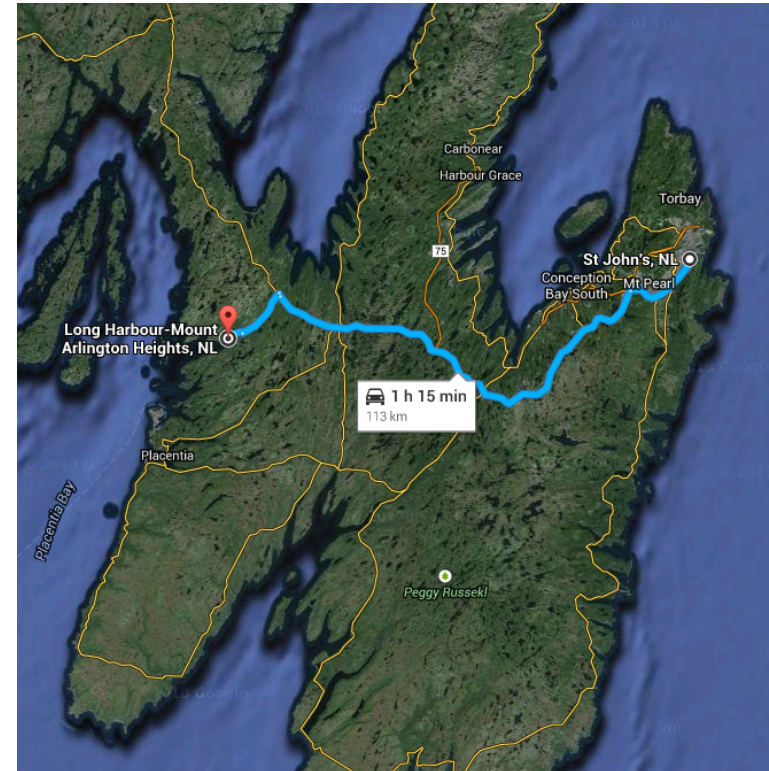
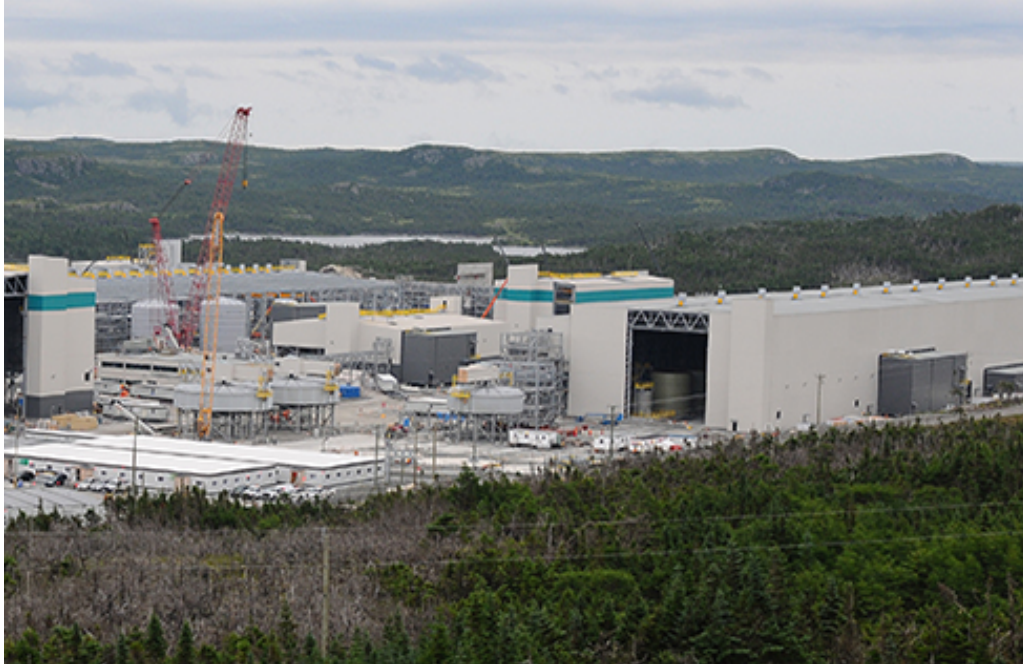
Conceptual Framework

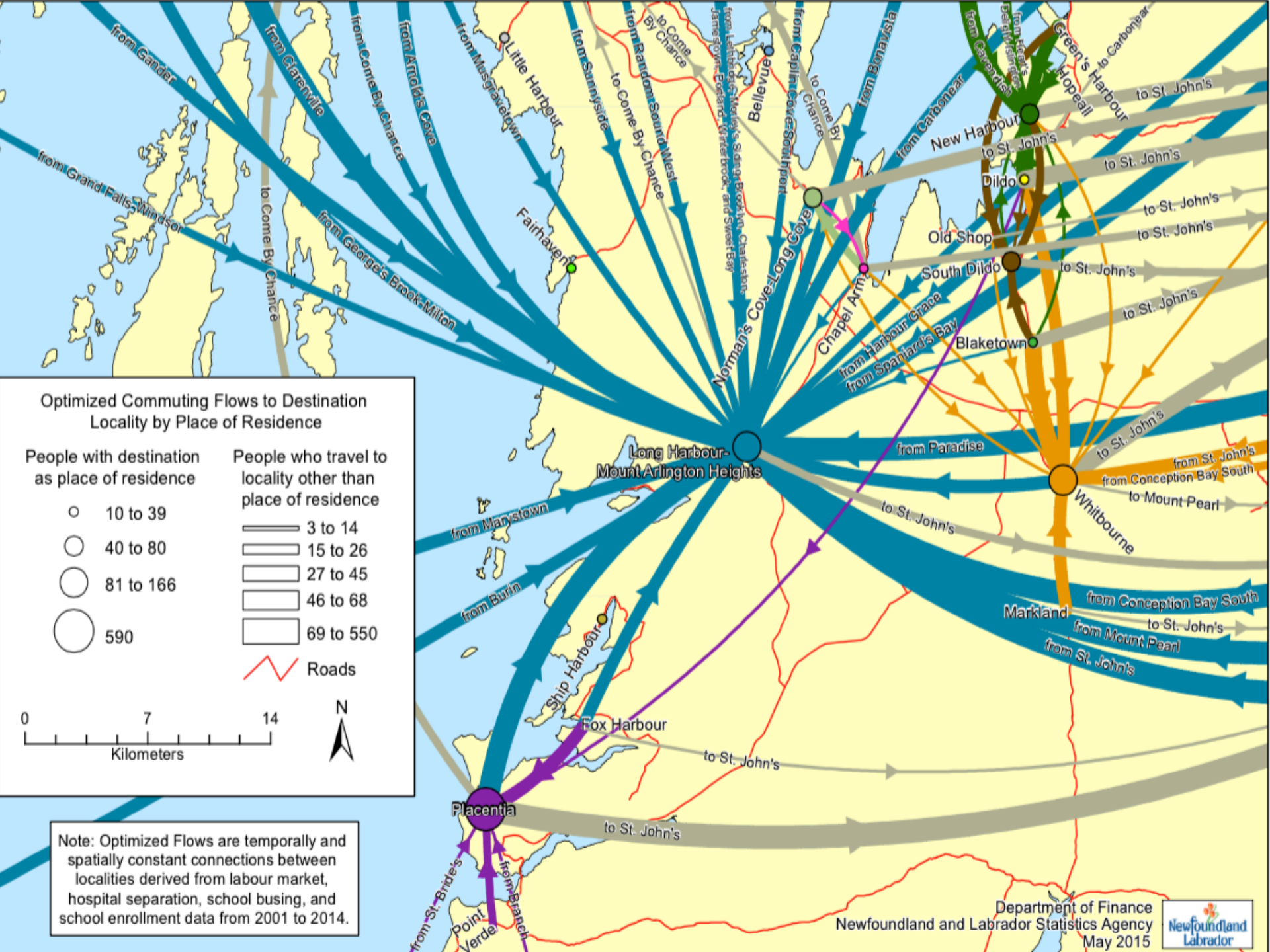
Community Mobilities Framework



- 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)

Nickel Processing Facility Long Harbour, NL





Implications for Source Communities

- Opportunity for workers to reside in place of residence
- Potential for local economic development
- Challenges securing community volunteers
- Challenges planning community activities