Fly-in/Fly-out Mobility in Source Hub Communities:
Potential Implications for Community Sustainability

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Bodies of Literature

- Airport Communities & E-RGM
  - FIFO
  - Community Impacts (Host, Source, Hub)
- Built Space
  - Planning/Land-use
  - Architecture
Fly-in/Fly-out Mobility (FIFO)

- Long-distance commuting arrangement involving work in remote areas¹
- Employees transported to and from the worksite by airplane
- Food and accommodations provided for workers at the worksite²
- Employees spend fixed periods of time at the worksite and home in rotation³

¹-³ Storey, 2001

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In the Literature
Defining Community Types

Host Community → Hub / Source Hub Community ← Source Community
In the Literature
Community Impacts of FIFO

Host Community
- Influx of skilled workers
- Lost potential economic benefits – the fly-over effect
- Crime, poor lifestyle choices
- Isolation of workers from communities

Hub / Source Hub Community

Source Community
- Economic opportunities
- Loss of skilled workers
- Separation of workers from family and communities
- Inflated expectations of FIFO spending

 McKenzie et al. 2014

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In the Literature
Community Impacts of FIFO

Host Community → Hub / Source Hub Community ← Source Community

- Crime, poor lifestyle choices
- Isolation of workers from communities
- Separation of workers from family and communities
- Inflated expectations of FIFO spending
- Economic opportunities

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In the Literature
The Built Spaces of FIFO

Host Community
- Worker Camps
- Recreational Facilities
- Service Facilities
- Infrastructure

Hub / Source Hub Community

Source Community
- Housing
- Recreational Facilities
- Service Facilities
- Infrastructure
In the Literature
The Built Spaces of FIFO

Host Community ➟ Hub / Source Hub Community ➟ Source Community

Airport Infrastructure
Services
Housing

5 McKenzie et al. 2014

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“...built spaces may be said to ‘tell’ stories. They have their own ‘vocabularies’ of building materials and their own structural relationships often understood by comparison with other spaces...the policy stories that buildings tell reflect the social issues, problems, and concerns of the place and time in which they are read.” (Yannow, 1995)
“...the emergence of targeted source communities or natural hubs has, to a degree, effectively re-created one of the most significant disadvantages of the single-industry community.” (Storey, 2016)
In the Literature
FIFO and Communities in NL

- Historical engagement with employment-related geographic mobility (E-RGM)
- Engagement of residents with FIFO work
- ‘Rural decline’
  - Youth out-migration
  - Aging demographic

Deer Lake Airport
Proposed Research
A Source Hub Community in NL?
Proposed Research
A Source Hub Community in NL?
Proposed Research
A Source Hub Community in NL?

Objectives:

A) To determine whether Deer Lake NL may be considered a source hub community in the Canadian context,

B) To identify changes in built space, planning, and land-use in Deer Lake resulting from FIFO E-RGM, and

C) If changes have occurred, to identify potential environmental and/or socio-economic impacts in Deer Lake that may be attributed to FIFO and related changes in land use and built space
If source hub communities exist in NL, could this model contribute to policy and planning strategies for the sustaining of rural communities?

What planning, policy and sustainability issues does being a source hub community raise, and how might these issues be addressed?
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