

# Exploring Regionalism in Rural Newfoundland

## The Case of the Burin Peninsula

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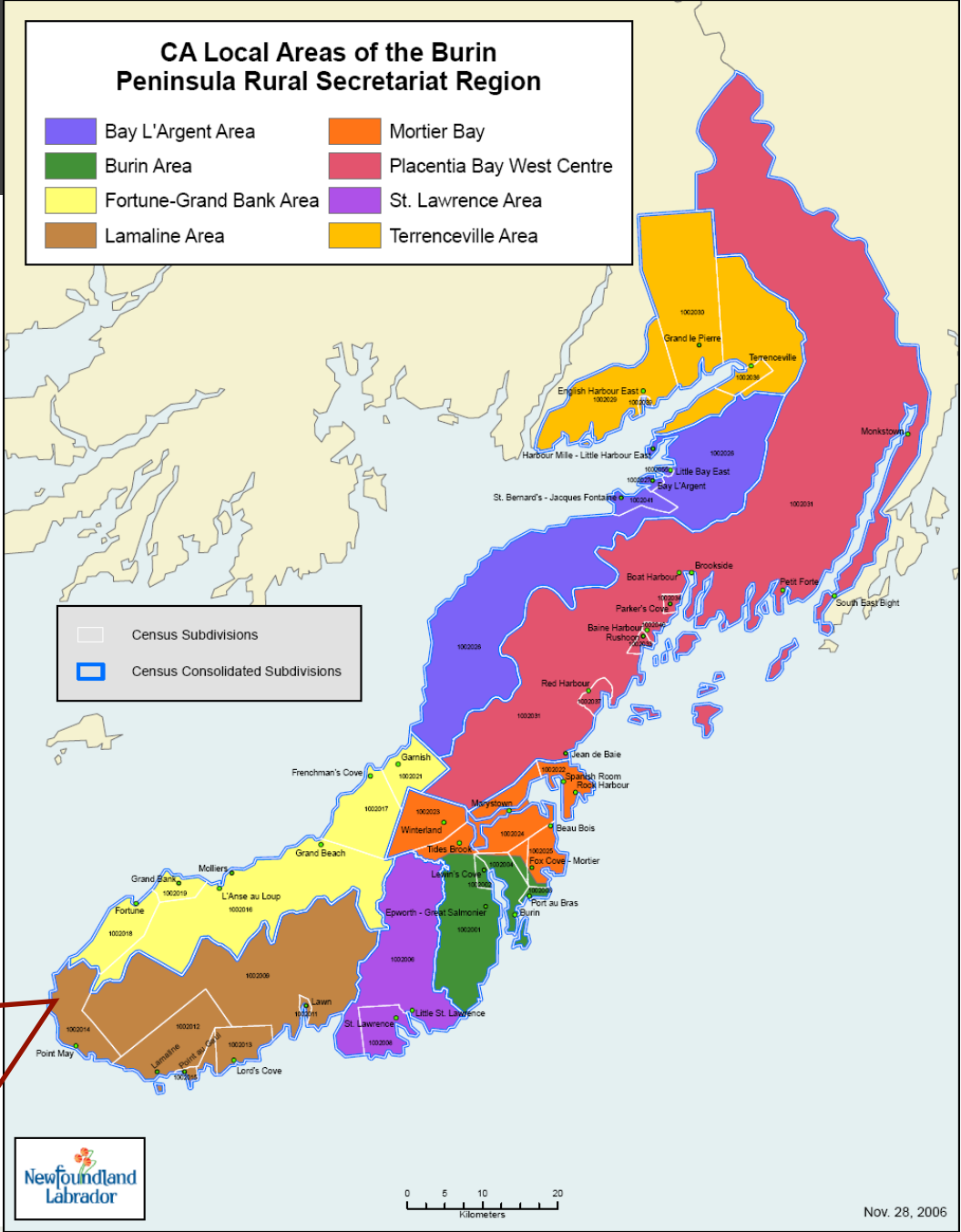
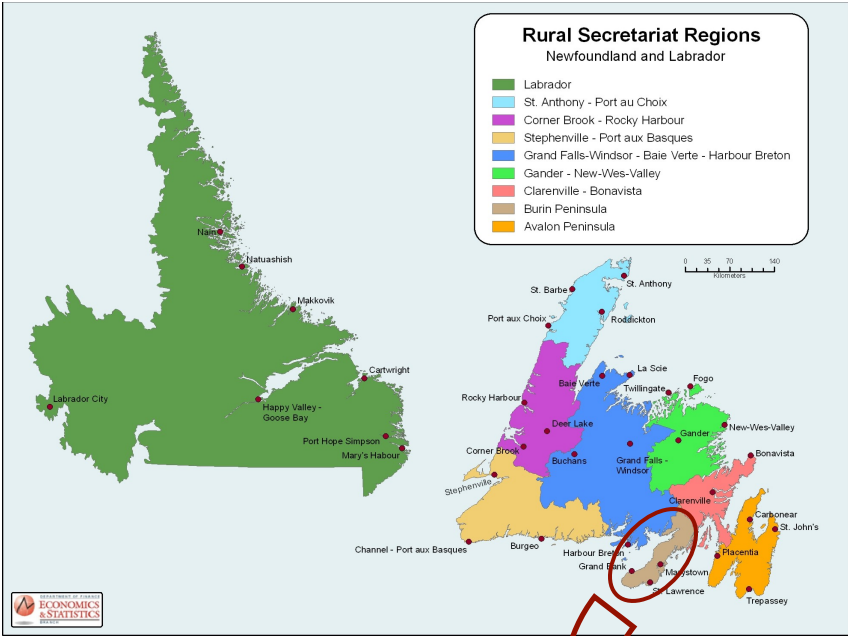
# Overview

- Context of Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's commitment to rural communities
  - Description of the Burin Peninsula region
  - Discussion of rationale for study in regionalism
  - Identification of opportunities and challenges to working regionally
  - Discussion of success factors for regionalism in the Burin Peninsula and emerging questions for moving forward
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# Work of the Rural Secretariat

- 2005 – Rural Secretariat and Regional Councils established
- 2006 – Regional Council develops long-term vision for the region
- 2007 – Regional Council completes 1<sup>st</sup> round of citizen engagement
- 2008/09 – Regional Council focuses on regional collaboration
  - submits advice document to government
  - completes 2<sup>nd</sup> round of citizen engagement
- 2009/10 – Council initiates community based research project on regional collaboration; submits 2<sup>nd</sup> advice document to government
- 2010/11 – Regional Council planning peninsula wide citizens forum to discuss regional collaboration

## Sub-Regional Distribution of the Population 2006



# Illustration of Regions in NL

Number of Regions	Organizations
4-6	MNL & M.A. regions, Tourism Dept & DMOs, 4-H districts, INTRD regions, Boy Scout, Skate Canada and hockey league districts, RDA and REDB groupings, Health, Education Boards, Library Board divisions, Wellness Coalitions
7-9	Rural Secretariat Regional Councils, Women's Centres/Councils
10-12	Girl Guide Districts, Community Youth Networks, Women's Institute, soccer regions
13-15	Community Business Service Centres, Service Canada offices, Knights of Columbus districts
16-24	Regional Economic Development Boards; tourism organizations; INTRD sub-regions; Lions Club zones
25-30	HRLE regional locations, Family Resource Centres, Crime Prevention Committees, Search and Rescue groups
40+	Former RDAs, EAS offices, multi-community high schools, youth and recreations clubs, Transportation and Works operations sites (winter), municipal service-sharing arrangements

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# Why Examine Regionalism?

- Initiative of the Burin Peninsula Regional Council of the Rural Secretariat
    - Partnered with Memorial University facilitated through Yaffle
  - Opportunities for regional collaboration identified for community residents
    - Natural resources
    - Tourism
    - Aquaculture and Agriculture
    - Optimizing Infrastructure for competitive advantages
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# Challenges to Regionalism

- Financial barriers
  - Geographic and transportation barriers
  - Knowledge of collaboration barriers
  - Relationship barriers
  - Human resources barriers
  - External influences
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- Competition for limited resources
  - Concern for diluting existing financial resources
  - Inability for organizations to cover travel expenses incurred by volunteers
  - Heavy reliance on job creation programs




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# Challenges to Regionalism

- Financial barriers
  - Geographic and transportation barriers
  - Knowledge of collaboration barriers
  - Relationship barriers
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  - External influences
- 
- Physical distance prevents face-to-face meetings
  - Lack of regularly scheduled inter-community public transportation
  - History of physical isolation
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# Challenges to Regionalism

- Financial barriers
  - Geographic and transportation barriers
  - Knowledge of collaboration barriers
  - Relationship barriers
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- Lack of understanding the potential benefits of collaboration
  - Concern collaboration will lead to amalgamation or loss of autonomy
  - Different attitudes towards collaboration among youth and seniors

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# Challenges to Regionalism

- Financial barriers
  - Geographic and transportation barriers
  - Knowledge of collaboration barriers
  - Relationship barriers
  - Human resources barriers
  - External influences
- 
- Time to build relationship and trust are lacking
  - Lack of respect for all communities in the region
  - Conflict of personalities
  - Defense of municipal boundaries
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# Challenges to Regionalism

- ▣ Financial barriers
  - ▣ Geographic and transportation barriers
  - ▣ Knowledge of collaboration barriers
  - ▣ Relationship barriers
  - ▣ Human resources barriers
    - ▣ Volunteer burn out
    - ▣ Out migration of youth
  - ▣ External influences
-

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  - ▣ External influences
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# Factors for Success in Regional Collaboration

- **COLLECTIVE REGIONAL BUY-IN** for a regional development approach. This requires residents to clearly understand the purpose, benefits, and risks of collaboration. Communities need to have a desire and a capacity to undertake regional initiatives.
- **MULTI-SECTOR ENGAGEMENT** in the regional development process. This process needs to ensure community residents, community-serving organizations, volunteer/non-profit organizations, government departments, and private sector are actively engaged.
- Need for local, regional, provincial, and federal **POLICY SUPPORTIVE OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT** process and initiatives.
- The **NEED FOR CAPACITY BUILDING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT** opportunities for all stakeholders.
- Regional development **MODELS AND INITIATIVES REQUIRE FUNDING**. Process funding, or funding to support building trust and offsetting costs of meeting participation, is especially critical.
- **REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS NEED TO BE INNOVATIVE**, open to change, and think 'outside the box' to ensure regional development models meet locally established priorities.
- The need for **STRATEGIES TO IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS POTENTIAL OR PERCEIVED OVERLAP** of organizations' mandates and any new regional development model.

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# Moving Forward

- Burin Peninsula Regional Council exploring a model for regional development and collaboration
  - Advice submission made to the Provincial Rural Secretariat
  - A regional engagement forum
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Research Council of Canada



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## Further Information

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