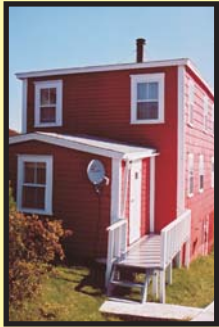


Technologies of the New Economy 2002 - 2005

This three-year study concerns communities-in-crisis where the resource economy - the fishery - faces severe challenges. With slow-downs in fishing and the closure of plants, people in communities look to other sources of livelihood, and to broader coalitions for social action. It is here, in particular, that technology promises to play a positive role - in connecting people among the coastal communities, and in opening two-way routes to the outside world for commerce, culture and learning.



For more information contact:

Dr. Carol E. Harris
Principal Investigator
Leadership Studies
Faculty of Education
University of Victoria, Box 3010
Victoria BC V8W 3N4
Phone: 250.472.5164
Fax: 250.721.6190
Email: harrisce@uvic.ca



OUR
TEAM



The team, which has its headquarters at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, is made up of researchers, graduate students, collaborators, consultants, partners, and community workers. Representing both coasts, they are:

Carol E. Harris, Victoria
Darlene E. Clover, Victoria
Brenda Grzetic, St. John's
Catherine Etmanski, Victoria
Tara Ehrcke, Victoria
Fred Campbell, Halifax
Lorraine Sheehan, Stephenville

Collaborators:

Budd L. Hall, Victoria
Barbara Barter, Stephenville
Linda V. Coupal, Victoria

Partner organizations in Newfoundland include:

Burgeo Broadcasting System
Cormack Trail School District
Western Health Care Corporation
Health and Community Services
Community Education Network
Coasts Under Stress Project
Bay St. George Status of Women

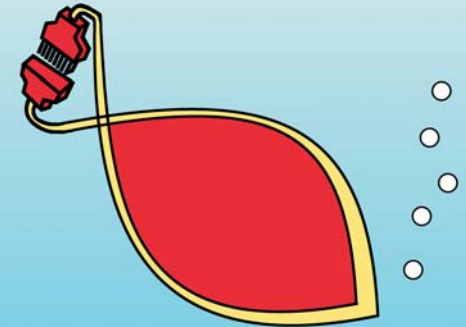
**This research is funded by the
Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada.**



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

TECHNOLOGIES OF THE NEW ECONOMY



IN FIVE COASTAL SETTINGS

A Participatory Assessment
of Impacts on Small Business,
Health Care, and Education

www.educ.uvic.ca/NewTechCC

University
of Victoria



Faculty
of Education

Objectives

One objective of this inter-disciplinary research team is to assess, in consultation with all actors, the overall impact of the



ICT initiative. A second objective is to enhance the participation of all community members in planning and training, and in the general discourse surrounding new technologies.

Specific purposes are:

- To contribute to and report upon the on-going design and expansion of ICT in these communities, situating local problems of implementation within larger social, economic, and political issues;
- To liaise with all participants in the ICT project, and with those in related projects elsewhere (especially in other parts of coastal Newfoundland, and in British Columbia);
- To monitor and encourage the inclusion of girls and women in understanding new technologies, in planning policy on applications of ICT, and in applying new and old technologies in their own interests; and
- To refine methods of conducting evaluative and participatory research that may be applied to other rural communities.

Research Context

Over the past decade, coastal communities of Canada have been adversely affected by a vast array of government policies stemming from a “new” economy driven by market-based ideologies, and possibly also by environmental change, such as climate warming with its unknown effect on cod stocks. This study builds on a recent initiative of one Community Burgeo, Newfoundland to link its town through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) with the outside world, and with four neighbouring coastal communities Ramea, Grey River, Francois and Grand Bruit. In exploring the multiple and complex effects of ICT, the study addresses themes of education and lifelong learning.

The Question

What opportunities and barriers do people encounter as they apply new technologies in meeting their business, health care and educational needs?

Partnerships

We have designed our research within a university-community learning framework. To us, this means a relationship of mutual sharing of knowledge and expertise. By working in collaboration with community groups such as the Burgeo Broadcasting System, our research strengthens their outreach and capacities, and it brings new ideas and examples of community change into the university.

Education and learning are at the heart of our research. We use critical tools to strengthen community and university initiatives, augment knowledge, re-shape research practice, identify inequities, and give community members a stronger voice in actions and decisions that affect their lives.

Using a series of workshops and individual and group interviews, we identify the needs, concerns and ideas of community members about new technologies. Together, we will create a new discourse of cooperation and sharing.

