

The Department of Economics Visiting Speaker Series
Funding provided by the Vice-President Academic's
"Support for Scholarship in the Arts"
Dr. Catherine Keske
(Grenfell Campus, Memorial University)

Food security, food sovereignty, and
the agricultural supply chain in
Newfoundland and Labrador

Friday January 30, 2015 at 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
Arts and Administration Annex Building Room A1049



Dr. Catherine Keske is an associate professor of agricultural and resource economics at Memorial University -Grenfell Campus. She is on the faculty of the Environmental Studies (Economics) program and is part of the newly established Boreal Ecosystem Research Initiative (BERI). Dr. Keske has published in the applied economics literature on topics such as marginal abatement costs of soil degradation, agricultural-based bioenergy, electricity pricing, sustainability metrics, and forest recreation.

Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) food producers, and consequently consumers, encounter unique market conditions compared to other Canadians. The province's diffuse population, short growing season, isolation from the mainland, and relatively remote location from productive agricultural centers combine to create complex pressures on agricultural production and food prices.

This presentation posits that social welfare will be enhanced if the future direction of NL agricultural production reflects preferences for food security and food sovereignty, as well as mindfulness to agricultural production costs.

Food security has been classically defined as "secure access to enough food all the time". Food sovereignty reflects maintaining local food sources in order to mitigate risks resulting from large scale commercial agricultural production and trade. This presentation integrates national and provincial data with the agricultural economics literature to outline the plan for further study of NL food security and food sovereignty, and for strengthening the province's agricultural supply chain. The presentation also highlights the newly established agricultural and forestry research center at the Memorial University-Grenfell Campus and agricultural research that is already underway.