

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 1st round of citizen engagement
- 2008/09 – Regional Council focuses on regional collaboration
 - submits advice document to government
 - completes 2nd round of citizen engagement
- 2009/10 – Council initiates community based research project on regional collaboration; submits 2nd advice document to government
- 2010/11 – Regional Council planning peninsula wide citizens forum to discuss regional collaboration

Sub-Regional Distribution of the Population 2006

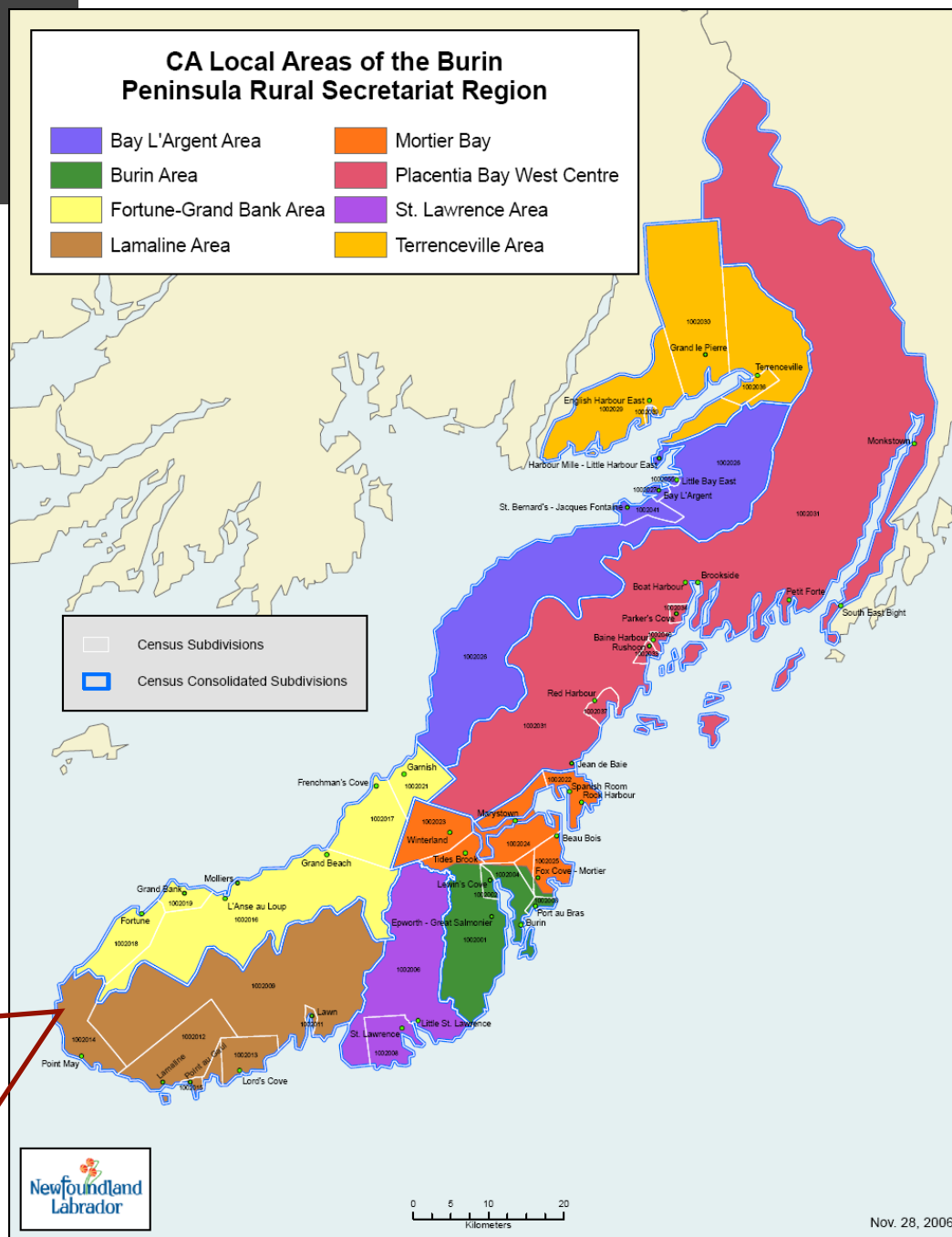
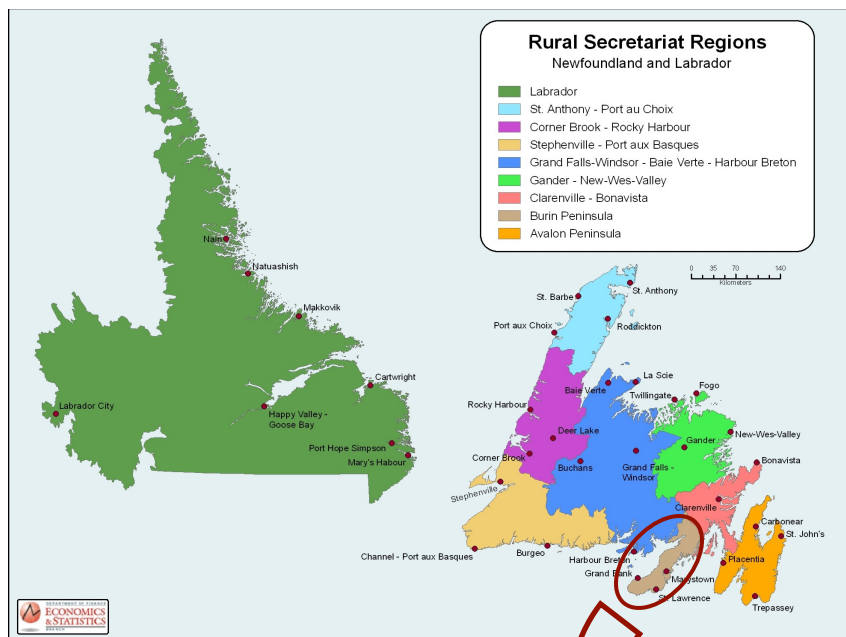


Illustration of Regions in NL

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

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
- 
- 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

Challenges to Regionalism

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- 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

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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

Challenges to Regionalism

- Financial barriers
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 - Relationship barriers
 - Human resources barriers
 - External influences
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- 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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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.

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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