

Employment-related geographical mobility in the Canadian context

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Seafarers Welfare Workshop, Montreal April 13, 2018

The Partnership

- multiple grants (SSHRC, CFI, RDC) plus contributions from partners = \$ 5.15 million
- 8 year research program (year 7)
- >50 co-applicant researchers and 2 collaborators
- 17 disciplines and 22 universities
- 36 partner organizations (11 academic and 25 community)
- training and mentoring for more than 100 trainees
- some international engagement

We are studying

Extended employment-related geographical mobility (E-RGM) in the Canadian context:

- a) daily commutes (> 2hours) and more prolonged absences from home in other provinces, countries
- b) sometimes coupled with:
 - a) employment in transient workplaces (temp agency, construction, maintenance)
 - b) multiple worksites (home care)
 - c) mobile workplaces (trucking, shipping, fishing, pilots)

Overall focus

- a) rhythms and patterns of extended geographical mobility within and between cities, provinces and countries (including Temporary Foreign Workers coming into Canada)
- b) diverse sectors, groups and modes of transportation
 - Car/truck/bus/plane/ferry/fishing vessel/ship
 - Public transportation
 - Intermodal (i.e. ferry/drive/fly)

Impacts of E-RGM

- on workers and their families
- employers
- source and host communities

Methods

- Field, statistical, on-line survey and policy research
- 7 provinces
- Policy research: policy drivers and gaps associated with E-RGM in occupational health and safety, workers' compensation, employment standards and other areas.

Emerging themes...

1. Work, mobility and home/community life rhythms are interconnected
2. Workers and working families often struggle to achieve 'fragile synchronicities' across these rhythms
3. Employment in mobile workplaces (as with shipping) is associated with some particular challenges...including those related to seafarers' occupational health and safety and welfare

The On the Move Partnership is a project of the Safetynet Centre for Occupational Health & Safety Research at Memorial University. It is supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council through its Partnership Grants funding opportunity (Appl ID 895-2011-1019), Innovate NL, CFI, and multiple universities and community partners.



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