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
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

Rural Secretariat Regions
Newfoundland and Labrador
- Labrador
- St. Anthony - Port au Choix
- Corner Brook - Rocky Harbour
- Stephenville - Port aux Basques
- Grand Falls-Windsor - Baie Verte - Harbour Breton
- Gander - New-Wes-Valley
- Clarenville - Bonavista
- Burin Peninsula
- Avalon Peninsula

CA Local Areas of the Burin Peninsula Rural Secretariat Region
- Bay L'Argent Area
- Mortier Bay
- Burin Area
- Placentia Bay West Centre
- Fortune-Grand Bank Area
- St. Lawrence Area
- Lamaline Area
- Terrenceville Area
## Illustration of Regions in NL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Regions</th>
<th>Organizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>MNL &amp; M.A. regions, Tourism Dept &amp; 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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-9</td>
<td>Rural Secretariat Regional Councils, Women’s Centres/Councils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>Girl Guide Districts, Community Youth Networks, Women’s Institute, soccer regions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-15</td>
<td>Community Business Service Centres, Service Canada offices, Knights of Columbus districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-24</td>
<td>Regional Economic Development Boards; tourism organizations; INTRD sub-regions; Lions Club zones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-30</td>
<td>HRLE regional locations, Family Resource Centres, Crime Prevention Committees, Search and Rescue groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40+</td>
<td>Former RDAs, EAS offices, multi-community high schools, youth and recreations clubs, Transportation and Works operations sites (winter), municipal service-sharing arrangements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

- Financial barriers
- Geographic and transportation barriers
- Knowledge of collaboration barriers
- Relationship barriers
- Human resources barriers
- External influences

- Physical distance prevents face-to-face meetings
- Lack of regularly scheduled inter-community public transportation
- History of physical isolation
Challenges to Regionalism

- Financial barriers
- Geographic and transportation barriers
- Knowledge of collaboration barriers
- Relationship barriers
- Human resources barriers
- External influences
- 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
- 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
Challenges to Regionalism

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

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

- MITACS Accelerate
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- Yaffle & Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development, Memorial University
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