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# Exploring the Meaning of “Welcoming Communities” for Immigrants in Newfoundland and Labrador

Final Report

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## Introduction

Atlantic Canadian communities consider immigration from outside of Canada to be a viable solution to problems associated with its aging population and population decline, but this region has had limited success in attracting immigrants who remain in the region throughout their lives (Akbari, 2005; Bruce, 2007). In 2007, the provincial government of Newfoundland & Labrador launched a Provincial Immigration Strategy designed to increase the number of immigrants coming to and staying in NL. Like other Atlantic Canadian provinces, NL faces low birth rates and an aging population with a high number of baby boomers ready to retire. In addition to these challenges, NL is poised to launch major resource development initiatives requiring significant manpower. One aspect of the dilemma NL faces in attracting and retaining immigrants that has not received a great deal of attention is the way in which communities welcome immigrants, and how a welcoming community may enhance social engagement, and one's sense of inclusion in the host community which in turn may in turn lead to long term residency. This research is part of a larger study of social engagement and inclusion of immigrants in Atlantic Canada. The intention of this research is to begin the work on the NL part of the project by compiling community profiles in NL. The larger project has been submitted to the SSHRC and to the Atlantic Metropolis Centre.

## Leisure & Social Engagement

The ability of people to participate in community life is important for their own well-being and for the general well-being of the community. People who engage with others are likely to establish connections with a variety of social networks which contribute to their social well-being and facilitate their ability to resolve the issues and problems they encounter, both short and long term (Gallant, 2008). Participation in leisure, recreation, sport, and public social events is known to facilitate the development of social networks and relationships necessary for people to establish friendships, find places or 'information grounds' where they may gain and share information, and enhance the over all well-being of the community (Fisher, Durrance & Hinton, 2004; Putnam, 1995). Leisure, recreation and sport participation are key social determinants of health (Arai, 2007; Biddle, Gorely, & Stensel, 2004) and are well positioned to facilitate the social engagement and inclusion of immigrants in NL. For example, leisure and recreation experiences are known to aid new immigrants in acquiring language proficiency, build social capital, provide opportunities for healthy and physically active lives, foster positive youth development, and promote sharing of diverse cultural traditions that dominant groups would not otherwise know such as culturally diverse music, dance and food traditions (Ontario Council for Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI), June 2005; Tirone & Pedlar, 2005).

Leisure, recreation and sport services are well positioned to promote a welcoming community environment, to address the need for both ethnic-specific and inter-cultural programs, and to facilitate the civic participation of newcomers in their communities (Livingston, Tirone, Miller & Smith, accepted). This proposal is for the first step in the larger project. It involves a compilation of the supports available in nine NL communities that address or have the potential to address the social engagement and inclusion needs of immigrants. Of particular interest are those agencies that provide recreation-related services to assist with the settlement of newcomers, inter-cultural understanding, social inclusion, and the civic participation of newcomers in communities.

## Objectives

The current research aimed to:

1. Understand how immigrants in mid-sized towns in Newfoundland & Labrador are welcomed when they arrive and settle in this province.
2. Explore the social supports important for immigrants after the initial period of settlement has occurred and as they become members of the community (i.e. those provided by municipalities such as recreation services and social services, non-profit agencies such as YMCA's and service clubs and commercial enterprises).
3. Explore support and service agencies' experiences and expectations related to providing the social, recreation, leisure, and sport experiences for immigrants.

## Relationship of this study to the larger study

The larger study has three phases that will occur over a three-year period using quantitative and qualitative methodologies. In phase one, we intend to develop community profiles of mid-sized communities in Atlantic Canada, defined as those with populations between 5000 and 12000. We expect these communities to share similar characteristics in terms of organizational structure and access to services and resources across this region. There are 37 mid-sized communities in Atlantic Canada: Nova Scotia (21), New Brunswick (6), NL (9), Prince Edward Island (1) [two additional communities in PEI will be included because they are close to the minimum population range, and have seen growth in immigrants in recent years].

The first phase of the study will involve the compilation of community profiles for 39 communities. First, demographic data will be compiled, using existing data bases: Statistics Canada, Community Counts (NS), Community Accounts (NL), and others to learn the immigrants' countries of origin, ages, family composition, occupations and education levels in each community. We plan to conduct a descriptive analysis of the profile data, drawing comparisons of social support agencies, leisure and recreation services, and other programs

provided in each community by formal service providers (municipal recreation providers, sports associations, community centres), non-profit associations (Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCA's, Big Brother's and Big Sister's organizations, and civic organizations such as Rotary, Lion's and Kiwanis), and commercial enterprises that enhance social inclusion (movie theaters, bowling alleys, pubs, and restaurants). Ethno-specific program profiles will also be compiled for each community which will include information about the programs and services that address health, education, settlement, language and social justice specifically for immigrants in the communities.

In the second phase, we will be selecting one community from each of the provinces for an in-depth case study focusing on social inclusion and civic engagement of the newcomers in those communities. Case study communities will represent places where communities have been successful in attracting immigrants and those that would like to improve their ability to attract more immigrants.

The third and final phase of the study will provide an opportunity for the team to draw together all of the information received, to engage in a meta-analysis of the data and develop an overview of the social and leisure supports in the Atlantic region which enhance and facilitate the social engagement and inclusion of newcomers.

The present study focused on the first phase of the larger study to be carried out here in NL. Community profiles, as described above, were developed for the 9 mid-sized communities here in NL and community summaries will be provided later in this report. Due to time limitations, only brief interviews were carried out with stakeholders in some of the communities. However, as this research continues, more in depth information regarding the specific services available will be added to the community profiles. This will enable us to start immediately on the data collection in NL so we may gain some perspective of the supports in place for newcomers to NL.

## **Research Methods**

For the present research, nine communities in NL were examined and community profiles were developed for each. The communities are all mid-sized communities (between 5000 and 12000) and included, Torbay/Logy Bay, Portugal Cove/St. Phillips, Bay Roberts, Carbonear, Clarenville, Gander, Deer Lake, Stephenville, and Happy Valley/Goose Bay. Community Accounts was used to determine general demographic information about each community and more specifically, immigrants' countries of origin, ages, family composition, occupations and education levels in each community. In addition, information regarding the communities' services and supports were reviewed. Many towns had town based websites with more detailed information regarding the services in the town. Where possible stakeholders in the communities were contacted to speak to whether or not the communities provided specific resources and/or

services for newcomers to the communities. Due to significant time limitations, it was not possible to speak with as many individuals as I had initially hoped. However, I expect that I will be able to speak with several more individuals in the coming months as this research program continues to develop. It is important to again note that the present study has been carried out as the initial phase of a larger study expected to be carried out over the next three years.

## **Community Profiles**

Below are the profiles for each of the communities. For each community, an overview, including demographic information will be provide followed by a description of recreation services, facilities and groups available in the communities that may be able to provide opportunities for newcomers to engage in and feel a sense of belonging to their communities. Where interviews were carried out, a short description of the specific strategies in place to attract and support newcomers will also be provided.

### **Torbay<sup>2</sup>**

Torbay is a community located just outside of St. John's. The following information includes Bauline, Flatrock and most of Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove. The population of the town is 9,740 (Census, 2006). With respect to family characteristics, 4,485 individuals are married (including common-law), 4,295 have never been married, 185 are separated, 400 are divorced and 375 are widowed. Family sizes within the town range from two to five or more people. 1,295 individuals have a family size of 2, 825 have a family size of 3, 735 have a family size of 4 and 205 have a family size of 5 or more people. Regarding the occupations in Torbay, 4,145 people in the town have occupations. Among these, 230 work in health, 150 work in education, 175 work in primary, 950 work in sales and service, 320 work in management, 960 work in office/related work, 690 work in construction/related work and 110 work in processing and manufacturing. Of the total population of Torbay, 185 individuals (115 male, 70 female) classify themselves as immigrants. Of these, they come from the United Kingdom (n=75) and the United States (n=75), Italy (n=10), Germany (n=10) and unspecified (n=10).

### ***Recreation Facilities & Services***

Within the town of Torbay, there are various facilities that are accessible to the community. The Northeast Avalon Regional Arena provides ice skating and a walking track. The Kinsmen Community Centre includes a ball field and skate park to the local members of the community.

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<sup>2</sup> The figures for Torbay include Bauline and Flatrock and most of Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove (Census, 2006, Community Accounts).



Furthermore, there is an Upper Three Corner Pond Park ball field, a soccer field and playgrounds.

There are many recreational activities offered in the town of Torbay. Winterlights is a national competition that runs from November to February. This competition promotes community involvement through the improvement of neighbourhoods and public spaces. There are also many events each month. Some events that occurred in February include a seniors card game, snow soccer, a charity hockey game, community pancake breakfast and family sliding/snowman contest. Furthermore, within Torbay there is a minor soccer association and minor softball. As well, in the summer a day camp is available to community members and the town has a museum that provides historical information dating back as late as 1865. Lastly, the town of Torbay is in the process of developing a Recreation Master Plan which will be a focus for the next ten years. Some of the issues that will be addressed include increased recreation facilities, trails and demographic analysis.

Given the proximity to St. John's, it is likely that many residents of Torbay access many of the services in the city.

### ***Interview at Town Hall***

The interview with staff of the Town of Torbay revealed that there are many recreational opportunities in Torbay, many of which were highlighted on the town website. These include a winter festival, launch of the 50 plus computer resource center, community garden, summer day camp, sports camps, special events, resident consultation and completion of the recreation master plan and implementation of the Playground Concept Design Report. In addition, the town has events for most holidays. The only event that they spoke of with respect to multiculturalism was multicultural dancing that is held on Canada Day.

Torbay is in the process of creating a recreation master plan which will hopefully include a new community center because the Kinsmen Community Center is no longer big enough to accommodate the growing population of Torbay. As well, Torbay has North Pond Homes which is a residential facility for seniors. There is a Recreation Therapist on staff who provides recreation opportunities for residents of the facility; some of which take place at the community level.

The town also provides a monthly events calendar/news letter to try to get people involved in various opportunities happening in the community. When asked about specific programs and services designed to welcome and support newcomers, we learned that currently Torbay does not do anything but there has been some discussion about developing a welcome wagon package for all new residents to the area. There was no indication that the package would address the specific needs of immigrants coming to Torbay.

## **Bay Roberts<sup>3</sup>**

Bay Roberts is located approximately 45 minutes outside of the capital city with a population of 5,325. In regard to family characteristics, 2,780 people in Bay Roberts are married (including common-law), 2,205 have never been married, 85 are separated, 305 are divorced and 325 are widowed. Family size in Bay Roberts ranges from 2 people to 5 or more people. There are 760 individuals with a family size of 2, 430 have a family size of 3, 405 have a family size of 4 and 95 have a family size of 5 or more people. With respect to occupations, 2,755 people in Bay Roberts are employed, 115 work in health, 150 work in education, 135 work in primary, 825 work in sales and service, 165 work in management, 285 work in office/related work, 595 work in construction/related work, 175 work in processing/manufacturing and 225 are categorized within other jobs. Of the total population of Bay Roberts, only 60 individuals (25 male, 35 female) classify themselves as immigrants. Of these, they come from the United Kingdom (n=35) and the United States (n=10), and unspecified (n=15).

### ***Recreation Facilities & Services***

Although Bay Roberts is a small town in Newfoundland, there are standard recreational facilities available for residents. The Bay Arena is a rink used for hockey in the winter along with concerts, craft fairs and dances in the summer. The Wilbur Sparkes Recreation Complex is an all-purpose recreational facility used by various members of the community. Furthermore, there are five playgrounds, three softball fields, a soccer pitch, a swimming pool, tennis courts and modern gymnasiums in various schools. Lastly, Bay Roberts has a public library.

Bay Roberts has a variety of recreational activities within the town. There are Klondyke Days, a festival of lights, a ten day Winter Carnival which includes events such as a snow sculpture contest, an All-Star Hockey Classic, Free Skating for Adults and Kids, Concerts and a Snowflake Volleyball Tournament. Furthermore, every year there is a Wes Gosse Hockey Tournament, a Bay Wheels Car Show, a Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life, Halloween activities and Bonfire night. With respect to ongoing events, Bay Roberts offers a free skate on a weekly basis and a Bluegrass and Old-Time Country Music Jam Session every month. It is important to note that in recent years, Bay Roberts has seen tremendous development, particularly in the area of recreation as the Klondyke Festival has seen huge success.

In addition to the traditional recreational opportunities, there are many community groups within the town of Bay Roberts. These include the Junior Auxiliary, Young Girls Auxiliary (Y.G.A.), the Girls Auxiliary (G.A), the Church Lad's Brigade, YBC, LBC, the Salvation Army Citadel,

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<sup>3</sup> The figures for Bay Roberts are based on postal code coverage which is slightly larger than the legal town boundaries (Census, 2006, Community Accounts)

Girl Guides of Canada, many church groups, the Conception Bay North Figure Skating Club, the Bay Roberts Minor Hockey Association and Hockey Moms, the Society of United Fishermen, the Royal Canadian Legion, the Masonic Lodge of Bay Roberts (Lodge Mackay), the Loyal Orange Lodge, the Lions Club and the 50+ Club.

So while Bay Roberts may be a smaller community they have a great deal to offer in the way of recreation.

### **Carbonear<sup>4</sup>**

The town of Carbonear and surrounding areas has of a population of 5,260. With respect to family characteristics, 2,545 individuals in Carbonear are married (which includes common-law), 1,980 have never married, 85 are separated, 245 are divorced and 450 are widowed. Family sizes within the town range from two to five or more persons. 715 individuals have a family size of two people, 460 people have a family size of three people, 350 with a family size of four and 75 individuals reported a family size of five or more people. A little less than half of the residents (2,485) are employed. Of these, 105 are employed in the education sector, 130 work in primary industry (65 fishers; 65 other), 675 in sales and service, 150 in management, 345 in office and related occupations, 485 in construction and related jobs 235 in processing and manufacturing and 140 individuals categorized as other. Of the total population of Carbonear, only 50 individuals (25 male, 25 female) classify themselves as immigrants. Of these, they come from the United Kingdom (n=25) and the United States (n=10), and Germany (n=10).

### ***Recreation Facilities & Services***

Although not a large community, the town offers a variety of recreational opportunities for community members. There is a Recreation Complex which houses tennis courts, softball fields, a basketball court, a soccer field, athletic amenities and a playground. As well the town has a large indoor swimming pool which offers swimming lessons as well as recreational swims and has a swim club. For those looking for quality theatrical performances, Carbonear is home to the Princess Sheila NaGeira Theatre, which offers a variety of theatre events and community events as well as the annual Kiwanis Music Festival. In the same building as the theatre, there is a Community Access Centre and the Carbonear Public Library. The Access Centre provides internet for public use along with adaptive technology for those with disabilities. Additionally, the town has a cinema which screens the films on the same schedule as St. John's.

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<sup>4</sup> The figures for Carbonear include the surrounding communities Clown's Cove, Freshwater, Kingston, Perry's Cove, and part of the municipality of Small Point-Broad Cove-Blackhead-Adams Cove (Census 2006, Community Accounts).

Carbonear offers many recreation opportunities. Annually, the town hosts a triathlon and has recently started offering a Fit Kid Competition which is a scaled down version of the triathlon for youth, ages 7-16. As well the town there are a number of active sports leagues including softball, baseball and soccer. Additionally, Carbonear offers Earle's Riding Horses which provides trail rides, pony rides and birthday packages. As well, Island Charter Tours including whale watching, bird watching, iceberg tours, scuba diving charters, etc. operates in the community. Lastly, Carbonear is part of the Baccalieu Trail which refers to the towns on the Bay de Verde Peninsula. This trail reflects the Baccalieu Ecological Reserve and has the greatest diversity of seabirds in eastern North America. So while Carbonear may not be a large town, there is a great deal in the way of recreation offered year round.

Carbonear has many community groups within the town. The Princess Sheila Seniors Club welcomes newcomers in the area and invites seniors to become a member. As well, Carbonear has a Kiwanis Club which sponsors various events held in the town. The Knights of Columbus is another organization in Carbonear. This group sponsors community dinners, dances and other events. Additional community groups include the Royal Canadian Legion, Kinsmen and Kinettes, the Loyal Orange Lodge, the Lions Club and numerous church groups.

In particular, the types of things the Lion's Club helps with are fundraisers for school sports teams; providing space for girl guides and scouts, and summer programs (inside activities); donating to various charities, and hosting dances for the various holidays (Halloween, New year's) and weddings. In terms of playing an active role in welcoming newcomers to the area, it was mentioned that they welcome people to the community if they are made aware of people who are new to the area. A while back they did sponsor the Canada World Youth Exchange for two consecutive years, and they hosted a multicultural show.

## **Clareville<sup>5</sup>**

The town of Clareville is located almost 200km from the capital city and has a population of 5615. Regarding family characteristics, 3,470 individuals are married (including common-law), 2,850 have never married, 115 are separated, 340 are divorced and 395 are widowed. The family sizes within the town range from 2 people to 5 or more people. 1,065 people have a family of 2, 510 have a family of 3, 490 have a family of 4 and 95 have a family of 5 or more people. There are 3,895 individuals employed. Among these, 250 people are in the health occupation, 195 in education, 165 in primary, 1,095 in sales and service, 400 in management, 540 in office/related

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<sup>5</sup> The figures for Clareville include Shoal Harbour, Random Island except Britannia, Hickman's Harbour, Lower Lance Cove and all communities from Milton to Waterville (Census, 2006, Community Accounts).

work, 200 in processing and manufacturing and 285 categorized under other. Of the total population of Clarenville, only 75 individuals (60 male, 15 female) classify themselves as immigrants. Of these, the majority come from the United Kingdom (n=35) and the United States (n=15), India (n=15), and the People’s Republic of China (n=10) account for the others.

### ***Recreation Facilities & Services***

Probably the main winter recreation attraction to Clarenville are the ski hills. White Hills Ski Resort offers visitors cross country and downhill skiing as well as snowshoeing. The community also has a stadium, softball fields, a tennis court, a basketball court, a soccer field, an extensive trail system, a bowling alley, a movie theatre, parks, playgrounds and a skateboard park. Residents can enjoy recreation year round participating in activities including, swimming, fishing, boating, hiking, camping, historic house tours, golf, tennis, snowmobiling, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, bowling, the Newfoundland Dragway and yoga. Additionally, throughout the year, the town holds many “Clarenville Days” to celebrate what the town has to offer. Events include a folk festival, a pancake breakfast, fish and brews, a community barbeque, kiddies bike parade, pet show, “Clarenville Idol”, a boat parade and dances. As well, community members can partake in ice skating which includes free skating on a weekly basis. There are also many walking trails with remote waterfalls and mountain trails for the town members. Furthermore, there are many cultural affairs in Clarenville such as concerts, festivals, a winter carnival, craft fairs and talent shows. More specifically, the festival Arts under the Stars occurs in the summer and is a festival of free arts performances. Lastly, Clarenville is close to Terra Nova National Park which is a great place for exploring the natural habitat.

Within Clarenville there are various clubs including a soccer club, tennis club, baseball club, basketball club, figure skating club and curling club. Furthermore, there is a Rotary Club of Clarenville, a non-profit minor hockey association, the Lions Club, the walking club and a seniors program.

### **Deer Lake<sup>6</sup>**

Deer Lake is located in the Humber Valley on the west coast of Newfoundland and has a population of 6530. The population in Deer Lake has remained relatively steady since 1996 (n=6910, 1996; n=6320, 2001; n=6530, 2006). 6530 people have reported their marital status, 3190 are married (including common-law), 2510 were never married, 110 are separated, 330 are divorced and 390 are widowed. For family size there were 2110 that reported their family size, 1090 are 2 people families, 540 are 3 people families, 355 are 4 people families and 120 are 5 or

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<sup>6</sup> The figures for Deer Lake include the surrounding communities of Bonne Bay Big Pond, Cormack, Jack Ladder, Pynn’s Brook, Reidville, St. Judes and Wiltondale (Census, 2006, Community Accounts).

more people families. In Deer Lake 3415 people over the age of 15 are employed. 135 work in health care, 110 in education, 335 in primary (fishers, loggers), 1270 work in sales and service (retail, cleaners, daycare), 195 in management, 355 in office and related, 710 in construction and related, 115 in processing and manufacturing (fish processing), and 135 are unspecified. Of the total population of Deer Lake, only 45 (25 male; 20 female) individuals identify themselves as immigrants. Of the 45, they come from the United Kingdom (n=15), the United States (n=10), the Philippines (n=10) and 10 are unspecified.

### ***Recreation Facilities & Services***

Deer Lake has many facilities for recreation these include:

- Ice Arena
- 2 Tennis Courts
- 2 Softball fields
- 3 Playgrounds
- 2 Soccer fields
- Golf Course
- Events field
- Swimming Pool
- Bowling Alley

Deer Lake also has walking trails and a municipal RV and day use park with a beach.

Deer Lake has many organizations, especially for sports. These organizations include:

- Deer Lake Minor Hockey Association; Senior Hockey; High School Hockey; Recreational Hockey League.
- Deer Lake Figure Skating Club
- Minor Softball; Senior Ladies Softball League; Senior Men's Softball League
- Deer Lake Gymnastics Club
- Minor Soccer
- Youth Bowling Council
- Deer Lake Dolphins Swim Team

Besides these organizations Deer Lake also has a Lion's club, a seniors' club, the Upper Humber Rod and Gun Club and the Tree House Family Resource Centre.

## **Stephenville<sup>7</sup>**

Stephenville is located north shore of St. George's Bay in southwestern Newfoundland and has a population of 8590. The population in Stephenville has been reduced by 6-7% since 1996 (n=9850, 1996; n=9130, 2001; n=8590, 2006). 8590 people reported their marital status, 3510 are married (including common-law), 3705 were never married, 215 are separated, 650 are divorced and 510 are widowed. 2585 families reported on their size. 1300 are 2 people families, 725 are 3 people families, 435 are 4 people families and 125 are 5 or more people families. In total 3955 people over the age of 15 have jobs in Stephenville. 225 work in health, 285 work in education, 155 work in primary (fishers, loggers), 1215 work in sales and service (retail, cleaners, daycare), 330 work in management, 570 in office and related, 565 in construction and related, 195 in processing and manufacturing (fish processing workers) and 255 are unspecified. Of the total population of Stephenville, only 115 (50 male, 65 female) individuals classify themselves as immigrants. Of the 115 they come from the United Kingdom (n=25), the United States (n=25), India (n=10), the Philippines (n=10) and 35 are unspecified.

### ***Recreation Facilities & Services***

Stephenville has a ski park, Nordic Ski Park with over 40km of trails. There is the Stephenville dome which was built for the Winter Games in 99 which includes short track speed skating, hockey, figure skating and recreational skating. There is the Caribou curling club, the Regional Aquatic Center, Pieroway Baseball Park, Harmon Golf Club, and the West Coast Training center which includes judo, karate, squash, badminton, basketball, volleyball, weightlifting, and tennis.

There are also plenty of outdoor activities with kayaking, canoeing and hiking.

Stephenville has many events including the Stephenville Theatre Festival which occurs every summer, and the Stephenville MusicFest which is also held in the summer. Also being multicultural they have different events and festivals for different cultures mainly the Micmac Indians. The Arts and Culture Center has different arts on display and for sale.

Stephenville also has a Big brothers/Big Sisters program, the Stephenville Lion's Club, and a Royal Canadian Legion.

### ***Telephone Interview***

We called the town office and we were informed that each venue is planned by various groups and the town has no part in it.

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<sup>7</sup> The figures for Stephenville include the surrounding communities of Cold Brook and Kippens (Census, 2006; Community Accounts).

## **Gander<sup>8</sup>**

Gander is located along the Trans Canada Highway and is accessed by some 128 communities with a combined population of 90000 who rely on services and venues in the town. Gander is home to 9930 people. The population has seen a small decline since 1996 (n=10365, 1996; n=9660, 2001; n=9930, 2006). 4,610 reported their marital status as married (including common-law), 4,070 have never married, 215 are separated, 450 are divorced and 585 are widowed. Family sizes within the town range from 2 people to 5 or more people. 1,490 have a family size of 2, 780 have a family size of 3, 640 have a family size of 4, and 155 have a family size of 5 or more people. With respect to those with occupations, 5,380 have jobs. Of these, 460 are within health, 230 within education, 75 in primary (fishers, loggers), 1,745 within sales and service, 550 within management, 795 in office/related work, 695 in construction/related work, 150 in mechanics, 60 in processing and manufacturing and 600 individuals are categorized as other. Of the total population of Gander, only 180 (85 male, 95 female) report themselves as immigrants. Of these 180, they come from United States (n=55); United Kingdom (n=50); Hong Kong (n=10); Philippines (n=10); France (n=10); Egypt (n=10); Republic of South Africa (n=10), and 15 are unspecified.

### ***Recreation Facilities & Services***

The Gander Community Centre is a popular facility used by many town members. It has something for people of all ages. Within the centre there is a walking track, a large ice surface, a swimming pool, curling club and the facility is also used for concerts and international events. Additionally, in Gander there are many parks and playgrounds. As well, there are many ball parks, a skate park, tennis courts, a gym, walking trails, a golf course, a bowling alley, rod and gun club and a Nordic ski club. Furthermore, there is a North Atlantic Aviation Museum in Gander. Lastly, Gander has a movie cinema.

Besides the previously mentioned facilities in Gander that provide many recreation opportunities to Gander's town members, there are other recreational activities the town has to offer. The Gander Festival of Flight is an annual celebration that attracts people from all over the province. Furthermore, there are various programs in the summer and winter that Gander has to offer to its members. There is an adult basketball league, an aerobics group and a gymnastics group.

There are various community groups within Gander. These include the Gander Rotary Club, Gander Seniors Club, Kiwanis Club of Gander, the Knights of Columbus, Lions Club, Loyal Orange

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<sup>8</sup> The figures for Gander reflect the municipality of Gander (Census, 2006; Community Accounts).



Lodge, Newfoundland Telephone Pioneers, Royal Canadian Legion, Toastmasters Club and the Women's Institute.

### ***Knights of Columbus Interview***

The Knights of Columbus offers many programs which include youth, family, church and community programs. They provide assistance with blood services in the community. When asked about multicultural events, they responded that events are offered on an occasional basis and run as last-minute offerings. They do not have anything formal in place related to multiculturalism. In the past they have sponsored a child from Russia and helped 200 people when the 9/11 tragedy occurred.

### ***Lion's Club Interview***

The Lion's Club offers a number of services to community members but with respect to multiculturalism, it depends on the request. They did provide monetary assistance to help build a school in a developing country and for disasters. They do welcome anyone to their club but they do not have any formal welcome procedures in place; rather they welcome individuals who are interested in becoming club members. Some of the main events they offer include helping with the central hospital, sponsoring the Christmas parade, sponsoring the Navy League and Sea Cadet Corps, renting the hall for reasonable rates, providing school scholarships and providing seniors with a place to meet

### **Portugal Cove-St. Phillip's<sup>9</sup>**

Portugal Cove-St. Phillip's borders the western boundary of the city of St. John's. Many people live in the town so they may enjoy a more rural like environment but still access the amenities in the city. The population of the town is 6560. In Portugal Cove 6560 people have stated their marital status. Of this 6560, 3205 are married, 2710 have never been married, 125 are separated, 295 are divorced and 230 are widowed. For family size there were 2050 families reported, 905 of these were 2 person families, 525 are 3 person families, 445 are 4 person families and 170 are 5 or more person families. In Portugal Cove 3635 people over the age of 15 have jobs. 315 are in health care, 155 in education, 155 in primary (fishers, loggers), 795 in sales and service (retail, childcare, cleaners), 390 in management, 605 in office and related, 555 in construction and related, 25 in processing and manufacturing (fish processing workers), and 530 are unspecified. Of the total population of Portugal Cove-St. Phillip's, only 195 (100 male, 95 female) individuals identify themselves as immigrants. Of these 195, they come from, United Kingdom (n=40); the

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<sup>9</sup> The figures for Portugal Cove-St. Phillip's are for the municipality. Due to postal code boundary changes in 2000, figures for 2000 and later years are not comparable to previous years (Census, 2006, Community Accounts).

United States (n=35); Germany (n=20); Ireland (n=15); Italy (n=10); France (n=10); Egypt (n=10) and 50 are unspecified.

### ***Recreation Facilities & Services***

Portugal Cove-St. Phillip's offers the Rainbow Gully Recreation Complex. It is an outdoor facility which consists of a softball field, playground and skateboard park. Voisey's Brook Recreation Complex is an outdoor facility which includes a softball field, playground, 3 on 3 basketball court and a soccer field. Finally Kiddie Lane is a outdoor playground.

Portugal Cove has a winter carnival in February. There is an annual Regatta and Festival in July which includes many activities like dances, card games, skateboarding competitions, etc., and the Regatta itself which is a day of booths and races. In October there is a haunted house and in December there is a tree lighting ceremony. Portugal Cove- St. Phillip's has activities for most of the holidays including Easter egg hunts, St. Patty's Day dances, the haunted house, house decorating challenges etc.

Portugal Cove- St. Phillip's has a community centre which hosts dart leagues, bingo and summer programs. There is a Royal Canadian Legion. There are many things to join within the churches including choir, youth group etc. There is a 50+ club which hosts monthly socials consisting of dancing, cards and a buffet. There is a women's institute, yoga, weight loss clubs, kung fu and self defense, aerobics, darts, softball, scouts and girl guides.

The community has something for most holidays like the winter carnival, easter party, volunteer social, Canada day celebrations, Regatta Festival, October Halloween party and for Christmas there is a parade, a tree lighting ceremony and a children/youth party.

There are no events for multiculturalism and no welcoming party for newcomers; however the events calendar is sent out to everyone in the community.

### **Happy Valley Goose Bay<sup>10</sup>**

Happy Valley-Goose Bay is often referred to as the "hub" of Labrador because of its central location. The population of Happy Valley-Goose Bay is 7600 and has seen a steady decline since 1996 (n=8665, 1996; n=7965, 2001; n=7600, 2006). Of the 7600 individuals who reported marital status, 2965 married (including common law), 3835 were never married, 145 are separated, 425 divorced, and 235 are widowed. There were 2270 families reported. Family size ranged from 2 persons (980), 3 persons (590), 4 persons (540), 5 or more persons (165). In total 4870 people

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<sup>10</sup> The figures for Happy Valley-Goose Bay are for the municipality of Happy Valley-Goose Bay (Census, 2006, Community Accounts).

have jobs in Happy Valley Goose Bay. 145 people work in health care, 235 people work in education, 120 work in primary jobs (fishers, loggers), 1490 work in sales and services (retail, cleaners, daycare etc) 425 work in management, 860 work in office and related, 925 work in construction, 55 work in processing and manufacturing (fish processing) and 390 are not included in the jobs listed above and are unspecified. Of the total population of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, only 175 (100 male, 75 female) individuals identify as immigrants. Of the 175, they come from United Kingdom (n=95), the United States (n=50), Germany (n=25) and Switzerland (n=10).

### ***Recreation Facilities & Services***

Happy Valley Goose Bay recreation facilities include:

- EJ Broomfield Arena
- CFB Recreation Centre – gymnasium and fitness centre
- Labrador Sports Training Centre – gymnasium, weight room and swimming pool
- 4 School Gymnasiums
- 2 Soccer Fields
- 3 Tennis Courts
- Amaruk Golf Course – 9 holes
- Goose Bay Curling Club
- CFB Golf Facility – Pitch n Putt
- 7 Softball Fields
- Kinsmen Park and Playground
- Walking Trails
- Lake Melville Rod and Gun Club
- Birch Brook Nordic Ski Facility
- Mont Shana – downhill skiing
- Movie Theatre

HVGB celebrates many holidays including Canada Day, Christmas (Santa Claus parade, tree lighting festival, for which the Town won an award). This community also has many other events including the Guy Fawkes Night, Canoe Regatta, Trapper Cup, Trap Wide Marathon, Labrador Celebrations and the Big Land Fair.

From the interview the above festivals and events were named. Also it was stated that the only events or multiculturalism in the community was during Canada Day and the Trap Wide Marathon. During these events tents are set up where they have traditional foods to sample and they have bands play. It was also found that no welcoming events or “welcome wagons” are in the community for newcomers, however for incoming doctors and people in education they do have a tour of the community.

## Overview of Findings

The examination of the nine mid-sized communities in NL suggest that little is being done in any of these communities to create welcoming environments for newcomers to these areas. It is likely that because immigrants make up between 0.69% and 2.97% of the total population in any of the communities studied (see Table 1), the demand to provide specific services for these individuals has not been considered. A further difficulty is the very small numbers from any one foreign country in each of the communities. The majority of immigrants in all communities come from the United Kingdom and the United States. In all communities with the exception of Gander the highest immigrant population comes from the UK with the US following a close second. In Gander 55 immigrants come from the US and 50 come from the UK. While some communities have offered some multicultural events in the past, there was no mention of an ongoing delivery of services for immigrants, nor was there any attempt to involve newcomers to the communities anymore than would be the case for any other community member. In all communities it was a case of providing services for all members with no special effort targeting any specific subgroup of the total population.

**Table 1: Total immigrants in each community**

Community	Immigrants (total pop.)	Percentage of immigrants
Portugal Cove-St. Phillip's	195 (6,560)	2.97%
Happy Valley-Goose Bay	175 (7,600)	2.30%
Torbay	185 (9,740)	1.90%
Gander	180 (9,930)	1.81%
Stephenville	115 (8,590)	1.34%
Clarenville	75 (5,615)	1.33%
Bay Roberts	60 (5,325)	1.12%
Carbonear	50 (5,260)	0.91%
Deer Lake	45 (6,530)	0.69%

## Future Directions

As noted earlier in the report, there are a number of potential benefits that may stem from the involvement of newcomers in various recreation, leisure and sport opportunities. While immigrants only make up a small portion of the total population in any of these communities, making some kind of concerted effort to engage individuals from other countries results not only in higher likelihood that people will remain in the area but also provides learning opportunities for all community members as we learn about other cultures.

Further research is needed in order to fully understand the experiences of newcomers to each of these communities as well as the challenges that leisure/recreation providers may face in delivering services for a multicultural population. For example, are there any differences in retaining immigrants depending upon the type of immigrant (e.g., refugee, entrepreneur, skilled, spouse/family, etc.)? And what type(s) of social activities or organizations seem to be most successful in retaining immigrants in a community?

It is the intention of the current researcher to continue working with a team of researchers in Atlantic Canada so we may better understand the collective experiences of individuals in these communities as well as other similar sized communities elsewhere in Atlantic Canada. The next stage of this research is to complete similar community profiles in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. Here in NL, the next step will be to go into each of the communities and speak with several key stakeholders regarding various aspects of multiculturalism and the complex nature of creating and maintaining a welcoming community environment so we may be better positioned to attract and retain immigrants to numerous communities in NL.

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