

# Department of Economics Alumni Testimonials



## Doug Trask

*My interest in Economics dates back to a teacher at Mount Pearl Central High, Harvey Hodder, who later became Mayor of Mount Pearl. Going into public exams I had 100% so I guess he felt comfortable asking me to teach a class in Economics as the year was coming to an end. Looking back it was intimidating, but I guess he wanted to challenge and inspire me to continue on this path.*

At Memorial, both Dr. Bill Schrank and Dr. Doug May played key roles in my education and decision to pursue a graduate degree in Economics. I graduated from Memorial University in 1986 with a BA (Honours) degree in Economics and Dr. May was my Honours dissertation supervisor. I completed my Masters in Economics in 1988, specializing in Econometrics under Dr. David Prescott at the University of Guelph - a close colleague of Dr. Schrank. Many wondered why I had taken 22 undergraduate courses in Economics, but it prepared me for graduate school. Most of my graduate work was applied - linked to work experiences with the Newfoundland Petroleum Directorate (now the Department of Natural Resources), where I was involved in economic and fiscal analysis of the proposed Hibernia oil development, and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, where I was responsible for electrical energy demand modeling and forecasting.

One's career path in Economics can take many turns as the employment opportunities are quite diverse. My education and work experience resulted in an opportunity as Senior Economist with the Advisory Council on the Economy, which reported to Provincial Cabinet on economic policy issues including: productivity and competitiveness, trade and investment, and economic diversification. The five years I spent undertaking research on Newfoundland and Labrador's economy with input from Statistics Canada, the OECD and local stakeholders, led to an opportunity with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), a regional economic development agency. I spent the next 15 years involved with the development and delivery of federal-provincial programs under the Canada-Newfoundland Economic Regional Development Agreement (ERDA), the Canada-Atlantic Provinces International Business Development Agreement and the Atlantic Innovation Fund, and was later Senior Economic Analyst for Major Projects (offshore oil and gas, the Lower Churchill development and Voisey's Bay mine and hydromet demonstration project).

I am currently VP, R&D Opportunities with the Research & Development Corporation, a provincial crown corporation that was established in 2008. For the past 9 years, a strong understanding on the NL economy through my education at Memorial and diverse work experiences have been invaluable in developing RDC's strategy and programs in support of R&D, innovation, and economic growth.

All the way, I've been fortunate in have had many mentors and employment opportunities in the field of Economics.