

Summary of the Research

The research proposed here is for a project entitled: “Premiers and Development Policies in Newfoundland and Labrador, 1949 to 2009.”

The research is intended to lead to the writing of a book and/or articles about the nine men who served as Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador from Confederation with Canada in 1949 until 2010, with a particular emphasis on the five who, it will be argued, have had the most impact on development: Joey Smallwood, Brian Peckford, Clyde Wells, Brian Tobin and Danny Williams. The focus is mainly on a comparative description and analysis of each premier’s approach to economic and social development for the province.

The research and analysis will be based on three main sources:

1. Secondary materials, including books, articles and newspaper accounts of each premier’s activities and pronouncements.
2. Drawing on the researcher’s own experience and records accumulated while working in a senior public service position for three of the premiers (Peckford, Wells and Williams—as well as an earlier interview with Smallwood about his approach to development).
3. Interviews with former and current premiers, cabinet ministers and senior public servants, as well as leaders in other spheres over the years (business, labour, academia and the community sector).