‘It’s Just Nice to See the Light on Again’
Exploring the Social Implications of Establishing Research Facilities in Rural Newfoundland and Labrador

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April 30th 2013
April 30, 2013

Ken Carter  
Director, Partnership Research and Analysis  
Rural Secretariat  
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Dear Mr. Carter:

The attached report, which fulfills the requirements of the Research Grant I was awarded, represents my findings as a result of having engaged in community-based research in the community of Lord’s Cove.

My report includes detailed descriptions of the research project, cultural considerations, research questions, methodology, analysis of data, and a discussion of results.

Additionally, I have included recommendations to both the Rural Secretariat and CNA on to benefit by investing in research in rural Newfoundland and Labrador.

Although the data I have compiled provides but a glimpse into how the community currently feels about the WERC project, I strongly believe it would be advantageous to use this resource as a baseline to conduct further longitudinal research throughout the life of the WERC project. I strongly suggest you examine my proposed opportunities for further study.

It has been an enriching experience, both personally and professionally, to have had the opportunity to conduct this study. I look forward to discussing my findings; and the possibility for further research with you.

Sincerely,

Janice C. Rowsell, B.A., B.Ed.  
CAS Instructor/Primary Researcher
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Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I would like to thank the people of Lord’s Cove for welcoming me into their homes and sharing their knowledge and experiences with me. Without them, this study would not have been possible. I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to engage in many hours of conversation with such wonderful individuals.

Additionally, I would like to thank my colleagues at College of the North Atlantic, particularly Mike Graham, Kay Graham, and Steve Warren for their unwavering support as I endeavored to complete this project.

To the funding agencies, CNA’s Office of Applied Research, and the Rural Secretariat- I express my sincere gratitude for being provided with the resources to explore the experiences of this town in-depth.
Abstract

In the years since the Atlantic Cod Moratorium was implemented, many rural communities across Newfoundland and Labrador have struggled to find long-term economic solutions to sustain themselves. Most effects of these changes are easily seen through a combination of out-migration, seasonal employment, and reliance on government funding; however, the impact on individuals and families must also be taken into consideration. This community-based qualitative research study has used in-depth individual interviews with twelve citizens of Lord’s Cove, which is located on the islands’ Burin Peninsula, to explore how residents have responded to the establishment of the Wave Energy Resource Centre (WERC) by College of the North Atlantic in their community, and what they anticipate the outcome of the research might be. As a viable option for long-term economic sustainability, the WERC aims to provide the community of Lord’s Cove with economic and technical benefits from both a wave-powered piston pump and a shore-based multi-species aquaculture facility located in the towns’ former fish processing plant. The purpose of the study was to gain intimate knowledge from community members in order to advance stakeholder knowledge on how to successfully conduct research, and establish research facilities in rural areas. Analysis of the findings is presented in terms of social factors that have contributed to resident attitudes. The report will provide recommendations to College of the North Atlantic on how to implement research projects that affect rural communities in Newfoundland and Labrador. Additionally, it will explain social lessons that have been learned as a result of establishing the WERC which will be a useful resource to stakeholders. The report concludes by outlining possibilities for future research in the community.
Introduction

The town of Lord’s Cove, like many rural Newfoundland and Labrador communities, has a deeply-rooted history that is tied to the once prosperous inshore cod fishery. Located on the island’s Burin Peninsula, the town of Lord’s Cove has experienced drastic changes over the past twenty years. It has seen the collapse of its primary industry, the out-migration of many of its residents, and has been left with a population which, according to the most recent federal census, is approximately 160. Over 90% of Lord’s Cove residents are now in the fifty-plus age range (Census Profile, 2012). Over time, infrastructure in the town has crumbled, which is evident in its lack of amenities, meaning that residents must drive to nearby Lawn, approximately eighteen kilometers away, to pick up provisions. The once busy harbor in Lord’s Cove is now vacant. Boats no longer line up along the wharf and pepper the shoreline; children no longer wait anxiously on the beach for their relatives to return with the days’ catch. In the years immediately following the closure of the ground fishery, the local fish processing facility remained open and continued to process other species; mainly Lump Roe, but this venture was short-lived, resulting in the closure of the plant in 2001. In the preceding decade, the building itself fell into a state of disrepair, much to the dismay of residents, as it long served as the “heart” of the community.

In 2003, researchers at the College of the North Atlantic Burin Campus (CNA) were awarded an Atlantic Innovation Fund grant from ACOA to design and deploy a wave-powered piston pump that would provide high volumes of sea water to shore-based facilities, such as aquaculture. CNA researchers saw this as an opportunity to provide a low-cost source of flowing sea water for shore-based aquaculture in a rural community. To complete this project, CNA required the development of infrastructure and instrumentation for a test site. Selecting a site for this project was a challenge, as the list of criteria to be met was extensive (Mike Graham, personal communication, April 9, 2013).
First, it was imperative that the test area have a sea floor that would safely accommodate the pipeline leading to the in-shore site, and waves that were strong enough to generate a reliable supply of sufficient sea water flow. Secondly, a building with close proximity to the shore was required to house the multi-species aquaculture site and allow researchers with ample space to conduct their work. Lastly, it was important that this on-land site be connected to electricity and be accessible by vehicle year-round. Several communities on the Burin Peninsula were taken into consideration; however, Lord’s Cove proved to be the only site that was able to meet all test site criteria. The derelict fish processing plant in the Cove would come to life yet again, and become the home of a cascaded multi-species aquaculture installation that would be the first of its kind in Canada.

In 2011, CNA received further funding from NSERC and RDC, and in December of the same year, an intellectual property agreement between the town of Lord’s Cove and College of the North Atlantic was finalized (Mike Graham, personal communication, April 9, 2013). Subsequently, the Wave Energy Research Centre (WERC) was established. In the following year, funding from IRBD allowed the former fish plant buildings to be extensively refurbished, which provided work for tradespeople in the area. Additionally, work at the facility itself provided employment for two townspeople and generated student employment.

**Impetus for Research**

During the preliminary stages of the Wave Energy Research Project, it became apparent to CNA that there was a growing curiosity among some community members as to what was taking place in their town. When entering a research site, it is important that researchers do so with extreme care. Collaboration with, and inclusion of, community representatives in the research process helps to build trust and increase the likelihood that affected communities are invested in and supportive of the research being done (Flicker et al., 2007, p. 107). Therefore, CNA researchers invited residents to volunteer to sit on the Lord’s Cove Research Committee. This open line of communication has been mutually beneficial, and is essential to the future success of the project.
In the spring of 2012, as the refurbishing of the former fish plant was under way, members of the WERC research team noted an increased number of community members that would frequent the wharf when they were present at the facility. These individuals generously offered to be of assistance to offer advice, assist with field trials of the piston pump, and choose an ideal location for a weather station and wave instrumentation. This interaction between community members and researchers proved to be of vital importance to CNA, as the intimate geographical knowledge possessed by local fishermen helped to guide trials more efficiently. According to a study completed by Craig Palmer and Reed Wadley, professors of Anthropology at the University of Missouri-Columbia, when researchers incorporate local environmental talk (LET) and local environmental knowledge (LEK) into the study, the view of local residents is transformed from holders and users of ecological knowledge to active agents who use talk about the environment to help shape perhaps the most important part of that environment—the behavior of other humans (2007). It is imperative then that researchers justify the contributions of local residents in order to improve the research process.

It was through these acts of community generosity and involvement that the concept for the current study was conceived. Collaboration between researchers and communities helps to ensure that communities invest themselves in the research, making data and results more significant for the community. This, in turn, increases the likelihood for a successful project with mutual benefits (Recommendations for Community Involvement, 2009).

The current research is a descriptive, exploratory study involving residents of Lord’s Cove. The primary objective is to appeal to the affective domain of thinking, within a qualitative methodology to explore how particular characteristics of the social and economic community may lead to current opinions on the establishment of the WERC, and the optimism residents have for its future. Additionally, questions regarding the community’s history, culture, and ways of life were explored.
Method

Approach and Design

As the WERC is the first of its kind in Canada, there is no literature currently available to explain how the establishment of such a facility impacts residents. It is imperative then to explore the meaning and everyday lived experiences of those who are affected by such a facility in rural Newfoundland and Labrador. In considering the design of this project, it was determined that the study be conducted in a way that would give residents an opportunity to express their feelings about their community, the changes it has gone through, and ultimately their feelings about the WERC project. This would let residents express their thoughts in their own words, and in the context of their own lived reality. The goals of this research study then are consistent with qualitative research methodology. In qualitative inquiry, the aim of the study is not to generalize about a population; rather, it enables the researcher to develop an in-depth exploration of a central phenomenon (Creswell, 2012, p. 206). Qualitative research emphasizes verbal descriptions and explanations of human behavior. Rather than concerning itself primarily with representative samples, it emphasizes careful and detailed descriptions of social practices in an attempt to understand how participants experience and explain their own world (Developing and Sustaining Community-Based Participatory Research Relationships, n.d.).

To gain a deeper understanding of the lived experience of individuals of Lord’s Cove, the researcher elected to use data collection methods such as one-on-one interviews that consisted of open-ended questions (See Appendix 1); and descriptive as well as reflective field notes. By allowing the participant to best voice their experiences unconstrained by either the researcher or past findings, the participant essentially created the options for responding. Notes that were taken during or immediately following the interviews helped aid the researcher in gaining insights and themes that emerged during the observation.
Participants

Selecting participants for this study was conducted using purposeful sampling. This method of sampling enables the researcher to select individuals to learn about the central phenomenon. The ideal informant in this regard is someone who is considered to be “information-rich.” In qualitative research, it is typical that the researcher study fewer individuals than in a quantitative study. The reason for this being that the researcher must provide an in-depth picture of the central phenomenon. As the number of participants increases, the ability to provide an in-depth perspective diminishes. Additionally, the primary objective of qualitative research is to present the complexity of the information provided by informants. Collecting qualitative data and analyzing it takes considerable time.

In order to gain access to the community and select participants more efficiently, the researcher utilized a gatekeeper. In qualitative research, a gatekeeper is a person who has either an official or unofficial role at the site, provides entrance to a site, helps researchers locate people, and assists in the identification of places to study (Creswell, 2012, p.211). During a visit to Lord’s Cove prior to the current study, the researcher was able to meet with several members of the Lord’s Cove Research Committee to gain insight as to whether there would be enough interest to pursue the study. From that meeting, a resident volunteered to assist the researcher gain access to information-rich participants.

Although Lord’s Cove is historically a fishing village, and the majority of residents worked in that industry, it was important to engage individuals from diverse backgrounds to gain a comprehensive view of how they feel about the establishment of the WERC in their town. Therefore, the selection of informants was limited by neither age nor occupation. Once contact information for prospective informants was provided by the gatekeeper, the primary investigator contacted each individual by telephone and asked them to participate. It is worth noting that additional informants were recruited through conversations with those who were first interviewed. Additionally, each informant was native to Lord’s Cove, and that they had all been living there prior to the moratorium in 1992.
In total, twelve informants were interviewed. The ages of both male and female informants ranged from 40-80 years old. These individuals represented a diverse group; active and retired fishers, seasonal workers, health professionals, and retired education professionals (See Table 1 for resident characteristics).

Table 1. Participant characteristics: Age, sex and area of occupation. Lord’s Cove.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (Years)</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45-64</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Fisherman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Seasonal Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Retired Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44</td>
<td>Female</td>
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<tr>
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<td>45-64</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Ret. Fisherman</td>
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<td>45-64</td>
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<td>45-64</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Fisherman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Entrepreneur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community Visits

Interviews for the study were conducted during the winter of 2013 in Lord’s Cove. Each participant elected to be interviewed in their home and was receptive to the researcher visiting their residence.

Prior to the interviews being conducted, the researcher took measures to ensure participants were fully aware of the purpose of the study, that their identity would remain anonymous, how
their information would be used, and how the material would be stored. Ethical considerations were met through the use of a customized informed consent document (See Appendix 2). Participants were given a copy of this form for their records. Additionally, they were provided with an opportunity to view the current study prior to submission.

Interviews conducted varied in length, from 25 to 70 minutes. Each was digitally recorded using a voice recorder. Upon the completion of interviews, data files were reviewed by the primary investigator to identify core categories and themes. Subsequently, files were transcribed for further analysis by a student assistant.

The impact of the cod moratorium is still experienced within Lord’s Cove on economic and social levels; therefore, it is important to be cognizant of this fact and attempt to gain an understanding of how life in the community has evolved in subsequent years; more importantly, to also consider that these resonating feelings may impact how residents respond to the development of the WERC in their town.

Questions for the open-ended interview were structured in a way that would enable the exploration of how the community has changed over time. Therefore, interviews reflected the chronological order of life in the town prior to, and during the research project, as well as future expectations. To gain insight of community life, it was important to explore social dimensions such as a sense of belonging, the degree of resilience among residents, help and support and attitudes towards those who aid in community issues. In the final stages of the interview, participants were questioned with respect to their sense of optimism for the WERC and also for their community’s future.

During analysis of transcribed data, files were reviewed multiple times in order to identify recurring patterns and themes. In qualitative research, this process is referred to as constant comparative data analysis. The researcher engages in a process of gathering data, sorting it into categories, collecting new data, and comparing the new information with emerging categories (Creswell, 2012, p. 434). Given the fact that participants were chosen through purposeful
sampling, the researcher was able to eliminate redundancy and develop evidence for categories. This weaving back and forth between data collection and analysis continued as the researcher refined and clarified the meanings of categories for the themes. This process was completed when the saturation of the category was reached. Saturation is a state in which the researcher subjectively ascertains that any new data will not add to information or insights to the categories (Creswell, 2012, P.433).

In each interview, participants were given the opportunity to discuss any issues which they felt were relevant and important to the study. Through this action, participants took equal ownership of the phenomenon being studied; which makes the research outcomes accessible, understandable, and relevant to their specific interests and needs. The secondary points that were raised helped to paint a more complex picture of the central phenomenon than by the interview alone (Laung et al., 2004, p. 499). Probing questions were then utilized to bring about further information or to clarify information. These probes were essential in interpreting the lived reality of participants discussed in their interviews, and aided in ensuring the validity of researcher interpretation.

**Results**

The following sections provide participant explanations of community history, responses toward how the community dealt with the loss of the main source of employment in the town, characteristics of how social lives have changed during the past two decades, and implications of the WERC for the future of the community. As previously discussed, themes for the research arose based on the utilization of comparative data analysis. This ongoing comparison between participant explanations proved to be very useful in the sense that it enabled the researcher to identify differences in community response.
Participant Validation

Upon the completion of the study, participants were provided with an opportunity to review findings and interpretations; a practice is known as member checking. This check involves taking the finding back to participants and asking them about the accuracy of the report. In addition to this, accuracy and validity were achieved using triangulation. Triangulation is the process of corroborating evidence from different individuals, types of data, or methods of data collection in descriptions and themes of qualitative research (Creswell, 2012, p. 259). Ensuring the accurate representation of participants is at the heart of any qualitative research, and is of the upmost importance.

Historical Aspects of Community

Discussion of the community in a historical context is vital for understanding how it has evolved over time; and to aid in the understanding of how economic changes impact the current reaction to the WERC. The community has had to find a new sense of normalcy, and adapt to changes in the roles of community members and social structure. How the community reorganized itself in the years following the moratorium is rooted in strongly held social traditions. In general, a historical perspective provides for an assessment of how community characteristics changed as a function of the moratorium (Fowler & Etchegary, 2008, p. 327).

Each of the participants indicated to me during our interviews that their families had been living in Lord’s Cove for at least two generations; indicating a strong attachment to the area. The economy in the community was traditional in the sense that men were primarily involved in the fishery, and women were charged with the task of raising children, and keeping up the home front. As the fishing industry became more technologically advanced in the 1960’s, many women began working in the fish processing plant located on the town wharf. Prior to 1992, people in Lord’s Cove, like many other rural communities, experienced an active economic lifestyle. Although the community is fairly isolated, many residents were able to find work as either fishers or fish plant workers. Additionally, a small number of residents were employed as
educators, and there were several entrepreneurs who operated three general stores to ensure the needs of the community were met. The social class structure within the community showed little variation, and this remained intact up until the point of the moratorium. According to one respondent:

...Everything revolved around the fishery. Everything. Every job, except for the few teachers, in the school and that. If you weren’t involved in the school, you were involved in the fishery.

Each respondent claimed that the community of Lord’s Cove was prosperous in many ways before 1992. People worked hard, and they held on to what they earned. Individuals were kept busy with their jobs, they shared strong social ties, and there was little time or interest in taking vacations or purchasing big-ticket items. To flaunt wealth was actually looked down upon by other community members, as one participant ascertained:

...And we never heard tell of people around here...going to Cuba or Florida for a holiday. If you ever heard tell of people going to Florida they must have some money that cost them something...now by Jesus the young crowd growing up are down there all the time. The difference now I suppose is they got the money to go with.

According to another participant, a female in her mid-40s, the jobless rate in the town was so low, there was hardly time available for social activity:

...Oh my God, everyone was busy. You didn’t hear tell of someone not working. All the men were out fishing, all the women were in the fish plants, sure even the kids were involved. They’d be cutting out tongues, or helping out down around the wharf. We were all flat out. In the summer, you hardly did anything besides work. People were too busy to do anything! It was no good to try and put off a dance cause people were too tired to go to it!

For residents in the community, prosperity meant more than money earned from employment. Long hours spent on the water or in the plant provided an opportunity for people to spend time socializing together. It instilled a sense of pride and helped to strengthen community ties.

...We were all involved. People had a purpose. We had a reason to get out of bed in the morning. We enjoyed our time together and then the next morning we’d all get up and do it again... People were happy. People were happier back then.
Throughout the interview process, it was apparent that the wharf played a significant role in the lives of individuals in Lord’s Cove. Not only was it the economic center of the community, it was a shared social space that was revered as the heart of the community. According to Gerald Pocius, a folklorist at Memorial University who has studied the usage of social space in rural Newfoundland and Labrador, this coming together in a workspace enabled human relationships to develop. Fishing grounds were used by everyone, and each person has equal access. People would then communicate through kinds of work considered appropriate in various spaces (Pocius, 2000, p. 147). During the years when the cod fishery became increasingly modernized, residents realized that the use of water space must be primarily attentive to community good, which were also concerns that governed social relationships in the town. Residents still have a sentimental attachment to this space, as described by one resident as she recalled her teenage years in the town:

There was always a sense of excitement in the town. It was a pleasure, you know, remember when I was in university, coming home and jaunting down to the wharf and seeing all the activity going on down there, people coming in in their boats, even the older people would come down to see what the younger generation were up to when they’d come in the shore... It was almost like waiting for Christmas you know, watching everyone get ready for the fishing season...it was surely a site to see back then, everybody down on the wharf. Certainly not like it is down there now. Back then, if you wanted to know what was on the go all you had to do was go to the wharf.

Consequently, the announcement of the cod moratorium in 1992 would change life in the community dramatically. Not only had the community lost its main source of employment, it would begin to lose its people as well.

**Reaction to the Moratorium**

Immediately following the moratorium, the only employer in the community, the OCI fish processing plant, laid off its workers. People in the community would feel the strain of the closure not only financially; it also took a toll on peoples’ well-being and was a great source of stress, as reported by one participant:
Well the plant shut down right away. This might sound strange, but it was almost like a sadness came over the town. People had fished or worked in this plant or that plant all of their lives. I mean, they were up in their 40s, 50s, what were they gonna do? No one knew what to do with themselves. I mean, you’d look down at the plant, the wharf- it’s just barren. No one could do nothing, and more than that no one could afford to do nothing. So nothing was going on in the community then, because no one had money to waste.

This psychological hardship was experienced by many people within the community; the sentiment was echoed by another participant who highlighted the sense of loss that continues to be experienced as a result of out-migration up to the current day:

Well once the moratorium—you wouldn’t believe how things went downhill. It was unreal how things went downhill. People started moving, that was the first thing I noticed. People started moving the younger, younger people start moving... we had two busloads of kids going to school here, two big busloads of kids. You can use a friggin horse and cart to carry them to school now, there is no one here. Half a dozen kids. We got 31 houses here with one person in it; 28 with two, and we got 11 or 12 houses here with no one in them. She’s gone. There’s no life here.

It is important to note that with the constant flow of out-migration in Lord’s Cove, those who remained in the community still feel the strain of missing loved ones who have had to move on in order to make ends meet.

None of the youngsters comes to stay. They’re a lot better off, it’s sad because I knows it is killing the community that we are living in. That’s why [pause] something got to happen on the Burin Peninsula as a whole. The ship yards, no more fish plants, so we got to turn to something else.

Based on transcript analyses, it appears evident that the cultural and social well-being of the community has been under threat. Families have faced challenges in situations where parents have had to leave their children to pursue education and employment opportunities. The feeling is unpleasant for both the parent and the child.

Adjusting to Changes

During the years immediately following the moratorium, residents of Lord’s Cove struggled to find ways to support themselves financially. In the aftermath, many displaced workers were provided with financial aid in the form of government sponsored work projects. Employees
would work for a specified length of time and then receive unemployment benefit payments during the winter months. This proved difficult for many of the former fishers to adjust to.

You ended up on what they used to call the tags projects and stuff like that and that was sad in a way, I mean, you were put out on this project, and once you got your stamps, I mean, for the rest of the winter, you didn’t do nothing and you couldn’t look forward to the spring coming so you could go back to work in the plant cause you knew that wasn’t going to happen. So people had to make up their minds then to go away, which some did, or look for some other job- which wasn’t easy for a lot of people, or try to find a way that they would fit in to this new fishery. Thank God a few of em here in the cove who were really dedicated, they managed to figure something out.

As such, former fishers who had invested heavily in equipment elected to stay and take part in a new type of fishery. To harvest species such as crab, whelk, lump roe, would mean purchasing larger boats, new gear and supplies- which many could not afford to do. Furthermore, the wharf in Lord’s Cove was not large enough to accommodate these larger vessels; and subsequently, these fishers had to relocate their fishing operations to nearby Lawn, where they remain to the current day:

...Lord’s Cove used to be a thriving community. It had 30 odd boats fishing out of the cove. The thing is, you will still find a few fishermen in the cove but they are all gone on to bigger boats in Lawn. You know, they are into the 45, 50, 55 foot boats, so I mean, the way of fishing changed drastically...for insurance reasons, the harbor here is not a very good harbor, and if anything happened, a lot of it is insurance reasons.

When explicitly asked about whether further investment into the fishery was worthwhile, respondents who worked as fishers their whole lives stated that taking the risk was the most viable option for them. For instance, one respondent stated that if he did not take a chance in the fishery, he knew he would not gain employment in other areas due to his lack of formal schooling:

A lot of us were going into the fishing boat with our fathers with a grade eight or nine education. And now, the age, the age you know and then we got a big investment...investment in the fishery. We’re just you know, we’re into this big, built up over the years...you know you are into it heavy and you are after putting a lot of money into it you just can’t [pause] walk away from it..

Unfortunately, many individuals were left with no viable alternative than to walk away from the place they called home. This trend; however, is not unique to Lord’s Cove. Many rural communities across Newfoundland and Labrador have struggled to find new ways to sustain
themselves economically in the decades that have passed since the cod moratorium. Consequently; many younger able-bodied individuals have relocated to other areas in order to secure employment. This leaves their former hometown without the ability to prosper and regenerate. This drastic change in demographics is quite apparent when visiting Lord’s Cove, and is easily quantifiable through government census information. Between 2001 and 2011, the town experienced a substantial population decline. According to census data compiled by Statistics Canada, Lord’s Cove experienced a population decline of 25%, and saw its median resident age increase from 41 to 52 (2001 Community Profiles, 2007., Census Profile, 2011.). In spite of this statistic, the people of the community remain steadfast in the hope that things will change.

A New Chapter?

In 2003, when researchers at College of the North Atlantic Burin Campus embarked on a search for the most suitable location to establish its onshore aquaculture facility, they elicited the assistance of the Schooner Development Corporation to serve as a liaison between the College and community members. It was through this partnership that the town learned of what intentions the college had for their project, and ensured expectations were managed accordingly (Mike Graham, personal communication, April 24, 2013). Prior to the submission of funding applications, stakeholders at the college and in the community felt it was vital for residents of Lord’s Cove to be informed and supportive of the project; otherwise, they would not pursue their interests further.

When questioned on how they felt about the college entering the community, participants felt that they were provided with ample opportunity to ask questions, through community meetings and also by asking members of the local research committee.

It was through community visits with residents, the Schooner Development Corporation, Lord’s Cove Town Council and Harbor authority, stakeholders felt confident that the project would have a positive impact on the community. Additionally, the project might have the potential to
bring a level of economic well-being back to the region once again. Subsequently, when grant proposals were submitted, both the town of Lord’s Cove and the Harbor Authority included their letters of support for the project. This gesture of endorsement ensured that a positive rapport could be solidified if funding was approved.

In 2011, CNA was successful in its proposal for funding the former fish plant and establish its aquaculture site in Lord’s Cove. In total, $2.8 million from both the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council and the Research Development Corporation of Newfoundland and Labrador was received (Mike Graham, personal communication, April 9, 2013). Additionally, $215,000 in funding was received from IRBC. For the people of Lord’s Cove, this was seen as a renewed hope for their small town.

Beginning in 2012, construction started on the former fish plant to transform it into a research facility and onshore cascaded aquaculture site. Laborers and tradespeople from Lord’s Cove and surrounding communities were employed to complete the task. Additionally, two people in the community received employment, and a number of summer student work grants were made available. Once people in the community began to see the changes taking place, more individuals developed an interest in the project. As stated by one participant:

I tell ya it will give you an idea- if there is something going on there, they wants a bit of help you look over there is always somebody helping them and not getting paid for it. That tells you something. There is people over there every day hauling this up and putting up this, and they wants something done and they wants a bit of extra manpower there is somebody over there lifting it over. All they got to do is phone somebody.

This aspect of vested interest in the community extends beyond the reach of the WERC. In Lord’s Cove, it is seen that residents take an interest in the success of each other:

It’s important you know, to care about your community, to not take that for granted. Everybody here knows everybody, everybody is invested in everyone else. And its true. I mean, if something goes wrong around the house, with the snap of your fingers the front yard is full. They’re coming with ladders, coming with drills. People here, it’s their passion. They don’t care about doing it. Small stuff. It makes you feel connected.
Based on these accounts, it was of interest then, to explore the notion of community cohesiveness in more detail, and how it has the potential to translate into continued community support for the project.

**Community Involvement**

Prior to the current study, the researcher was provided with several opportunities to travel to Lord’s Cove to meet with members of the local research committee and to visit the WERC. At that time, it was observed that a select group of people within the town were actively engaged in the research process. These committee members took on an informal leadership role in that they would relay updates or firsthand news to members of the community who were not as actively involved, such as seniors and others with limited mobility. This notion of volunteerism and civic engagement indicated that the community at large had a desire to be informed at each stage of the research project. For the current study, the researcher utilized the interview process to go beyond the understandings of this core group of people and gain an understanding of how much knowledge the general population had of the project. It became apparent early on that the community was not only informed as to what was taking place in their town, response to the WERC in the community was overwhelmingly positive. When explicitly asked how they felt about the level of engagement between the college and the community, participants felt that they were well-informed of what was taking place in their town. In discussing community action, one participant felt that in order for the project to have greater chances of being successful, it was the duty of the town to get behind it, and help the college in any way they could:

If you are coming in to a place and want to get the cooperation of the people, you got to involve them in the plan, or at least try to involve them. If they don’t take part, that is not your fault but at least open it up so they got the chance. There is people over there talking to them all the time. You can go over and talk to them all the time... as far as I’m concerned, I can’t see anyone saying anything negative because they had brunches and meetings. The same crowd of people are going to go to it anyway. That’s the drift of the whole blessed thing.
From the observation that there is a high level of support, yet a limited number of people in the community who are actively involved in the project, a further question of volunteerism and civic involvement is posed. It was of interest to the researcher to explore the reasons why participation may have waned in recent years. As previously mentioned in the study, it is apparent that the median age of community residents has increased over the past decade. Consequently, the number of able-bodied people who live in the town has decreased. This has led to a decrease in the amount of participation of individuals with respect to social interaction.

With community life not as busy as it once was, there is no longer the same inclination to go out and get involved with important community issues on the part of the aging population. There was a general consensus that many seniors in the community felt that the project was of no direct benefit to them, and as such, there was no real desire to seek out opportunities for involvement.

It’s not that there is a great number of people here to take part in it to start out with anyway because most of the people here are old age citizens. It is very few younger people here. So there is not really a hell of a lot to get actively involved in what’s going on in the community. They take part in the church, what goes on in the church.

Another participant was of the opinion that there may be a lack of active engagement on the part of older individuals because they were content to enjoy their retirement in the place they call home. She feels it is the responsibility of the younger generation left in the community to try and usher in a new level of prosperity, which includes finding new ways to put some money back into their local economy.

...people need to realize that most of the people living in these small communities give 40 or 45 years of their life working. Contributing to everything, paying taxes, paying everything. Now it’s us who has to contribute to their lives.

In contrast, a participant who is part of the senior citizen population in Lord’s Cove felt the lack of engagement between older residents and the college was due to apprehension. She explained that many older individuals still harbor ill-will regarding past economic ventures that were unsuccessful. Getting their hopes up about this project could prove to be a letdown in the long run:
We’ve had things here before and it sort of drizzled out before with this project. Not quite the same it was a lesser level, right? So I think people are a little weary of it first wondering how far it was going to go and they probably still are in the general public, right?

This perspective was interesting to consider in more depth. In the current study, it has been seen that virtually all residents in Lord’s Cove were directly impacted by the closure of the cod fishery. As a result, many of the individuals there continue to cope with employment issues, as well as the out-migration of loved ones. In this situation, it is important to note the care that must be taken to ensure the community is informed of what is happening in their town.

Similarly, another resident felt it was the responsibility of the college to ensure that all residents are knowledgeable about the project, not the local volunteer-based research committee:

I think it is the age level in general, those who are not getting out. But it is the fifty-plus crowd you know that’s calling around and wanting to know what is going on. I think they could work a little harder to try to get a hold of them. Just giving em a call to let them know would go a long way.

Although there may have been some differences of opinion as to the ongoing levels of community involvement in the project, a consistent finding in each interview was the explicit desire to create something within the community that has the potential to bring Lord’s Cove expatriates back home. Twenty years on, most individuals have come to terms with the fact that the glory days of the fishery are behind them. It is evident that most of the younger generation of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are removed from the life at sea which was enjoyed by their elders. Surprisingly, this is not perceived as negative by many participants. One poignant conversation brought forward the notion that the moratorium served as a catalyst to give young Newfoundlanders the freedom to make their own choices in terms of their careers and lives:

They started getting wiser which is a great thing. Instead of going out to sea with their father they went to school. They went to colleges and university. Most of them are well educated, got a degree or got a trade. It was a great thing because the generation that was coming there got a lot wiser and they are a lot better
off than what we were in many ways. They’re in St. John’s, they’re in Alberta, they’re in CBS. They’ve got good friggin jobs, they all got good homes.

This perspective is consistent with a finding reported by William Borgen et al in their study which explored the experience of unemployment for fisher workers in Newfoundland. A minority of participants described their employment as a fresh start, an experience that allowed them to look at themselves and assess possibilities for change. Younger individuals saw it as a chance to devote time to themselves (2002).

In addition, it was suggested that the knowledge and skills possessed by a younger generation of Lord’s Cove residents could be utilized in a way that would help to rebuild the town, as a former teacher indicated:

Yes, we need something, but we need something that is going to pay. Something that is going to pay a salary that will bring our people back. If not [pause] I am much afraid but I mightn’t be alive but in 20 years this might be looking pretty bad. If this project doesn’t work now there could still be something that will work there that can make a difference. There’s got to be a difference made. If not- it’s sad. I’m telling you it’s really sad.

**Hope for the Future**

During the latter stages of the interview process, each participant was asked to comment on what they believed the future held for Lord’s Cove. Furthermore, they were asked what they would like to see come of the WERC. Given the social and economic hardships this community has experienced over the last twenty years, it was obvious through analysis that there is a desire to find a way to regain prosperity. During the analytical process, it was observed that residents of the town recognized that many factors deciding the fate of their community were outside of their control; however, the WERC could serve as a catalyst for change. The potential of bringing economic longevity to Lord’s Cove is seen as an indicator of resilience on the part of community members. One point expressed by each person interviewed was the hope that the project would be successful. It was explicitly seen that members of the community have their fingers crossed that something will come out of the project, not only in the next five years, but beyond that.
I would like to see some kind of an actual fish farm maybe runned by the community or by a private enterprise, either way it would be good for the community right. If we can get it going... more employment, you know creating jobs will say that is about it. And may like even once you create the jobs like and get the thing going it can be a tourist attraction too like you know. We are hoping to get other kinds of research going on down here too right?

This sentiment was echoed by another participant who has high hopes for the project:

I mean when you are in this situation grasp for whatever in the heck you can get your hands on because the thing is this could prove out to be...well it’s a good thing for Lord’s Cove already. We got the state of the art building which was run down, another few years and it wouldn’t be worth nothing, you got beautiful buildings over there well-maintained, well looked after. It is nice to walk down through the harbor and look at the building and it is not an eyesore anymore. That is an asset to the community to start with. Some sort of tourist comes here and drives out on the wharf and they are looking at and saying what is going on here look at the beautiful and they are going to come back and look up at it and see what it is. I’m going that it is going to work out. I thinks it will work out.

Similarly, another participant looked favorably upon the work completed by CNA thus far. In an effort to reach more people in a medium which appeals to younger residents, she maintains a Facebook group called “Good Ol’ Lord’s Cover’s.” This in itself is an interesting venture as it appeals to residents and expatriates alike. The group regularly posts pictures of the WERC. In addition, it serves as an outlet for people to ask questions of the Research Committee. Through navigating this page, it is apparent that people are hopeful the college is successful in its venture:

It got the conversation going in the community. Not only here, but all up the shore. People are wanting to know what’s going on. I put pictures on my facebook. It’s got people excited. I got people contacting me wanting to know how the Connors [test fish in the facility] are making out. The school is calling us because they want to get in for a tour once its up and running. And the [former fish plant] buildings, well that in itself is beautiful. People can see the change. People need the change.

During the interview process, one consistent finding was that the extensive renovation of the former fish plant buildings is perceived as a symbol for change, and a new chapter for the community. It is a change that is tangible, and has made residents anxious about what is in store:

They’ll be down at the plant, and the old men, the retired fishermen shall we say, oh they comes down to the wharf, they’ll get out of the car, you know they’ll have a yarn with whoever is down there to see what’s on the go, you know, it gives them a purpose too you know cause some of them will go down there two or three times a week just to see what’s on the go and see how the progress is being done, I mean
that’s the buildings that they used and I mean to see the difference, to see the purpose that they’re going to be used for, I mean it’s good to see!

Similarly, another resident claimed how refreshing it was for him just to see activity taking place in what used to be the most popular spot in town:

There used to be no one on the wharf. For years. The only time the wharf has been used for a good many years was for the youngsters playing hockey. Cause I mean the wharf don’t be used no more for fishing or anything like that. Scattered time anyone would come in to tie up [their boats]. But I mean now, there’s always at least one car down there, or two. I gotta say, it’s just nice to see the lights on over there again. Something so simple as that. It’s just nice to see a light on to know there’s a bit of life over there again.

When asked how they felt the project should be managed at the end of the five years, there were differing opinions on what should take place. One resident was of the opinion that it is the duty of the Provincial and Federal governments to ensure funding:

I get the feeling that the government is for this, 100 percent. They’re behind it. We have had the MHA’s visiting, even in snowstorms. They’ve said that we’re ahead of where everybody else is trying to get with this, which is a good thing. We got the support of him and that is a great thing you know. Even if the college says we are through in five years’ time. Within six months there would be people interested in it because of what the college done.

Another long-term option that was perceived through the analysis of transcripts was that the facility would be most beneficial if it were taken over by private enterprise, as it could provide the most potential for economic well-being of Lord’s Cove:

There are people out there who are really big into the stuff...I hope someone takes it, with the help of government. I mean it’s going to give jobs when it gets up and going. It’s going to bring life into the community. We don’t know how many jobs is going to be into it when it’s all said and done. So I’m hoping they’ll keep it going.

As resident accounts have illustrated, there is a consensus that the people of Lord’s Cove are hopeful that the WERC proves to be of benefit to their community. For the future, there are positive signs in the community that there will be ongoing support for College of the North Atlantic in its endeavors. Residents have expressed a heightened sense of community pride that has come as a result of the former fish plant renovations, and action taking place on the
community wharf. Further, the perceived commitment to the project on behalf of CNA and the provincial government gives rise to feelings of hope and prosperity.

**Discussion**

Overall, this qualitative study investigated the social and economic factors that have led to current resident attitudes toward the establishment of CNA’s Wave Energy Research Centre in Lord’s Cove. Of primary interest was the examination of feelings residents had regarding the well-being of their town before and after the cod moratorium; and their hopes for the future with the establishment of the WERC.

Through thematic analysis of one-on-one interviews with residents, several reoccurring themes became evident: a renewed sense of pride in the community, optimism and hope for the future, as well as a trust in researchers at CNA to represent their best interests.

**Community Pride**

In the wake of the cod moratorium, it was seen that social cohesion in the community began to suffer. Participants ascertained that as out-migration and resident age increased; economic hardship was more prominent than it had been in the past. In order to maintain well-being during those times, residents of Lord’s Cove relied on each other for emotional support. In subsequent years, interaction within the community became less frequent with the inability of older individuals to remain mobile. This was identified as an area of concern with regard to ensuring all residents had equal opportunity to remain informed on the research process. Additionally, this disconnect was identified by participants as a consequence of prolonged hardship.

The concept of a renewed sense of community pride was identified as a theme by the researcher. Additionally, it was identified by WERC researchers as an unanticipated benefit of conducting research in Lord’s Cove. The former fish plant building in the town serves as a
symbol for the attitude of the people within the community. When WERC researchers were completing renovations, little did they know they were simultaneously refurbishing community pride. In each interview, participants expressed how much it meant to them to see their former workplace transformed from a derelict structure into a state-of-the-art facility which could have the potential to bring prosperity back into the community. It provided aging residents with an opportunity to re-visit their former gathering place, and has served as a catalyst to initiate conversations between current and former residents of Lord’s Cove. As a result of introducing a Lord’s Cove group on Facebook to provide updates on WERC, it was claimed by several participants that expatriates of the town have subsequently become reconnected in their new areas. Clusters of former residents can be found particularly in Paradise and CBS. During holiday seasons, these individuals make an effort to get together, share stories, and partake in Lord’s Cove social customs. This example clearly exemplifies the deeply-rooted the sense of pride that is found in Lord’s Cove residents both at home and abroad.

Another unforeseen benefit of this newfound community pride is the reestablishment of inter-household networks. Through the communication that takes place between research committee members and older residents in the community, social activity has the potential to regain momentum once again.

**Optimism and Hope**

Through the analysis of recorded data, it was determined that residents of Lord’s Cove are optimistic about what the future holds for their community with regard to the WERC. In a study that examined residents who elected to stay or migrate in Bonavista following the cod moratorium, it was seen that local people who stayed were charged with the task of reconstructing their lives and re-establishing social institutions shaken by the moratorium. Of those who stayed, it was determined that residents would also have to find new ways to sustain themselves economically (Sinclair, 2002, p. 306). Like the residents of Bonavista, Lord’s Cove residents maintain hope that something will happen to change their situation, they are just not entirely sure of what that will be.
When asked about changes they perceived for the future, participants remained optimistic that the community would survive. The picture that appeared was one of families remaining fluid in spite of economic hardship and adapting to difficult circumstances. It is apparent that the Burin Peninsula as a whole has experienced a number of hardships in recent years with the closure of several fish processing plants and the instability in the fishery that does remain. In spite of these hardships, residents look not only to the WERC, but also to the prospect of the Fluorspar mine reopening in nearby St. Lawrence, and the possibility of further mining operations in Point May.

There is an overwhelming urgency on the part of Lord’s Cove residents to see the WERC succeed. In spite of the observable resilience of the community, they still bear the scars left by the moratorium. The empty houses and empty playgrounds serve as a constant reminder that things in the town are not as they once were. The fear that was voiced by many older individuals is that unless a form of economic prosperity is found within the next decade; the community may very well die out with its remaining residents.

**Trust in the Research Process**

Prior to the current study, it was observed that the presence of CNA for community meetings provided residents with an opportunity to come together to socialize, talk to researchers in an informal setting, and get to know each other on a more personal level. This trust between individuals helps to build trust between themselves and the organizations in which they represent. This evolution from informal to formal trust is paramount to the success of any research project. It helps to facilitate genuine interaction, to gain intimate knowledge of the community, and it is also emphasizes local identity and belonging to either a community or group.

It is seen that individuals tend to have the most faith or security in those who share similar experiences; therefore, when residents perceive that researchers have a vested interest not
only in the success of their project, but the community at large, the positive effects are far-reaching. The utilization of social capital is beneficial for all parties involved. For the researcher, it provides them access to local knowledge and expertise that will help reduce time spent on trial and error procedures. For the community, it provides them with an avenue to have their voices heard by people in a position of power to help facilitate positive change.

By maintaining an element of homogeneity, or the assertion that a common goal is being worked towards, positive rapport can continue to be built upon. Throughout the life of the research project, residents become more knowledgeable and through the confidence that is built in the process, they become empowered to take ownership of the research site upon the completion of the project.

**Opportunities for Further Research**

At the time of the current study, it was observed there was an overwhelmingly positive response toward the establishment of the WERC in Lord’s Cove. As an area for further research, it would be of benefit to build upon current findings and perform a longitudinal study over the next five years. This study would assess how, and to what extent reactions to the WERC change over time.

A second area for potential further research lies in the relationship between researchers and community members. It would be of benefit to study the evolution of this relationship over time in order to further literature on ways to construct and maintain a positive working relationship over time.

A third area for potential research is to assess how demographics in the community continue to change over the next five years, focusing primarily on the role of migratory employment and its implications on social cohesiveness. It would be of value to determine to what extent the WERC has impacted the employment rate in the community.
Recommendations

Aid in the Empowerment of Community Members

During the interview process, each participant was asked what they would like to see happen to WERC at the end of the five year contract with CNA. It was expressed by each individual that they would like for the facility to remain in the community as either a commercially viable aquaculture site, or as a research facility. With regard to how the operation would be managed, there was a high level of uncertainty among participants. Of the options mentioned was the provincial government, CNA or an external private enterprise. At the time of the current study, it is felt that no one within the community is capable of managing WERC. In the spirit of Community-Based Participatory Research, I recommend that both CNA and the Rural Secretariat work together to identify a community member, or members, who would be willing to complete training to inherit a management-level position at WERC. This process should begin immediately so as the individual(s) may obtain a high level of knowledge on all aspects of the project. During the remaining years of WERC, both CNA and the Rural Secretariat should serve as liaisons with this individual(s) so that the community maintains its position as a key stakeholder.

Be Cognizant of Demographics

Through transcriptional analysis, there was an identified disconnect between elderly people in the community and the WERC project. Among the reasons for this disconnect was the absence of this age group from community meetings and consultations. In spite of the absences, it is important to ensure all community residents are informed as to what is taking place in their community. Given the low population of the community, approximately 160, it would be of benefit to WERC researchers to make an attempt to communicate information with all residents.
Be Flexible in Methods of Information Delivery

As a further consideration to the previous recommendation, it is important to take into account what mediums individuals in the town use to obtain information. With an aging population, it is of benefit to consider how they would prefer to be communicated with. A posed recommendation is to compile a newsletter or information update on a quarterly basis that will be delivered to each residence in the community so that individuals who are not regularly present at public meetings still feel that they are involved, which will perpetuate further community support and cohesion.

Continue to Include Community Members

Since the WERC was in its early stages, researchers at CNA have solicited the knowledge and assistance of Lord’s Cove residents in order to advance the test site more efficiently. It is my recommendation that as the project progresses and becomes more technically advanced, researchers should continue to solicit the assistance of community members when it is feasible to do so. One of the fundamental elements of community-based research is empowering residents to take social action to better their own community from an economic standpoint. It is in the spirit of empowerment and long-term economic success that researchers continue to work with Lord’s Cove residents and further build upon their mutually beneficial relationship.

Implement Ethical Policy for All Employees Involved At Research Sites

For practitioners of research, it is well-known that ethical considerations are imperative to ensuring that findings are valid and representative; however, it cannot be assumed that all employees who are involved in research projects are educated on ethical protocol. It is my recommendation that such protocol be developed that will ensure all employees involved at research sites understand ethical implications for the overall well-being of the project, and for maintaining a positive community rapport.
Limitations

As a result of the nature of the work force in Lord’s Cove, including migratory and seasonal workers; and the low number of young individuals in the town, the population under age 40 is underrepresented in the data. I was unable to successfully complete interviews with this particular demographic.

A second limitation to the research was the fact that there were individuals who did not feel the knowledge they possessed would be valuable to the project. Initially, this proved to be an issue for soliciting participants; however, the assistance of a gatekeeper serving as a liaison proved to remedy the situation.

Nevertheless, it was the goal of the researcher to ensure all prospective participants were informed of the scope of the study, and that the concept of community knowledge was of the upmost importance.

Conclusion

Given the results of this study, it is apparent that the community of Lord’s Cove has displayed a tremendous amount of resilience in its response to the many challenges faced over the last twenty years. In spite of economic and personal hardships, residents remain hopeful that the Wave Energy Research Centre will prove to be a long-term economic benefit for their town, and optimistic that opportunities to bring expatriates home will arise as a result. It is my observation that the resilience in the community can be attributed to the social cohesiveness that is prevalent in the community. Concerned individuals within Lord’s Cove have drawn upon personal support systems to come together and work in conjunction with CNA researchers in an effort to transform their town from one of many Newfoundland outport communities in a state of decline into a town that possesses the facilities and technology to be on the cutting edge of sustainable and environmentally friendly aquaculture. It has been ascertained that the presence of the WERC has stimulated a renewed sense of community pride in Lord’s Cove which, I feel, will continue throughout the life of the project and beyond.
References

April 9, 2013.


December 18, 2012.


Graham, Michael. Nd. Executive Summary: Development and optimization of a wave-powered pump.


Appendix A

Interview Protocol

Project: Examining Social Change in Lord’s Cove

Time of Interview: _________________________
Date: ___________________________________
Place: ___________________________________
Interviewer: ______________________________
Interviewee: ______________________________
Position of Interviewee: _____________________

You are being asked to voluntarily participate in an interview. The interview will take approximately 60 minutes to complete. The anticipated benefits from the project are to gain new knowledge of how community based research projects affect the host community, an analysis of economic and social lessons that have been learned as a result of establishing the WERC in Lord’s Cove, and to provide a resource to potential stakeholders who may be interested in establishing similar projects elsewhere. Your participation in this interview is entirely voluntary and there will be no negative consequences if you refuse to participate in it, withdraw from it, or refuse to answer certain questions. Your participation/ identity in this interview will be confidential. Comments and answers that you provide will not be attributed to your identity and comments will be generalized to prevent identification.

Questions:

1. Can you tell me how long you’ve lived in Lord’s Cove?
2. Can you describe for me what life was like in Lord’s Cove before the moratorium?
3. How did things change after the moratorium?
4. With the high level of out-migration from the community, what made you decide to stay?
5. What were your initial thoughts when you first heard that CNA’s Wave Research Centre was going to be established in Lord’s Cove?
6. What do you think was the overall feeling in the community towards the project?
7. How do you feel about the level of engagement between CNA and the community thus far?
8. What recommendations do you have on how CNA could better involve the community throughout the life of the project?
9. What would you like to see happen with the WERC when the college has completed its research?
10. What recommendations do you have for individuals or companies who may be interested in pursuing future efforts such as these?

Additional Comments
Appendix B

Informed Consent Form

OFFICE OF APPLIED RESEARCH
RESEARCH CONSENT FORM

This form is part of the process of informed consent. It should give you the basic idea of what the research is about and what your participation will involve. If you would like more detail about something mentioned here, or information not included here, feel free to ask. Please take the time to read this carefully and to understand any other information given to you by the researcher.

I, ___________________ (participant) allow Janice Rowsell (Primary Researcher) to use the voluntarily recorded materials described below for research towards the completion of the project Assessing Sociological Impacts of College of the North Atlantic (CNA)’s Wave Energy Research Project (WERC) on the Community of Lord’s Cove for College of the North Atlantic and the Rural Secretariat.

The materials obtained from you, the participant will include audio recordings.

You are being asked to voluntarily participate in an interview. The interview will take approximately 60 minutes to complete. The anticipated benefits from the project are to gain new knowledge of how community based research projects affect the host community, an analysis of economic and social lessons that have been learned as a result of establishing the WERC in Lord’s Cove, and to provide a resource to potential stakeholders who may be interested in establishing similar projects elsewhere.

Your participation in this interview is entirely voluntary and there will be no negative consequences if you refuse to participate in it, withdraw from it, or refuse to answer certain questions. Your participation/ identity in this interview will be confidential. Comments and answers that you provide will not be attributed to your identity and comments will be generalized to prevent identification.

As the participant, I understand that the uses of this research may include academic and government publications, as well as presentations. I give the researcher permission to use these materials at her discretion for academic purposes. Yes: _____ No: ______

Yes, with the following exceptions: ______________________________________________________

As the participant, I understand that my participation is anonymous, and my name will not be used in the communication of this research. Yes: _____ No: ______

As the participant, I am fully aware of the fact that the interviews are being tape-recorded, and that I have the right to request erasure of any portion of the taped interview that I am uncomfortable with. Yes: _____ No: ______

As the participant, I understand that upon completion of the interview:

_______ Responses will be stored in a secure location for seven years by the principal investigator and will be kept in strict confidence and only reviewed by members of the research team.
CONSENT

Your signature on this form means that:

- You have read the information about the research
- You have been able to ask questions about this study
- You are satisfied with the answers to all of your questions
- You understand what the study is about and what you will be doing
- You understand that you are free to withdraw from the study at any time, without having to give a reason, and that doing so will not affect you now or in the future
- If you sign this form, you do not give up your legal rights, and do not release the researchers from their professional responsibilities.

PARTICIPANTS SIGNATURE:

I have read and understood the description provided: I have had an opportunity to ask questions and my questions have been answered. I consent to participate in the research project, understanding that I may withdraw my consent at any time. A copy of this Consent Form has been given to me for my records.

I understand that I may withdraw my participation in this research at any time by contacting the student researcher, and that any ethical concerns I have concerning the research (such as the way you have been treated or your rights as a participant) which cannot be resolved by the researcher may be discussed with:

Kay Graham, Innovation Officer  Office of Applied Research, CNA Burin Campus, PO Box 370, Burin, NL  A0E 1G0. Phone: 709-891-5658; E-mail: kay.graham@cna.nl.ca

________________________________________  ________________________
Signature of participant:  Date:

Address: ________________________________

TelephoneNumber: _______________________ E-mail address: ______________________

RESEARCHER’S SIGNATURE:

I have explained this study to the best of my ability. I invited questions and gave answers. I believe that the participant fully understands what is involved in being in the study, any potential risks of the study and that he or she has freely chosen to be in the study.

________________________________________  ________________________
Signature of Researcher:  Date:

Address: ________________________________

TelephoneNumber: _______________________ E-mail address: ______________________

This project has been reviewed by the College of the North Atlantic’s Office of Applied Research and is found to be in compliance with CNA’s Ethics Policy