



Engaging Communities in Research: The Thriving Regions Partnership Process

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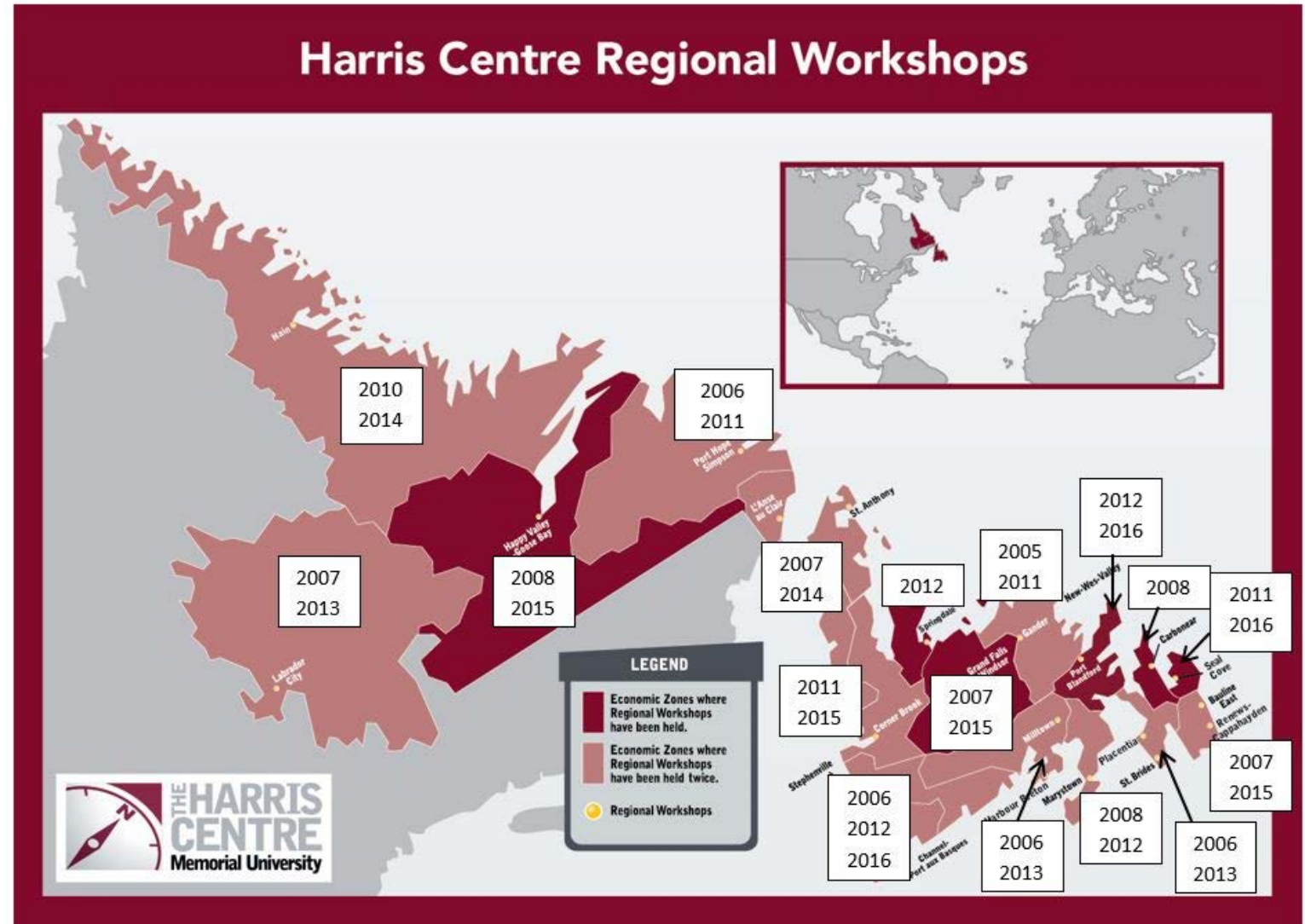


- Memorial University has a special obligation to the people of NL
- Public engagement involves mutual respect, contributions and benefits for all participants
- The Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development has two primary goals:
 - To assist in the responsible development of the economy and society of Newfoundland and Labrador
 - To stimulate informed discussion of important provincial issues





- Held Regional Workshops from 2005-2016
- Four regions a year throughout the province
- Based on Regional Economic Development Zones





- Outcomes:
 - Built awareness and relationships
 - Multiple brokering opportunities (content for Yaffle.ca)
 - Applied research, teaching and public engagement projects





- Local capacity
 - Planning
 - Follow-up
- Memorial capacity
 - Research
 - Funding





- Developed the Thriving Regions Partnership Process in 2017
- More sustained relationships and meaningful engagement over 1.5 years (and beyond)
- Dedicated research funding
- Partnerships with other Memorial units (Grenfell Campus, Labrador Institute)





- Establish Advisory Committee
- Workshop 1: Identify themes
- Finalize research priorities
- Open applied research fund
- Evaluation committee chooses researchers
- Workshop 2: Researchers present on their planned research



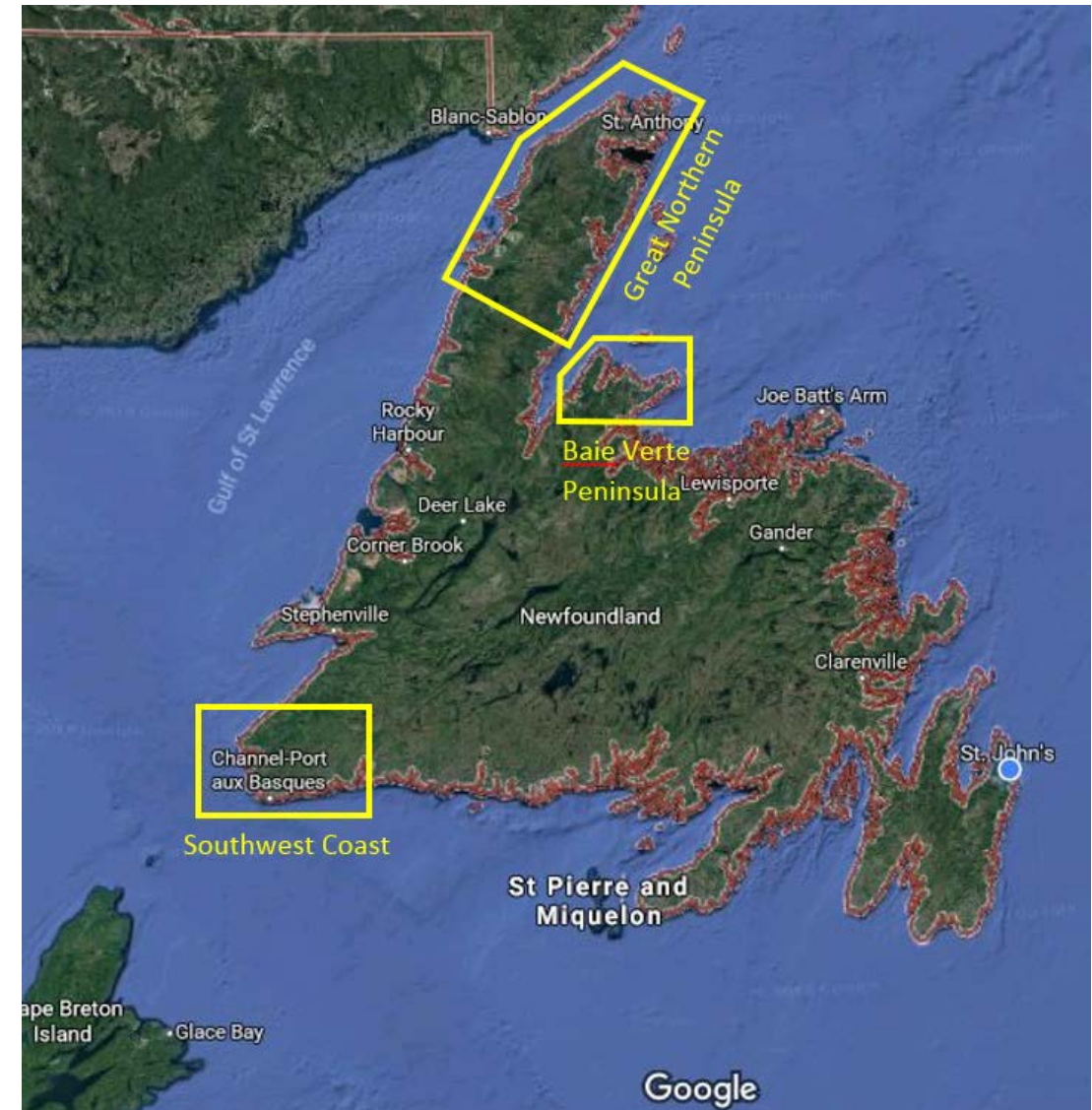


- Researchers submit detailed research plans
- Evaluation committee reviews research plans
- Researchers awarded funding
- Research projects completed and researchers present final results a year later
- Strategic Doing process





- Great Northern Peninsula
 - Regional Governance
 - Fishing and Port Industries
 - Tourism
 - Entrepreneurship
- Baie Verte Peninsula
 - Tourism
 - Community and Regional Development
 - Natural Resource Development
 - Food Security
- Southwest Coast
 - Entrepreneurship & Community/Regional Collaboration:
 - Embracing the Aging Population
 - Understanding Tourism Patterns
 - Building Food Security





Challenge: Lack of funding for community-engaged research

Strategy: Find or reallocate funding

Challenge: Lack of interested researchers

Strategy: Find researchers who want to engage with communities and be up front with expectations (and funding helps!)

Challenge: Lack of relationships between those inside and outside the university

Strategy: Put relationship-building into the process, and help researchers do so as well

Challenge: Knowing who is doing what and where

Strategy: Partner with other university units when possible



Challenge: Striking balance between community needs and researcher independence

Strategy: Build clear communication into the process and learn as you go

Challenge: Perceived lack of community/regional capacity

Strategy: Recognize that there is plenty of capacity and find ways to mobilize it

Challenge: Moving research into action

Strategy: Support applied research and use a facilitation process to help move it forward if possible



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