

## HARRIS CENTRE REGIONAL WORKSHOPS & OPPORTUNITY SUCCESSES/CONNECTIONS

### What are Regional Workshops?

At the largest university in Atlantic Canada, the Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development is working to bring research and expertise beyond the classrooms and labs. Memorial University's 1,000 full time faculty and 2,300 graduate students are doing work which could transform the way we live. The Harris Centre takes those faculty and students and connects them with people in communities throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. The process of Regional Workshops provides momentum to stimulate new ideas and create synergies outside the main campus areas. The results are collaborative and far-reaching opportunities which the Harris Centre aims to help navigate and broker into successes.

The follow are some examples of successes and connections which resulted from Harris Centre Regional Workshops. (Note: This is a selection of successes and connections made and should not be considered a comprehensive listing.)

### Newtown Regional Workshop (Zone 14) Dec. 2005

→ *Idea:* Get information on tourism research for the region.

*Connection:* A Knowledge Sharing tourism session organized in Terra Nova National Park. Representatives from local museums, tourism groups and the Park met with Memorial faculty, students and staff from Linguistics, C-Core and Geography.

→ *Idea:* Develop a tourism package for the local Regional Economic Development Board.

*Connection:* The Harris Centre collected tourism related research in the region. That information was put together with other information from the region to form a tourism package which was distributed to local businesses and shared with the tourism program at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College.

→ *Idea:* Find out about current work on fishing boat sizes.

*Connection:* A workshop in Gander which shared naval engineer Dag Friis' findings on his research on alternative boat sizes for the fishing industry.

### Stephenville Regional Workshop (Zone 9 & 10) March 2006

→ *Idea:* Share ideas about history and culture in the region.

*Connection:* A Knowledge Sharing session in Stephenville titled "What Constitutes Historical Significance?" Local cultural, heritage and tourism partners shared a dialogue with Memorial historians, philosophers, anthropologists and folklore researchers.

→ *Idea:* Find out more about the effects of a mobile workforce in the region.

*Connection:* The Harris Centre is including the region in a larger-scope Population Project by Keith Storey of MUN's Geography department. Key messages from his work will be shared with the region.

→ *Idea:* Increase the e-marketing abilities of local businesses.

*Connection:* An e-marketing workshop for the area is scheduled for winter 2009, The workshop will feature e-marketing guru Sue Sweeney and Lyle Wetsh, an IT specialist in the Business Faculty at Memorial.

#### L'Anse au Clair Regional Workshop (Zones 4 & 5) May 2006

→ *Idea:* Learn more about oil and gas development benefits for Labradorians.

*Connection:* Two workshops were held (in Hopedale and Happy Valley-Goose Bay) by Mark Shrimpton, adjunct professor at Memorial and principal at Jacques Whitford. Workshop topics included case studies of how other areas have handled offshore petroleum development.

→ *Idea:* Hire more local students in the region with post-secondary education.

*Connection:* The Harris Centre compiled a list of post-secondary students from the region, dates of their program completions, types of programs they enrolled in, and their perceived barriers to obtaining meaningful employment in their home communities. The study was given to the local Regional Economic Development Board to develop a way to address recruiting barriers.

→ *Idea:* Solve energy sustainability issues in northern Labrador communities.

*Connection:* With the Harris Centre's support, Memorial's Dr. Tariq Iqbal studied the feasibility of a hybrid energy system in Battle Harbour, Labrador. The proposed new system uses wind, solar, hydro and diesel generated power. The success of this research has stimulated further work in Cartwright, where it is estimated that town could save approximately \$700,000 per year in fuel costs.

→ *Idea:* A new year-round ferry to replace the existing vessel that connects the Northern Peninsula with the Labrador Straits.

*Connection:* A researcher specializing in naval engineering was put into contact with the Labrador Straits Development Corporation to assess the needs to the ferry service. A new ferry has now been designed, which could operate year-round between St. Barbe and Blanc Sablon. The design and accompanying report is being considered by the provincial government as they explore marine transportation options for that area.

#### Milltown Regional Workshop (Zone 13), October 2006

→ *Idea:* Learn how to advance aquaculture projects

*Connection:* The Harris Centre linked the Newfoundland and Labrador Aquaculture Industry Association with the Coast of Bays Corporation to facilitate a strategic session on new projects.

→ *Idea:* Use e-marketing to advance local tourism and artist businesses

*Connection:* Dale Foster of MUN's faculty of business agreed to meet with local businesses for a session in e-marketing.

→ *Idea:* Develop local theatre abilities

*Connection:* Todd Hennessey with Sir Wilfred Grenfell College's theatre program will be delivering a living history theatre workshop May 11, 2009 in Conne River.

### St. Brides Regional Workshop (Zone 18), November 2008

- *Idea:* Learn more about environmental conservation technology  
*Connection:* The Harris Centre linked Bill Montevecchi, a well known bird researcher, with the region. Dr. Motevecchi will draw on his research and experience to discuss with locals how schools can use technology to educate students on the value of conservation and local species.
- *Idea:* Develop alternative crops in the region  
*Connection:* Wilf Nicholls, with MUN's Botanical Gardens, is collaborating with the Avalon Gateway Regional Economic Development Board on a wild roses project in the region.
- *Idea:* Learn more about coyote management for local sheep farmers  
*Connection:* Geographer Alistair Bath has shared some lessons based on European wolf management research.
- *Idea:* Increase the e-marketing abilities of local businesses.  
*Connection:* In the fall of 2008, an e-marketing session was organized in the region. The workshop featured e-marketing guru Sue Sweeney and Lyle Wetsh, an IT specialist in the Business Faculty at Memorial.

### Plum Point Regional Workshop (Zones 6 & 7), May 2007

- *Idea:* Determine the barriers to post secondary education for those in the region  
*Connection:* The Harris Centre connected Dr. Dale Kirby from the Faculty of Education with the region. Dr. Kirby plans to talk with local schools and parents about barriers to post-secondary enrolment, and how the region can develop strategies to address some of the barriers.
- *Idea:* Learn about ways to promote heritage using new technologies  
*Connection:* Dale Foster from MUN's Faculty of Business has agreed to talk with local tourism businesses about the use of webcams to promote local heritage.
- *Idea:* Find out more about nutrition and community health  
*Connection:* Nutrition specialist Barbara Roebothan from the Faculty of Medicine, and Robert Bertolo from the Department of Biochemistry have agreed to participate in a knowledge sharing session in St. Anthony on the importance of nutrition to community health in the region.

### Labrador City Regional Workshop (Zone 2), May 2007

- *Idea:* Evaluate the impact of Cain's Quest (a snowmobile endurance race)  
*Connection:* Two graduate students in the Applied Social Psychology program at Memorial are working with the Department of Tourism to evaluate the race's impact.
- *Idea:* How will Labrador West deal with the "boom and bust" situation?  
*Connection:* Arn Keeling, a geographer, and John Sandlos, an historian, received a grant from the Social Sciences Humanities Research Council to study boom and bust cycling in northern communities, and its implications to Labrador West. The study will help answer questions such as "What will Labrador West look like when IOC pulls out?" and "How can the region continue economic development when the tide turns?"

- *Idea:* Bring theatre expertise to Labrador City for training/workshops  
*Connection:* The Harris Centre brought Michael Waller from Sir Wilfred Grenfell College's theatre program to Labrador City in April 3 & 4, 2009. Waller delivered two improvisation workshops, with children and adults in the community, during the annual school drama festival.

#### Irish Loop Regional Workshop (Zone 20), Nov. 2007

- *Idea:* How can the Irish Loop region foster international business opportunities?  
*Connection:* Zone 20 board connected with Gardiner Centre and International Business Centre at Memorial.
- *Idea:* Can the Irish Loop create and maintain a trail system linked to the East Coast Trail?  
*Connection:* Zone board connected with East Coast Trail Association and Harris Centre to discuss a trail system on the Irish Loop and incorporating historical material on interpretative panels along the trail.

#### Exploits Valley Regional Workshop (Zone 12), Nov. 2007

- *Idea:* Learn more about medical school graduates who are trained in rural settings  
*Connection:* Chris Brown, Masters in Employment Relations student, will study this topic in relation to this province and, in particular, the Grand Falls-Windsor area.

#### Central Labrador Regional Workshop (Zone 3), May 2008

- *Idea:* Learn more about oil and gas development benefits for Labradorians.  
*Connection:* Two workshops were held (in Hopedale and Happy Valley-Goose Bay) by Mark Shrimpton, adjunct professor at Memorial and principal at Jacques Whitford. Workshop topics included case studies of how other areas have handled offshore petroleum development.

#### Burin Regional Workshop (Zone 16), May 2008

- *Idea:* Help incubate and/or find funding to develop an invention by Felix Coady.  
*Connection:* Harris Centre meeting with Felix Coady and Genesis Centre to discuss invention and incubation.

#### Carbonear Regional Workshop (Zone 17), Nov 2008

- *Successes/connections from opportunities coming...*