Appendix J

Socio-economic Baseline Study

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Socio-economic Baseline Study

Kami Iron Ore Project

Prepared for

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Final Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Alderon Iron Ore Corp. (Alderon) is proposing to develop an iron ore mine in western Labrador and build associated infrastructure at the Port of Sept-Îles, Québec (the Project). This Socio-economic Baseline Study is being submitted in support of the federal environmental assessment for the Project. The objectives of the study are to document the socio-economic baseline conditions in western Labrador and Fermont, Québec. This information will be used to assess potential impacts of the Project.

This report presents a range of socio-economic baseline data that will be used for the environmental assessment of the Project. The specific topics and variables included in this baseline have been selected in consultation with Alderon, based largely on the requirements of previous assessments and the Project Guidelines. They comprise variables related to two Valued Environmental Components (VECs): Economy, Employment and Business; and Community Services and Infrastructure. Demographics are also discussed, since demographic change has the potential to have effects on both VECs. Where possible, the report describes the capacity of the community services and infrastructure in each community in order to determine their ability to meet Project-related demands.

The population of Newfoundland and Labrador has stabilized in recent years, following a long period of population decline. In 2009, the Province recorded a population increase for the first time since 1992. This growth reflects the economic prosperity of the Province as a result of offshore oil and mining. Similarly, the populations of Labrador and western Labrador increased in 2011 after a period of decline. This can also be related to growth in the natural resource industry and, particularly, to the development of mining projects in western Labrador. The economy of Fermont, Québec is also reliant on the mining industry. The Town's population has decreased over the last two decades but showed a slight increase between 2006 and 2011 as people are moving into the region to take advantage of mining-related employment.

With the exception of primary and elementary education infrastructure and safety and security services, community services and infrastructure in western Labrador are either at or beyond their capacity. Daycare spaces are scarce and municipal infrastructure, including water, sewer and power, require upgrading to meet current and projected demands. Housing and accommodations, particularly affordable and social housing, are in high demand in the communities as the mining-related population growth has led to a shortage of housing and an increase in house prices and rents.

Similarly, in Fermont, increasing pressure is being placed on community services and infrastructure from the growing resident population, and from the people of nearby western Labrador who make use of some of the Town's infrastructure, including its medical facilities. The availability of housing and accommodations is also a major issue in Fermont where 90 percent of housing units are owned by mining companies and service organizations and are reserved for employees.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Alderon Iron Ore Corp. (Alderon) is proposing to develop an iron ore mine in western Labrador, and build associated infrastructure at the Pointe-Noire Terminal in the Port of Sept-Îles, Québec. The mine property is located south of the towns of Wabush and Labrador City in Newfoundland and Labrador and east of Fermont, Québec (Figure 1.1). The Kami Iron Ore Mine and Rail Infrastructure is located entirely within Labrador, and includes construction, operation, and rehabilitation and closure of an open pit, waste rock disposal areas, processing infrastructure, a tailings management facility (TMF), ancillary infrastructure to support the mine and process plant, and a rail transportation component. The mine will have a nominal capacity of 16 million metric tonnes of iron ore concentrate per year. Concentrate will be transported by existing rail to the Pointe-Noire Terminal at the Port of Sept-Îles, where Project-related components will be located on land within the jurisdiction of the Port Authority of Sept-Îles.

The Labrador Project components will require approvals from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and are subject to environmental assessment (EA) under the *Environmental Protection Act* (NLEPA) and associated *Environmental Assessment Regulations*. Federal approvals will be required, which trigger the requirement for a federal EA under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA), at the comprehensive study level. The Project was registered in accordance with the NLEPA and CEAA in October 2011.

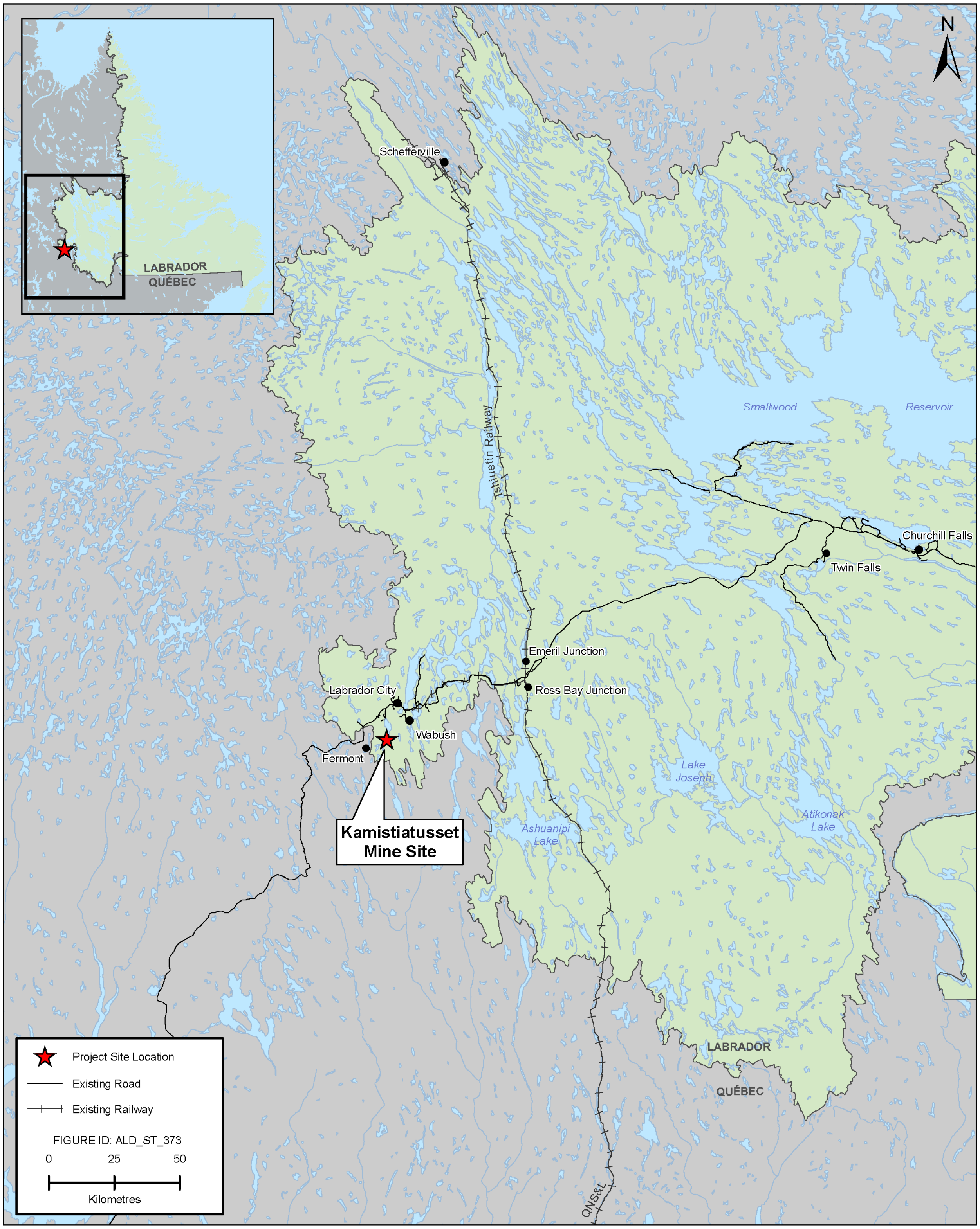
The Newfoundland and Labrador Minister of Environment and Conservation has required an EIS and Final Guidelines have been approved. This Socio-economic Baseline Study is being submitted in support of the provincial and federal environmental assessment process.

1.1 Overview of Kami Iron Ore Project

The Kami Iron Ore Project in Labrador includes construction, operation, and closure / decommissioning of the following primary components (Figure 1.1):

- Open pit (Rose Pit);
- Waste rock disposal areas (Rose North and Rose South);
- Processing infrastructure includes crushing, grinding, spiral concentration, magnetic separation, and tailings thickening areas;
- Tailings management facility (TMF);
- Effluent treatment facility;
- Ancillary infrastructure to support the mine and process plant (gate and guardhouse, reclaim water pumphouse, truck wash bay and shop, electrical substation, explosives magazine storage, administration / office buildings, maintenance offices, warehouse area and employee facilities, conveyors, load-out silo, stockpiles, sewage and water treatment units, mobile equipment, access road and transmission lines);
- A rail transportation component to connect the mine site to the Québec North Shore & Labrador (QNS&L) Railway; and
- Electrical transmission line from terminal to be located by Nalcor Energy to the mine site.

Figure 1.1 Location of Project



1.2 Study Team

The Socio-economic Baseline Study was conducted by Stassinu Stantec Limited Partnership (Stassinu). The Study Team is listed in Table 1.1. All team members have in-depth knowledge and experience in their fields of expertise and a broad general knowledge of the work conducted by other experts in related fields. Brief biographical statements, highlighting project roles and responsibilities and relevant education and employment experience, are provided below.

Table 1.1 Study Team – Socio-economic Baseline Study

Role	Personnel
Study Manager	Mark Shrimpton
Study Lead	Hilary Rowe
Senior Advisor / Reviewer	Mark Shrimpton
Report Preparation	Hilary Rowe; Ian Murphy; Olive Bailey
GIS	Amber Frickleton

Mark Shrimpton has nearly 30 years' experience assessing, planning, and managing the socio-economic impacts of infrastructure and resource development projects. He has played a lead role in preparing infrastructure and labour requirements studies, socio-economic impact assessments, and industrial benefits plans for major projects in the petroleum (e.g., Hibernia, Terra Nova, White Rose, and Hebron), mining (e.g., Voisey's Bay), smelting (e.g., Voisey's Bay and Reydarfjordur) and hydro-electric (e.g., Lower Churchill and Karahnjukar) industries. He has also undertaken policy related studies of resource development project activity, including for the UN International Labour Office and the US Minerals Management Service.

Mark has worked across Canada and in the US, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, the United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, the Falkland Islands, and Australia. He has published and presented widely on his research, including presentations at conferences in Canada, the US, the UK, France, Norway, Iceland, Lithuania, Russia, Malaysia, and Australia.

Hilary Rowe is an Environmental Scientist with Stantec in St. John's, specializing in socio-economic studies. Since 2006, Ms. Rowe has taken the lead in the collection of primary and secondary data for socio-economic baseline reports and socio-economic impact statements. She has also authored a number of baseline reports, including those for the Lower Churchill Hydroelectric Generation Project and the Hebron Project, and assisted with the writing of socio-economic impact statements. In addition, Ms. Rowe has assisted with the preparation of benefits and diversity plans and public consultation documents for major projects.

Ian Murphy is an Environmental Analyst at Stantec's St. John's office. Mr. Murphy specializes in socio-economic studies, with an M.A. degree in Geography, as well as a post-graduate diploma in Integrated Coastal Management. Mr. Murphy has five years of experience working in Newfoundland and Labrador on various projects involving sustainable development, contributing research and writing reports related to community sustainability planning, heritage resource management, and cultural tourism. Since joining Stantec in 2011, he has collected and analyzed data, completed literature reviews and co-authored reports for several baseline studies and socio-economic impact assessments.

Olive Bailey is a consultant at Stantec's Montréal office. She holds a Bachelor of Science in environment and food production and a Master of Environmental Design in urban and regional planning. She has conducted field research, compiled baseline studies and produced reports for the Barbados Ministry of Agriculture, the Canadian Center for Architecture, and the City of Calgary. Ms. Bailey has carried out socio-economic and strategic assessments in Barbados and Calgary. Through her experiences in Canada and abroad, she has collaborated on community planning and sustainable development projects in Sweden, and Tanzania and led community engagement activities and multi-stakeholder consultations in Calgary and Tanzania.

Amber Frickleton is a GIS Analyst with the Information Management team in Stantec's St. John's office. Ms. Frickleton started working with Stantec in September 2010, after completing an Advanced Diploma in GIS at the Centre of Geographic Science in Nova Scotia. Her GIS experience includes: serving maps on the internet through ArcIMS and ArcServer, relational database design and management, GPS data collection and post processing, and grid modeling and analysis. Complementary skills include data management and statistical analysis. Ms. Frickleton's work with Stantec has included work on a variety of projects including: Aurora Energy uranium project, Labrador Iron Mine, and the Lower Churchill transmission project. Her work on these projects has involved a variety of tasks such as data analysis, map creation, data organization and quality control.

2.0 RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES

As stated above, the proposed Project is subject to an environmental assessment under the Newfoundland and Labrador provincial *Environmental Protection Act*. The objective of this study and resulting report was to describe the existing socio-economic conditions within the Study Area to the level and degree necessary to conduct a thorough assessment of potential Project impacts and to meet the requirements of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines issued by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Baseline socio-economic conditions are described for the communities of western Labrador—Labrador City and Wabush—and the Town of Fermont, Québec. These are the communities that will provide services and infrastructure to the Project and its employees and where any Project-related demands will be experienced. They are the main municipalities that will be affected by the Project activity and expenditures and which are of concern to the public and are in the draft Guidelines.

Specifically, the study provides information on:

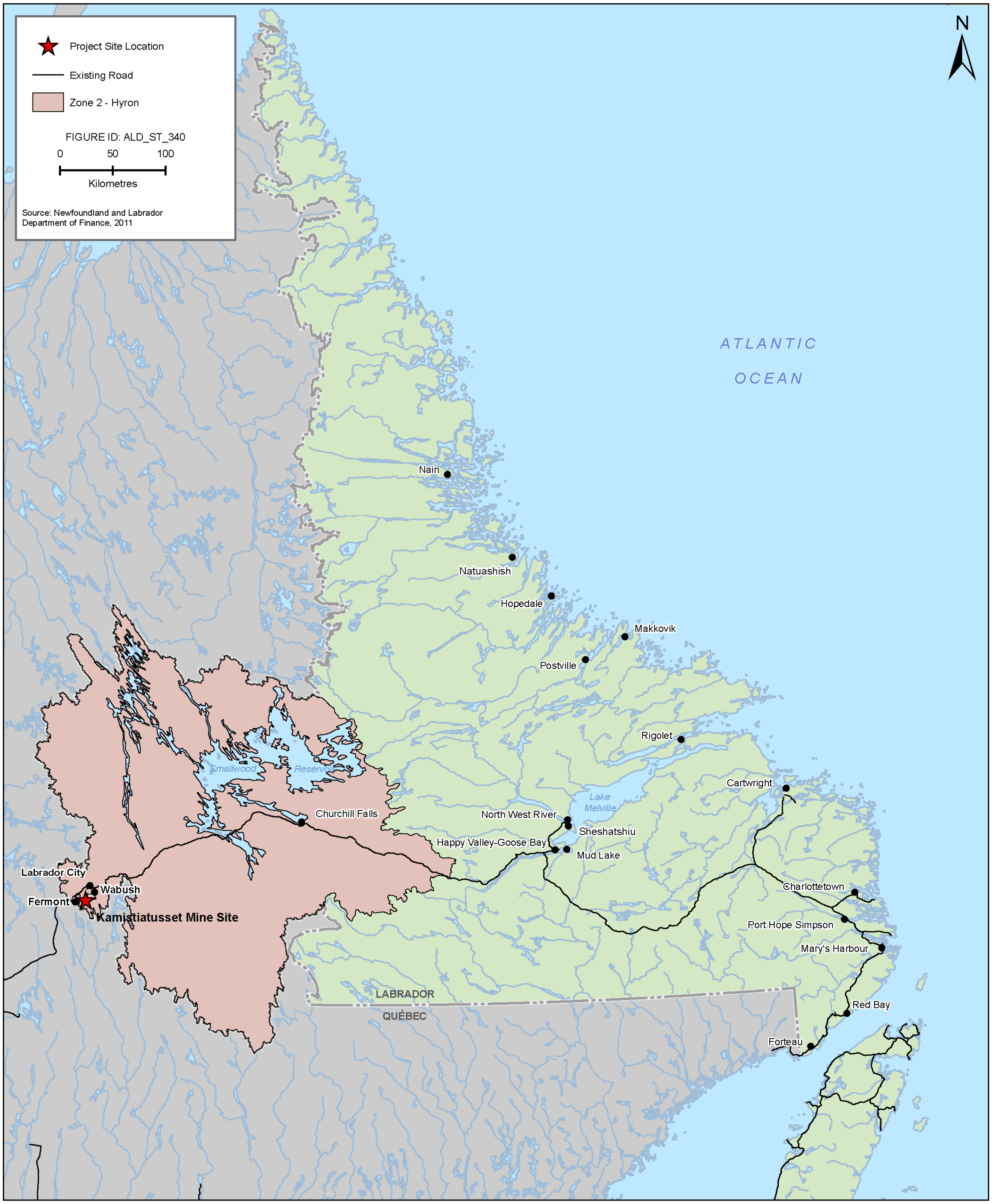
- Demographics of Newfoundland and Labrador, Labrador and western Labrador (including current population; population change; gender; age; and ancestry);
- Economy, Employment and Business of Newfoundland and Labrador and western Labrador (including Gross Domestic Product (GDP); major industries; existing employment and income conditions; labour force; and local business characteristics); and
- Community Services and Infrastructure (including employment and social services; health; training and education; safety and security; housing and accommodations; industrial and commercial infrastructure; municipal administrative capacity; municipal services and infrastructure, and transportation infrastructure).

The baseline information presented herein will be used for the assessment of any potential environmental effects of the Project on the socio-economic environment of western Labrador and the Town of Fermont.

3.0 STUDY AREA

Most aspects of the socio-economic environment have been examined for the Study Area, which includes Labrador City and Wabush in Newfoundland and Labrador and Fermont, Québec. In this report, the communities in Labrador are referred to as western Labrador, which is defined geographically as the Newfoundland and Labrador Economic Zone 2 (Hyron) (Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1 Economic Zone 2



4.0 METHODS

The baseline data presented in this report are drawn from a wide range of secondary sources including:

- Statistics Canada and other agencies and departments of the Government of Canada;
- Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency and other agencies and departments of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador;
- Institute de statistiques du Québec and other agencies and departments of the Government of Québec; and
- Municipal governments and local and regional authorities and boards.

Baseline data on Economy, Employment and Business in western Labrador are presented for Economic Zone 2 with further detail for Towns within the Study Area provided where necessary. The Economy, Employment and Business of Labrador and the Province are discussed as appropriate. Baseline information on Community Services and Infrastructure is described for western Labrador with detail provided on each Town, where available. Existing conditions with respect to Economy, Employment and Business and Community Services and Infrastructure have also been presented for the Town of Fermont.

In addition to data from the above secondary sources, primary information was collected through personal and telephone interviews with key informants with groups and agencies at the community, regional and provincial levels. The geographic extent of the discussion varies by subject.

5.0 STUDY OUTPUTS

5.1 Demographics

An understanding of the demographic structure and its potential for change without the Project provides a basis for determining Project-related changes. The following describes the demographics, including the current population, population change, gender, age and ancestry of the Province, Labrador and western Labrador.

5.1.1 Newfoundland and Labrador

Newfoundland and Labrador has experienced a long period of population decline, which was largely due to economic consequences of the 1992 fisheries moratorium. Census counts show net losses of over 15,000 people between 1991 and 1996, of nearly 40,000 between 1996 and 2001, and of over 5,000 between 2001 and 2006 (Figure 5.1). This period of population decline is also illustrated by interprovincial migration data, which show net out-migration for each year between 1991 and 2007 (Figure 5.2). Population loss and out-migration particularly affected rural areas of Newfoundland and Labrador during this period.

However, in recent years the population has stabilized, reflecting the economic prosperity resulting from offshore oil and mining projects. In 2008-09, there was a net in-migration for the first time since 1991. 2009 population estimates for Newfoundland and Labrador showed an increase of 0.5 percent compared to the previous year (Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency 2011a). This was the first year since 1992 that the Province recorded a population increase. By 2010, population estimates had increased by a further 0.5 percent. The 2011 Census reports a provincial population of 514,536, representing a 1.8 percent increase since 2006.

Figure 5.1 Population of Newfoundland and Labrador, 1991-2011

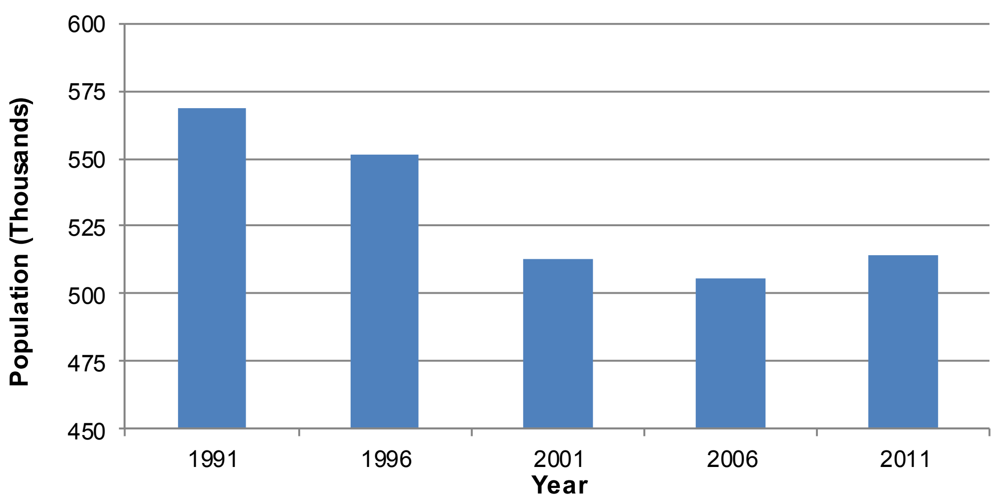
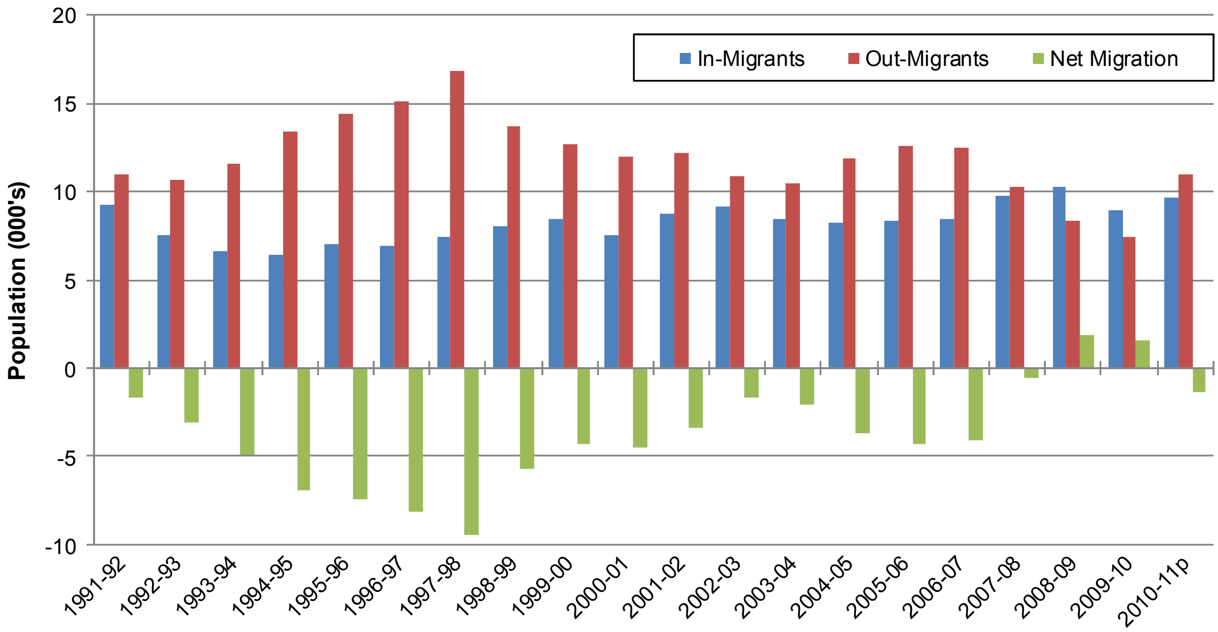


Figure 5.2 Interprovincial Migration, Newfoundland and Labrador, 1991-2011

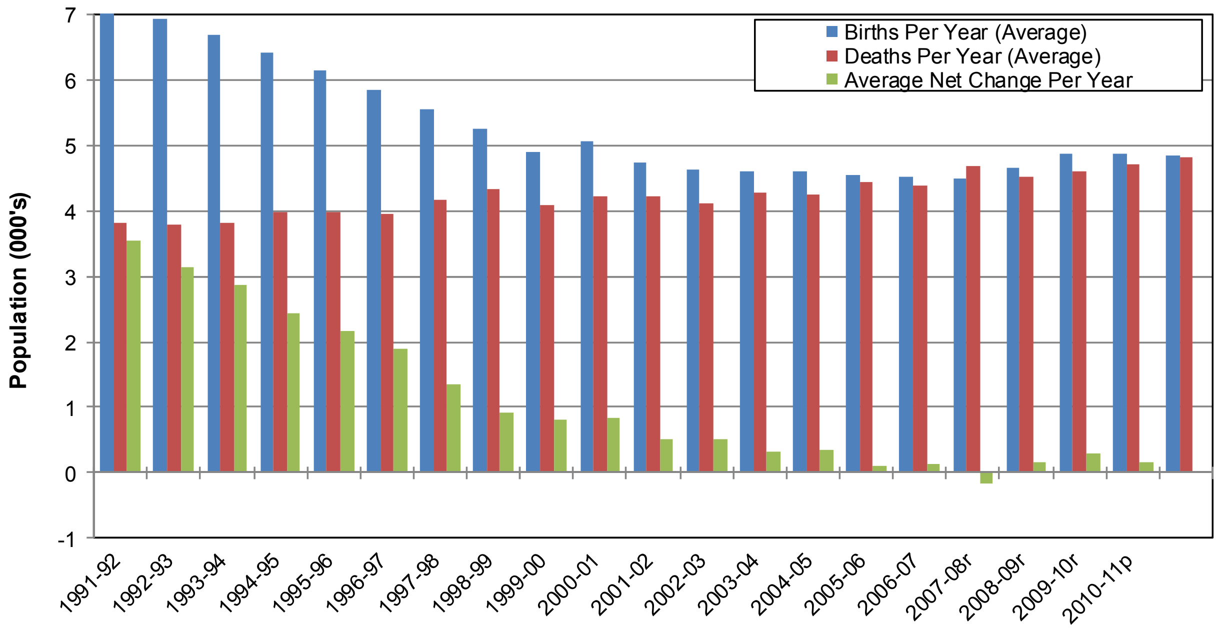


Source: Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency 2011b
Note: 2010-11 is based on preliminary estimates
Note: Figures do not include international migration

Despite this recent period of relative stability, the excess of births over deaths in the Province (Figure 5.3) has consistently decreased since 1991. In the last 20 years, Newfoundland and Labrador has recorded a large decline in the rate of natural population increase as a result of fewer births and an increase in the number of deaths. The Province's fertility rate was the lowest in the country in 2006, when Newfoundland and Labrador was the only province to report negative natural population change (NLDF 2006). Since 2006, the fertility rate has increased steadily. As of 2009 it stood at 1.59, which is still below the national average of 1.67 but is a substantial increase from the 2006 provincial fertility rate of 1.38, the lowest in the country at that time (Statistics Canada 2011). However, the long-term trend over the past 20 years has been the decline in the natural increase component of population growth reinforced by the effects of net out-migration, resulting in the period of provincial population decline discussed above.

Recent estimates provide information on the age and gender of the provincial population (NLDF 2011a). As shown by Figure 5.4, the age groups with the largest populations are 45 to 49, 50 to 54 and 55 to 59. Each of these three groups represents a little over 8 percent of the total provincial population; combined, the population aged 45 to 59 comprises close to 25 percent of the provincial total. The population of the Province is 51.9 percent female and 49.1 percent male (NLDF 2011a).

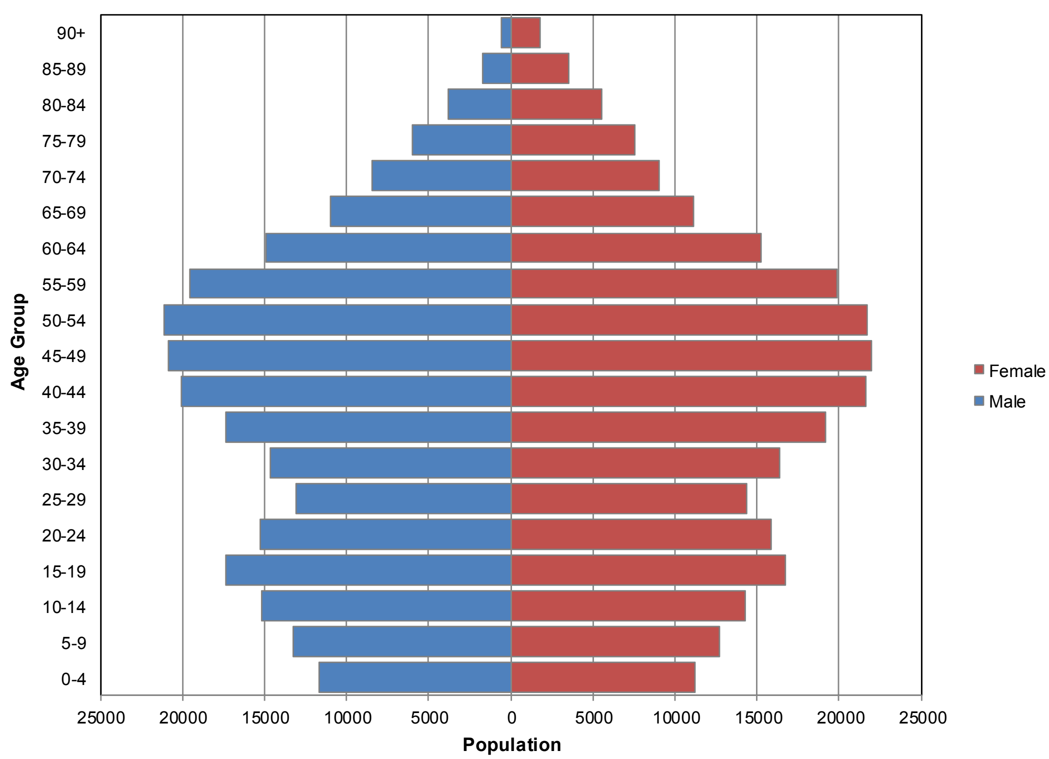
Figure 5.3 Natural Population Change, Newfoundland and Labrador, 1991-2011



Source: Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency 2011b

Note: 2010-11 is based on preliminary estimates

Figure 5.4 Provincial Population Estimates by Age Group and Gender, 2011

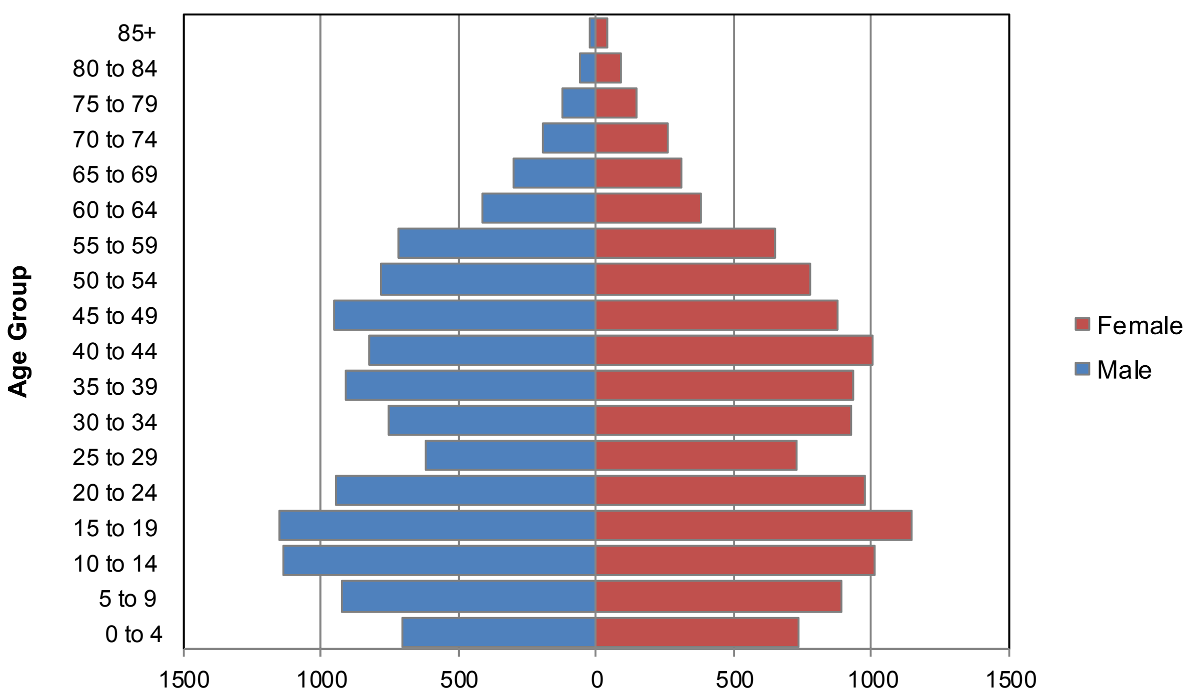


In 2006, the Aboriginal population of the Province was 23,450. This represented 4.6 percent of the total provincial population. The percentage of people in Newfoundland and Labrador who identify as Aboriginal has been increasing. Between 2001 and 2006, the Aboriginal population grew by 25 percent, while the non-Aboriginal population declined by 3 percent. Substantial growth in the Aboriginal identity population can be seen in the Census counts since 1991. In total, this population increased by 60.5 percent between 1991 and 2006 (Statistics Canada 1997; 2002; 2007).

The Aboriginal identity population for Newfoundland and Labrador is shown in Figure 5.5. In 2006, the median age of this population was 32.3 years, well below the provincial median age of 41.7 years. In terms of gender, the 2006 Aboriginal identity population for the Province was 51.9 percent female and 49.1 percent male (Statistics Canada 2007).

Visible minorities, defined by *Employment Equity Act* as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour", comprised just over one percent of 2006 provincial population, with 5,720 people being counted in this category.

Figure 5.5 Aboriginal Population by Age and Gender, NL, 2006

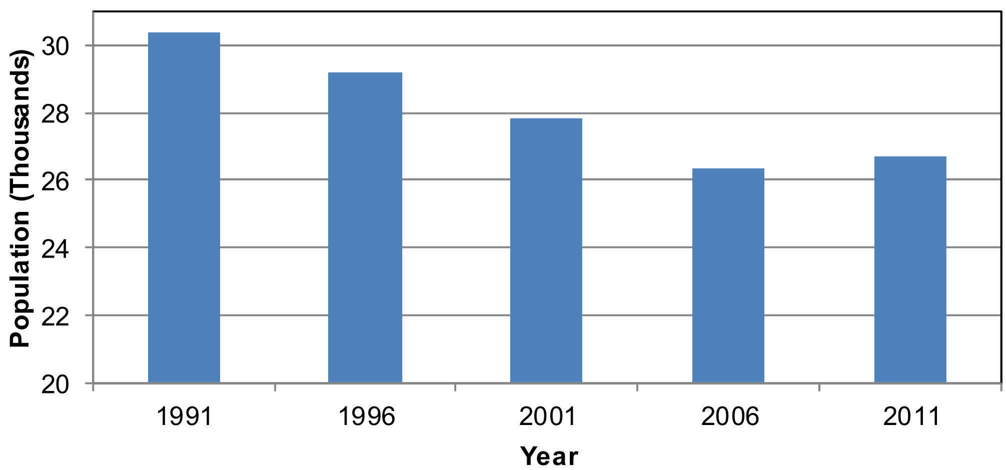


5.1.2 Labrador

The 2011 census reports Labrador's population as 26,728. This population represents 5.2 percent of the provincial total (Statistics Canada 2012). Similar to the provincial population, the population for Labrador declined steadily from the 1990s until recently. Between 1991 and 2006, Labrador's population fell by 13.2 percent from 30,375 to 26,364. This was slightly greater than the overall provincial decline of 11.1 percent during the same period (Statistics Canada

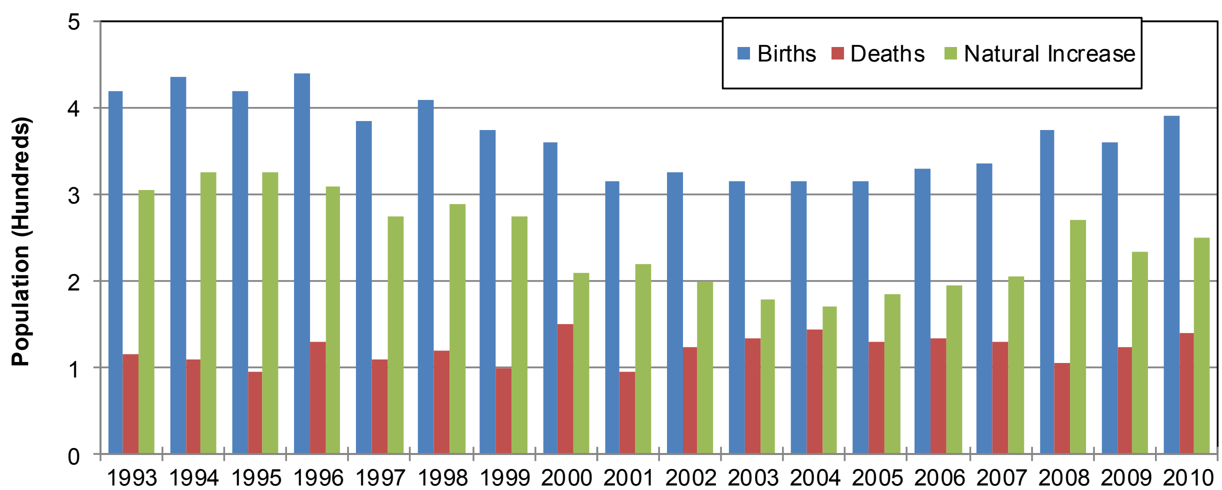
2007). The Labrador population has also exhibited the same positive trend shown by the provincial statistics for 2006 and 2011. The 2011 population count for Labrador marks a 1.4 percent increase since 2006. The population of Labrador at five year intervals is shown in Figure 5.6.

Figure 5.6 Population of Labrador, 1991-2011



Unlike the Province, birth rates have consistently been higher than death rates in Labrador over the past 20 years. Available data for 1993-2010 show a net natural population increase for each year (Figure 5.7).

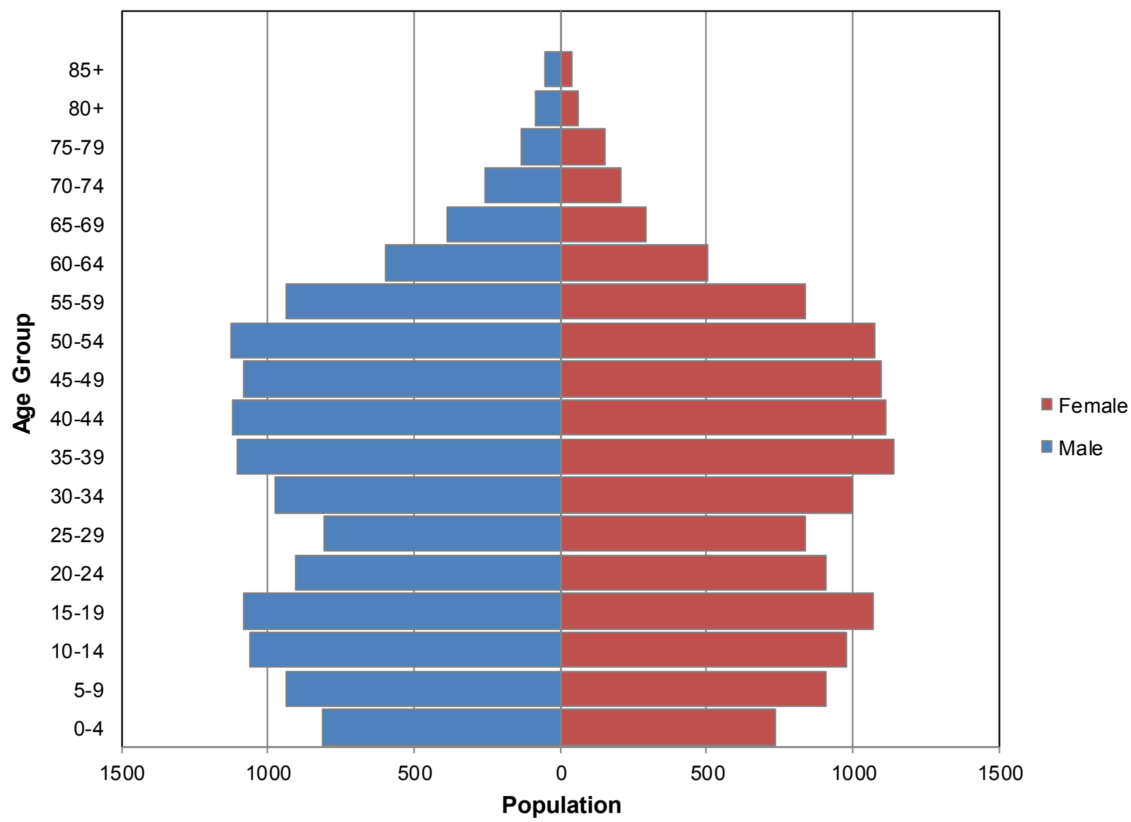
Figure 5.7 Natural Population Change, Labrador, 1993-2010



The population of Labrador has also exhibited higher mobility than the total provincial population. In the Labrador Rural Secretariat Region, 20.4 percent of the population migrated between 2001 and 2006. For the Province, it was 14.0 percent. These migrants are movers who, on Census Day, were residing in a different Census Subdivision five years earlier, or who were living outside Canada five years earlier. Proportionally, Labrador also experienced a greater outmigration than the Province in 2006. Net migration for Labrador Rural Secretariat Region was -1.5 percent, while it was -0.6 percent for the Province. Net migration using the residual method is calculated by subtracting the current population from the population in the previous year and then removing the effect that births and deaths has on the population. By doing so, the remainder / residual is the number of people who migrated into or out of the area.

Figure 5.8 shows the population of Labrador by gender and age group. In 2006, 50.7 percent were male and 49.3 percent were female, while the majority of the population was between the ages of 35 and 64 (44.4 percent) (Statistics Canada 2007). Thirty-five percent of the people living in Labrador have Aboriginal ancestry, self-identifying as Innu, Inuit or Métis (NLDLAA 2006).

Figure 5.8 Population of Labrador by Gender and Age Group, 2006



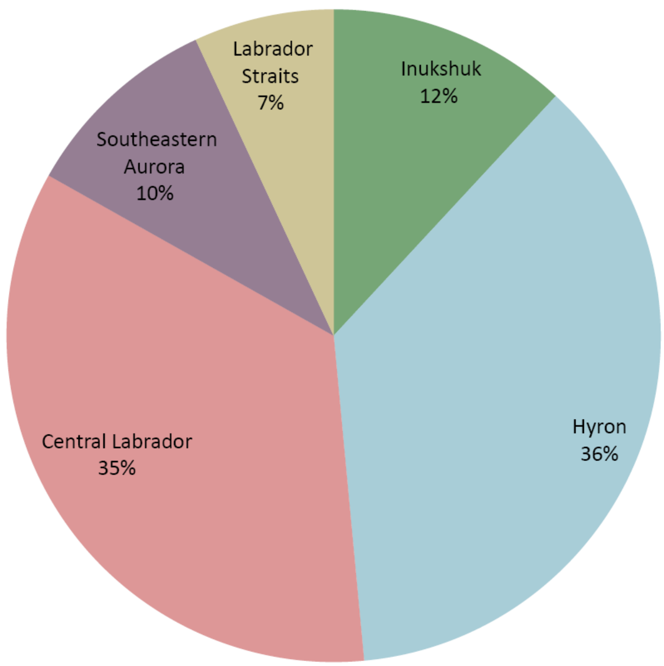
For the purposes of economic analysis and planning, Newfoundland and Labrador is divided into 20 economic zones, five of which are in Labrador. The Project Study Area lies within the administrative boundaries of the Hyron economic zone, which includes Labrador City, Wabush and Churchill Falls. The name “Hyron” is a compound of “hydro” and “iron”, reflecting the dominant industries in Churchill Falls and western Labrador, respectively. In 2006, the Hyron economic zone was the most populated of the Labrador zones, with a population of 9,660

(Figure 5.9). This represents 36 percent of Labrador's total population (Community Accounts, no date).

The populations of all but one of the economic zones in Labrador decreased between 1991 and 2006 (Community Accounts, no date). The greatest declines occurred in Hyron (western Labrador and Churchill Falls) and Labrador Straits. The population of Hyron fell by 20.8 percent, from 12,200 to 9,660, and Labrador Straits decreased from 2,185 to 1,825 (16.5 percent). The population of Inukshuk (the North Coast of Labrador), however, increased by 4.5 percent from 2,985 to 3,120, but it also declined between 2001 and 2006.

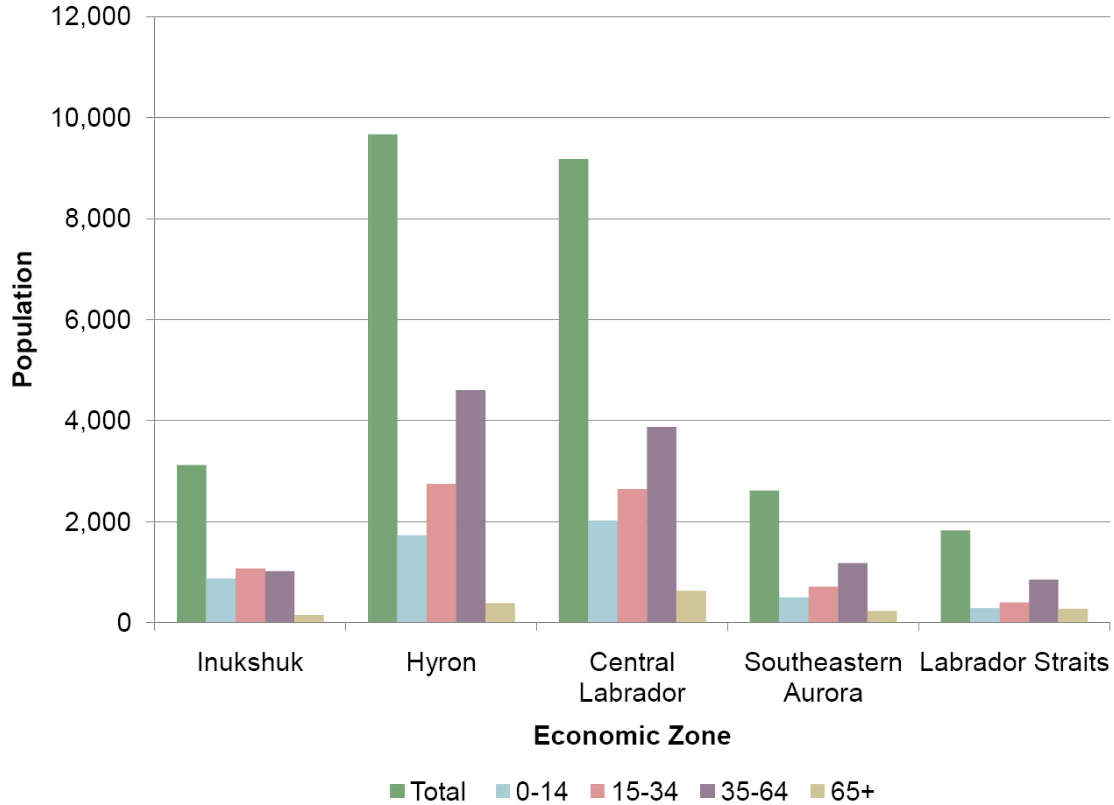
The age-structure of the populations of the economic zones is illustrated in Figure 5.10. Inukshuk is unique insofar as the proportion of younger people in the 0 to 14 and 15 to 34 categories is much higher than for the other zones (Community Accounts, no date).

Figure 5.9 Population by Economic Zone, as a Percentage of Labrador's Population, 2006



Source: Community Accounts, no date.

Figure 5.10 Population of Labrador Economic Zones by Age Group, 2006



Source: Community Accounts, no date.

5.1.3 Economic Zone 2

Population changes for western Labrador over the past 20 years have followed similar trends to the Province and Labrador, with the population stabilizing in recent years after a long period of population decline. In 2011, the population of Economic Zone 2, including Churchill Falls, Labrador City and Wabush, was 9,862 (Table 5.1) (Statistics Canada 2012). This represents a population increase of 1.8 percent from 2006, marking the first time the census population count has increased since 1991. As shown in Figure 5.11, Economic Zone 2 experienced a population decline from 1991 to 2006. In total, the population decreased by just over 20 percent during this period. In 2011, the population of this region represented 36.8 percent of Labrador's total population.

Figure 5.11 Population of Economic Zone 2, 1991-2011

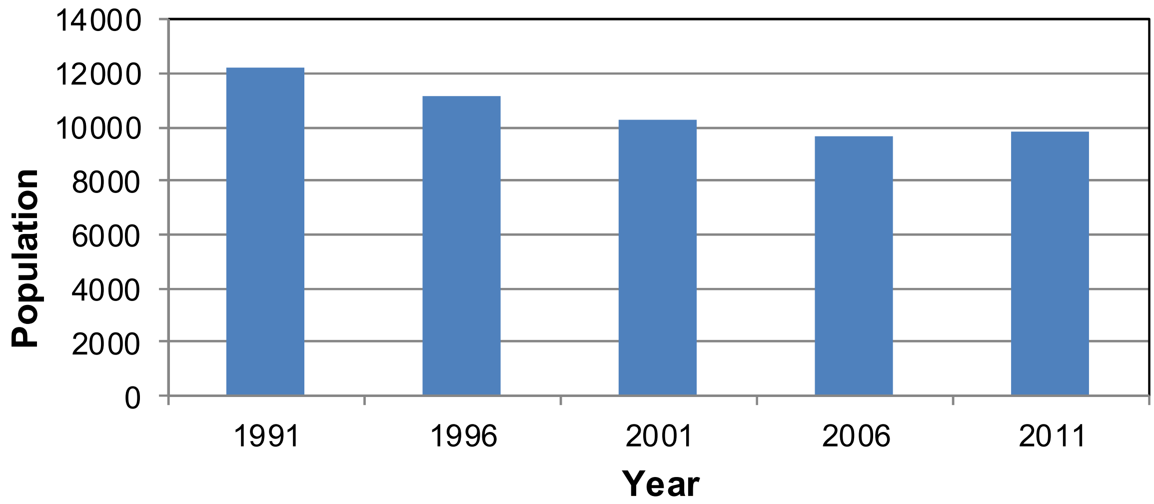


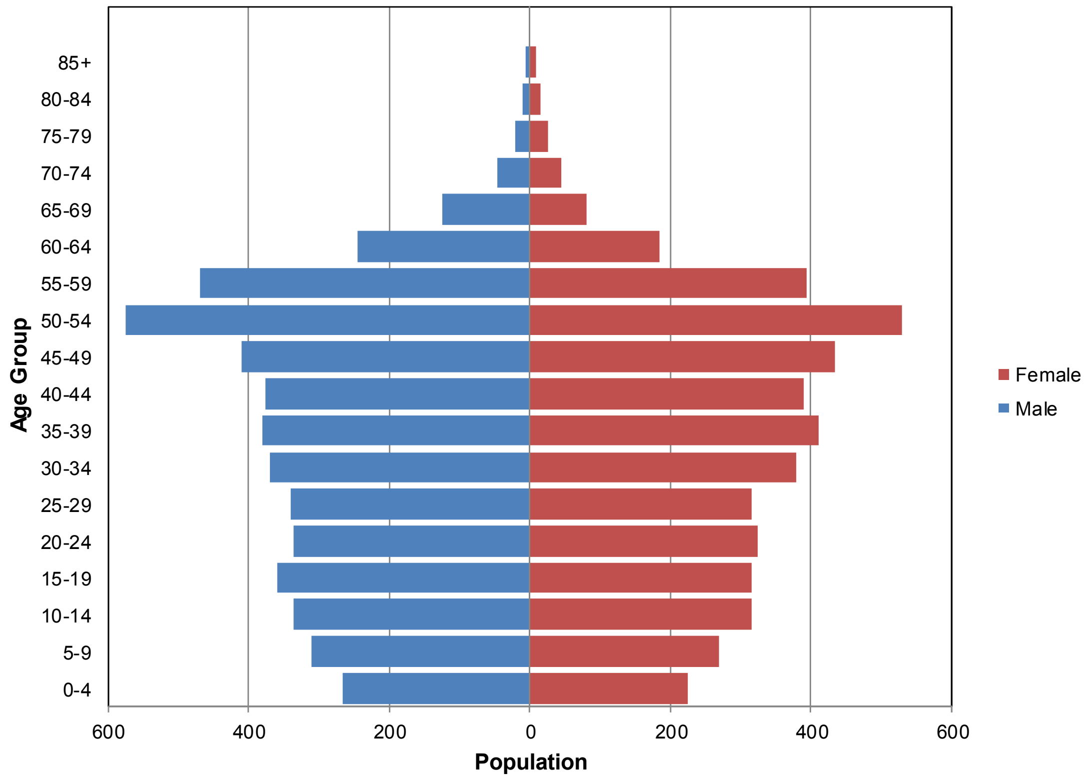
Table 5.1 Population of Economic Zone 2, Labrador and Newfoundland and Labrador, 2011

Area	Population
Economic Zone 2	9,862
• Labrador City	7,367
• Wabush	1,861
• Churchill Falls	634
Labrador	26,738
Newfoundland and Labrador	514,536

Source: Statistics Canada 2012

There are more men than women living in the region, as shown by Figure 5.12. In 2006, 51.6 percent of the population was male, compared to 48.4 percent female. The most populated 5-year age group was 50 to 54 years, which comprised 11.5 percent of the regional population. This age group represents the highest percentage of the population for both males and females.

Figure 5.12 Population by Age and Gender, Economic Zone 2, 2006



5.1.4 Fermont

Fermont was initially built to accommodate the 1,600 employees working at ArcelorMittal Mines Canada's Mont-Wright iron mine and their families (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012). The population continued to grow following the establishment of the Town, briefly reaching a peak of 4,500 residents in 1980 (Rouleau 2010). Table 5.2 shows the population change for the Town of Fermont and the Province of Québec from 1986 to 2011. The trend shows a decline in the Town's population between 1986 and 2006, which differs from the trend of slow growth for the Province as a whole. From 3,735 inhabitants in 1991, the population of Fermont declined by 29.5 percent over the following 15 years. Over the past five years, the population has once again begun to climb. According to the most recent Census data, the population of Fermont was 2,874 in 2011, which represents an increase of 9.6 percent since 2006 (Statistics Canada 2012).

Over the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of workers entering retirement. As this first wave of workers and residents has retired, they have moved to other regions and been replaced by new workers. Population growth is largely attributed to interregional in-migration. Most in-migrants originate from more rural regions of the Province including Saguenay, Côte-Nord, Gaspésie, and Mauricie (Rouleau 2010). Since Fermont is a mining town, population fluctuations there are linked to the global demand for steel and, therefore, iron.

Though population projections are not available for Fermont, they have been produced at the county level. According to 25-year projections from the Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ) (2009), the population of the MRC (Municipalité Régionale de Comté) de Caniapiscau will grow from 3,992 in 2006 to a peak of 4,036 in 2016 and then decline to 3,840 by 2031.

Table 5.2 Population Growth, Fermont and Québec, 1986-2011

Year	Fermont		Québec	
	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
1986	3592	N.D.	6,532,461	N.D.
1991	3735	4.0	6,895,963	5.6
1996	3234	-13.4	7,138,795	3.5
2001	2918	-9.8	7,237,479	1.4
2006	2633	-9.8	7,546,131	4.3
2011	2874	9.6	7,903,001	4.7

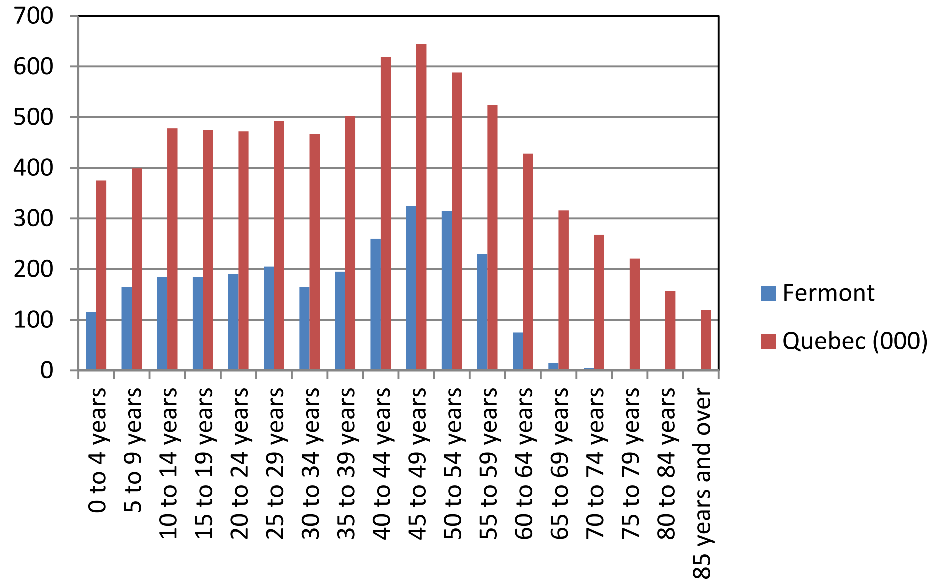
Sources: Bureau de la Statistique du Québec 1998; Statistics Canada 2007; Statistics Canada 2012

The population count does not take into account the fly-in / fly-out workers who work in the area and use local services without calling Fermont their place of residence. In 2012, these workers numbered 1,500, which is a significant increase from 2010 when they numbered 232 workers (M. Bélanger, pers. comm.; Rouleau 2010). The presence of these transitory workers in Fermont has been identified as a social issue since they place pressure on local services and do not integrate with the permanent population (Rouleau 2010).

Unlike the fly-in / fly-out workers, residents of Fermont largely work in the same jurisdiction as they live. 1,495 people worked in Fermont, which represents 90.3 percent of the total employed work force (Statistics Canada 2007). A few residents worked in another municipality within the MRC, however none worked outside the Province (Statistics Canada 2007).

With a median age of 37.7 years, the population of Fermont is, on average, younger than the population of the Province of Québec, which has a median age of 41 years. The age structures of the populations of Fermont and Québec are illustrated in Figure 5.13. The proportion of persons aged 14 years and less in Fermont in 2006 was 17.9 percent (down from 19.3 percent in 2001), compared to the provincial average of 16.6 percent in 2006 (down from 17.8 percent in 2001). The proportion of persons aged 65 years and more in Fermont in 2006 was 0.8 percent (0.4 percent in 2001), compared to the provincial average of 14.3 percent in 2006 (up from 13.3 percent in 2001). This low proportion of seniors in Fermont results from the fact that people tend to move away once they retire and from the near absence of residents over the age of 75.

Figure 5.13 Age Structure of Population, Fermont and Québec, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada 2007

In the Census of 2006, persons aged between 25 and 64, which includes the main labour pool, accounted for 81.5 percent of the population of Fermont compared to 69.1 percent of the population in the Province of Québec. The relatively high proportion of people of working age in Fermont is tied largely to work-related inter-regional migration. The low proportion of residents aged 15 to 24 reflects the fact that residents must leave Fermont to attend post-secondary institutions.

According to 2006 Census data, the proportion of males (55 percent) and their average age (38.8 years) was higher than the females (45 percent and 36.3 years, respectively) in Fermont. The higher proportion of males to females in the municipality is explained by the mono-industrial basis of the local economy and the traditionally high participation rates of males in the mining industry.

Fermont represents a fairly homogenous population. In the 2006 Census, 97.7 percent of residents aged 15 and over reported being third generation Canadian or more (Statistics Canada 2007). This is considerably higher than the Province of Québec as a whole, where 79.9 percent claimed to be third generation. Immigrants represented just 1.9 percent of the local population compared to 11.5 percent of the provincial population. The proportion of residents who identified as visible minorities was 2.1 percent in Fermont versus 8.8 percent in the Province.

The principal language spoken in Fermont is French, with 96.8 percent of residents claiming it as their mother tongue and 97.5 percent speaking French most often in their homes (Statistics Canada 2007). Only 2.3 percent of residents consider English their mother tongue; however 32.8 percent of residents had language capacity in both English and French (Statistics Canada

2007). The remaining 67.2 percent knew French, but not English. However, Rouleau (2010) notes that bilingualism is increasing.

In 2006, 45 residents of Fermont identified as Aboriginal, or 1.7 percent of the total population (Statistics Canada 2007). This is consistent with the Québec average (1.4 percent) and Baie-Comeau (1.9 percent), but low compared to other urban areas in the region. That same year, those identifying as Aboriginal made up 6.3 percent of the population of Sept-Îles. One reason for the relatively low population in Fermont may be the distance to the closest First Nations reserves, Kawawachikamach and Matimekush-Lac John, which are situated around Schefferville over 200 km to the north.

5.2 Economy, Employment and Business

This section will provide baseline data to allow the effects of the Project on the economy, employment and business to be assessed. The primary focus is effects at the local scale, i.e., Economic Zone 2. An overview of the local economy will be developed, including information on existing employment and income conditions, labour force and local business characteristics. Regional and provincial baseline data, such as labour force, employment characteristics, GDP, and information on other projects that might affect the local economy or will be affected by the Project, are included as appropriate.

5.2.1 Economy

5.2.1.1 Newfoundland and Labrador

Newfoundland and Labrador has undergone strong economic growth during the past decade, during which the primary economic drivers have been offshore oil production and mining. The Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Finance (NLDF) reports that the provincial real GDP increased 58.8 percent between 1997 and 2010, with approximately half of this growth attributed to oil and gas production (NLDF 2011b). After enduring the global recession in 2009, real GDP grew by an estimated 6.1 percent in 2010, fuelled by investment growth and a rebound in exports. Real GDP growth and employment growth in Newfoundland and Labrador were the highest among Canada's provinces for 2010. Economic conditions remained robust in the Province in 2011, with a forecast real GDP increase of 4.9 percent (NLDF 2011b). In 2011, the provincial unemployment stood at 12.7 percent, having decreased each year since the 2009 recession (Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency 2012a).

Economic expansion is expected to continue as a result of investment in major projects, including Vale Newfoundland and Labrador Limited's commercial nickel processing facility in Long Harbour, the IOCC mining expansion in Labrador City, the Muskrat Falls development, the Hebron offshore oil project and planned expansion projects for the Hibernia and White Rose oil fields. The economy is now one of the fastest growing in Canada and capital investment was estimated to be nearly $8 billion for 2011 (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3 Selected Economic Indicators, NL, 2001-2011

Economic Indicators	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2009	2009	2010	2011
Population as of July 1 (000's)	522	519.5	518.5	517.4	514.4	510.3	506.4	506.4	508.9	511.3	510.6
% Change	*-1.1*	*-0.5*	*-0.2*	*-0.2*	*-0.6*	*-0.8*	*-0.8*	*0*	*0.5*	*0.5*	*-0.1*
GDP at Market Prices ($000)	14,179	16,457	18,119	19,407	21,960	24,111	28,267	30,785	24,762	28,192	33,170[e]
% Change	*1.8*	*16*	*10.2*	*7.1*	*13.2*	*9.8*	*17.2*	*8.9*	*-19.6*	*13.9*	*17.7*
Personal Income ($000)	11,576	11,927	12,436	12,855	13,249	13,952	14,808	15,659	16,728	17,372	NA
% Change	*4.1*	*3.0*	*4.3*	*3.4*	*3.1*	*5.3*	*6.1*	*5.7*	*6.8*	*3.8*	*NA*
Per Capita Personal Income ($)	22,176	22,958	23,985	24,845	25,756	27,341	29,242	30,922	32,871	33,976	NA
% Change	*5.3*	*3.5*	*4.5*	*3.6*	*3.7*	*6.2*	*7*	*5.7*	*6.3*	*3.4*	*NA*
Labour Force, Annual Average (000s)	243.4	248.6	253.3	253.3	251.0	251.8	250.3	252	251.3	256.3	258
% Change	*2.1*	*2.1*	*1.9*	*0*	*-1*	*0.3*	*-0.6*	*0.7*	*-0.3*	*2*	*0.7*
Employment, Annual Average (000s)	204.9	207.5	211.8	213.7	213.0	214.8	216.5	218.7	212.3	219.4	225.4
% Change	*3*	*1.3*	*2.1*	*0.9*	*-0.3*	*0.8*	*0.8*	*1*	*-2.9*	*3.3*	*2.7*
Unemployment Rate, Annual Average (%)	15.8	16.5	16.4	15.6	15.1	14.7	13.5	13.2	15.5	14.4	12.7
% Change	*-4.8*	*4.4*	*-0.6*	*-4.9*	*-3.2*	*-2.6*	*-8.2*	*-2.2*	*17.4*	*-7.1*	*-11.8*
Consumer Price Index (2002 = 100)1	97.7	100	102.9	104.8	107.6	109.5	111.1	114.3	114.6	117.4	NA
% Change	*1.1*	*2.4*	*2.9*	*1.8*	*2.7*	*1.8*	*1.5*	*2.9*	*0.3*	*2.4*	*NA*
Newsprint Shipments (thousands of metric tonnes)	745.8	740.3	780.9	731.7	761.8	594.8	549.4	525.4	264.5	259.1	NA
% Change	*-7.7*	*-0.7*	*5.5*	*-6.3*	*4.1*	*-21.9*	*-7.6*	*-4.4*	*-49.7*	*-2*	*NA*
Value of Fish Landings ($Millions)	487.2	505.4	575.6	606.1	497.3	441.6	514.3	519.2	423.3	439.1	NA
% Change	*-14.6*	*3.7*	*13.9*	*5.3*	*-18*	*-11.2*	*16.5*	*1*	*-18.5*	*3.7*	*NA*
Value of Mineral Shipments ($Millions)	754.1	795.6	776.4	693.9	1,550.4	2,604.4	3,913.5	3,796.5	1,987.9	3,730[e]	4,544.2[f]
% Change	*-22.5*	*5.5*	*--2.4*	*-10.6*	*123.4*	*68*	*50.3*	*-3*	*-48*	*87.6*[e]	*21.8*[f]

Economic Indicators	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2009	2009	2010	2011
Value of Iron Ore Shipments ($000)	691,626	728,909	720,427	653,923	1,286,771	1,346,989	1,157,858	2,390,811	1,159,627	2,595,288[e]	2,832,441[f]
% Change	*-23.3*	*5.4*	*-1.2*	*-9.2*	*96.8*	*4.7*	*-14*	*106.5*	*-51.5*	*123.8*[e]	*9.1*[f]
Value of Manufacturing Shipments ($000)	2,467.8	2,537.3	2,583.8	2,513.2	2,780.6	4,292.9	5,113.6	6,574.3	4,377	5,167.3	NA
% Change	*-1.4*	*2.8*	*1.8*	*-2.7*	*10.6*	*54.4*	*19.1*	*28.6*	*-33.4*	*18.1*	*NA*
Oil Production (Millions of Barrels)*	54.3	104.3	123	114.8	111.3	110.8	134.5	125.2	97.7	100.7	NA
% Change	*2.8*	*92.1*	*17.9*	*-6.7*	*-3*	*-0.4*	*21.4*	*-7*	*-22*	*3.1*	*NA*
Public and Private Capital Investment ($Millions)	3,371	3,361	3,712	4,243	4,576	4,359	4,217	5,037	4,949	6,549	7,982[e]
% Change	*-0.8*	*-0.3*	*10.4*	*14.3*	*7.8*	*-4.7*	*-3.2*	*19.4*	*-1.7*	*32.3*	*21.9*[e]
Housing Starts (Number)	1,788	2,419	2,692	2,870	2,498	2,234	2,649	3,261	3,057	3,606	NA
% Change	*22.5*	*35.3*	*11.3*	*6.6*	*-13*	*-10.6*	*18.6*	*23.1*	*-6.3*	*18*	*NA*
Retail Trade NAICS ($Millions)	5,201	5,407	5,736	5,761	5,824	6,012	6,528	7,009	7,120	7,449	NA
% Change	*9.3*	*4*	*6.1*	*0.3*	*1.1*	*3.2*	*8.6*	*7.4*	*1.6*	*4.6*	*NA*
New Motor Vehicle Sales (Number)	24,649	25,790	25,428	22,898	24,899	24,188	28,260	31,448	28,755	31,667	NA
% Change	*3.3*	*4.6*	*-1.4*	*-9.9*	*8.7*	*-2.9*	*16.9*	*11.3*	*-8.6*	*10.1*	*NA*

Source: Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency 2011c (Compiled from various tables).
e = estimate, f = forecast

However, the development of major projects involving mineral production and offshore oil production is highly capital-intensive. As a result, the growth in employment, while substantial, has not kept pace with the growth in GDP and the unemployment rate in Newfoundland and Labrador remains the highest in Canada. Unemployment in Newfoundland and Labrador has considerable regional characteristics. For instance, in 2006, the St. John's Census Metropolitan Area unemployment rate (7.4 percent) was comparable to that in the rest of Canada (6.3 percent) while on the south coast of Newfoundland and Labrador it was much higher (25.8 percent).

The current state of the provincial economy is robust, and the Department of Finance has predicted solid economic conditions for the medium-term outlook (NLDF 2011b). As shown in Table 5.3, most economic indicators posted gains for 2010, and 2011 estimates indicate continued growth.

In 2011, Newfoundland and Labrador continued to post strong economic growth, with private sector estimates forecasting an average real GDP growth of 4.9 percent, down from a 6.1 percent increase in 2010 (NLDF 2011b). The oil industry remains the leading contributor to this growth in the provincial economy; in 2010, oil production contributed approximately 30 percent of the Province's nominal GDP and 19.2 percent of investment (NLDF 2011b). Strong economic growth, coupled with increasing employment, higher wages, low interest rates and strengthened consumer confidence led to a 2.4 percent increase in retail sales, totaling $7.4 billion (NLDF 2011b).

After a recession-related decrease in 2009, employment rose 3.3 percent to 219,400 in 2010. Employment was expected to reach a record high of 225,600 in 2011. Wages also increased in 2010 with average weekly earnings increasing by 4.5 percent. This resulted in a 4.9 percent increase in labour income, bringing the total to $10.6 billion. Total personal income increased by an estimated 3.8 percent to $17.3 billion and the unemployment rate declined by 1.1 percentage points, to 14.4 percent. A further decrease in the unemployment rate was forecast for 2011, with the rate expected to fall a further 0.7 percentage points to 12.5 percent. There were job gains in natural resources industries, goods and services industries, construction, tourism, and transportation industries (NLDF 2011a; 2011b).

Recent economic conditions for several major industries in Newfoundland and Labrador are discussed below.

Mining

The mining industry contributes substantially to the provincial economy. In 2010, the contribution of mining to the provincial GDP was $2.25 billion, representing 8.6 percent. This contribution was second only to oil extraction and support activities (30.4 percent) (NLDF 2011b). Mining activity has increased substantially in recent years. After a downturn in 2009 resulting from the global recession, market conditions have improved and the Newfoundland and Labrador mining industry grew substantially in 2010 and 2011. The total value of mineral shipments in 2012 was forecast to reach $5.7 billion, representing a 25 percent increase since

2011 and the highest value on record. The expected increase in mineral shipments is based on the first-year production of Labrador Iron Mines and production increases at Iron Ore Company of Canada (IOC) (NLDNR 2012a).

Direct employment in mining was expected to be over 6,000 person-years in 2011, an increase of 900 over the 2010 estimate and the highest level in over three decades (NLDF 2011b). Further employment increases are projected for 2012. Direct employment is expected to rise to 7,684 person-years (NLDNR 2012a). Exploration activities are also on the rise. Mineral exploration expenditures in 2011 were estimated to increase by almost 50 percent from 2010, rising to $158 million (NLDF 2011b).

Oil and Gas

As noted above, production from the offshore oil industry has become an increasingly important contributor to the provincial economy over the last decade (NLDF 2011b). Revenue from oil extraction and support activities contributed 30.4 percent of the provincial GDP in 2010 (NLDF 2011b). Oil production totaled 100.7 million barrels in 2010. Production in 2011 was expected to decrease by 3.2 percent to 98.9 million barrels. Production decreases reflect natural declines, as the Hibernia, Terra Nova and White Rose projects are now beyond peak production. However, in 2011 the total value of oil production was expected to increase by 31.4 percent to $10.8 billion as a result of higher crude oil prices.

Forestry

The provincial forestry industry has struggled with a decrease in demand for newsprint, which has remained a trend over the past decade. With the closure of the Abitibi Bowater mills in Stephenville and Grand Falls in 2005 and 2009, respectively, the Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Ltd. mill is the only newsprint operation in Newfoundland and Labrador. In 2010, provincial newsprint shipments totaled 259,100 tonnes, down 2.0 percent from 2009 (NLDF 2011c). Newsprint shipments during the first nine months of 2011 had decreased by 4.2 percent compared to the same period in 2010 (NLDF 2011b). The value of newsprint shipped out of Newfoundland and Labrador decreased by about 5 percent in 2010 and was expected to decline by a further 2 to 3 percent during 2011 (NLDF 2011a; 2011c).

Fisheries and Aquaculture

The provincial seafood industry posted a solid economic performance in 2011. Total production value, including aquaculture, grew from $948 million in 2010 to $1.0 billion in 2011, representing growth of 7.3 percent. Industry employment totaled 21,289, down 0.6 percent since 2010 (NLDFA 2012).

For commercial capture fisheries, total landed volume dropped to 267,910 tonnes, down 12.1 percent from 2010. However, due to higher prices for raw materials, particularly crab and shrimp, the total landed value for 2011 rose by 21.3 percent to $568 million (NLDFA 2012).

Aquaculture production and market value grew in 2011. Between 2010 and 2011, total production rose 12.4 percent to approximately 17 thousand tonnes. The total market value increased from $118 million in 2010 to $120 million, an increase of 1.8 percent. Growth in production and market value is attributed to higher production in the salmonid and mussel sectors (NLDFA 2012).

Tourism

The economic performance of the provincial tourism industry has continued to grow in recent years. 2010 statistics indicate that tourism spending reached $879 million, with resident expenditures representing about 53 percent of the total (NLDTCR 2011). In 2010, the number of non-resident visitors grew by 7 percent to a record high of 518,500. Associated spending in the same year reached $410.6 million. For 2011, the number of non-resident visitors was expected to remain near 2010 levels, while related expenditures were expected to increase by about 4 percent to around $425 million.

Other performance indicators reflect the growth of tourism and travel in Newfoundland and Labrador. Occupancy rates indicated a strong year for the accommodation industry, with an increase of 0.9 percentage points to a 53.1 percent occupancy rate in 2011. Air travel to the Province by non-resident passengers was also projected to rise in 2011. However, decreases were recorded in 2011 for cruise ship passenger visits and non-resident automobile visits. The number of port calls booked for the Province in 2011 was down to 83 from 133 in 2010 Automobile visitation was reduced to 107,300, down 7.7 percent since 2010 (NLDF 2011b).

5.2.1.2 Labrador

Labrador's economy is traditionally based on raw material extraction and the service industry. Major industries include mines and energy, aerospace and defence, fish harvesting and processing, forest resources and tourism (NLDTW 2006).

Mining

The mining industry in Labrador is centered on iron ore production in western Labrador and nickel ore production at Voisey's Bay. These two sectors are the dominant contributors of GDP for the provincial mining industry. In 2011, the forecast value of mineral shipments was expected to total over $4.5 billion, of which approximately $2.8 billion was attributed to iron ore production and approximately $1 billion was attributed to nickel production (NLDF 2011b).

Smaller mining operations also generate considerable economic benefits for the people of Labrador (NLDLAA 2006). Continued mineral exploration offers potential for further economic development. In 2012, there were 16,410 mineral claims staked in Labrador, compared to 12,124 for Newfoundland (NLDNR 2012b).

Oil and Gas

Major gas reserves have been identified in the Labrador offshore region. There are currently five significant offshore discovery licenses and four exploration licenses for the Labrador Shelf (CNLOPB 2012a). A 2007 call for bids by the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board produced $186 million in expenditure commitments in return for the four exploration licenses offshore Labrador (CNLOPB 2012b).

Forestry

Labrador has 18 million ha of forested land. With 5.5 million ha of productive forest, gross merchantable timber is estimated at 180,000,000 m^3. The provincial government commissioned a Labrador Value Added Forestry Study to evaluate the potential of developing sawmills and value-added wood products. The study identified potential business plans for secondary processing of wood products with the objective of increasing economic development in the area (NLDLAA 2006).

Forestry Management District (FMD) 19A in central Labrador currently has 11 commercially licensed sawmills with annual output ranging from a few thousand board feet to over one million board feet. Average production since 1990 is about 1.4 million foot-board-measures (fbm) (3,304 m^3).

Fisheries and Aquaculture

The fishery continues to be a major employer for coastal communities in Labrador and, until recently, ten fish plants in Labrador processed rockcod, Arctic char, snow crab, turbot, scallops, shrimp and other species. In May 2012, however, it was announced that processing plants in Black Tickle and St. Lewis would cease operations by the end of the year. Plant closures have been attributed to a shortage of crab and turbot and an increase in transportation and fuel costs. These factors combined with an aging labour force are major issues for the fishing industry (NLDLAA 2006; The Labradorian 2012).

Tourism

Tourism is a growing focus of economic development in Labrador (NLDLAA 2006). Nature tourism and adventure tourism remain the region's main draws, with attractions such as the Torngat National Park Reserve, the proposed Mealy Mountain National Park and the Battle Harbour Historic Trust.

Tourism in Labrador was once limited to a short summer season with approximately 50 fishing and hunting outfitter businesses. However, with the construction of the groomed winter trail network, as well as other transportation links, the industry is evolving into a year-round opportunity. Other winter tourism products include the Cain's Quest Snowmobile Endurance Race, the Labrador Winter Games, and regional winter festivals (NLDLAA 2006).

Tourism statistics indicate an increasing number of visitors to the Labrador region. Between 2009 and 2010, roofed accommodation occupancy levels in Labrador increased by almost 10 percentage points, driven in part by increased activity in the mining sector and improved access via the Trans Labrador Highway (NLDTCR 2011).

Agriculture

Agriculture has been identified as a potential growth industry in Labrador (NLDLAA 2006). In 2004, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador issued a Northern Agrifoods Development Strategy to examine the viable economic potential of agrifoods development in Labrador (NLDNR and NLDLAA 2004).

The Provincial Government entered into a new agriculture cost-shared agreement with the federal government in March 2009. The Growing Forward Framework Agreement will provide funding for land development, food safety, environmental stewardship, innovation and human resource development. Labrador farmers can apply for funding through six programs: Agriculture Innovation Program, Agriculture Land Development Program, Agriculture Opportunities Program, Agriculture Sustainability Program, Mitigating Agriculture Risks Program, and the New Farm Investment Program. An annual allocation of $500,000 has been provided to address the unique navigation challenges and opportunities to develop the agriculture and agrifoods industry in Labrador (NLDLAA 2010).

A Dairy Feasibility Study for central Labrador was completed in March of 2008. The study concluded that establishing a dairy industry was not feasible in the Central Labrador region (NLDLAA 2010).

5.2.1.3 Economic Zone 2

The major employers in western Labrador include IOC, which employs about 1,900 individuals in Labrador City, Wabush Mines, with approximately 900 employees, and the provincial government, including healthcare workers, education employees, and other government employees (Cliffs Natural Resources 2011; IOC 2009).

Mining

Mining has provided a valuable foundation and cornerstone for economic development and growth in western Labrador, with a primary focus on iron ore. Large-scale mining development projects are generally long term and capital intensive and often result in major economic and employment benefits similar to operations already existing in western Labrador (NLDLAA 2006).

Production mining is the main activity in western Labrador. IOC operates its Carol Lake Mine out of Labrador City, and Wabush Mines operates its Scully Mine from Wabush. The situation has not changed substantially since 1993 in terms of both mines being dependent on the fluctuations in the international market for steel and subsequently iron ore.

The IOC began production from the Carol Lake Mine in 1962. IOC is Canada's largest iron ore pellet producer and operates a mine, concentrator, and pellet plant at Carol Lake, port facilities in Sept-Iles, Québec, and a 420-km rail line that links the mine and the port. Total resources at Carol Lake are estimated to be 5.5 billion tonnes. Proven and probable reserves are 1.4 billion tonnes; indicated and referred reserves are 4.1 billion tonnes. Annual mine production at the open pit operation is in the 35 to 38 million tonne range at an average grade of approximately 40 percent total iron. Annual production capacity is 18 million tonnes of concentrate of which 12.5 million tonnes can be pelletized (NLDF 2011b).

In 2010, IOC resumed its proposed three-phase expansion plan with the goal of increasing total concentrate capacity to 26 million tonnes per year. Phase I began in May 2010 and is expected to increase capacity to 22 million tonnes. Phase II construction is underway, and it is expected to bring total concentrate capacity to 23.3 million tonnes. Phase III is currently under consideration. The company is also considering further site expansion to increase concentrate production to 50 million tonnes or more annually (NLDNR 2012a).

Since 1996, IOC has also mined dolomite in western Labrador for making fluxed pellets. In 2011, production was 135,000 tonnes. Forecast production for 2012 is 160,000 tonnes (NLDNR 2012a).

Wabush Mines began mining iron ore from the Scully Mine in Labrador in 1965 and now operates a mine and concentrating plant at Wabush and a pellet plant and shipping facilities in Pointe-Noire, Québec. All ore is mined by open pit and sent through the Scully Mine concentrator. The final concentrate is transported 443 km by rail to the port at Pointe-Noire for pelletizing and shipment. The majority of ore is loaded onto ships bound for the Canadian and US Great Lakes region while the remainder is loaded for the US East Coast, Europe and more recently China. In 2011, Wabush Mines shipped approximately 3.2 million tonnes of concentrate. Production is expected to increase over the next four to five years to 5 million tonnes annually (NLDNR 2012a).

There is also one inactive mine in western Labrador. From 1999 to 2008, Shabogamo Mining and Exploration supplied quartzite to Bécancour Silicum Inc. of Québec which used the material to manufacture silicon metal. Shabogamo's contract ended in 2008, and the company is exploring alternative arrangements (NLDNR 2012a).

Mining activity in Labrador has been increasing regionally, as well. Near Schefferville, Québec, Labrador Iron Mines Ltd. (LIM) began operations in 2011. LIM is expected to mine 2.5 to 3 million tonnes of ore in 2012, which is expected to yield 2 million tonnes of saleable products (NLDNR 2012a). Expansion plans are currently under environmental assessment review.

Developing properties in the region include Tata Steel Minerals Canada Ltd.'s (TSMC) Elross Lake Project and New Millennium Iron Corp.'s LabMag project. TSMC is a partnership between Tata Steel of India and New Millennium Iron Corp. TSMC expects to begin commissioning and ramp-up of the plant in Q3, 2012 with full processing capacity expected between November 2012 and January 2013. Five and a half million tonnes of ore per year will be processed to produce about 4 million tonnes of iron concentrate. Eighty percent of the product will be sinter fines and 20 percent will be pellet fines. The project will operate year round and employ approximately 188 people (NLDNR 2012a).

New Millennium Iron Corp. is also the primary interest holder in LabMag taconite iron ore deposit, a 5-6 billion tonne deposit near Schefferville. An economic assessment has been completed for this project, but it has not been registered with regulators. Mining and production capacities are estimated at approximately 51 million tonnes of ore mined per year, with 15 million tonnes per year pellet capacity. Operations employment is estimated at 810 positions (NLDNR 2012a).

5.2.1.4 Fermont

In 2011, the Québec government released the Plan Nord, a 25-year plan to develop energy resources, mineral resources, forest resources, wildlife resources, tourism, and bio-food production potential in regions of the Province situated above the 49th parallel. The plan also calls for the preservation of 50 percent of lands north of the 49th parallel for environmental protection.

The context for local economic development is also shaped by the strategies of the MRC de Caniapiscau, which seeks to increase access to the region to promote mining and tourism. At the same time, the MRC calls for maintaining public access to the lands in the territory for the purposes of recreation. This represents an important amenity for the local population. The MRC has also taken a strong position towards protecting environmental resources to maintain the health, security and quality of life and local residents, as well as to promote local fish and wildlife populations for fishing and hunting.

Various opportunities have been identified in an attempt to diversify the local economy. These include other types of mineral extraction and the development of wind power and hydro-electric production (Rouleau 2010).

Mining

The main mining operations near Fermont are two large open-pit mines which are operated by ArcelorMittal Mines Canada: one in Mont-Wright, the largest of its kind in North America, and one in Fire Lake. Also at Mont-Wright, the ArcelorMittal Mines Canada mining complex includes a concentrator, massive workshops and an automated concentrate train loading system. The site is linked by rail to the Port-Cartier industrial complex, which comprises the pellet plant, storage areas and port facilities for shipping. ArcelorMittal Mines Canada produces some 15 million tonnes of iron ore concentrate and over nine million tonnes of iron oxide pellets annually (ArcelorMittal Mines Canada 2012). In addition, Cliffs Natural Resources currently operates the Bloom Lake Mine near Fermont, which has an annual rated capacity of 8 million tonnes of iron ore (Cliffs Natural Resources 2011).

Mining activity around Fermont is increasing with the expansion of existing mines and the planning and development of new mining projects. Cliff Resources is currently expanding existing operations and ArcelorMittal Canada is planning to raise annual capacity at its Mont-Wright mine from 14 million tonnes to 24 million tonnes (Gibbens 2012). Plans to double the annual capacity of its Port Cartier pelletizing plant to 18.5 million tonnes are also in place (Gibbens 2012). The proposed Champion Minerals projects at Fire Lake, Harvey Tuttle, and North Bellechasse have a combined potential of 1.5 billion tonnes of iron ore (Pelletier 2011).

Several projects are also expanding and opening closer to Schefferville. New Millennium Iron Corp. is increasing output and has partnered with Tata Steel of India to build a $1 billion pelletizing plant in Sept Îles. New Millennium's $4.4 billion taconite project along the Québec-Labrador border some 25 to 50 km north of Schefferville may begin transporting taconite slurry to Sept-Îles by way of a planned slurry pipeline. The pipeline represents a possible alternative to the railway proposed by the Province to provide extra capacity to the existing railroad. Adriana Resources also plans to open a mine at Lac Otelnuk, 170 km north of Schefferville that would produce 50 million tonnes of iron ore annually. That project is still awaiting investment (Gibbens 2012).

Tourism

Since the late 1980s the CLD de Caniapiscau has been working to develop the local tourism industry. The Town of Fermont operates a tourist information office, which promotes local attractions including local hiking, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing trails, visits to the Mont-Wright mine, boating on Daviault Lake, camping, and guided tours of the Town's iconic windscreen building and interpretative centers.

Outside of Fermont, the most important tourist draws are hunting and fishing with several outfitters operating in the area. La Pourvoirie du Lac Justone inc., located on Rivière-Mouchalagane, runs fly-in fishing and hunting expeditions, including caribou hunting expeditions in the Fermont region in winter (Gouvernement du Québec 2012). Recently, the outfitter has partnered with Nord-Expé to provide snowmobile expeditions throughout the region. Nord-Pourvoirie du lac Kerbodot also organizes caribou hunting (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012a). Many other outfitting operations are located in the vicinity of Schefferville.

Other tourist attractions in the greater region include the ghost town of Gagnon in the MRC de Caniapiscau and the Manicouagan-Uapishka World Biosphere Reserve, the Groulx Mountains, the Daniel-Johnson Dam and Manic-5 Generating Station in the MRC de Manicouagan.

As part of Québec's Plan Nord, the Ministère du Tourisme (2011) released a strategy to develop the tourism industry north of the 49th parallel. In this strategy, the Côte-Nord Region was identified as a region with a great deal of potential, but little existing infrastructure. The strategy will provide funding to initiatives that offer tourist activities and contribute to expanding the necessary infrastructures, such as accommodations and campgrounds. Given the relative isolation of the region and natural resources present, development of high quality adventure and eco-tourism were identified as appropriate strategies (Ministère du Tourisme 2011).

Several tourism projects are currently underway or planned for Fermont. These include the development of new ATV trails and mountain-biking trails on Mount Daviault. Additionally, the CLD de Caniapiscau is working towards further developing the Taïga Carnaval, a festival combining winter sports and entertainment. A new multi-functional center planned for this year will house the interpretive center and a new auditorium. Several hotel projects are being studied as is the expansion of the cross-country ski network (Tremblay, pers. comm.).

A campground on the shores of Daviault Lake is projected to open in July 2012. Presently, the site has been cleared and a business plan has been drawn up to seek financing for servicing the site. Once built, the campground will offer 100 campsites each fully serviced with water, sewer and electrical connections (St-Pierre, pers. comm.). The campground will principally serve seasonal tenants with a few sites being reserved for tourists. It will operate from the end of May to the end of October.

5.2.2 Employment

5.2.2.1 Newfoundland and Labrador

Employment conditions in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador have been improving. The labour force has increased steadily since the mid-1990s (Table 5.4). Between 2006 and 2011, average annual employment increased from 251,800 to 258,000. The annual average unemployment rate for this period dropped 2 percentage points, from 14.7 percent to 12.7 percent. In 2011, the total population aged 15 years and older was approximately 428,800. With a participation rate of 60.2 percent, the provincial labour force in 2011 was approximately 258,000. Employment conditions are expected to remain strong for 2012 (NLDF 2011a).

Table 5.4 Labour Force Characteristics, Newfoundland and Labrador, 1991-2011, Annual Averages

	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011
Total Population, 15 years and older (000s)	444.4	443.7	427.3	425.8	428.8
Labour Force (000s)	249.7	232.9	243.9	251.8	258.0
Employment (000s)	204.7	232.9	204.9	214.8	225.4
Participation Rate (%)	56.2	52.5	57.0	59.1	60.2
Employment Rate (%)	46.1	42.6	48.0	50.4	52.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	18.0	18.9	15.8	14.7	12.7

Source: Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency 2012a

The number of individuals receiving Employment Insurance benefits has decreased steadily since the 1990s (Table 5.5). In 2009, this number stood at 97,135, a difference of over 50,000 people since 1992, when Employment Insurance beneficiaries accounted for 53.4 percent of the labour force (Community Accounts, no date).

Table 5.5 Employment Insurance Beneficiaries, Newfoundland and Labrador, 1992 and 2009

	1992	2009	% Change
EI Beneficiaries (Individuals)	154,555	97,135	-37.1
EI Incidence (% of labour force)	53.4	33.4	-20

Source: Community Accounts, no date

In 2011, the provincial labour force was comprised of 52 percent males and 48 percent females (Table 5.6). The participation rate for males stood at 64.5 percent, while for females this figure was 56.1 percent. At 19.7 percent, the male unemployment rate was substantially higher than the unemployment rate for females, which stood at 10.5 percent (NLDF 2011a).

Table 5.6 Labour Force Characteristics by Gender, Newfoundland and Labrador, 2011

	Males	Females	Total
Labour Force (000s)	134.6	123.4	258.0
Employment (000s)	114.9	110.4	225.4
Participation Rate (%)	64.5	56.1	60.2
Employment Rate (%)	55.1	50.2	52.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	19.7	10.5	12.7

Source: Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency 2012a

In 2006, there were 10,975 Aboriginal people in the labour force (Table 5.7). The Aboriginal labour force was 51 percent male and 49 percent female. The unemployment rate for the total Aboriginal population was 30.1 percent. The unemployment rate was higher for males (41.8 percent) than for females (43.1 percent).

Table 5.7 Labour Force Characteristics, Aboriginal Population, Newfoundland and Labrador, 2006

Labour Force Characteristic	Total	Males	Females
Total Aboriginal identity population 15 years and over	18,050	8,765	9,285
In the labour force	10,975	5,605	5,375
Employed	7,675	3,665	4,005
Unemployed	3,300	1,940	1,365
Not in the labour force	7,075	3,160	3,915
Participation rate (%)	60.8	63.9	57.9
Employment rate (%)	42.5	41.8	43.1
Unemployment rate (%)	30.1	34.6	25.4

Source: Statistics Canada 2007

In 2006, a Statistics Canada survey on participation and activity limitations indicated a lower participation rate and a higher unemployment rate for persons with disabilities compared to individuals without disabilities in Newfoundland and Labrador (Table 5.8). There were

17,520 persons with disabilities in the Provincial labour force, representing approximately 7.4 percent of the total. Persons with disabilities had a participation rate of 40.5 percent, which was substantially lower than that for persons without disabilities (72.5 percent). The unemployment rate for persons with disabilities stood at 22.7 percent, close to four percentage points higher than for persons without disabilities (Statistics Canada, 2008).

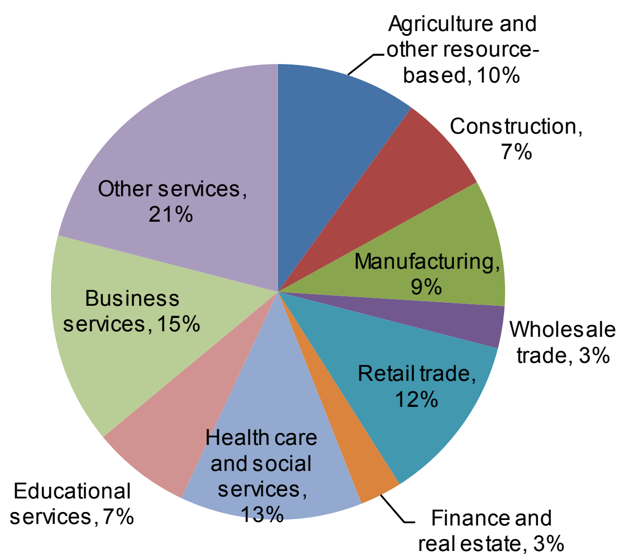
Table 5.8 Labour Force Characteristics for Persons with Disabilities, Newfoundland and Labrador, 2006

Labour Force Characteristics	Total	Without Disability	With Disability
Total labour force (Adults 15 to 64)	236,680	219,160	17,520
Employed	192,110	178,560	13,540
Unemployed	44,570	40,590	3,980
Not in the labour force	108,820	83,090	25,730
Participation rate (%)	68.5	72.5	40.5
Unemployment rate (%)	18.8	18.5	22.7

Source: Statistics Canada 2008

In 2006, the main sources of employment by industry were business services, which employed 35,390 people, retail trade (30,580), health care and social services (30,360) and other services (50,040) (Figure 5.14). Industries that employed the fewest people were finance and real estate (7,895) and wholesale trade (6,630). Agriculture and other resources, which include mining, supported 10 percent of total provincial employment, employing 24,500 people (Statistics Canada 2007).

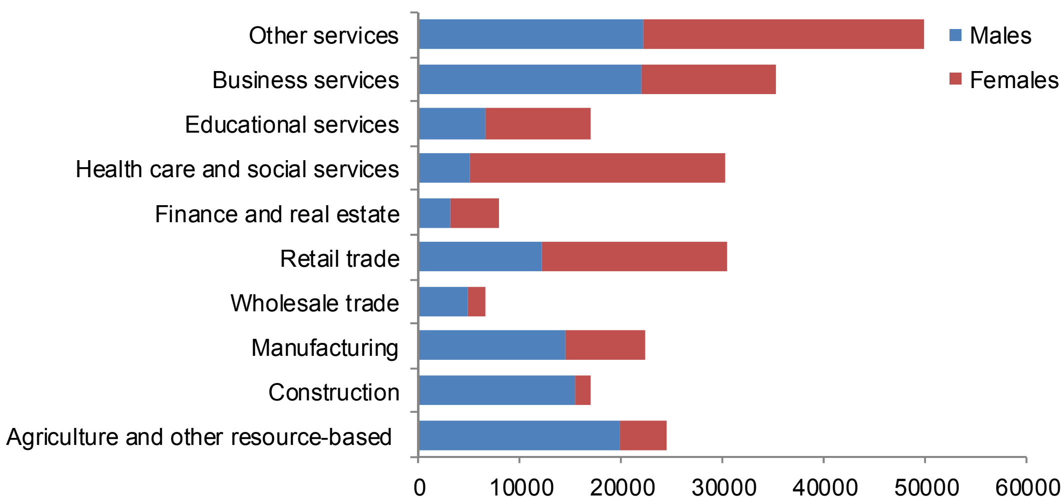
Figure 5.14 Labour Force by Industry, Newfoundland and Labrador, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada 2007.

There were gender differences in employment by industry in 2006 (Figure 5.15). For males, the industries supporting the most employment were other services (22,185), business services (22,050) and agriculture and other resource based industries (19,885). A high number of female employees also worked in other services (27,850), while the next highest levels of female employment were in health care and social services (25,180) and retail trade (18,380). The greatest gender difference in employment was seen in health care and social services, in which female employees represented 83 percent of total employment. For agriculture and other resource-based industries, employment was 81 percent male and 19 percent female. An imbalance was also seen in the construction industry, in which 79 percent of employees were male and 21 percent were female.

Figure 5.15 Labour Force by Industry and Gender, Newfoundland and Labrador, 2006



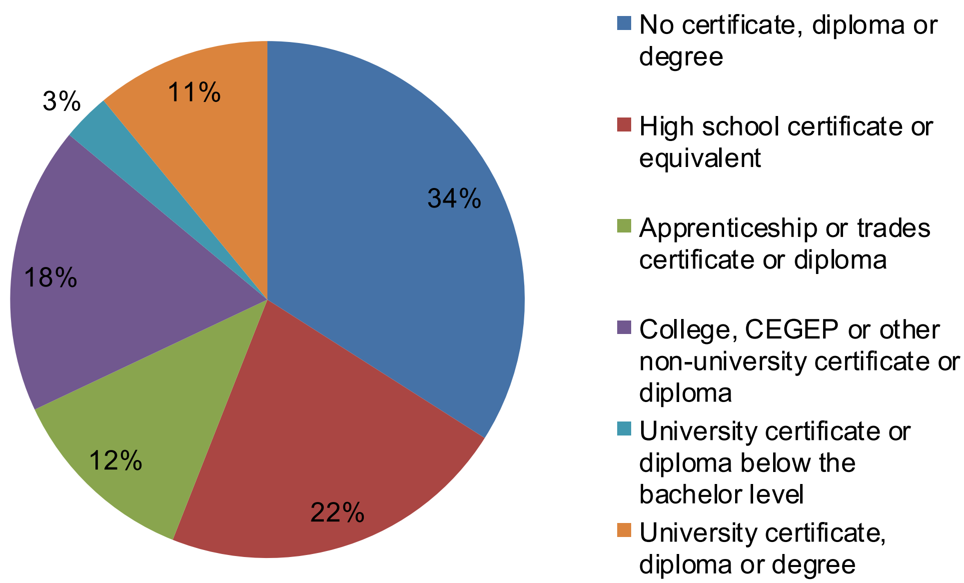
In 2006, 34 percent of the provincial population aged 15 years and over had no certificate, diploma or degree (Figure 5.16), whereas 11 percent had a university certificate, diploma or degree (Statistics Canada 2007). There were 2,395 people with an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma in the Province (Table 5.9). Among those with apprenticeship or trades credentials, 1,665 were male and 730 were female.

Table 5.9 Education Level by Gender, Newfoundland and Labrador, 2006

Education Level	Total	Males	Females
No certificate, diploma or degree	28,820	15,745	13,075
High school certificate or equivalent	24,470	12,010	12,455
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	2,395	1,665	730
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	4,855	2,230	2,625
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	1,015	420	600
University certificate, diploma or degree	3,800	1,150	2,655

Source: Statistics Canada 2007

Figure 5.16 Education Level, Newfoundland and Labrador, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada 2007

For the Aboriginal population aged 15 years and over, there were 7,580 people (42 percent) who did not have a certificate, diploma, or degree in 2006 (Table 5.10). There were 3,415 people for whom the highest level of education was high school or equivalent and 3,180 people who had attained a college or other non-university certificate or diploma. Aboriginal people with an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma numbered 2,300 in 2006; 66 percent of these people were male and 44 percent were female (Statistics Canada 2007).

Table 5.10 Education Level, Aboriginal Population, Newfoundland and Labrador, 2006

Education Level	Total	Males	Females
No certificate, diploma or degree	7,580	3,705	3,870
High school certificate or equivalent	3,415	1,550	1,860
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	2,300	1,525	775
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	3,180	1,355	1,825
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	430	170	260
University certificate, diploma or degree	1,145	460	685

Source: Statistics Canada 2007

5.2.2.2 Labrador

In 2006, the labour force in Labrador was 14,360 (Table 5.11). The participation rate was 68.8 percent, much higher than the Province's rate of 59.1 percent, while the unemployment rate was 18.5 percent. The participation rate was over 10 percentage points higher for males than for females in 2006. There was also a higher unemployment rate for males in Labrador – 20.1 percent compared to 16.7 percent for females (Community Accounts, no date; Statistics Canada 2002; 2007).

Table 5.11 Labour Force Characteristics, Labrador, 2006

	Total	Males	Females
Labour Force	14,360	7,790	6,570
Participation Rate (%)	68.8	73.9	63.6
Employment Rate (%)	56.1	59.1	53.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	18.5	20.1	16.7

Source: Community Accounts, no date

Similar to the Province as a whole, Employment Insurance use in Labrador has decreased substantially since the 1990s (Table 5.12). A smaller percentage of the labour force in Labrador receives Employment Insurance benefits compared to the Province: in 2009, Labrador had an Employment Insurance incidence of 29.3 percent, while 33.4 percent of the provincial labour force received Employment Insurance benefits (Community Accounts, no date).

Table 5.12 Employment Insurance Beneficiaries, Labrador, 1992 and 2009

	1992	2009	% Change
EI Beneficiaries (Individuals)	6,910	4,805	-30.5%
EI Incidence (% of labour force)	41.6%	29.3%	-12.3%

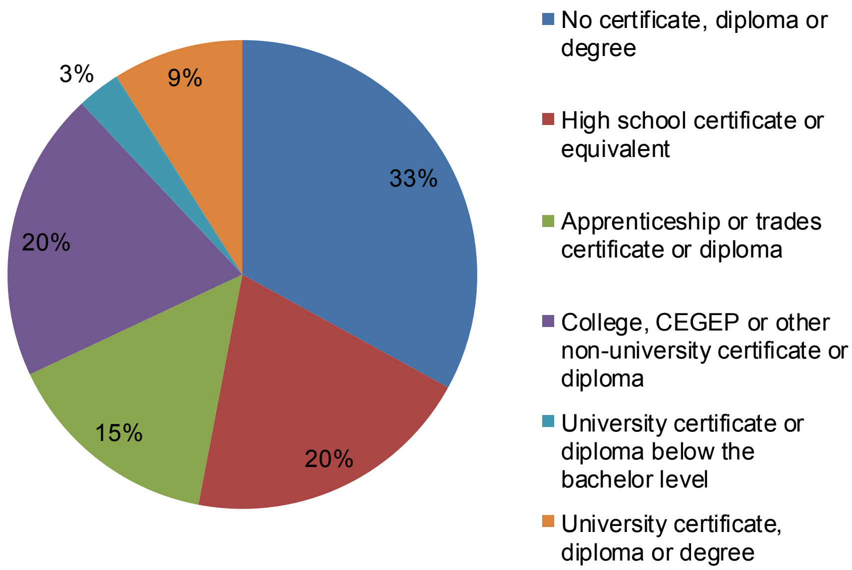
Source: Community Accounts, no date

Population decline in Labrador has had an effect on labour supply. The 15 to 64 age-group was estimated at 19,813 in 2006, a decline of 5.1 percent from 2001; this decline is expected to continue. The difference between overall population trends and those of the 15 to 64 age group can be attributed to out-migration. Within the 15 to 64 age group, 14.6 percent were in the 55 to 64 year age cohort. This means that approximately 15 in every 100 individuals will exit the labour force over the next decade, creating replacement demand for labour in the region for younger workers (Labrador Regional Council of the Rural Secretariat 2006).

A number of issues concerning employment in Labrador have been identified. For example, many people living in Labrador, especially those in rural areas, lack the skills to fill non-resource-based jobs, and training that is provided does not always match the skills required in the marketplace. In addition, generally low education levels in rural areas can prevent people from pursuing the higher education that is required to take advantage of many employment opportunities (Institute for the Advancement of Public Policy 2004).

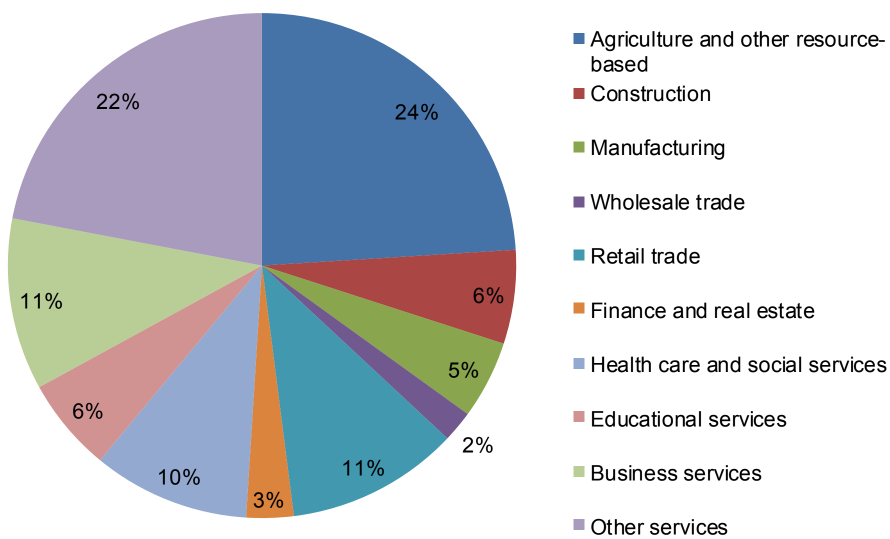
In 2006, 35 percent of the population of Labrador had a non-university or trades certificate or diploma; this compares to 32.6 percent for Canada as a whole. However, 33 percent of the population had not completed high school (Figure 5.17), and only 8.6 percent had a university certificate, diploma or degree (Statistics Canada 2007). If local residents are to qualify for local employment, education and skills training are a priority. Residents of isolated coastal areas and Aboriginal communities, in particular, experience higher levels of unemployment (Institute for the Advancement of Public Policy 2004).

Figure 5.17 Education Level, Labrador, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada 2007

Figure 5.18 Employment by Industry, Labrador, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada 2007

In 2006, 14,340 people aged 15 and over were in the labour force in Labrador. The main sources of employment by industry in Labrador (Figure 5.18) were agriculture and resource-based, which employed 3,395 people, retail trade (1,560), business services (1,525) and other services (3,145). Industries that employed the fewest people were finance and real estate (380) and wholesale trade (350) (Statistics Canada 2007).

5.2.2.3 Economic Zone 2

Employment conditions were also strong in Economic Zone 2, where participation rates were higher, unemployment rates were lower, and the average annual income was higher than figures for Labrador and for the entire Province in 2006 (Table 5.13).

Table 5.13 Labour Force Characteristics, Economic Zone 2, 2006

	Labrador City	Wabush	Churchill Falls	Economic Zone 2
Total Population, 15 years and older	5,935	1,460	525	7,395
Labour Force	4,325	1,045	380	5,745
Participation Rate (%)	72.9	71.6	72.4	72.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.9	8.1	5.3	8.6
Median Income, 2005	$30,884	$36,091	$51, 732	NA

Source: Statistics Canada 2007, Community Accounts, no date

In 2006, the labour force of Economic Zone 2 consisted of 5,745 individuals (Table 5.14). The participation rate was much higher in Economic Zone 2 (72.5 percent in 2006) than in the Province (59.1 percent) and Labrador (68.8 percent). Unemployment rates in Labrador City, Wabush and Churchill Falls were also well below those for the Province and for Labrador.

The labour force of Economic Zone 2 was comprised of 3,350 males (58 percent) and 2,395 females (32 percent) in 2006 (Table 5.14). As was the case for Labrador, in Economic Zone 2 the male participation rate was substantially higher than for the rate for females. The unemployment rate for males was low at 5.8 percent, while for females the unemployment rate was 12.7 percent (Statistics Canada 2007; Community Accounts, no date).

Table 5.14 Labour Force Characteristics by Gender, Economic Zone 2, 2006

	Total	Males	Females
Labour Force	5,745	3,350	2,395
Participation Rate (%)	72.5	82.2	62.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.6	5.8	12.7
Employment Rate (%)	66.3	77.5	54.4

Source: Statistics Canada 2007, Community Accounts, no date

A smaller percentage of the labour force (19.8 percent) received Employment Insurance payments than recorded for both the Province (33.4 percent) and Labrador (29.3 percent) in 2009 (Community Accounts, no date). Similar to the Province and Labrador, the proportion of the labour force receiving these benefits has decreased since the 1990s. Between 1992 and 2009 the number of individuals in Economic Zone 2 receiving Employment Insurance payments decreased by 21.5 percent (Table 5.15).

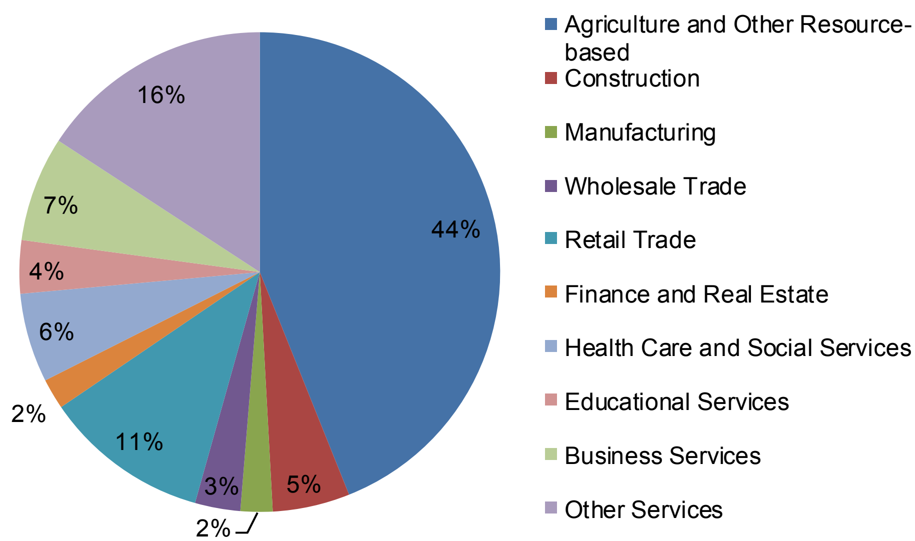
Table 5.15 Employment Insurance Beneficiaries, Economic Zone 2, 1992 to 2006

	1992	2009	% Change
EI Beneficiaries (Individuals)	1,675	1,315	-21.5%
EI Incidence (% of labour force)	25.9	19.8	-23.5

Source: Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency 2012b

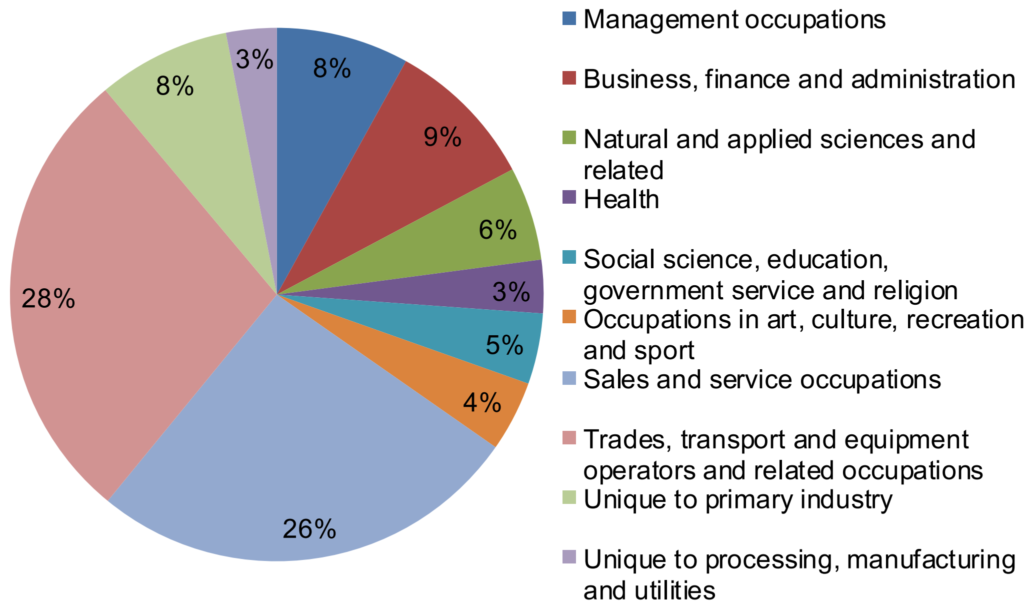
The occupational structure of Economic Zone 2 is weighted toward goods-producing and seasonal industries. The highest percentage of employment (44 percent) was supported by sectors in the agriculture and other natural resources category, which includes mining (Figure 5.19). Other services and retail trade employed 16 percent and 11 percent of the population, respectively. Business services accounted for 7 percent of regional employment, while health care and construction accounted for 6 percent and 5 percent of employment, respectively. Few Economic Zone 2 residents worked in wholesale trade (3 percent), manufacturing (2 percent) or finance and real estate (2 percent) (Statistics Canada 2007).

Figure 5.19 Employment by Industry, Economic Zone 2, 2006



Source: Statistics 2007

Figure 5.20 Employment by Occupation, Economic Zone 2, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada 2007

The main occupations of residents of Economic Zone 2 are trades, transport and equipment operation (29 percent) and sales and service (25 percent) (Figure 5.20). Occupations unique to primary industry accounted for 8 percent of positions, while 9 percent of occupations were classified under business, finance and administration (Statistics Canada 2007).

5.2.2.4 Fermont

Table 5.16 presents a summary of labour force activity for Fermont and the Province of Québec in 2006. According to the latest available Census figures, the total labour force was 1,725 people in 2006 and total employment was 1,655 people (Statistics Canada 2007). The total labour force participation rate was 80.0 percent, which is considerably higher than the participation rate for Québec, which was 60.9 percent (Statistics Canada 2007). In 2006, Fermont counted an unemployment rate of 4.1 percent, which was significantly lower than the Québec average of 7.0 percent (Statistics Canada 2007).

The high participation rate and low unemployment rate reflect the tendencies for people to secure employment before moving to Fermont and to move away once they are no longer employed (Rouleau 2010). However, this situation is shifting as the first and second generations of people who grew up in Fermont are now choosing to stay in their hometown and enter the workforce (Rouleau 2010).

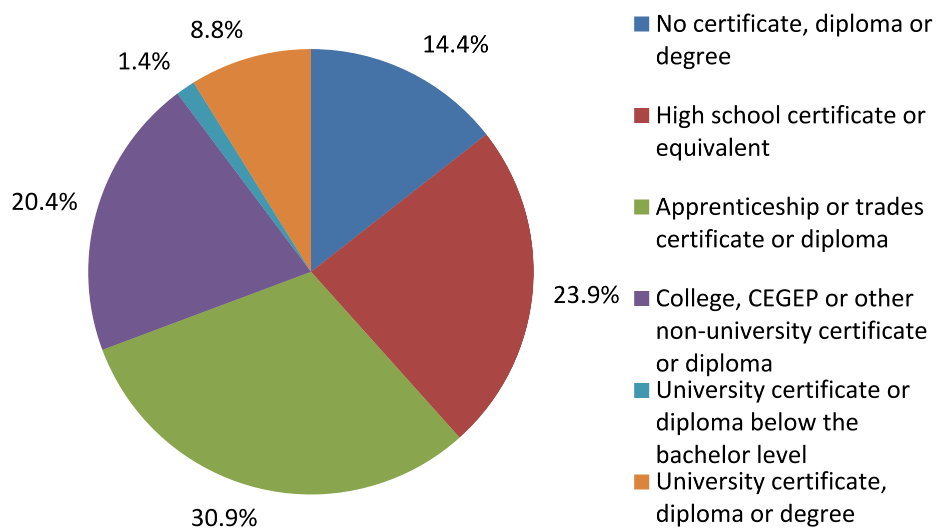
Table 5.16 Labour Force Activity, Fermont and Québec, 2006

	Fermont	Québec
Labour Force	1,725	4,015,200
Employed	1,655	3,735,505
Unemployed	70	279,695
Participation Rate (%)	80.0	64.9
Employment Rate (%)	76.8	60.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.1	7.0

Source: Statistics Canada 2007

The labour pool of Fermont is characterized by a high level of technical specialization. Figure 5.21 shows the breakdown of the labour force by level of education with 61.7 percent of the population holding some kind of certificate, diploma or degree above the high school level. The distribution of the types of diplomas, degrees and certificates reflects the demands of the major employers in Fermont and the greatest demand is for trades and skilled technical labour (Rouleau 2010). As a result, 30.9 percent of the labour force holds an apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma and 20.4 percent hold a college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate. Fewer of the positions available in Fermont require a university degree which may explain the below average proportion of the labour force holding a university degree (8.85 percent in Fermont versus 16.5 percent for Québec) (Statistics Canada 2007).

Figure 5.21 Educational Level, Fermont, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada 2007

The most common occupation category in Fermont is trades, transport and equipment operators, which provided 685 jobs in 2006 representing 39.8 percent of all jobs in Fermont that year (Statistics Canada 2007). Sales and service occupations came second, followed by occupations in the primary industry. Table 5.17 lists the number of jobs for each category of occupation as well as the number of jobs as a percentage of the total.

Table 5.17 Experienced Labour Force by Occupation, Fermont, 2006

Industry	Fermont	
	Jobs	Percentage
Management occupations	50	2.9
Business, finance and administration	175	10.2
Natural and applied sciences	145	8.4
Health occupations	30	1.7
Social science, education, government service	60	3.5
Art, culture, recreation and sport	25	1.5
Sales and service occupations	315	18.3
Trades, transport and equipment operators	685	39.8
Primary industry	195	11.3
Processing, manufacturing and utilities	45	2.6

Source: Statistics Canada 2007

Incomes in Fermont were the highest of any municipality in Québec in 2006, reflecting the high wages paid by the main industries: mining and the public service. Residents of Fermont also receive tax advantages for working in remote regions. In 2005, the average personal income before taxes was $58,871 (Statistics Canada 2007).

In 2006, women represented 44 percent of the total population aged 15 years and over, but only 33.3 percent of the total labour force (Statistics Canada 2007). As shown in Table 5.18, the participation rate for men was 95 percent while that for women was 60.5 percent. Whereas in Québec, the difference in the unemployment rate among men and women was less than a full percentage point, there was a marked difference between the rates for women and men in Fermont. In 2006, the unemployment rate for men was 0.9 percent while that for women was 10.4 percent (Statistics Canada 2007).

Table 5.18 Labour Force Activity Statistics, By Gender, Fermont, 2006

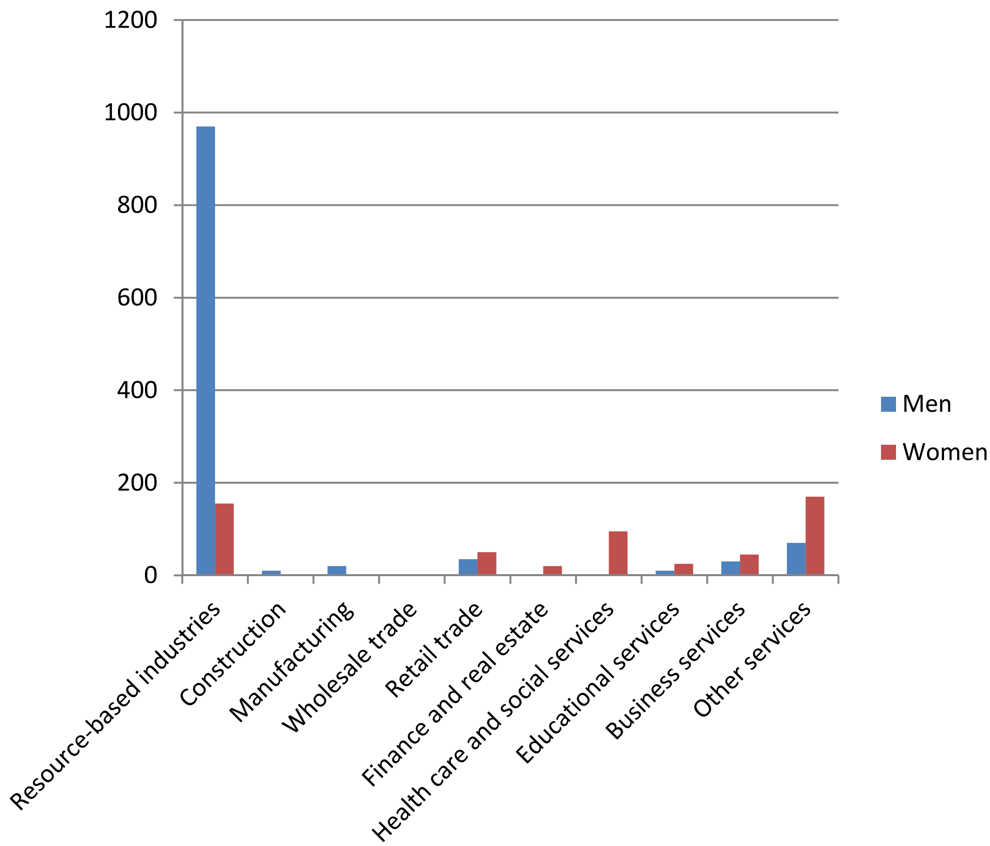
	Men	Women
Labour Force	1,145	575
Employed	1,135	520
Unemployed	10	60
Participation Rate (%)	95.0	60.5
Employment Rate (%)	94.2	54.7
Unemployment rate (%)	0.9	10.4

Source: Statistics Canada 2007

The mining industry in has traditionally been dominated by men and, according to Census data, this trend continues in Fermont. Figure 5.22 shows the employment of men and women in diverse industries in Fermont in 2006. While mining has represented an important employment industry for women, they were relatively underrepresented compared to men (I. Tremblay, pers. comm.). Women on the other hand dominated health care, social services, other services, and to a lesser extent retail trade. The high incomes provided by the mining sector and low representation of women in this industry help to explain why women in Fermont earn substantially less than men. In 2006, the median income before taxes for women aged 15 years and over was $15,870 while that for men was $75,531 (Statistics Canada 2007).

Data were not available on the employment statistics related to other underrepresented groups. Over the past few years, the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles has provided funding and offered programs to attract immigrants to the Côte-Nord region to fill the demand for labour (Conférence régionale des élus du Côte-Nord 2011). At the time this report was compiled, it was unknown to what extent this strategy may have affected employment diversity in Fermont's industries and businesses.

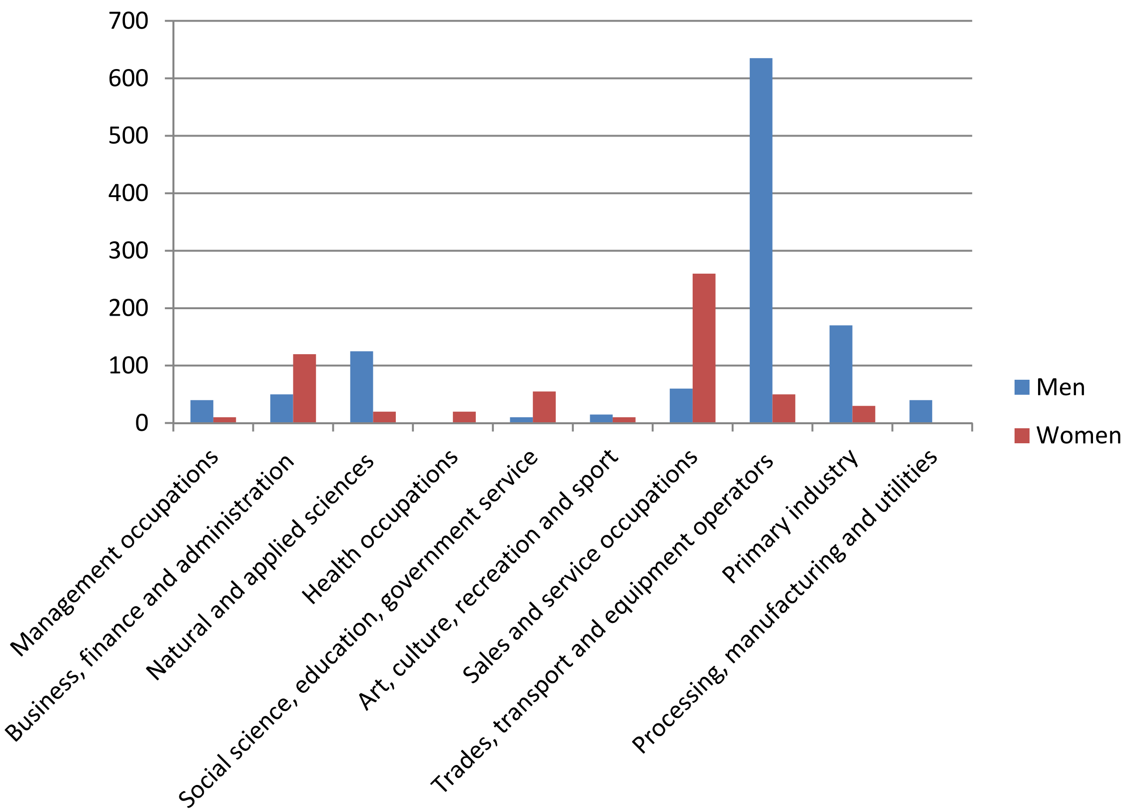
Figure 5.22 Employment by Industry by Gender, Fermont, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada 2007

There exists clear distinction between the occupations of men and women. Men tend to occupy jobs in trades, transport and equipment and related occupations. Out of a total of 685 people holding these occupations, 635 were men. Among women, the most common occupations were related to sales and services where 260 jobs out of 315 were held by women (Figure 5.23).

Figure 5.23 Experienced Labour Force by Gender and Occupation, Fermont, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada 2007

5.2.3 Business

5.2.3.1 Newfoundland and Labrador

In 2011, there were 16,948 businesses in Newfoundland and Labrador (Table 5.19). Small businesses formed the majority, with 54.4 percent of businesses in the Province employing 1 to 4 persons. A further 5,792 businesses (34.2 percent) employed 5 to 19 employees, 1,610 (9.5 percent) employed 20 to 99 people and 274 (1.6 percent) had between 20 and 99 employees. Businesses that employ over 500 people are relatively rare; in 2011 there were 46 businesses in this category, representing 0.3 percent of all businesses (Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency 2012c).

As indicated in Table 5.19, the top five North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) industry code categories of business in the Province, based on the number of operations are: other services, retail trade, construction, health care, and accommodation and food services.

Table 5.19 Number of Businesses by Employment Size Range, Newfoundland and Labrador, 2011

Employment Size Range	Number of Businesses	Percent
1 to 4	9,226	54.4%
5 to 19	5,792	34.2%
20 to 99	1,610	9.5%
100 to 499	274	1.6%
500 +	46	0.3%
Total	**16,948**	**100.0%**

Source: Newfoundland & Labrador Statistics Agency 2012c

Table 5.20 Number of Businesses by Industry, Newfoundland and Labrador, 2011

Industry	Number of Businesses
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	545
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	78
Utilities	26
Construction	2,067
Manufacturing	454
Wholesale Trade	696
Retail Trade	2,637
Transportation and Warehousing	676
Information and Cultural Industries	129
Finance and Insurance	375
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	592
Professional, Scientific and Technical	1,054
Management of Companies and Enterprises	145
Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation	578
Educational Services	149
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,917
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	341
Accommodation and Food Services	1,279
Other Services	2,765
Public Administration	445
Total	**16,948**

5.2.3.2 Labrador

In 2011, there were 799 businesses in Labrador, representing 4.7 percent of the total for the Province (Table 5.21). Of these, 348 (43.6 percent) employed 1 to 4 persons, 336 (42.0 percent) had 5 to 19 employees and 96 (12.0 percent) had between 20 and 99 employees (Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency 2012c).

The top five categories of business in Labrador, based on the number of operations, are similar to those for the Province (Table 5.22).

Table 5.21 Number of Businesses by Employment Size Range, Labrador, 2011

Number of Employees	Number of Businesses
1-4	348
5-19	336
20-99	96
100-499	X
500+	X
Total	**799**

Note: "X" indicates data suppressed by Statistics Canada for confidentiality purposes
Source: Newfoundland & Labrador Statistics Agency 2012c

Table 5.22 Number of Businesses by Industry, Labrador, 2011

Industry	Labrador
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	21
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	x
Utilities	x
Construction	71
Manufacturing	18
Wholesale Trade	42
Retail Trade	167
Transportation and Warehousing	25
Information and Cultural Industries	10
Finance and Insurance	12
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	35
Professional, Scientific and Technical	33
Management of Companies and Enterprises	13
Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation	27
Educational Services	7
Health Care and Social Assistance	84
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	20
Accommodation and Food Services	62
Other Services	119
Public Administration	24
Total	**799**

Note: X = data not available
Source: Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency 2012c

These Labrador businesses include a number of Aboriginal joint ventures. In the case of the Innu Nation, a recent list of Aboriginal companies and joint ventures identifies a total of 112 companies (SCI 2012). In respect to women-led businesses, the Newfoundland and Labrador Organization of Women Entrepreneurs identifies 17 members in Labrador. While most of these members are from women's and economic development groups, there are also representatives of four businesses, including a metal fabrication company (NLOWE 2012).

A review of industrial capacity in Labrador (SCI 2012) indicates there is considerable local capacity for construction activity. For example, with regard to fabrication / mechanical capacity, there are at least two established companies currently providing these services in Labrador: Carol Lake Metal Works, in Labrador City, and Pressure Pipe Steel Fabrication Ltd., in Happy Valley - Goose Bay. Local companies have also been successful in providing such commodities as fuel, packaging, scaffolding, lumber, accommodations and electrical supplies for construction projects.

5.2.3.3 Economic Zone 2

The business community of Economic Zone 2 includes 293 companies, representing 1.7 percent of all businesses in the Province (Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency 2012c). Most of them have 1 to 4 employees (Table 5.23). The types of business are presented in Table 5.24.

Table 5.23 Number of Businesses by Employment Size, Economic Zone 2, 2011

Number of Employees	Number of Businesses
1-4	123
5-19	127
20-99	37
Total	293

Source: Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency 2012c

Table 5.24 Number of Businesses by Industry, Economic Zone 2, 2011

Industry Code	Number of Businesses
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	x
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	4
Utilities	x
Construction	23
Manufacturing	6
Wholesale Trade	26
Retail Trade	60
Transportation and Warehousing	9
Information and Cultural Industries	x
Finance and Insurance	7

Industry Code	Number of Businesses
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	19
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	11
Management of Companies and Enterprises	5
Administrative and Support, Waste Management, and Remediation Services	11
Educational Services	x
Health Care and Social Assistance	19
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	7
Accommodation and Food Services	20
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	56
Public Administration	x
Total	293

Note: X = data not available

Source: Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency 2012c

5.2.3.4 Fermont

The Fermont economy is based largely around the mining industry, which is dominated by two companies: ArcelorMittal and Cliff Resources. Other businesses exist in Fermont to service the mining industry and local population.

There are approximately 124 enterprises in Fermont. They include a grocery store, clothing shops, beauty salons, daycares, construction companies, snow removal companies, post office, liquor store, grocery store, gift shops, explosives, drilling, automotive repair, financial services, graphic design and media communications firms, restaurants, bars, hotels and inns, and outfitters (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012b). When classified by industrial sector under the NAICS categories, the most common type of business is "other services" with 27 businesses, followed by retail trade with 14 and educational services with 13 businesses (Table 5.25).

Table 5.25 Number of Businesses, by Industry, Fermont, 2012

Industrial Sector	Number of Businesses
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	6
Utilities	2
Construction	5
Manufacturing	1
Wholesale Trade	0
Retail Trade	14
Transportation and Warehousing)	8
Information and Cultural Industries	4
Finance and Insurance	4
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	3

Industrial Sector	Number of Businesses
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	4
Management of Companies and Enterprises	0
Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services	2
Educational Services	13
Health Care and Social Assistance	9
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	4
Accommodation and Food Services	7
Other Services - except Public Administration	27
Public Administration	10
Total Number of Businesses	**124**
Other services includes “establishments primarily engaged in repairing, or performing general or routine maintenance, on motor vehicles, machinery, equipment and other products to ensure that they work efficiently; providing personal care services, funeral services, laundry services and other services to individuals, such as pet care services and photo finishing services; organizing and promoting religious activities; supporting various causes through grant-making, advocating (promoting) various social and political causes, and promoting and defending the interests of their members. Private households are also included” (Industry Canada, 2011).	

Source: CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012b

The largest employers in Fermont are AcelorMittal and Cliff Resources, followed by the Centre de santé et services sociaux de l’Hématite (CSSSH) and the Town of Fermont. Most local businesses are quite small, employing fewer than seven people (Table 5.26).

In terms of local Aboriginal business capacity, there are currently no Aboriginal businesses registered in Fermont. However, Aboriginal businesses are operating in the region and have won contracts related to local mining projects. These enterprises tend to be registered in other communities elsewhere in the region, for instance near Schefferville or Sept-Îles (I. Tremblay, pers. comm.).

Table 5.26 Number of Businesses, by Employment Size, Fermont, 2012

Number of Employees	Number of Businesses
0 to 6	96
7 to 15	8
16 to 30	6
31 to 60	5
61 to 120	2
120 to 500	1
500 or more	1
Unknown	5
Total Number of Businesses	**124**

Source: K. Gosselin, pers. comm.

The dominance of the mining industry is strongly reflected in the number of jobs it provides locally (Table 5.27). In 2006, 1,125 people were employed in resource-based industries. This is equivalent to 65.6 percent of the experienced labour force over the age of 15 (Statistics Canada 2007). The second largest industry as represented by the number of jobs was other services with 240 jobs, followed by health care and social services with 100 jobs (Statistics Canada 2007).

Table 5.27 Industrial Structure, Based on Jobs in Workplace, Fermont, 2006

Industries	Fermont	
	Jobs	Percent
Agriculture and other resource-based industries	1125	65.6
Construction	10	0.6
Manufacturing	30	1.7
Wholesale trade	0	0.0
Retail trade	85	5.0
Finance and real estate	20	1.2
Health care and social services	100	5.8
Educational services	30	1.7
Business services	75	4.4
Other services	240	14.0

Source: Statistics Canada 2007

5.3 Community Services and Infrastructure

This section describes the current situation and recent trends in western Labrador and Fermont with respect to: employment and social services; health; training and education; safety and security; housing and accommodations; industrial and commercial infrastructure; municipal administrative capacity; municipal services and infrastructure; transportation infrastructure; recreation, and services and infrastructure for women. This includes a discussion of the existing capacity of these services and infrastructure, where such information is available, and any changes or improvements that are planned or have been publicly announced.

5.3.1 Western Labrador

5.3.1.1 Employment and Social Services

The Department of Advanced Education and Skills offers Income Support services to western Labrador through its office in Wabush. Between 2005 and 2009, the number of people using Income Support in Labrador City decreased from 435 to 255, a decrease of 41 percent, and the incidence of use fell from 6.2 percent to 3.5 percent. Similarly, in Wabush during the same time period, the number of individuals using Income Support dropped by nearly 40 percent and the incidence of use fell from 2.3 percent to 1.4 percent (Table 5.28) (Community Accounts, no date).

Table 5.28 Income Support Usage, Western Labrador, 2005 and 2009

Income Support	Labrador City		Wabush	
	2005	2009	2005	2009
Individuals*	435	255	40	25
Incidence (Percentage of Population)	6.2	3.5	2.3	1.4
*Data on the total number of individuals may be underreported. These numbers are calculated by adding the total number of adults and the total number of children for each case or family as we refer to it in the Income Support table on Community Accounts.				

Source: Community Accounts, no date

There is one Service Canada office in Labrador City. Service Canada provides individuals with access to a number of government programs, including employment and training programs and Employment Insurance. The Labrador West Employment Corporation is a community-based organization, with a volunteer board of directors, which provides support to persons with developmental disabilities in finding and maintaining employment.

Western Labrador also has the Employment Connection Centre, which opened in 2005. It is a sponsored program of the Labrador West Young People's Association and it provides employment counseling services to unemployed and underemployed individuals in Labrador City and Wabush. The Centre is funded by the Government of Canada under the Employment Insurance account in Partnership with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador through the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Labour Market Agreement. The Employment Connection Centre is located in Labrador City and it employs four staff (Employment Connection Centre 2012).

5.3.1.2 Health Services

Health services in Labrador are provided by the Labrador-Grenfell Regional Health Authority (Labrador-Grenfell Health). It is an integrated health and community services board that delivers primary and secondary health services to the residents of the region, including: acute care, diagnostic and clinical support services; community health and wellness; dental services; health protection services; long term care; mental health and addictions services; residential services; and therapeutic intervention, rehabilitation and other rehabilitation services (Labrador-Grenfell Health, no date).

Labrador-Grenfell Health provides health and community services to approximately 37,000 people in Labrador and on the Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland. It employs more than 1,660 staff and operates three hospitals, three community health centres, 14 community clinics and two long-term care homes (Labrador-Grenfell Health, no date).

Facilities and Services

The Captain William Jackman (CWJ) Memorial Hospital, located in Labrador City, is a fully accredited health facility which serves western Labrador. It has 20 beds, six of which are designated long-term care beds for levels three and four nursing care. Fourteen beds are for acute care. Inpatient units provide care to medical, surgical, obstetrical, pediatric, respite, palliative and intensive care patients.

The hospital is served by six family physicians, a general surgeon, and an anaesthesiologist. There are also a number of visiting specialists who come to the hospital on a regular basis (Labrador-Grenfell Health 2007). In western Labrador, dental services are provided by fee-for-service dentists. There are two dentists in the area with one other who visits for two weeks each month.

With regard to maternity care, family physicians in western Labrador have traditionally provided non-emergent obstetrical services for patients with surgical support available for emergency cases when required. In 2011, family physicians in western Labrador expressed concerns regarding this model of care and began advising their prenatal patients to travel outside the region for deliveries. Labrador-Grenfell Health then commissioned a review of the model of care in western Labrador to determine its appropriateness. This review has been completed and a report is being considered by the Health Authority. In the meantime, family physicians in the area will continue to provide coverage with support from locum obstetricians / gynaecologists, who have been recruited by Labrador-Grenfell Health and retained until February 5, 2012 (Labrador-Grenfell Health 2011).

Construction of a new hospital for western Labrador started in 2010 and is expected to be completed in 2013, with occupancy expected in early 2014. Once complete, it will have 14 acute and 14 long-term care beds, general laboratory and x-ray services, a computed tomography (CT) scanner, surgery suites, satellite dialysis and community services (NLDHCS 2011a). The project is expected to cost $90 million, with $23.7 million being allotted from the 2011 budget (NLDF 2011c).

In August of 2011, the provincial government announced that $643,600 would be given to the CWJ Memorial Hospital to purchase several pieces of equipment, including: a haematology analyzer and backup, coagulation analyzer and backup, two sleep study recorders, hearing aid analyzer, a non-invasive ventilator, two gastroscopes, maxi-move patient lift, and initial funding for a digital fluoroscopy room for x-ray services (NLDHCS 2011b).

There is a Medical Clinic in Wabush which is staffed by one doctor, who is also the physician for Wabush Mines. The Churchill Falls Community Clinic provides primary health care to the community. The clinic has two holding beds, basic trauma and resuscitation equipment and a defibrillator. Emergency patients are med-evaced to the appropriate referral centre. The clinic is staffed by a family physician, a regional nurse II, a part-time community health nurse, a full-time personal care attendant, and a full-time clerk typist (Labrador-Grenfell Health 2007).

There is currently no seniors' residence in western Labrador, however, land has been identified for one by the Towns of Labrador City and Wabush and a promotional package has been developed to attract a developer to build, own and operate a seniors' complex at that site (Labrador West, no date).

Despite the need for a seniors' home in the area, the Labrador West Community Needs Assessment report indicates that local infrastructure is increasingly able to deal with the bulk of the population's health care needs, particularly as a result of recent investments in medical equipment and the construction of a new hospital. The assessment report also states that, although the existing physicians' practices are not calling for a recruitment campaign to bring other general practitioners to the community, the population could support one or two additional general practitioners (Labrador West Chamber of Commerce 2010).

Community Service Programs

Labrador-Grenfell Health has a Child, Youth and Family Services office in western Labrador. It has the mandate to provide child protective intervention services, youth services, adoption services, family and rehabilitative services, community corrections, child care services and residential services (Labrador Grenfell Health 2007).

Mental Health Services are provided at the CWJ. It has two addictions counselors, one addictions coordinator / officer, 4.5 mental health counselors as well as the regional mental health and addictions clinical manager. There is a need for a full-time psychiatrist in western Labrador. One psychiatrist visits the area twice a year while Labrador-Grenfell health tries to recruit someone on a more permanent basis (Vrbanic 2011a). Wait times for mental health counseling in Labrador City are up to four to six weeks, as position vacancies are a challenge to the department (Aura Environmental Research and Consulting Ltd. 2008).

Shelters and Counseling

There is a single women's shelter, Hope Haven, in western Labrador which accepts women and their young children who require temporary accommodation. Other support services in the area provide counseling for women in crisis. All of these services are at capacity and a need has been identified for additional emergency services and temporary accommodation in Western Labrador, particularly for men and youth, since no such services currently exist (see Section 5.3.1.11).

Ambulance Service

Labrador-Grenfell Health operates road ambulances, has specialized equipment to facilitate medical evacuation by snowmobile and provides physician / nursing escorts and paramedic services (Labrador-Grenfell Health 2007). Until recently, it operated a provincial air ambulance service out of St. Anthony. In June 2010, however, the Province relocated this service to Happy Valley-Goose Bay in the hope of providing better response times for transfers. In addition, a medical flight specialist team will be located in Happy Valley-Goose Bay in order to enhance patient care by providing additional medical professionals locally and reducing patient wait times (Stewart 2010a).

On April 1, 2011, responsibility for the operation and maintenance of Labrador-Grenfell Health's Air Transportation Services was transferred to the Provincial Department of Transportation and Works, Government Air Services (Labrador-Grenfell Health, no date).

The IOC also services Labrador City and surrounding area with an industrial ambulance that serves as a back-up to the Town's ambulance.

5.3.1.3 Training and Education

Childcare and Early Childhood Education

Wee College Childcare Centre in Labrador City accepts children aged two to six years and can accommodate 48 children on a part-time basis. Labrador City also has an after-school program for children aged 6 to 12 years. It can accommodate 57 part-time children (NLDCYFS 2011a). In 2011, the provincial government announced funding of more than $685,000 to build a new regulated childcare facility in western Labrador and to support and renovate the existing childcare centres. The new facility, Building Blocks, will provide 60 additional full-time spaces and it is expected to open in Wabush in April 2012 (NLDCYFS 2011b).

However, with an increase in dual income families and approximately 400 children under the age of five in the community (and close to 100 babies born in the area annually), the demand for institutional daycare spaces will continue to outstrip supply even upon completion of the new childcare facility (Labrador West Chamber of Commerce 2010).

Primary, Elementary and High School

There are four schools in Labrador City and Wabush (Table 5.29). Three are managed by the Labrador School Board and one is managed through the Conseil Scolaire Francophone Provincial de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador.

Table 5.29 Schools, Enrolment and Number of Teachers, Labrador City / Wabush, 2011-2012

School	Location	Grades	Physical Capacity	Enrolment		Total Teachers	
				2006-07	2011-12	2006-07	2011-12
A.P. Low Primary	Labrador City	K-3	600	412	412	26	27
Menihek High	Labrador City	8-12	800	633	626	36	38
Centre educatif L'ENVOL	Labrador City	K-8, 10, 12		29	26	5	6
J. R. Smallwood Middle	Wabush	4-7	1,000	449	418	25	30
		Total	**2,400**	**1,523**	**1,482**	**92**	**101**

The physical capacity for students in western Labrador schools is approximately 2,500. In 2011-12, the total school enrolment was approximately 1,500. Between the 2006-07 and 2011-12 school years, the total student enrolment in western Labrador decreased by 2.7 percent, from

1,523 to 1,482. During that time, the total number of teachers increased by 9.8 percent giving a student to teacher ratio of 14.7 in 2011-12. This is down from 16.6 in 2006-07 (Community Accounts, no date).

In 2012, Menihek High School and C'entre educatif L'ENVOL will both receive roofing upgrades. Including these projects, more than $3.1 million has been spent on upgrading these two schools since 2004 (NLDE 2012).

Post-Secondary

Post-secondary education is available in western Labrador through the College of the North Atlantic (CNA), which has a campus in Labrador City. Approximately 300 full-time and part-time students are registered there each semester. An additional 1,000 students participate in continuing education evening courses (College of the North Atlantic, no date). The western Labrador CNA campus is the only campus in the Province to offer a two-year Mining Technician program and has been designated CNA's Mining Centre of Excellence. In 2007, a millwright and an electrical program began to be offered. In 2008, a welder program was added to the campus' trade offerings.

Expansion of western Labrador's College of the North Atlantic campus was announced in August 2009, and the building was completed in August 2011. The total cost was $21.2 million and was funded by the provincial and federal governments' Knowledge Infrastructure Program. The new 4,700 m^2 building includes modern trades shops, science labs, computer labs, smart classrooms and a learning resource centre and it is designed to allow for growth in enrolment and program offerings (Government of Newfoundland and Labrador 2011). The campus does not have housing accommodations for students, however, which poses a problem for students coming from outside of western Labrador (Higdon 2011a).

Table 5.30 lists the programs offered at the western Labrador CNA campus, as well as the number of students that were enrolled in each program in Fall 2010 and 2011. In addition, Table 5.30 gives the capacity for students in each program. During Fall 2010, programs at the campus could accommodate 225 students and only 124 were enrolled. Similarly, 124 students enrolled in these programs in Fall 2011 while there was a capacity for 224. Since the new campus has opened, the program capacity has changed slightly with one less space in the welding program. This is because booths in the welding shop are larger and can accommodate 14 rather than 15 students (R. Sawyer, pers. comm.). None of the programs were at capacity in 2011 and, notably, the mining technician programs were only at half of their capacity.

There is one private training institution, RSM Safety Institute, Inc., in Labrador City. It is a subsidiary of RSM Mining Services and offers 40 to 50 occupational health and safety training services for the mining and construction industries. These include Accident Investigation, Forklift Operation and Safety, Excavation and Trenching Safety and Safety for Supervisors. Class sizes at the Institute range from one to 40 participants, depending on the type of course and time of year. Courses are offered on a monthly schedule but are also available on an as-needed basis and typically are no longer than two days. Courses are generally offered in English, and some are offered in French (K. McCarthy, pers. comm.).

Table 5.30 Enrolment by Program, CNA, Labrador City Campus, Fall 2010 and 2011

Trade Program	2010		2011	
	Number of Seats	Capacity	Number of Seats	Capacity
Welder	13	15	12	14
Construction / Industrial Electrician	16	16	14	16
Industrial Mechanic (Millwright)	13	16	15	16
Mining Technician (1st-year)	17	30	14	30
Mining Technician (2nd year)	4	30	13	30
Adult Basic Education	15	18	12	18
CAS Transfer: College- University	28	40	19	40
CAS Transition	6	20	7	20
Office Administration (Executive)	10	20	16	20
Engineering Technology (First Year)	2	20	2	20
Total Number of Students	**124**	**225**	**124**	**224**

Source: R. Sawyer, pers. comm.

5.3.1.4 Safety and Security

Police

Police services are provided to Labrador City and Wabush by the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC). As of May 15, 2011, the RNC had 33 employees in western Labrador, of which 22 were police officers and 11 were civilian staff. Of the police officers, 17 were male and five were female (RNC, no date). This number is up from 15 police officers in 2009. In 2011, there were 222 police officers per 100,000 population in western Labrador. This is larger than the police to population ratios in the RNC's other jurisdictions - Corner Brook (199 officers per 100,000 population) and the Northeast Avalon (175 officers per 100,000 population) (RNC 2011).

In 2010, there were 3,200 calls for police service in western Labrador. This was up by 9.0 percent from 2009 when there were 2,938 calls for service but down by 2.4 percent from 2008 when there were 3,280 calls (RNC 2011). Community crime rates in western Labrador are generally well below provincial averages (on average 29 percent below the RNC's reported crime rate in its other jurisdictions for the 2009 fiscal year of April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010), although there is a perception that drug-related crimes in particular are getting worse and are not captured in the crime rate data the RNC collects (Labrador West Chamber of Commerce 2010).

The fly-in / fly-out contractor workforce of other projects in western Labrador does not appear to have put a strain on the detachment's overall ability to service the community (Labrador West Chamber of Commerce 2010). In recent years, the replacement of police officers to the Western Labrador detachment has been greatly impeded by the rise in housing prices and the lack of available housing. To address this issue, the RNC's 2009-2010 budget allocated $1.5 million to acquire accommodations for RNC police officers serving in western Labrador (RNC, no date).

Fire

The Labrador City Fire Department provides fire protection services to that community and answers an average of 60 calls each year (Labrador West, no date). The Department has five full time, paid firefighters, and 36 volunteer firefighters, and offers protection to IOC properties. The Labrador City Fire Department has two pumpers with capacities of 500 litres and 1,000 litres and a pick-up truck. In addition, they have a fully equipped rescue vehicle with heavy hydraulics and a Hazardous Materials unit (Town of Labrador City 2010). The Labrador City 2012 budget states that a new aerial fire truck will be purchased in 2012 to enhance the fire department's response capabilities. The budget also recommends that a full-time fire inspector position be established to enhance the department's Fire and Life Safety program (Town of Labrador City 2011).

The Town of Wabush operates a volunteer fire department consisting of 24 firefighters (Labrador West, no date). They protect the residents of Wabush and offer backup to the Town of Labrador City. This department also provides services to Wabush Mines and the Wabush Airport. The Town of Wabush has requested $1,000,000 in funding to build an extension to the Wabush fire hall (Town of Wabush, no date (a)).

The Towns of Wabush and Labrador City have an agreement to come to the aid of each other if called.

5.3.1.5 Housing and Accommodation

In Labrador City, the number of occupied dwellings increased by 3.2 percent between 1991 and 2006, from 2,695 to 2,780. In 2006, 78.8 percent of these were owned and 21.4 percent were rented. By 2011, the number of occupied private dwellings increased 2.8 percent to 2,859. The average value of a home in Labrador City in 2006 was $107,604 and the average monthly rent was $521 (Statistics Canada 2007; 2012).

Between 1991 and 2006, the number of occupied private dwellings in Wabush increased from 680 to 690 (1.5 percent). The majority (84.1 percent) was owned and 15.2 percent was rented in 2006. By 2011, the number of occupied private dwellings increased 6.2 percent to 733. The average value of a home in Wabush was $86,216 in 2006 and average monthly rent was $401 (Statistics Canada 2007; 2012).

In recent years, many new people have been drawn to western Labrador due to increased mining activity in the area and plans for expansion at the IOC's Labrador City mine. This has led to a shortage of housing and a major increase in housing prices. The price of a single family bungalow has increased more than 120 percent in the last couple of years. Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporate statistics indicate that from 2004 to 2008, the average price for a house in western Labrador increased from $73,300 to $181,000 (150 percent). Between 2007 and 2008 alone, the average price of housing increased by 34 percent (RNC, no date).

In 2010, the average sale price across all housing types in western Labrador was approximately $250,000, with the breakdown of average costs by housing type as follows:

- new mini-homes = $200,000
- bungalows = $220,000 - $320,000
- townhomes = $180,000 - $230,000
- duplexes = $175,000 - $270,000 (Cleary 2010)

Rental properties have increased their rates, as well. In 2010, renters were paying between $900 and $1,200 each month (Labrador West Chamber of Commerce 2010). There are reports that, in the spring of 2011, a bungalow was renting for $4,500 per month and homes that sold for $150,000 a few years before were selling for over $300,000 (Cleary 2010).

Adding to the need for housing is the fact that many people are choosing to remain in western Labrador once they retire. Past trends indicate that approximately 65 percent of retirees have chosen to maintain residency in western Labrador (Labrador West, no date). However, the increasing rents mean that some low-income seniors are being displaced from homes (Jancewicz 2011). Despite a large and growing aging population in western Labrador, there is currently no seniors' residence in the community (Labrador Chamber of Commerce 2010).

Affordable and Social Housing

While western Labrador does not have a “street” homeless population, it has become apparent over the last five years that homelessness is becoming a problem in the area. There is a growing problem of hidden homelessness (individuals or families living in locations not intended for human habitation (e.g., abandoned buildings) and/or continuously moving between temporary housing arrangements) and an increasing number of people who are at risk of losing their homes (Labrador West Housing and Homelessness Coalition 2011). There are even reports of renters being evicted from their apartments once the buildings have been purchased by mining companies so that the units can be used to house mine workers (The Canadian Press 2012).

Leveraging provincial funding for low-income housing is difficult for families in western Labrador because median salaries in that area are significantly above provincial averages. In January 2012, NLHC changed the income required to qualify for social housing in western Labrador from $32,500 to $65,000 to help more people access affordable units. This is double the limit for the rest of the Province. As of January 31, 2012 ten families were on a waiting list for social housing in western Labrador (CBC News 2012a).

Labrador West Housing and Homelessness Coalition received funding in July 2011 to create a position for a Housing Support Worker. The person in this position will provide men and women with assistance that includes researching available housing options, helping people access government programs and services, and mediating interactions with landlords. The position was originally intended to be a one-year term was extended for another year in March 2012 (Higdon 2012).

Affordable and social housing is obviously in great need in western Labrador. The most significant shortage of housing is in the rental apartment category, since no new units were constructed between 2005 and 2010. Private sector developers have been responding to the local housing market demand, but largely through the importing of mini-homes, not the construction of rental units. The business case for affordable rental units is difficult to create in the context of a northern, resource-based community where long-term certainty on market conditions is elusive compared to southern, diversified, urbanized communities.

According to the Labrador West Community Needs Assessment report (2010), permanent population growth from direct and indirect job creation in the mining sector can be expected to bring over 900 new residents to the community by the end of 2012, creating a demand for 395 new housing units. At the time that this report was prepared, 169 units were expected to be constructed during the summer construction season of 2011 and 2012, the short-term gap between supply and demand for permanent housing in the community is in the range of 226 units (this includes both owning and rental) (Labrador West Chamber of Commerce 2010).

To help solve the housing crisis, municipal councils in Labrador City and Wabush are encouraging local real estate developers to build new homes of all sizes in an effort to make housing more affordable. In addition, some mining companies are building additional accommodations for workers and offering housing subsidies (Jancewicz 2011).

New residential construction is underway in Wabush and Labrador City. The Wabush trailer park is expanding with the addition of 30 mini-homes. Installation of these homes began in 2010 and should be complete in 2012 (Stewart 2010b). Two other subdivisions are under construction and approximately 60 homes will be completed during summer 2012 (M. LaFosse, pers. comm.). The most recent municipal plan for the Town of Wabush indicates that there is plenty of vacant land for future residential development in Wabush (Town of Wabush, no date (b)). In Labrador City, the construction of a 90-home subdivision is about to begin and some of these homes may be ready in 2013. Construction of 18 homes at an existing subdivision is also underway and a new 104-unit apartment building should be complete in fall 2012 (A. Colbourne, pers. comm.).

Temporary Accommodation

Labrador City has four hotel / motel, bed-and-breakfasts and inns, which offer more than 100 rooms between them, and Wabush has one hotel with 83 rooms (Newfoundland and Labrador Tourism 2012). The newest of these is the Northern Inn and Suites in Labrador City, which has 24 rooms, and it is fully pre-booked on a year-long lease by an IOC contractor (Labrador West Chamber of Commerce 2010). Construction on an 84-room hotel is almost complete and it is expected to open for business in 2012 (A. Colbourne, pers. comm.).

The use of short-term accommodation as housing for contract workers in western Labrador has led to a shortage of room availability for travelers, sports teams and client overflow for the local women's shelter. There are many reports of travelers being unable to find rooms in western Labrador during the summer of 2010 (Labrador West Housing and Homelessness Coalition 2011).

The IOC owns and operates the Labrador Lodge, a worker camp which was constructed to provide accommodations and logistical support for contractors and workers servicing IOC mining operations in Labrador City. In 2011, the company expanded its temporary workers camp and doubled its capacity (Vrbanic 2011b). Also, in 2011, a former Labrador City school was refurbished and turned into 80 apartments to house IOC workers. In March 2012, IOC completed the first of two apartment buildings in Labrador City, which will provide short-term accommodations to new employees relocating to western Labrador. The building has 32 two-bedroom units and 16 three-bedroom units. IOC is also completing 25 townhouses in Wabush and is planning to complete an additional 107-unit apartment building in Labrador City before the end of summer 2012 (VOCM 2012).

5.3.1.6 Industrial and Commercial Infrastructure

There are three types of commercial designations in Labrador City: Central Business District, Commercial General, and Commercial Highway. The allowed uses in these three areas are mainly commercial and retail in nature. The Central Business District is designed to be a central town core with a mix of commercial and public uses. The Labrador City Town Council promotes the infilling of this zone with commercial uses to create a more compact downtown development (Town of Labrador City 2010).

There are two Commercial Highway designated areas: one on Circular Road and the other off of the Trans Labrador Highway (TLH), west of Avalon Drive. To facilitate future demands, a third area for Commercial Highway development will be established off the TLH west of the intersection of the TLH and Circular Road (Town of Labrador City 2010).

There are three neighbourhood commercial zones in Labrador City which are designated Mix Development (Town of Labrador City 2010).

Labrador City is surrounded by Crown land for which mineral rights have been secured, primarily by the IOC, and as such the release of such lands for development requires discussion with the mineral leaseholders whose interest is in not prematurely divesting leases that may contain economically feasible deposits (Labrador West Chamber of Commerce 2010).

Light industrial land in Labrador City is designated in the vicinity of Airport Road and on vacant lands to the north and south of the TLH at the intersection of Circular Road. There are quite a number of commercial uses within the light industrial area. The Labrador City Town Council encourages new commercial uses to locate in the Central Business District or in the Commercial General or Commercial Highway designated areas. The Light Industry district will be reserved for light industrial uses to make the best use of available land (Town of Labrador City 2010).

Land surrounding Wabush is not held by Crown land mineral leases but industrial land availability remains a key issue. A Request for Proposals has been issued for the addition of a 40-acre business park to potential mining service sector tenants by the Town of Wabush (Labrador West Chamber of Commerce 2010). Phase I of the Wabush Business Park is now full and there are 67 acres of land available in Phases II and III, however, the Town of Wabush's 2012 budget indicates that there have been requests for 47 acres from new businesses (Town of Wabush, no date (a)).

The Labrador West Community Needs Assessment report and the Town of Labrador City's most recent municipal plan have identified a lack of availability light industrial and commercial land to support the economic development of the local mining service sector. The report recommends that the existing Municipal Joint Planning Committee establish a timeline for the completion of required evaluation to confirm and assess priority land parcel mining value relative to its potential value for commercial and light industrial development (Labrador West Chamber of Commerce 2010). According to the municipal plan, this land must be located in an area that has good access to highways and within reasonable distance of the main core of other businesses within the Town (Town of Labrador City 2010).

5.3.1.7 Municipal Administrative Capacity

Labrador City and Wabush are both incorporated Towns with their own Town Councils, which are elected every four years. Each Town has one Mayor, one Deputy Mayor and five Councilors.

The Town of Labrador City has 62 staff and approximately 40 volunteers. The Town plans to hire a number of new employees in 2012. The Town of Wabush has approximately 70 staff and there are plans to hire more part-time and full-time staff in the near future (L. Aylward, pers. comm.).

5.3.1.8 Municipal Services and Infrastructure

For many years the Towns of Labrador City and Wabush existed as separate entities, but in the last decade they have worked closely together in a number of areas, including economic development, to achieve economies of scale, as well as mutual goals. The mines provide grants to both municipalities. The concern of both towns is the ability to maintain community infrastructure, particularly as much of it is now over forty years old.

The Labrador City Planning Area covers an area greater than 446 km^2 in western Labrador. Almost the entire landmass within the Town's planning area has either commercial mineral reserves or high potential to contain mineral resources that are economically feasible to develop. Because of these valuable mineral reserves, the Council's intent is to protect these areas from development that would hinder future developments of these mineral reserves. All lands within Labrador City's Municipal Planning Area boundary not falling within other land-use designations are designated Mining Reserve – Rural. Within the designated Mining Reserve –

Rural areas, aggregate extraction and related operations may be permitted (Town of Labrador City 2010).

The Wabush Municipal Planning Area covers approximately 428 km² and includes the developed areas of the Town, Scully Mine site and tailings disposal area, Wabush Airport, Wahnahnish Lake Public Water Supply Area, and a very large area of rural lands to the south of the Town. All the lands within the Wabush Planning Area other than those designated for urban and other specific purposes are designated as rural. Within the designated rural areas, agriculture, forestry, open space recreation, and activities connected with the conservation of resources shall be permitted. Uses that are complimentary to these uses - mining and aggregate extraction, cemetery, and outdoor assembly - may also be permitted at Council's discretion (Town of Wabush, no date (b)).

The Town of Labrador City is responsible for a variety of municipal services, including maintenance, construction and operation of streets and sidewalks, including snow and ice removal, integrated solid waste management, potable water treatment and distribution, sanitary sewer collection and distribution, storm water management and control and fly control and lawn sweeping.

The Town of Wabush provides full water and sewage service, a volunteer fire brigade, garbage collection, street lighting, snow clearing, neighbourhood playgrounds, and community recreation facilities.

Private developers are responsible for servicing future expansions to the municipal infrastructure of western Labrador, such as roads, sidewalks and municipal piped systems for newly designated areas for future development (Town of Labrador City 2010).

Water

Beverly Lake, which is located northeast of Labrador City, is the Town's only municipal water supply. This lake is expected to be able to supply enough water for the Town's current population and any future growth up to 2017 (Town of Labrador City 2010). The water is pumped from Beverly Lake to a 500,000-gallon water tower. The pump house was rebuilt in the early 1990s with two pumps at 3,700 gallons per minute. There is also an emergency diesel system, which can pump about 3,300 gallons per minute (Town of Labrador City 2010).

The water from the lake is chlorinated but no fluoride is added. Since the lake is very close to the TLH, it has been advised that an impermeable barrier should be installed in this area to protect the water supply (Town of Labrador City 2010). The Town of Labrador City's 2012 budget states that water infrastructure will be extended with the construction and commissioning of a new water storage reservoir and sewage lift station (Town of Labrador City 2011).

Dumbell Lake is designated as a future water supply for Labrador City. If demands on the current water supply increase due to greater activity in the commercial / industrial sector, it may not be able to meet both domestic and industrial demands. The Town's intent is to reserve

Dumbell Lake as an extra source of water supply to compliment the Beverly Lake system in the long term plans for the Town (Town of Labrador City 2010).

The municipal water supply in Wabush comes from Ouananiche Lake, which is located south of the Town. The Town of Wabush has a grid distribution network which services approximately 700 households and businesses (Labrador West, no date).

Sewer

Labrador City is serviced with separate sanitary and storm sewers. The sanitary sewers empty into one of two sewage treatment plants that discharge into Little Wabush Lake. The storm sewer system also empties into Little Wabush Lake. A contact stabilization plant discharging effluent of secondary quality into Harrie Lake serves the Harrie Lake Subdivision. With a treatment capacity for about 5,000 people, the plant treats about 180,000 gallons per day (Town of Labrador City 2010). According to the Town of Labrador City's 2012 budget, there are plans to replace the Harrie Lake Sewage Treatment Plant building (Town of Labrador City 2011).

The second plant is located on the shore of, and discharges into, Little Wabush Lake. It treats about 1.6 million gallons per day to primary effluent quality. The sludge is removed at a rate of six loads, averaging five tonnes once every eight weeks. This plant has a treatment capacity for about 20,000 people. Since the water intake is so high, primary treatment is considered sufficient for the system (Town of Labrador City 2010). The Town of Labrador City's 2012 budget states the construction and commissioning of a new water storage reservoir and sewage lift station will involve an extension of the sewer infrastructure (Town of Labrador City 2011).

Labrador City's current wastewater distribution system is at or near capacity and it is becoming a challenge to keep effluent quality near allowable standards. A significant rise in population would require a plant retrofit to meet these standards, including an expansion of the capacity of the primary and secondary digester tanks for the storage and processing of sludge (P. Boland, pers. comm.).

The Town of Wabush maintains one primary sewage treatment plant. In 2008, over $850 000 of municipal, provincial and federal funds were made available to upgrade the treatment plant. As of April 2010, the project was nearing completion (The Aurora 2010). The Town of Wabush has submitted an application for funding in the amount of $7,000,000 to enhance the Town's sewer infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of the community (Town of Wabush, no date (a)).

Solid Waste

For decades, garbage in Labrador City and Wabush was processed by an incinerator, but this practice ended on May 30, 2010 when the incinerator permanently ceased operations (CBC News 2010). On June 1, 2010, a temporary landfill site began accepting domestic and commercial waste. The temporary site is not yet fully operational as it does not accept construction and demolition waste, white goods or scrap metal. These types of waste are temporarily being accepted at the old incinerator site. Contracts to build new landfill infrastructure have been awarded and upgrades are expected to be completed during the 2012 construction season. The new landfill should be complete and the old incinerator site should be closed in late 2012. Once the new landfill site is fully operational it should have a life span of 10 to 15 years. However, with further cell development, it would have the capacity to accept waste beyond that time period (P. Reccord, pers. comm.).

Power and Communications

Power is provided to western Labrador by Nalcor. Labrador City and Wabush are equipped with technological and telecommunications infrastructure with advanced fibre optic cables throughout communities and industrial sites. Internet service is provided to the communities by Sympatico and CRRS (Labrador West, no date).

The hydro-electric availability in western Labrador comes from Churchill Falls. The Churchill Falls generating station, the largest underground power station in the world, generates 5,428 MW of power. The proposed Lower Churchill hydro-electric development, which includes the Muskrat Falls and Gull Island projects, will produce a further 2,800 MW of power. Western Labrador has the lowest average cost for power in the Province. The Churchill Falls generating station provides 225 MW to Twin Falls to service the mining industry in western Labrador. Western Labrador currently has 127 MW of recall power available for industrial development. With the development of the Lower Churchill, Labrador will have increased energy capacity (Labrador West, no date).

The Labrador Interconnected System (LIS) consists of the electrical distribution system that services electrical customers in the Town of Labrador City and the Town of Wabush as well as the Towns of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, North West River, Sheshatshiu and surrounding areas. Nalcor purchases power for electrical consumers within the LIS at a cost of approximately one quarter cent a kilowatt hour (Hyron Regional Economic Development Corporation 2008).

The electrical distribution system that serves western Labrador is a combination of the electrical distribution system formerly serving the Town of Wabush, which was designed and built by Wabush Mines, together with the electrical distribution system for Labrador City, which was designed, planned and constructed by IOC. Wabush Mines fully financed and constructed a state-of-the-art, stand-alone system for the towns of Labrador City and Wabush in the 1960s. For one dollar, Nalcor (then Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro) took control of the electrical system serving Wabush. In addition, Wabush Mines paid approximately $3 million to Nalcor to provide for the cost of upgrading this system. IOC made an almost identical deal in 1992 with the system they constructed, putting Nalcor in possession of two systems along with millions of dollars for maintenance with the understanding that upgrading the current network would be fairly modest. A tax in the range of one cent per kilowatt hour calculated on all electrical production in the Province, whether exported or not, would realize approximately $400 million on an annual basis without unduly burdening the electrical consumer (Hyron Regional Economic Development Corporation 2008).

Western Labrador is at its peak in terms of electrical consumption and with recent interruptions in electricity it is evident the capacity is being exceeded with the current electrical infrastructure (Hyron Regional Economic Development Corporation 2008).

Nalcor is continuing its $20 million, multi-year capital project to upgrade the distribution system in Labrador City to meet load growth in the area. The project includes the construction of two new terminal stations and the conversion of the existing distribution system to a higher voltage to enable more electrical load. The system upgrade process began in 2009 and is expected to be complete in 2013 (Nalcor 2012).

5.3.1.9 Transportation Infrastructure

Roads

The TLH is the primary public road in Labrador. Phase I of the TLH (Route 500) runs between western Labrador and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. This section of the TLH is a two-lane highway between Labrador City and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. It has a service level of “A” (free-flowing traffic), with a capacity to carry 1,000 vehicles per hour. Traffic counts completed in 2011 indicate that approximately 1,400 vehicles travelled this section of highway each day. This is up from approximately 200 vehicles per day in 2006 (J. Morrissey, pers. comm.).

In western Labrador, Route 500 of the TLH connects with Québec Route 389, which runs 570 km north from Baie-Comeau to the Québec-Labrador border. The capacity of Route 500 west of Labrador City is approximately 1,700 passenger cars per hour in each direction. In 2011, the Average Annual Daily Traffic on Route 500 from western Labrador to Québec was approximately 1,600 vehicles (J. Morrissey, pers. comm.). The majority of the road from Baie Comeau to western Labrador is paved and upgrades to Route 389 from Baie Comeau and Fermont are currently being explored (Hyron Regional Economic Development Corporation 2008).

The 2011-2012 provincial budget allocated $68.2 million to continue hard-surfacing of Phase I of the TLH (along with $3.5 million from the federal government) (Government of Newfoundland and Labrador 2011). In June 2007, tenders were issued to widen three sections of road in preparation for hard-surfacing, including a section in western Labrador and a section from Churchill Falls to the Churchill Falls Airport. Crews managed to widen 37 km of road and complete 1.8 km of hard-surfacing by March 31, 2008 (NLDTW 2008).

The widening and surfacing of Phase 1 on the TLH is behind schedule (CBC News 2012b). The project was to be completed in 2011, but is now expected to be finished in 2014, and possibly as late as 2019. The project was originally estimated to cost $290 million, but as of March 2011, the province had spent $501.3 million and estimated it will cost another $428 million to complete the project (CBC News 2012b).

Upgrades to roads in Wabush, which were started in 2011, will continue throughout 2012. The Wabush Town Council has submitted an application for $10,000,000 in funding to address road work and sidewalk restoration from 2012 to 2015 (Town of Wabush, no date (a)).

With regard to the local road network, there is evidence of increased travel between Wabush, Fermont and Labrador City. Paving of additional sections of the TLH is resulting in increased travel volumes to the coast and ferry crossings to the island (Labrador West Chamber of Commerce 2010). There has also been concern about the increasing number of large trucks operating in residential areas of western Labrador (Higdon 2011b).

Airport

Labrador City and Wabush are serviced by the Wabush Airport, which is located within 5 km of each Town's centre. The airport is owned and operated by Transport Canada which provides air traffic control services including navigational landing aids, runway, apron and taxiway maintenance and fuel ground and terminal services. The airport hosts five airlines that provide regularly scheduled flights: Air Canada Express, Provincial Airlines Ltd., Pascan Aviation, Air Inuit and Air Liaison (Transport Canada 2012). The paved runway strip is 1,948 m in length and it is capable of handling jet service. The airport also provides services to Fermont, Québec.

In 2010, as a result of increased mining and exploration activity in the region, the Wabush Airport showed a 28 percent increase in traffic volume over the previous year, servicing just under 100,000 passengers. This was the largest single year increase in eight years. This growth is expected to continue into the foreseeable future as new workers travel in and out of the area increasing both commercial and charter traffic (Transport Canada 2011).

Due to the rise in passenger and aircraft movements at the Wabush Airport, improvements to the airport were announced in 2011. These improvements included a $1.7 million roof restoration for the Air Terminal and Maintenance Buildings which completed by early Fall 2011. Parking upgrades to the South Airport Terminal Building were also planned. Transport Canada has hired consultants to complete a new Master Plan for Wabush Airport, which should be published in 2012. Transport Canada will use recommendations from this new master plan to decide what additional upgrades, if any, should be completed at Wabush Airport to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of western Labrador well into the future (Transport Canada 2011; A. Cayouette, pers. comm.).

Between 1996 and 2000, cargo volumes were at approximately 100,000 tonnes each year. In 2004, it volumes rose to just under 400,000 tonnes but fell back to 100,000 tonnes in 2003 and 2004 (Newfoundland and Labrador Business Caucus, no date). Air cargo usage seems to be a method of last resort for moving goods in and out of Newfoundland and Labrador with the exception of small package courier business or must-move-now items for the oil and gas industry (Newfoundland and Labrador Business Caucus, no date). A study of air transportation in the Province recommended that the provincial government identify support for economic sectors that have the potential to increase cargo traffic (NLDB, no date).

Railway

IOC operates the 420-km Québec North Shore and Labrador Railway (QNS&L), which IOC built to move iron ore to Sept-Îles. It also provides regularly scheduled, year-round, passenger service (NLDTW 2006). In 2005, Tshiuetin Rail Transportation Inc. (TRT) acquired the northern section of the QNS&L Railway line (the Menihek Subdivision), which runs between Emeril Junction, situated on the TLH, 63 km from western Labrador, and Schefferville, Québec. TRT now operates this portion of the rail line for passenger and freight rail services (Labrador West, no date).

Wabush Mines has its own short railway, the Wabush Railway, connecting the mine with the QNS&L Railway. The Bloom Lake Railway, opened by Consolidated Thompson, consists of approximately 31 km of single-track railway located in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. The railway connects the Bloom Lake Mill's load-out system with the existing QNS&L Railway close to Wabush Mines. Both of these railways transport iron ore and are operated by Western Labrador Rail Services.

5.3.1.10 Recreation

Western Labrador is served by a variety of recreational infrastructure, including two ice arenas, a recreation centre, three private fitness clubs and a curling club (Labrador West Chamber of Commerce 2010).

The Labrador City Arena houses the Town's recreation department and hosts several community events throughout the year, including First Night Celebrations, Halloween Activities, Arena Dances and more. This facility is a one rink building with the ability to host large tournaments, games and activities and has a capacity of 1,800 people. This building has five dressing rooms, a meeting room and is also home of the Polaris Figure Skating Club and Labrador West Minor Hockey Association. The Wabush Arena is home to many activities throughout the year. This facility is host to the Wabush Figure Skating Club, Labrador West Minor Hockey, Recreation and Olympic Hockey.

The Mike Adam Recreation Complex in Wabush has a pool, gym, workout room, bowling alley, and teen centre.

An assessment of the recreation services and needs is being conducted by the Labrador City Recreation Commission and, when complete, it will provide clarity on the question of the financial sustainability of the local recreational infrastructure, as well as the issue of maintaining adequate accessibility to these opportunities for lower income families in the community (Labrador West Chamber of Commerce 2010).

5.3.1.11 Services and Infrastructure for Women

Concern has been expressed about service and infrastructure requirements of women and their access to same. Most municipal services and infrastructure in western Labrador are equally available to men and women. However, there are some services and infrastructure for which the demand is highly gendered: obstetric care, childcare and shelters or emergency accommodations.

In western Labrador, family physicians typically provide obstetric care but there is some concern in the community over whether or not this is the best care model. A review of this service has been completed and while the associated report is being considered, family physicians continue to provide obstetric care. However, it is possible this will change in the near future as a consequence of the review.

Daycare is often considered a women's issue given that it is commonly the concern of women within both single-mother and dual parent / guardian households. As was mentioned in Section 5.3.1.3, daycare spaces are in high demand in western Labrador, despite the expansion of some existing centres and the construction of a new one with capacity for 60 children on a full-time basis. The number of children requiring care in western Labrador in the coming years is predicted to soon exceed the available supply, given a continuation of recent rates of population growth.

Hope Haven, a shelter and resource facility for women and children escaping domestic abuse, opened in 2004. With 10 employees, Hope Haven has the capacity to house nine residents for a six-week period. In 2008, Hope Haven handled 59 crisis telephone calls and accommodated 59 individuals (32 women, 27 children). Hope Haven had at least one resident 70 percent of the 2008 calendar year (260 days) (Goss Gilroy Inc. 2009). The shelter was expected to expand with the addition of ten new affordable housing units during the summer of 2008, but plans were put on hold due to construction delays (CBC News 2008).

The Labrador West Status of Women Council provides supportive counseling for women in crisis, single mothers, senior care, sexual harassment / assault, senior women, women's health issues, child care, family dating violence and discrimination. It also provides outreach-general information sessions, mediation services and referrals to agencies, such as legal aid, social service supports, and employment services (Labrador West Status of Women of Council, no date).

Both of these organizations are at capacity and strained, with requirements continuing to grow. The lack of hotel availability on short notice is a significant operational issue for Hope Haven, as local hotel room capacity is one of their key client overflow placement options (Labrador West Chamber of Commerce 2010).

There are no emergency accommodations for men or youth in western Labrador. Based on information provided by stakeholders to the Labrador West Community Plan on Housing and Homelessness (Labrador West Housing and Homelessness Coalition 2011), a general-purpose emergency accommodation facility is needed in the area.

5.3.2 Fermont

5.3.2.1 Employment and Social Services

In Québec, Income Support is managed by the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale (MESS). In 1969, the Québec government first began to administer Income Support. Since 1995, Income Support programs have been divided into two categories. Aide sociale targets individuals who are able to work but may face temporary constraints that limit their ability to work. Solidarité sociale is geared toward individuals who are not apt and have severe constraints related to their physical or mental health that are permanent or of indefinite duration.

In 2000, the total number of individual beneficiaries of Income Support between the ages of 0 and 64 in the Côte-Nord Region was 7,637 or 8.3 percent of the total population. The rate for Québec was higher than the region and sat at 9.7 percent. Since then the rates have declined. In 2009, there was a slight increase, but only to 5.3 percent and 7.4 percent for the region and Province, respectively (MESS 2011). Between February 2011 and February 2012, the total incidence of Income Support usage among people aged 0-64 sat at 3,642, which corresponds to 4.4 percent of the total population of the region. At the provincial level, the rate was 7.2 percent (MESS 2012). Table 5.31 provides a summary of the Income Support usage among individuals aged 0-64 in Côte-Nord and the Province of Québec for 2000, 2009 and 2012.

Table 5.31 Income Support Usage, Côte-Nord Region and Québec, 2000, 2009, and 2012

	Côte-Nord			Québec		
	2000	2009	2012	2000	2009	2012
Individuals	7,637	4,422	3,642	618,896	491,729	475,580
Incidence (Percentage of Population)	8.3	5.3	4.4	9.7	7.4	7.1

Source : MESS 2011; MESS 2012; J. Marcotte, pers. comm.

Job search and placement services are available in Fermont. The Carrefour jeunesse emploi de Duplessis in Fermont offers career guidance, business planning assistance and placement services to youths between 16 and 35 years of age (Carrefour jeunesse emploi de Duplessis 2012). Residents 36 years old and above can use the services of the Centre local d'emploi located within the same office.

The CLD (Centre locale de développement) de la MRC de Caniapiscau is a non-profit organization that promotes economic development and tourism in region. It does this in part through strengthening partnerships between local private businesses, local government, and non-profit organizations and cooperatives, and unions. The mandate of the CLD is to support entrepreneurship by offering a range of services to enterprises, elaborating and implementing local action plans for the economy and employment; acting as a consultant to the local employment center, and collaborating on local tourism development (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012a).

5.3.2.2 Health Services

Medical care in Fermont is provided through the Centre de santé et des services sociaux de l'Hématite (CSSSH). The clinic is part of the Québec network of centers offering integrated medical and social services. It provides both preventative and curative services to the residents of Fermont as well as the non-Aboriginal residents of Schefferville (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012a).

Medical services consist primarily of family medicine and emergency care. The clinic has a staff of seven doctors, 15 nurses, three pharmacists, one psychologist, one social worker and laboratory technicians. Specialists are brought in throughout the year to conduct consultations. Visiting specialists include an ophthalmologist, dermatologists, orthodontists, an otolaryngologist, speech therapist, and two psychologists (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012a).

In 2009-2010, there were 2.5 doctors per 1,000 inhabitants, a ratio which was higher than the Québec average of 2.24 doctors per 1,000 inhabitants (CSSSH 2010; CIHI 2012). Since the opening of the Bloom Lake mine, demand for health services in Fermont has increased substantially. The number of client files at the CSSSH has doubled and the number of inpatients has risen 38 percent. The number of patients from Labrador has increased 447 percent over the past few years (Pelletier 2011). Pressure has come not only from the rising resident population, but also from miners who fly in and fly out. Now, with a resident and non-resident population totaling approximately 4,000 people (J. Collard, pers. comm.), the ratio has dropped to 1.75 doctors for every 1,000 people.

The health center has a five bed intake capacity, two beds for observation and an isolation chamber for patients with respiratory ailments (J. Collard, pers. comm.). The emergency room is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is also a medical laboratory, radiology department, dental clinic, and physiotherapy center on site (Gouvernement du Québec 2004).

Other services include:

- Psychological counseling;
- Nurse services;
- Community and individual nutrition counseling;
- Maternal and infant care;
- Early childhood stimulation;
- School nurse;
- Support for clients with chronic conditions such as cancer;
- Disease prevention through vaccination and other activities;
- Home care; and
- Help-line for those in psychosocial distress and to obtain information about health resources.

Private clinics complete the health services available in the Town. The closest center for emergency surgical procedures, emergency procedures requiring anesthesia, and specialized medical imaging exams is Labrador City (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012a). Residents may go to the hospital in Sept-Îles for services that are not available locally.

Community Service Programs

The Point de service Fermont provides various social services to the community, including a youth center and reinsertion program for people with intellectual handicaps and rehabilitation services for people with physical handicaps (Gouvernement du Québec 2004). The Centre de réadaptation de la Côte-Nord provides services for individuals with drug or alcohol dependencies (Gouvernement du Québec 2004).

The Maison d'aide et d'hébergement de Fermont (MAHF) is a women's help center and shelter for women experiencing violence and their children (MAHF 2012). Affiliated with the shelter is Centr'action, which provides a community space along with sport and social programming to improve the quality of life of women in Fermont (MAHF 2012). Additionally, MAHF operates the Résidence l'Entre-Temps, which provides temporary accommodations and support services to clients and their families facing psychological crisis, convalescence, a loss of autonomy or a family crisis (MAHF 2012). The residence offers its services as an extension of those provided through the CSSSH.

Ambulance

An ambulance service operates within the urban boundary and along Route 389 to the southern boundary of the MRC. The ambulance service employs four full-time and two part-time drivers.

5.3.2.3 Training and Education

Three schools serve the Fermont community. École primaire des Découvertes offers elementary education in French. During the 2009-2010 school year, 217 students were enrolled from kindergarten to grade 6 (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012a). The Polyvalente Horizon-Blanc provides high school education in French. 148 students were enrolled in 2009-2010 (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012a). Together, the schools employ about 30 teachers (J. Rousseau, pers. comm.). Both are part of the Commission Scolaire du Fer, the region's French school board. It is estimated that the high school could accommodate 240 students while the elementary school could accommodate 300 (J. Rousseau, pers. comm.). The Commission Scolaire du Fer also provides adult education services and high school equivalency testing through its Centre d'éducation des adultes (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012a). For college-level courses or technical training, students must leave the region.

Fermont School is the only English language school in the area. It delivers elementary education from pre-kindergarten to grade 6 (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012a). The independent school employs four full-time teachers and has a capacity of 26 students (K. Keane, pers. comm.). Only students eligible for English schooling in Québec as per the stipulations of Bill 101 are admissible. Since there is no English high school, many students wishing to pursue their studies in English attend high school in Labrador City (K. Keane, pers. comm.).

Day care services are also available in Fermont. The largest daycare center is Le Mûr-Mur. As of fall 2011, the wait list was 160 people with a wait time of two to three years (Corbeil 2011). Council priorities include increasing the capacity of the daycare by another 150 spaces and increasing the budget to hire more daycare workers (Pelletier 2011). In addition to this center, there are ten home daycare businesses currently registered in Fermont (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012a).

5.3.2.4 Safety and Security

Police

The Sûreté du Québec maintains a station in Fermont, which handles resident security, crime prevention, and road safety activities for the Town of Fermont and the Mouchalagne River area (Sûreté du Québec 2008). The station employs 13 staff members including two support staff and eight patrol officers (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012a). Presently, there is a ratio of 1 police officer to 359 residents. An auxiliary station in Schefferville serves the Town of Schefferville as well as the Caniapiscau, Juillet Lake and Vacher Lake areas.

Fire

The Fermont fire department undertakes preventative inspections and responds to fires, disasters and other calls of distress. The department is run by a director and 28 part-time volunteer firefighters.

5.3.2.5 Housing and Accommodation

Based on 2006 data, apartments and single-detached houses were the two most common dwelling types, representing 26.4 percent and 26 percent of the total housing stock respectively (Statistics Canada 2007). In a report on the environmental impact assessment for the Bloom Lake iron mine, the Ministère du Développement durable, Environnement et Parcs du Québec (MDDEPQ) noted that current housing types do not respond to the preferences of the current population, which is for single-detached dwellings even among single people (MDDEPQ 2008). Since 1977, Fermont has featured a trailer park with space for 218 mobile homes. In 2010, the park was near capacity with only a few spaces near the entrance available (Rouleau 2010). These mobile homes are owned by private households.

The majority of housing in Fermont was constructed prior to 1986. In 2006, the number of pre-1986 dwellings was 1,120 indicating that 69.7 percent of homes were between 38 and 26 years old. In 2006, 6.1 percent of dwellings required major repairs (Statistics Canada 2007).

Housing availability is a major issue in Fermont. Mining companies, such as ArcelorMittal and Consolidated Thompson, and service organizations such as the CSSSH and the regional school board, own 90 percent of the 1,607 housing units, which they reserve for their employees (M. Arsenault, pers. comm.). Very little free-market housing is available, making it very difficult for people not working for the major employers to find housing. For those employed in small businesses, where salaries are lower, the cost of buying and renting may be prohibitive (Rouleau 2010). The lack of market housing also creates an issue for retired employees as they are not permitted to stay in their company units once they have finished working. As a result, many relocate to other regions.

To respond to the needs of low-income households, Habitat de Fermont manages 12 affordable housing units. Only households that have lived in Fermont for at least a year and whose annual income is less than $30,000 per year are eligible for a unit. Currently, applicants face a wait time of eight to nine months. Habitat de Fermont plans to build 12 more units in the short term (J. Deschênes, pers. comm.).

Short-term accommodations are available through the Hotel de Fermont, local bed and breakfasts, and workers accommodations. Habitations Boréales also offers short and long-term rooms or units.

In order to respond to current demand and projected population growth, efforts are being made to renovate and expand the housing stock. The period between 2006 and 2011 saw the construction of 234 new private dwellings. In 2011, the Town Council called for the construction of 500 new houses and 150 new rental units by 2014 (Pelletier 2011). The projected construction needs were based on the expansion of the ArcelorMittal and Cliff Resources mines and the demand resulting from employment multipliers.

New construction is concentrated on the north side of the Town (M. Bélanger, pers. comm.). Multiple land developers from across the Province of Québec are currently engaged in the projects. As of May 1st, 2012, an estimated 80 lots were still available for construction of detached bungalows (M. Bélanger, pers. comm.).

In order to house temporary workers and fly-in / fly-out workers, Cliff Resources is building two or three new hotels with a capacity of 200-300 rooms and importing trailers to respond to immediate housing demands (M. Bélanger, pers. comm.). The Town of Fermont and the MRC de Caniapiscau have stipulated a strong preference for permanent housing.

There are several constraints to the provision of new housing. One is the speed with which the Town is able to make necessary infrastructure expansions (M. Bélanger, pers. comm.). Another important constraint is the high cost of construction, an issue common to many isolated resource towns. The cost of housing construction is 1.5 to 2 times that in Sept-Îles and Baie-Comeau, bringing the average cost of a new dwelling to $300,000 (Pelletier 2011). Substantial financing by the mining companies and government is thus necessary. In order to service new residential development, water, waste-water and road infrastructure will need to be constructed (Pelletier 2011).

5.3.2.6 Industrial and Commercial Infrastructure

Industrial land is limited in Fermont. As such, Council has identified the expansion of the industrial park as a priority. A minimum of 36 new lots will be plotted and serviced to respond to the short-term demand from businesses supplying and servicing ArcelorMittal and Cliff Resources (Pelletier 2011). The MRC is also developing a new commercial park for Fermont (M. Bélanger, pers. comm.).

5.3.2.7 Municipal Administrative Capacity

The Town of Fermont's operations are directed by a Mayor and six Councilors. The Town administration oversees departments that are responsible for municipal tax collection, local infrastructure works, leisure and sport facilities, and emergency services. The Town currently employs 154 people and there are no plans to hire additional staff in the near future (M. Arsenault, pers. comm.). The MRC de Caniapiscau has five employees and there are no immediate plans to hire.

5.3.2.8 Municipal Services and Infrastructure

The Town of Fermont was established in 1974 to accommodate the workers of the Mont-Wright iron mine established by the Québec Cartier Mining Company. The Town, which has an area of 470.7 km^2, is located in the MRC de Caniapiscau in northeastern Québec, within the Côte-Nord Administrative Region of the Province of Québec.

Fermont serves as the seat of the MRC de Caniapiscau. The Mayor of Fermont holds the role of Prefect of the Council of the MRC of Caniapiscau and is joined by two other representatives. Responsibilities of the MRC include territorial planning, realty assessment for property taxes, waste management, emergency planning, local economic development and employment assistance, tourism, and representation of local interests at regional meetings (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012a).

The territory of the MRC also includes the Town of Schefferville, located 200 km north of Fermont. Prior to its decommissioning in 1985, the Town of Gagnon was also included within the MRC. Also present on the territory are two First Nations communities: Matimekush-Lac John and the Naskapi First Nation of Kawawachikamach. The Matimekosh and Lac John reserves are located adjacent to Schefferville while Kawawachikamach is located 15 km north of Schefferville.

Water

The Town of Fermont draws its water from Perchard Lake (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012a). Municipal records for 2011 show the volume of water being drawn from the lake as varying between 66,391 m^3 in July to 91,538 m^3 in January (MDDEPQ 2011). The average consumption rate for potable water among Fermont residents is 1,000 litres per person per day, which is considerably higher than the Québec average of 300 to 450 litres per person per day (Archambault 2010).

Concerns about meeting water demand prompted the municipal government to undertake studies of groundwater resources to be exploited in the future, however none were discovered (Pelletier 2011). In order to better meet demand, Council has identified a need for a new water filtration plant. The projected cost of the improvements would be $15 million (Pelletier 2011). Plans for the plant have yet to be approved.

Sewer

Fermont is outfitted with a sewer system, two pumping stations and a wastewater treatment plant. In the mid-2000s elevated levels of cyanobacteria in Carheil Lake led to up-grades to the wastewater treatment system including the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant and replacement of an existing pumping station (Beaulieu 2007). The current system is equipped with three aeration basins. After 20 days the treated wastewater is clean and discharged into the river (Archambault 2010). The wastewater treatment plant was designed to handle 2,380 m^3 of wastewater per day on average, which is equivalent to the wastewater produced by a population of 2,700 people and is less than the current population. It has a maximum handling capacity of 4,069 m^3 per day (M. Hudon; pers. comm.; R. Désy, pers. comm.).

Solid Waste

Waste management services are managed by the Town of Fermont. The Town collects residential and commercial waste once per week by truck. It also manages the disposal of industrial, construction, and toxic wastes. Recyclable materials are collected, separated, and shipped to processing centers in the South. Non-recyclable materials are disposed of in an empty mine shaft previously exploited by ArcelorMittal (M. Hudon, pers. comm.). In 2011, the Town collected and disposed of 16,525 m^3 of waste. Domestic waste accounted for 51 percent of the total (M. Hudon, pers. comm.; R. Désy, pers. comm.). Though information was not available concerning the total capacity of the mine, it is estimated to be large enough to collect waste for the next 50 to 75 years.

Power and Communications

Power is derived from hydro-electric power supplied by Hydro-Québec. Normand station provides electricity to Fermont (Hydro-Québec 2010). The station has a total capacity of 315kV of which 34kV is directed toward the Town of Fermont.

Rising electricity consumption and frequent black-outs since 2008 have prompted Town Council to push for improvements to the system and increase electrical supply so as not to present a constraint to development. In terms of existing unused capacity, Hydro-Québec was unable to comment at the present time (M. Lapierre, pers. comm.). However, the company is confident it will be able to meet growing demand. The additional capacity required by large projects, including large residential projects, is assessed on a case-by-case basis (M. Lapierre, pers. comm.).

An emergency transmission line of 46kV runs from Wabush in Labrador to Fermont. Following a five-hour black-out in February 2011, the Town connected itself to the emergency power supply from Wabush (TVA Nouvelles 2011).

5.3.2.9 Transportation Infrastructure

Roads

Fermont is accessible by road, air, and rail. Provincial route 389 provides a land transportation link between Fermont and Baie-Comeau for a distance of 570 km. The road was initially built by companies involved in resource exploitation in the area (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012a). It is made up of paved and gravel sections and some portions have been identified as being substandard and dangerous. In 2004, the Ministère du Transport du Québec (MTQ 2012) approved the Route 389 Restoration Plan, which identifies several risk areas and sections requiring upgrades, including the section linking Fermont to Fire Lake. The construction works are scheduled to take place over a period of ten years starting in 2011. Given the heavy use of this road, the Town Council has asked for the schedule to be condensed to five years (Pelletier 2011).

Airport

The closest airport to Fermont is located in Wabush, Labrador, approximately 35 km away. The services provided at Wabush Airport have been described in Section 5.3.1.9.

Railway

Rail service linking Sept-Îles and Schefferville stops at Emeril Junction, 90 km from Fermont (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012a). The railway is managed by Tshiuetin Rail Transportation Inc., and has been described in Section 5.3.1.9.

5.3.2.10 Recreation

There are 40 cultural, sport, community and citizen organizations in Fermont (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012a). Local media include Diffusion Fermont, a community radio station, and Journal le Trait d'Union du Nord, a community newspaper. A local group also organizes a film screenings and live events.

In terms of community spaces, Fermont has a youth center, gallery, and public library. The public library is combined with the school library of the Polyvalente Horizon-Blanc. A new multifunctional community facility is being constructed. The facility will make use of a decommissioned curling arena. It will include a community hall and auditorium / event venue with a capacity of 300 (M. Michaud, pers. comm.).

Fermont is well-equipped with recreational and sports facilities. The majority of the facilities were built between 1971 and 1974. While the municipality's Service des Loisirs et de la Culture maintains the facilities, most of the programming is carried out by various sport and recreation associations (M. Michaud, pers. comm.).

Below is a detailed list of recreational and sports facilities located within Fermont:

- two municipal parks;
- a ball field;
- a soccer field, divisible into two small soccer fields;
- two tennis courts;
- a bowling alley and a billiards room;
- an indoor pool, semi- Olympic-sized, with free swim and lessons, and aquafitness;
- an arena with free skating, skating lessons and hockey;
- a marina equipped with one large sailboat, four small sailboats, a dozen kayaks, eight pedal boats, four windsurfers, six canoes, and two zodiacs (for safety purposes only);
- a beach with supervised swim area;
- a weight room with cardio machines;
- a gymnasium, divisible into two small basketball courts (shared with the Polyvalente); and,
- a rhythmic gymnastics room (shared with Polyvalente).

Several of the facilities are designed to maximize use of the spaces. For instance fields and gyms can be divided into smaller playing areas to accommodate more activities. Additionally, the Town shares several facilities with the high school.

Presently, there is not a problem of overcrowding of the facilities, with the exception of the weight room, which is at capacity and no longer accepting new members. To alleviate pressure, ArcelorMittal is building a new gym with a weight room at the mine (M. Michaud, pers. comm.). All facilities will be open to the public.

There are also a number of recreational facilities that are more regional in scale. From Fermont, residents have easy access to a network of hiking trails and campsites. Sentier Taïga is a 4 km trail starting from the beach in Fermont. Mount Daviault features three interpretive walks varying in length from 0.7 to 1.5 km. Hikers can climb to a belvedere at the summit (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012a). The mountain is also a popular site for bird watching and harvesting wild fruit (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012a). Mountain biking trails are also being developed (I. Tremblay, pers. comm.). Mount Daviault is accessible from Duchesneau Road and Carheil Lake Road. The trails at Mount Daviault are managed by the CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau.

Another short trail at Carheil Lake follows the river for one km and offers views of waterfalls. Mount Severson can be explored through a trail system made up of seven trails totaling 30 km. The trails at Mount Severson are managed by the Town of Fermont. The mountain is a popular site for rock climbing. The trailhead and climbing walls are accessible from kilometre 561 on Route 389. Hiking is also possible further afield in the Groulx Mountains.

There are two recognized campsites in the vicinity of Fermont, one at Carheil Lake and the other at Mount Severson. Outside of the area, there is camping at the site of the former Town of Gagnon and at the Refuge du prospecteur at kilometre 336 (CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau 2012a). The new campsite will be located north of the Town site on Daviault Lake and is set to open in July 2012. It will provide 100 fully-serviced campsites, most of which have been reserved by season campers. The campground will include a pumping station as well as a boat launch.

5.3.2.11 Services and Infrastructure for Women

The services and infrastructure that are specific to women in Fermont are the same as those in western Labrador: obstetric care, childcare and emergency accommodations. Demand for health services and infrastructure has increased in recent years in Fermont due to mining-related employment. Like western Labrador, childcare spaces are limited in the community, with 160 children on wait lists. Emergency accommodations and crisis support are available only to women in Fermont; men requiring free temporary accommodations currently have no place to go.

5.4 Conclusion

Baseline data have been compiled in this report to provide a picture of the existing socio-economic conditions of western Labrador and Fermont, Québec. Specifically, it discusses the demographics, economy, employment and business and community services and infrastructure of those areas which will be affected by the Project activity and expenditures, and which will provide services and infrastructure to the Project and its employees.

Following a period of population decline, the population of Newfoundland and Labrador stabilized for a number of years and recently has begun to increase as a result of growth in the natural resource industry. Similarly, the populations of Labrador and western Labrador increased in 2011 after a period of decline. This growth can be attributed to the development of mining projects in the area. The population of Fermont, which is also reliant on the mining industry, decreased between 1986 and 2006 but showed a slight increase between 2006 and 2011 due to mining-related employment.

Many of the community services and infrastructure in western Labrador are currently at or beyond capacity. Exceptions to this are primary and elementary education infrastructure and safety and security services. In particular, municipal infrastructure in western Labrador and Fermont, including water, sewer and power, require upgrading and the number of daycare spaces in these communities needs to be increased to accommodate the growing number of families with young children. However, the most critical issue in western Labrador is the limited availability of housing and accommodations, particularly affordable and social housing, which are in high demand as a result of mining-related population growth.

Lack of affordable housing is also becoming a problem in Fermont where the majority of homes are owned by mining companies and a growing population is creating competition for available units. Many of the Town’s municipal services and infrastructure are also reaching capacity due to use by an increasing number of residents of nearby western Labrador.

The information in this baseline report will be used in the assessment of the Project on economy, employment and business and community services and infrastructure.

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M. Arsenault	Administrative Technician at Ville de Fermont. Fermont, Québec. Telephone call, April 18, 2012.
L. Aylward	Executive Secretary, Town of Wabush. Telephone call, April 26, 2012.
M. Bélanger	Planner at the MRC de Caniapiscau. Fermont, Québec. Telephone call, May 1, 2012.
P. Boland	Superintendant of Public Works, Town of Labrador City. Email, May 1, 2012.
A. Cayouette	Manager, Wabush Airport. Email, April 24, 2012.
A. Colbourne	Permits Clerk, Town of Labrador City. Telephone call, May 16, 2012.
J. Collard	CSSSH. Fermont, Québec. Telephone call, April 18, 2012.
J. Deschênes	Manager at Habitat de Fermont. Fermont, Québec. Telephone call, April 18, 2012.
R. Désy	Ville de Fermont. Fermont, Québec. Email, May 1, 2012.
K. Gosselin	Economic Development Agent with the CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau. Fermont, Québec. Email, May 8, 2012.
M. Hudon	Garage municipal, Ville de Fermont. Fermont, Québec. Telephone call, April 18, 2012.
K. Keane	Principal at Fermont School. Fermont, Québec. Telephone call, April 18, 2012.
M. LaFosse	Municipal Enforcement Officer, Town of Wabush. Email, May 17, 2012.
M. Lapierre	Representative for the MRC de Caniapiscau for Hydro-Québec. Sept-Iles, Québec. Telephone call, May 10, 2012.
J. Marcotte	Carrefour jeunesse emploi de Duplessis. Fermont, Québec. Telephone call, May 2, 2012.
K. McCarthy	Director, RSM Safety Institute, Labrador City, NL. E-mail, October 30, 2006.
M. Michaud	Service des loisirs et de la culture, Ville de Fermont. Fermont, Québec. Telephone call, May 3, 2012.
J. Morrissey	Manager of Highway Design and Traffic Engineering, Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Transportation and Works. Email, April 11, 2012.
P. Reccord	Town Councilor, Labrador West. Email, February 21, 2012.
J. Rousseau	Assistant Director of École Horizon-Blanc. Fermont, Québec. Telephone call, April 18, 2012.

R. Sawyer Campus Administrator, College of the North Atlantic, Labrador West Campus. Email, April 20, 2012.

S. St-Pierre Member of the Association Loisir Plein Air Fermont. Fermont, Québec. Telephone call, April 30, 2012.

I. Tremblay Director General of the CLD de la MRC de Caniapiscau. Fermont, Québec. Telephone call and e-mail, April 30 and May 3, 2012.

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