



## ***Making the Connections-Key Economic Drivers in Aboriginal Rural and Remote Communities: Aboriginal Youth, Colleges and Industries.***



### **What is the research about?**

The research examines barriers and facilitators encountered by Aboriginal students residing in Atlantic rural and remote regions as they move into and through post-secondary education and join the skilled labour force. Identifying the role that culture and Traditional Knowledge plays is central to this examination.

### **What does the research do?**

The research provides base-line evidence to inform government and industry policy and program development. Promising practices and policies of strategic importance are recommended for strengthening success in secondary schools, colleges, and the labour market. Processes are identified to incorporate Aboriginal culture and Traditional Knowledge into recruitment and retention strategies that will assist Aboriginal students in entering and moving through college education into the skilled labour force.

### **Advisory Committee:**

*Sheila Francis* (Director of Education, Pictou Landing First Nation); *Debbie Dykstra* (Director of Economic Development/Social, Pictou Landing First Nation); *Darrah Beaver* (Director of Education, Tobique First Nation); *Katie Rich* (Director of Education, Natuashish).

**Timeline:** October 2015-March 2016

### **Why is the research important?**

Governments invest a significant amount of capital into promoting growth in rural and remote Aboriginal communities, but in many cases with little success. Providing policymakers with guidance about how best to target their limited resources is, hence, of great importance. To do so, a clear understanding of factors contributing to economic growth and success in rural and remote regions is necessary. It is evident in the literature on economic development that the real driver of economic growth is the “human factor”. From the research evidence, appropriate supports can be developed to assist Aboriginal youth as they transition into and through college and join the labour market. These educated youth will provide a skilled labour force that will enhance community economic development and growth in rural and remote Atlantic Aboriginal communities.

### **Research Team:**

*Dr. Sharon Taylor* (Principal Investigator, Taylor & Associates); *Dr. David Philpott* (Full Professor, Faculty of Education, Memorial University of Newfoundland); *Diana Lewis* (Lecturer/ Coordinator Indigenous Minor Program, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Dalhousie University); *David Perley* (Director, Mi’kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre, University of New Brunswick).



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