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**The Social & Economic Landscape  
for Bridging the Gap:  
From Education to Employment, Pilot Phase II**

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**Port Hope Simpson**

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***Date:***  
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## Introduction

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This document that you hold in your hands is ***The Social and Economic Landscape for Bridging the Gap, Pilot Phase II—Port Hope Simpson***. It is a key part of the evaluation of the Bridging the Gap (BTG) program. It seeks to describe the social and economic state of the communities which are taking part in this phase of the BTG pilot. It does this with the goal of allowing the Evaluation Subcommittee and the External Evaluator to better understand the broad picture of the social and economic opportunities and issues that exist in the partnering communities. The document compares information at the community, zonal, and provincial level in order to get at the larger picture. The information is further divided into 4 headings, drawing upon the analytical framework of the Strategic Social Plan of Newfoundland and Labrador.

- Educated People
- Self-Reliant People
- Prosperous People
- People Living within Sustainable Communities/Zones

In all cases, the latest available statistical information is referenced, which varies from 1996 to 2001.

To begin the landscape, some basic population information is presented below. Port Hope Simpson has followed provincial and zonal trends of population decline, but at a slightly slower rate.

### **Population**

<b>Population</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>2001</b>
Port Hope Simpson	604	614	577	510
Economic Zone 4	2,995	2,962	2,876	2,715
Newfoundland and Labrador	568,275	568,475	551,795	512,930

**Note:** 2001 population figures were estimated based on Statistics Canada's Census Subdivisions (CSD's). For this reason estimates are subject to revision as new information becomes available. Figures may not add to total due to rounding of the underlying data. **Source:** 1986, 1991 & 1996 figures, Newfoundland & Labrador Zone Profiles 2000 <http://www.linkproject.nf.ca/profiles/2000.pdf> . All provincial figures, Statistics Canada <http://www.statcan.ca>

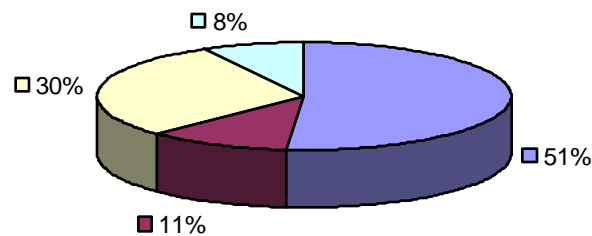
## Educated People

This section presents a description of the area with regard to its educational characteristics. This includes looking at levels of formal education such as high school, college and university, as well as touching on issues such as literacy and skills training. It is also concerned with how these issues intersect with gender and employment characteristics.

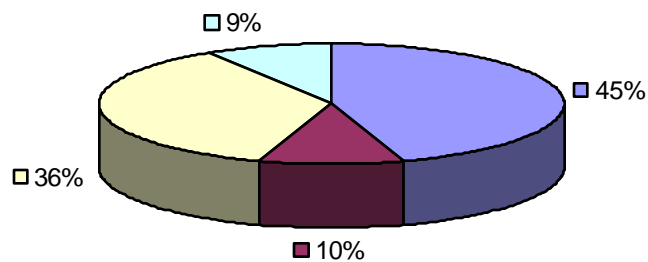
### **Level of Education—Total population**

Although there is some data unavailable at the community level for Port Hope Simpson, the key observation is the *high number of individuals without a high school education* in the area. The number of individuals with a trade school education is comparable to provincial figures.

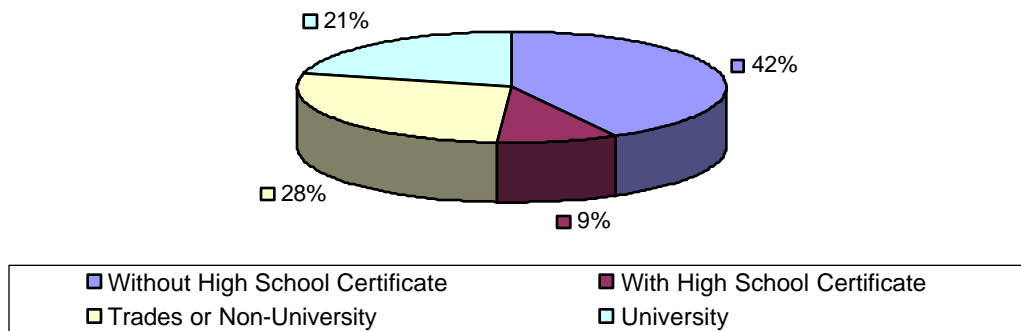
**Level of Education - Port Hope Simpson**



**Level of Education - Economic Zone 4**



### Level of Education - NF & LB



### Level of Education by Gender

Port Hope Simpson	Males	Females
Without High School Certificate	55%	47%
With High School Certificate	7%	13%
Trades or Non-University	33%	26%
University	7%	11%

Economic Zone 4	Males	Females
Without High School Certificate	47%	43%
With High School Certificate	8%	13%
Trades or Non-University	39%	33%
University	6%	11%

Newfoundland & Labrador	Males	Females
Without High School Certificate	42%	43%
With High School Certificate	9%	10%
Trades or Non-University	29%	26%
University	20%	22%

Figures may not add to totals due to random rounding. \*Includes those individuals with a university certificate and/or diploma below a bachelor's degree. **Source:** Compiled by the Community Accounts Unit based on custom tabulations from the Census of Population 2001, Statistics Canada.

There are 13% more of the Male population without a High School Certificate than for the province as a whole and an 8% greater rate than for the zone as a whole.

The difference for the female Port Hope Simpson population compared to the female population for the province and the zone is much lower (only a 4% difference in both cases).

### Literacy Issues

The government has not conducted any formal survey of literacy in the last nine years. Currently, the Provincial Department of Education recommends using educational attainment (which is closely correlated to literacy levels as it assumes a certain degree of literacy based on achieving certain educational levels) as a measure of adult literacy levels. Educational Attainment levels for Port Hope Simpson (as indicated above) are slightly lower than both the zonal and the provincial averages, indicating a lower than

average literacy level. The trends for the future may be found by looking at the current high school enrollments and pass rates for the School District, as below.

**Percentage of High School Enrolments that Graduate  
 Enrolment 2000-2001**

Northern Peninsula/Labrador South School District	
Senior high	939
Grade 10	334
Grade 11	305
Grade 12	281
Fourth year <sup>a</sup>	19

<sup>a</sup> Fourth year students are those who attended senior high school for at least three years. Figures include all schools located in the area, including francophone, private, first nation and other schools. Education Accounts, Enrolment, 1989-2002, Northern Peninsula/Labrador South School District. **Source:** Compiled by the Community Accounts Unit based on information provided by the Department of Education, K-12 School Profile System.

**Pass Rates – June 2001**

	Males	Females	Total
Northern Peninsula/Labrador South School District	73.1	84.6	78.6

Education Accounts, High School Pass Rates, June 2001, School Districts. **Source:** Compiled by the Community Accounts Unit based on information from the Department of Education.

Taking the total number of enrollees in Senior High School combined with the Pass Rates for 2001, we can determine that 738 of those will pass to their next year, and that 236 of those passing will be completing their senior year (or their 'fourth year') and receive their high school certificate. Thus the Northern Peninsula/Labrador South School District school district graduates approximately 236 students per year.

By way of comparison, the table below presents the pass rates for all school boards in the province. The Northern Peninsula/Labrador South School District has the lowest pass rates in the Province.

**Pass Rates—June 2001**

School District	Males	Females	Total
Labrador	84.5	93.2	88.9
Northern Peninsula/Labrador South	73.1	84.6	78.6
Corner Brook/Deer Lake/St. Barbe	79.8	93.3	86.8
Cormack Trail	86.5	89.0	87.8
Baie Verte/Central/Connaigre	78.3	91.1	84.6
Lewisporte/Gander	79.8	88.9	84.4
Burin	86.2	91.3	89.0
Vista	85.7	92.1	89.0
Avalon West	87.2	94.8	91.2

Avalon East	80.1	87.4	83.8
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**Source:** Compiled by the Community Accounts Unit based on information from the Department of Education.

### ***Skill Set Training***

Skill Set training is an important element of employment, particularly within industry, as the following trends suggest.

- According to Newfoundland Statistics, the industrial sector is growing at an estimated rate of 2% per year (600 people), and the retirement rate is approximately 4% per year (1,200 people), introducing a 6% increase in demand for human resources annually.
- Currently 8.5% of high school graduates enter industrial training programs. As the number of graduates shrink and the need for industrial sector workers increases, the estimate is that 40% of high school graduates will be required to enter the industrial sector in 10 years.

Source: Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, 2002/2003 Budget Submission, Innovation and High Level Job Creation, <http://www.cme-mec.ca/shared/upload/2002-03%20Prebudget%20Submission.pdf>

Provincial, national and international trends indicate that new job opportunities are increasingly tied to educational attainment. In this Province, those with a post-secondary degree, certificate or diploma accounted for 55% of total employment in 1999, up from 45% at the beginning of the decade.

Conversely, those with less than high school accounted for 20% of employment in 1999 as compared to 29% in 1990. Those with high school completion or with some post-secondary studies accounted for about 25% to 27% of total employment over the decade.

Unemployment rates also appear to be correlated with educational attainment. In this Province, the unemployment rate for those with post secondary completion was 11.9% in 1999 (5.1% for university graduates), as compared to 18.2% for high school graduates and those with some post-secondary, and 27.0% for those with less than high school completion.

Source: Labour Market Trends, Newfoundland and Labrador, Annual 2000 All analysis based on Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey [http://www.economics.gov.nf.ca/pdf/LMT/LFS\\_Q4\\_2000.PDF](http://www.economics.gov.nf.ca/pdf/LMT/LFS_Q4_2000.PDF)

## Self Reliant People

The intent of this section is to better understand the level of community self-reliance by examining the level of transfer payments going into the area. In this case, self-reliance refers to the ability of an area to sustain itself without outside financial output. By examining the different public interventions upon which that the area relies, we can get a picture of the level of non-dependence in an area.

### **Employment Insurance Incidence**

<b>Employment Insurance Incidence 1998</b>	
Port Hope Simpson	19.6%
Economic Zone 4	59.4%
Newfoundland & Labrador	38.1%

The Employment Insurance data reported here includes only claims related to job loss and fishing activity. All other types of claims are excluded (maternity leave, sickness, parental/adoption, work sharing, job creation, training and self-employment). Figures may not add to totals due to random rounding. **Source:** Compiled by the Community Accounts Unit based on information provided by Human Resources

### **Social Assistance Incidence**

<b>Social Assistance Incidence 1998</b>	
Port Hope Simpson	26.4%
Economic Zone 4	20.4%
Newfoundland & Labrador	16.3%

Employment Insurance and social assistance payments are two of the most common forms of transfer payments upon which individuals rely. Looking at the above charts, we can see that *Port Hope Simpson has a much lower rate of EI payments and a higher rate of social assistance payments than do either the zone or the province.* The difference is much more significant in the area of EI when compared to the zonal figure, with a difference of approximately 40%, and more significant in the area of social assistance when compared to the province, with a difference of approximately 10%.

### **Other Social & Economic Public Interventions Families & Individuals Rely Upon**

Other transfer payments which play a role in family incomes include:

- Old Age Security
- Canada Pension Plan
- Child Tax Benefit
- GST Credit
- Workers Compensation
- Provincial Tax Credit

The most common form of payment in Port Hope Simpson is the Child Tax Benefit. The others each affect less than 60 residents in the area. The chart below indicates overall levels of transfer payments, including EI, Social Assistance, and NCARP/TAGS payments (which was in existence when this figures were captured in 1999).



<b>Transfer Payments-1999</b>		
Port Hope Simpson	Number Reporting	340
	% of Population (2001)*	66%
Economic Zone 9	Number Reporting	1,760
	% of Population (2001)	65%
Newfoundland & Labrador	Number Reporting	306,730
	% of Population (2001)	60%

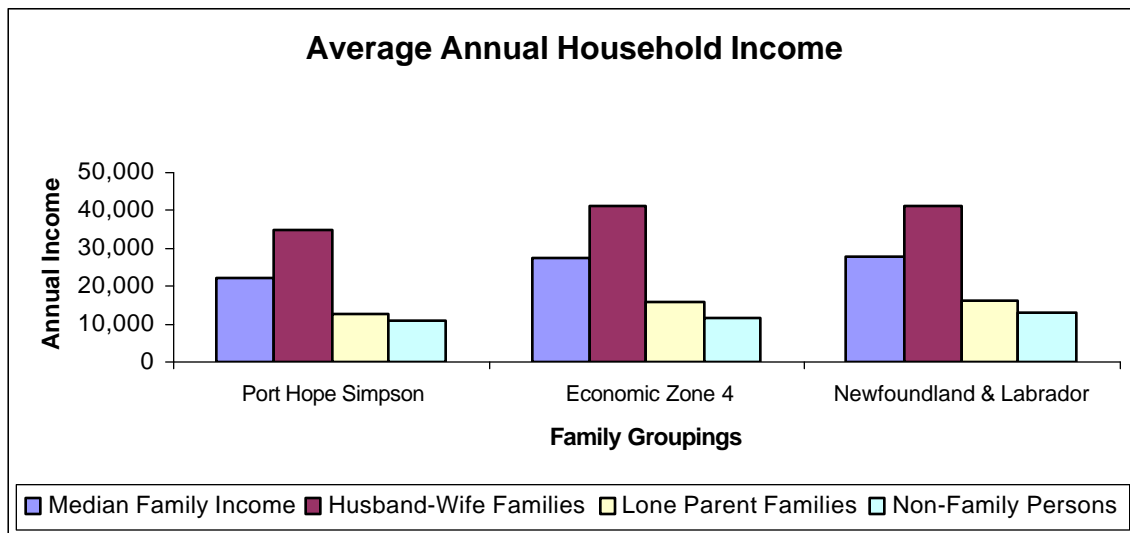
**Source:** Compiled by the Community Accounts Unit, based on Canada Customs and Revenue Agency summary information as provided by Small Area and Administrative Data Division, Statistics Canada. \*2001 population figures are the closest available population figures. Some distortion may result.

As the chart above demonstrates, a substantial number of people in each region receive some form of transfer payment as part or all of their income. The figures are comparable across all three regions, although higher at the zonal and community levels.

## Prosperous People

This section presents information primarily concerned with income and employment. Although related to self-reliance, it is more a measure of the *quality* of life (in a limited economic sense) in an area as opposed to its self-sufficiency.

As the graph below indicates, Port Hope Simpson has slightly lower incomes when compared to zonal or provincial figures, but the distribution among family types is very similar. This is remarkable considering the lower levels of employment detailed in the charts below.



### Labour Force Having Employment Annually

Census - Labour Markets, 1995-96: Labour force (May 1996): Employment rate	Prime Labour Force Age	Age 15 and Over
Port Hope Simpson	35%	26%
Economic Zone 4	30%	23%
Newfoundland & Labrador	58%	42%

**Source:** Compiled by the Community Accounts Unit based on custom tabulations from the Census of Population 1996, Statistics Canada.

### Unemployment Rate

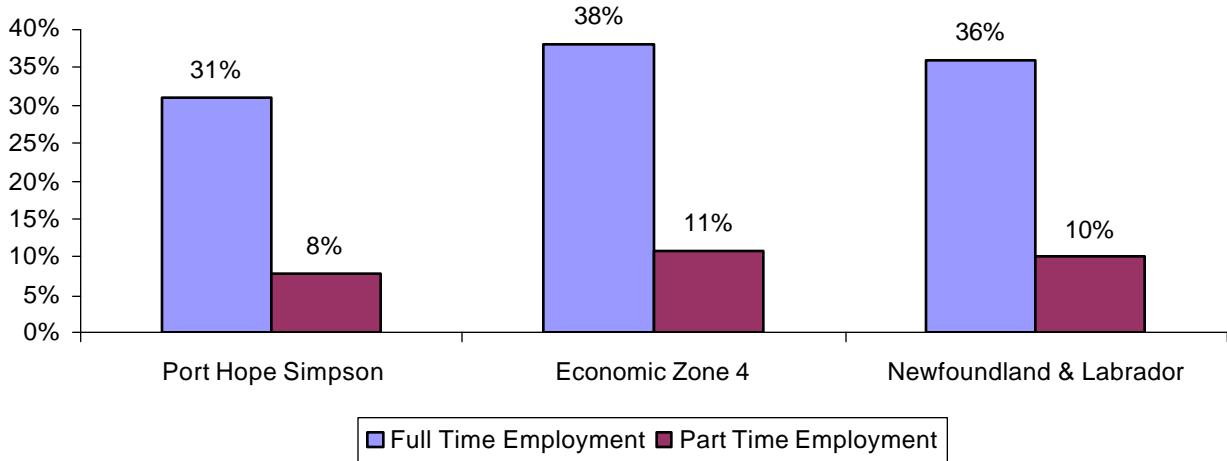
Census - Labour Markets, 1995-96: Labour force (May 1996): Unemployment rate	Prime Labour Force Age	Age 15 and Over
Port Hope Simpson	36%	40%
Economic Zone 4	49%	53%
Newfoundland & Labrador	23%	25%

**Source:** Compiled by the Community Accounts Unit based on information provided by Human Resources Development Canada.

### Proportion of Employment

The proportion of employment charts below reflect the number of full and part time workers as a percentage of total population (thus, the percentages do not add to 100). Port Hope Simpson has comparable proportion of people with part-time employment (working less than 30 hours per week), and a lower proportion of people working full-time.

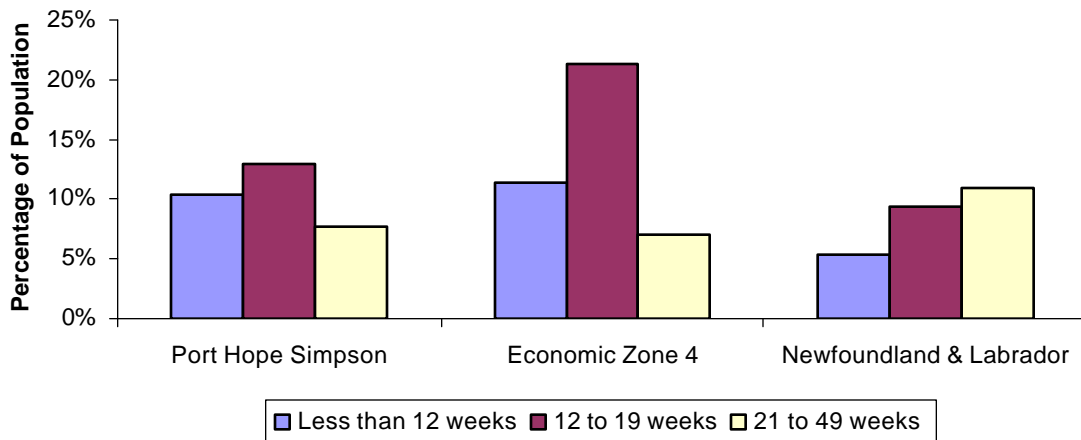
#### Proportion of Employment - Port Hope Simpson



### Seasonal Employment

Seasonal workers in Port Hope Simpson are more likely to work a smaller number of weeks than their counterparts across the province. The main difference between the community and zonal figures is the much higher number of workers in the zone who work between 12-19 weeks.

#### Seasonal Employment - Port Hope Simpson



### ***Households Living in Poverty***

Although community level figures are not available, there is only a small difference between the percentage of people living in poverty at the zonal and provincial levels.

<b>% Below Low Income Cut-off*</b>	<b>Husband-Wife Families</b>	<b>Lone-Parent Families</b>
Port Hope Simpson	Not Available	Not Available
Economic Zone 4	19%	Not Available
Newfoundland & Labrador	16%	52%

\*Estimated using Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-Offs (1992 base). Extracted from Income Accounts, Distribution of Family Income, 1997, Port Hope Simpson, Economic Zone 4, and Newfoundland & Labrador  
**Source:** Compiled by the Community Accounts Unit, based on Canada Customs and Revenue Agency summary information as provided by Small Area and Administrative Data Division, Statistics Canada.

## People Living within Sustainable Communities/Zones

This section presents information with regard to the sustainability of communities. One of the key indicators of a sustainable community is a diversified economy.

The graphs below demonstrate the main industries Port Hope Simpson, and the percentage of the population they employ. 'Processing and Manufacturing,' 'Primary,' and 'Sales and Service' are the three largest sectors, employing close to two-thirds of the workforce among them.

**Main Industries - Port Hope Simpson**

