

COMMUNICATION NEEDS ON THE EAST COAST OF LABRADOR

An assessment by Memorial University
of Newfoundland - Extension Service

To

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

and

THE BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF CANADA

LABRADOR, 1970.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
INTRODUCTION -----	1
Terms of Reference -----	1
Itinerary -----	2
Equipment -----	3
Methodology -----	3
CHAPTER I - BACKGROUND INFORMATION -----	5
Map of Labrador -----	6
The Communities -----	8
Mary's Harbour Region -----	8
The Economy -----	10
Cartwright Region -----	12
The Economy -----	13
Summary -----	14
Northern Region -----	14
CHAPTER II - INTERVIEWEES -----	18
Reverend E. Lewis Mary's Harbour -----	18
Mr. George Poole Fox Harbour -----	19
Mr. Norman Rumboldt Mary's Harbour -----	20
Mr. John Campbell Square Islands -----	20
Mr. Raymond Ward Snug Harbour/Norman Bay -----	20
Reverend S. Hettasch Nain -----	21

	<u>PAGE</u>
Father Peters Davis Inlet -----	21
Mr. Frank Kelly Cartwright -----	21
CHAPTER III - ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS NEEDS ---	23
Telephones -----	23
Table -----	23
Northern Labrador -----	26
Department of Transportation, NLSD & IGA Radio Telephone Services -----	28
Radio & Television -----	29
CHAPTER IV - RECOMMENDATIONS -----	32

COMMUNICATION NEEDS ON THE EAST COAST OF LABRADOR

INTRODUCTION

This report contains a written assessment of the communications survey undertaken by the Extension Service of Memorial University on the East Coast of Labrador during the months of July and August, 1970, under the sponsorship of the Federal Department of Communications and Bell Telephone Company of Canada. It is a supplement to the video-tape presentation which is a sampling of opinions and assessments by people on the Labrador Coast of their communications needs. It contains a frame of reference and method by which the survey was conducted, a general socio-economic background to the communities on the Labrador Coast and an assessment of the interviewees and the opinions they express, an assessment by the Extension Service of communications needs on the Labrador Coast, and finally, recommendations for meeting communications needs on this coast as assessed by both the people of the coast and the Extension Service of Memorial University.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The survey started on July 29th, 1970, when the Extension Service team met with Mr. Des Loftus and Miss Heather Hudson, of the Department of Communications, at Mary's Harbour. Since the contract had not been drawn up during the survey period, the terms of reference for the survey were discussed and decided upon during this meeting at Mary's Harbour. The survey area was to include those communities bounded by Henley Harbour in the South and Nain in the North. The Labrador coastal area from Henley Harbour to L'Anse au Loup, known as the Straits area, was excluded

from the survey. The Memorial University Extension Service team was to cover this survey area in a thirty-foot boat while Mr. Loftus, Miss Hudson and Mr. Kenny were to cover the same area on the coastal steamer. Mr. Loftus advised that if the weather was bad, the MUN crew were to feel no compulsion to go to the Northern coast of Labrador, North of the Hamilton Inlet. The main method of gathering information would be through interviews with VTR equipment. In addition to general qualitative background information of the communities and regions along the East coast of Labrador, Mr. Loftus said the Department of Communications and Bell Telephone Company wished to know the opinions of the people in regard to telephone service, D.O.T. telegraph service, television where applicable, and radio. The survey was to allow scope for the Extension Service's social development interests in conducting VTR work concurrent with the communications survey. The main interest of DOC was to get a sampling of opinion from the East coast of Labrador with an assessment by MUN of the validity of those opinions.

ITINERARY

From July 24th. to August 31st, 1970, the Extension Service visited twenty-three communities on the East coast of Labrador. They conducted eighteen taped interviews, eight of which were related to communications needs. The communities visited from South to North were Cape Charles, Matthews Cove, Battle Harbour, Mary's Harbour, Fox Harbour, William's Harbour, Georges Cove, Square Islands, Triangle, Snug Harbour, Tub Harbour, Seal Islands, Frenchman's Island, Batteau, Black Tickle, Spotted Island, Indian Tickle, Pack's Harbour, Cartwright, West Bay, Makkovik, Hopedale,

Davis Inlet and Nain. Most of the communities not visited were winter homes that were totally, or mostly abandoned, whose population lived at the summer communities which were revisited. Lodge Bay, Port Hope Simpson, Rexons Cove, Charlottetown, Paradise River and Porcupine were in this category. Henley Harbour, Rigolet and Postville were the only communities not visited with year-round populations and without representatives at summer communities which were visited.

EQUIPMENT

The equipment used in the interviewing included Shibaden porta-pak and camera, the standard Shibaden tape deck model 700, a 19-inch Shibaden monitor, and where needed, a small 500 watt, two-cycle electric generator. The generator did not have a suppressor and produced a whine in recordings, forcing reliance mostly upon nickel cadmium batteries. Although these batteries are supposed to have a recording life of forty to sixty minutes, were seldom able to be used for more than ten minutes without serious loss of power. For this reason, there was a minimum of cut-away shooting to provide background, visual material on the communities visited.

METHODOLOGY

The MUN film and VTR technique in the past has been to concentrate on personalities and let these personalities evolve their own subject orientation, with a minimum of guidance from the interviewer, although the interviewer would have general themes in mind and good enough knowledge of the interviewees so that he could draw out their

strongest interest. In the case of the communications survey, it was found that concentrating on communications needs, in particular telecommunications needs, tended to straight-jacket the interviewees, with the exception of three or four articulate and more educated people. Consequently, in most instances, the interviews ranged over a series of topics with telecommunications interjected somewhere along the way into the discussion.

Three people approached for VTR interviews would not consent to being interviewed on tape. Two of these were in Cartwright, both civil servants - one the Labrador Coast Representative for The Department of Labrador Affairs and the other the officer in charge of The Department of Transport. Their reasons were that as civil servants, they were not allowed to express opinions or go on record without permission from their superiors. The third instance was at Seal Island where the most articulate man, and leader of that community, was too shy to go before the camera. An attempt to video-tape a group discussing communications at William's Harbour failed because of break-down of the power supply.

The survey was conducted by H. A. Williamson, Resident Extension Worker on the Labrador Coast for Memorial University of Newfoundland and J. Harvey, Cameraman-Editor with Extension Service, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The East Coast of Labrador between Nain and Henley Harbour can be broken up into natural geographic and demographic regions which sometimes coincide with political regions, or administrative districts. In Labrador South in the survey area there are two administrative districts, with the southern most centered at Mary's Harbour and extending from Henley Harbour to Norman Bay. This region will be referred to as 'The Mary's Harbour Region'. The second region in Southern Labrador runs from Seal Island North to West Bay, with its administrative centre at Cartwright and it will be referred to as 'The Cartwright Region'. The communities from Makkovik to Nain are in the political district of Labrador North and all of the communities in this coastal area are under the aegis of the division of Northern Labrador Services of the Department of Social Services and Rehabilitation. This district will be referred to as Northern Labrador.¹

¹ For a detailed break-down of the demography of the communities both summer and winter for the East Coast of Labrador and for a detailed inventory of services, dwellings and facilities in these communities see 'Community Inventory of the Labrador Coast' by A.P. Dyke, published by the Department of Labrador Affairs, Government of Newfoundland, 1969.

V A

Gray Str
Port Burwell
C Chidley

C Kakkiviak

North Aulatsivik I
C Territok

Ruqars Bay

Seven Islands Bay

Nachvack Fiord

Gulch Cape
Ramah Bay

Saglek Bay

Big I
Cape Ulyuk

Hebron

White Bear I

Cape Mugford
Cod I

Okah Bay

Nuikak

C Xiglapatt

QUEBEC
NEWFOUNDLAND
PROVINCE

Fraser R

Kinguruk

Nainok

Paul I

Koruluk R

Mistatin

Newfoundland I

Davis Inlet

Hopedale

Warp I

Kaipokok R

Canarikto

Naskaapi R

Red W. R

Beaver R

Goose R

North West River

Grand Lake

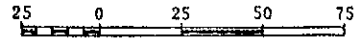
Lake Melville

MEALY MTS

ATLANTIC OCEAN

LABRADOR

SCALE OF MILES



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In the communities of Southern Labrador between West Bay and Henley Harbour there are approximately 3,200 people all of British descent, although there are traces of Eskimo and Indian blood in most of these communities. The people, nevertheless, identify themselves as a white, English speaking population and refer to themselves simply as Labradorians. In Newfoundland these people are called 'liviers'. In Northern Labrador between Makkovik and Nain there are approximately 1,500 people of whom two-thirds are Eskimo and one-third white settlers of British and Norwegian descent. These settlers are bilingual and speak Eskimo as a second language. Some of them have married into Eskimo families. They are identified locally as settlers or Eskimos more according to social consideration than biological circumstances. At Davis Inlet there is a population of approximately 175 Nascapi Indians.

Although there are wide cultural and social differences between Northern and Southern Labrador, all of the communities of the East Coast of Labrador share in common a life-style based primarily upon the harvesting of marine resources. The life-style includes seasonal movement from winter homes, mostly located in the more protected bays, to the headland and islands for summer fishing activity. This seasonal movement, based in part on social factors but primarily upon economic necessity, forces special considerations and complications in the servicing and development of the population and economy of the coast. Winter communities have concentrated to the point where there are now only fifteen major winter communities with a population of from 100 to 800 people. However, the summer pattern remains the same as it has for years with over sixty summer

places, many only camps with no more than one or two families. The mobility dispersal and sparsity of population along the Labrador Coast places many constraints on all aspects of development.

THE COMMUNITIES

Although the communities of the East Coast of Labrador share social and economic potentials and problems, the differences from region to region are great enough to merit a brief glance at each region as an entity to itself.

MARY'S HARBOUR REGION

Starting in Southern Labrador with the Mary's Harbour administrative district, that is, the region from Henley Harbour to Norman Bay, close to Snug Harbour, there are a number of factors to bear in mind for present and future development. The major communities in this area are Mary's Harbour, Fox Harbour, Port Hope Simpson and Charlottetown. Mary's Harbour and Charlottetown have been designated by the Government of Newfoundland as reception centres, into which families from some of the smaller winter settlements have centralized in recent years.

There remain, however, a few small satellite settlements to these major centres. They are Lodge Bay, winter home of the Cape St. Charles people, six miles overland from Mary's Harbour; Rixon's Cove, the winter home of the William's Harbour families, approximately twenty miles seaward of Port Hope Simpson; Pinsent's Arm, a satellite of Charlottetown in St. Michael's Bay, approximately twelve miles seaward of Charlottetown; and, finally, Norman Bay, approximately twenty-five miles north of Charlottetown. Of these small winter

settlements, it appears that only Lodge Bay can entertain much hope of survival in the immediate future. This community, of approximately 125 people, could with relatively little expense tie in with the community of Mary's Harbour by means of a six-mile overland road and a connection to the power supply from Mary's Harbour. The people of Lodge Bay believe, with some common sense, that to remain a satellite of Mary's Harbour yet take advantage of its services including school, hospital and power, would in the long run be less costly than were they to move in bulk to Mary's Harbour itself. The Lodge Bay/Cape St. Charles people, incidentally, are a close-knit community which has remained more self-sufficient and independent than most communities on the Southern Coast of Labrador.

Rexon's Cove, on the other hand, to the east of Port Hope Simpson, contains only seven families, and with the obvious difficulty of providing services and teachers for this community, it does not appear likely that it will survive for many years unless its population is willing to do without these services. The Rexon's Cove people are also a unified, hard-working, and relatively self-sufficient population. Since most of its livelihood is based at William's Harbour, from late May until the end of October, and since services are being placed in Port Hope Simpson, only twenty miles away, it would seem logical to expect pressure for these families to move into Port Hope Simpson for the winter.

Likewise, at Pinsent's Arm outside of Charlottetown, where there are now only four winter families with one other single family living at Square Islands, it appears that these people, too, must move into Charlottetown if they wish to receive the benefits and services

which Charlottetown will be able to provide. Nevertheless, at such small settlements as Rixon's Cove and Pinsent's Arm and Norman Bay, (where there are only four families), it may well be that individual families will remain at these communities under their own volition regardless of the lack of services, mainly because they have no desire to move into such places as Charlottetown or Port Hope Simpson. On the other hand, those families at these small settlements with young children, who wish to provide them with the education that they now want, will be under strong pressure to move into Port Hope Simpson and Charlottetown.

In the autumn of 1970 Henley Harbour and its nearby winter home of Pitt's Arm, three miles away, closed up, and the population of seven families has moved to Newfoundland. It, therefore, appears that within the next five or ten years the only winter settlements will most likely be Lodge Bay, Mary's Harbour, Fox Harbour, Port Hope Simpson and Charlottetown, with perhaps four or five individual families remaining in outlying settlements and relying upon services from these centres.

THE ECONOMY

The economy of the Mary's Harbour region has traditionally been and remains based primarily on cod fish. A certain amount of salmon, Arctic char and sea-run speckled trout are also commercially harvested, but the main commercial species is cod fish. The fishery is shore-based with cod traps, gill nets and jigging the means of catching these fish. In the past four years the fishery has been a failure and the economy in a present state of depression, with as high as 75 per cent of the population receiving short-term social assistance in all of the major communities except Lodge Bay and Rixon's Cove.

Mary of the younger men of this region have left the coast in the late summer and early fall of this year to seek employment at Goose Bay and Churchill Falls, where construction and woods operations offer opportunities for them. In most cases they have left their families behind and do not regard the move as permanent. However, should the woods operation in particular provide permanent employment for a number of these men, there may well be a movement off this part of the coast into Goose Bay, as there was in the 1940's when men went to Goose Bay for employment on the American Air Force Base.

The main hope for growth and development in the Mary's Harbour region depends upon the capital investment necessary to develop new technology in the fishery to take advantage of near-shore and off-shore fishing and also to make use of species not now commercially used. The capital required for these innovations and the training necessary to make use of them must come from outside the region, either through private or government agencies. The only other real potential for developing a stable or growing economy in this region sufficient to keep the youth of the population at home is to be found in the creation of saw lumber and pulp operations in St. Lewis Bay, Alexis Bay and St. Michael's Bay. These bays contain forest resources, mostly of black and white spruce, capable of producing 150,000 cords per year on a sustained yield basis.

At Port Hope Simpson there has been in the past two major woods operations, both of which lasted only for a few years because they were not economical. A small-scale "hand-slide" contract with Bowater's at Port Hope Simpson has been producing in recent winters no more than 2,500 cords of wood and is neither the type nor the scale of

operation which will attract the young men in that area into such work. Contact with most of the men of this region substantiates that if major development in the fishery and forestry resources does not take place within five years, then there will be a major out-migration of many of the people of this area, following the example of the Henley Harbour people.

The present fishery based primarily upon cod fish and dependent upon the fish coming to fixed gear has produced in good years surprisingly high incomes for many people in this region. Some individual fishermen grossed, in the last good fishing year, 1966, between \$10,000 and \$14,000 for a 12-week fishing season. However, such a fishery is always a gamble and the expenses involved in maintaining equipment for such a fishery are so high that no man can endure a succession of failures as there have been the past three and four years, and in the case of Henley Harbour, six years, and hope for one good year to pull him out of the hole.

CARTWRIGHT REGION

The Cartwright administrative district, extending from West Bay to Seal Island, and containing approximately 1,200 people, is in much the same position as the Mary's Harbour district. However, there are a number of factors which makes one more optimistic about this region. Cartwright, situated at the entrance to Sandwich Bay, is now the largest community in Southern Labrador, with a population of close to 900 people. In the past fifteen years the people from the Eagle River, Dove Brook, West Bay, Muddy Bay, Goose Cove, Spotted Islands, Batteau, Porcupine Bay, Seal Island, and North River have moved into Cartwright and made it their winter home. The six families remaining

at West Bay who now live at North River in the winter will probably move into Cartwright in the next two years. The early in-migration into Cartwright was based upon employment opportunities of the U.S. Air Force radar site at Cartwright, which as late as 1968 brought over \$150,000 annually in wages into that community. However, since the phase-out of the U.S. Air Force, the take-over by Marconi and now Bell Telephone, only two local people remain employed on the site.

As Cartwright has grown, a number of men have become employed in service industries in the community. However, Cartwright remains a community without a primary economic base. It is not now and never has been a fishing centre. During the fishing season, two-thirds of the population move out to the fishing grounds in the immediate area and back as far South as the Domino Banks region, Spotted Islands, Batteau and Seal Islands.

THE ECONOMY

Within the Cartwright region the Sandwich Bay area in particular has a rich salmon fishery and a good potential for developing Arctic char and trout. The Domino Banks area in this region, while not so rich in salmon and char and trout, has produced some of the highest yields per unit of effort in the cod fishery; indeed, even in these years when the trap fishery has been a failure, longliners from St. Anthony, Anchor Point, West St. Modeste and elsewhere in the Straits have come late in the Fall and made rich harvests of cod fish, harvests which the local people could not take advantage of because of the lack of longliners and gear to search out the fish in the deeper and rougher waters which their trap boats are not capable of working in.

Within Sandwich Bay itself there is a potential forest industry with a sustained yield possible of 150,000 cords per year. The Newfoundland Pulp and Chemical Company holds the concession for the forest in Sandwich Bay and it appears likely that in the very near future, once the Come-by-Chance mill gets under-way, this forest resource in Sandwich Bay will be developed by this company. Consequently, the immediate future of the Sandwich Bay people and, indeed, the whole Cartwright region appears brighter than that of the Mary's Harbour region.

SUMMARY

Except for education, health and welfare, there has been no government expenditure for development in Southern Labrador. There are no fish processing plants in this part of the coast. Southern Labrador was excluded from Federal ARDA funds and is now excluded from the DREE Incentives Acts. The Southern Coast of Labrador has been left very much in the hands of merchants who have parcelled off sections of the coast and have exploited the wealth of the area rather than invested in it. The Provincial Government, though recognizing the need to change the technological base of the in-shore fishery, has not yet embarked on any major development scheme or plan for this section of the East Coast of Labrador.

NORTHERN REGION

Although Northern Labrador has also not received any funds from ARDA or DREE, there have been available since 1965 funds from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. These funds, up to \$1,000,000 per year, repayable to the Government of Newfoundland after expenditures have been made in Northern Labrador, have been

available because of populations of Eskimos and Indians in Northern Labrador. Community services and facilities and general development are, therefore, well ahead of that of Southern Labrador which quickly becomes apparent even to the casual visitor. The bulk of these Federal funds has gone into such facilities as electrical power for each community in Northern Labrador, for new schools, for government-run stores, for public wharves, and for a comprehensive housing program which has nearly been completed. Funds for development of local resources and increasing income have not kept pace with the heavy expenditures for these services and facilities, but progress has been made in this quarter also, and as the housing program nears completion, more funds will become available for development.

Northern Labrador has suffered in the past few years from failures in the cod fishery and the southern communities in this region in particular have suffered because they are predominantly dependent upon cod fish, i.e. the communities of Hopedale, Postville and Makkovik. The Nascapi Indians at Davis Inlet, who for generations have based their lives on an inland caribou hunting way of life, have only recently begun to adapt to the coastal environment at their new town site from which they are now learning to become commercial fishermen for salmon, Arctic char and cod fish.

Nain, the largest and northern-most community, has not fared so badly as her southern neighbours because of a rich Arctic char fishery. This fishery extends 30 miles south towards Davis Inlet and 300 miles north to as far as Kangalaksiorvik Fjord. The Arctic char fishery, which has yielded up to 300,000 pounds per year on a sustained

yield basis, has consistently turned in a profit for the fishermen for many years; with freezing and smoking facilities planned for Nain in the near future, the Arctic char fishery should produce higher profits for the fishermen and many of the Nain men now engaged in the cod fishery will probably be redirected into the Arctic char fishery to the point at least where yields remain sustainable. Auxiliary income in Northern Labrador is also derived from handicrafts, from trapping and from the harvesting and selling of by-products of various species of seals.

A few young people are leaving Northern Labrador, mainly for employment opportunities in the Goose Bay area. This is especially true of the younger women. Although there have been some pressures for the Davis Inlet Indians to move to North West River, it does not appear likely there will be any mass migration of people from Northern Labrador to other areas in the near future. Nor has there been any tendency for further centralization of the population since the late 1950's when the communities of Nutak and Hebron were closed and the people from those communities moved to Nain, Hopedale and Makkovik.

There appears to be a considerable difference in attitude among the young people of Northern Labrador from that of those in Southern Labrador. In the south many of the young people now are ashamed to admit that they are fishermen, if, indeed, they are fishermen, and for many the ambition is to get enough education to leave.

In Northern Labrador, despite the advantage now of schooling up through high school and even to university, most of the young people are proud to be northerners and show considerable ambition to make a good life and living in Northern Labrador. This is as true for the

young settler population as it is for the Indian and Eskimo population. There continues to be a great need to modernize and further develop the fisheries, to take fullest advantage of all the marine resources in the area.

It is difficult to predict to what degree these communities will obtain self-sufficiency. There is little else at present besides the marine resources upon which to base the economy, except for the trapping of fur-bearing mammals which, as in the case of Southern Labrador, now represents not more than five or ten per cent of the total economy. Although the tree line extends beyond Nain, there are not sufficient forests in Northern Labrador for commercial development. There is, however, some potential for mineral development on the coast of Northern Labrador which could have long-term benefits for the people if training programs prepare them for the specialized jobs which such development will require. This potential includes the quarrying of Labradorite in the Nain area and the possible development in the near future of uranium deposits located in Kaipokak Bay, near Postville, deposits which have been under intensive exploration by BRINEX.

Finally, there is a potential in tourist development along the whole of the East Coast of Labrador. This potential may be of benefit to local residents, primarily as guides for tourist lodges. It does not appear likely, however, that the residents of the East Coast of Labrador will have much to do with the ownership or operation of a tourist industry, since most such development requires large amounts of capital and the use of small aircraft to fly in clients.

CHAPTER 2

INTERVIEWEES

The video-tape presentation to the Department of Communications and Bell Telephone consists of edited portions of the tapes of eight people interviewed along the coast. The tape has been edited to avoid repetition, to delete information which, since summer, has already become out-dated due to rapid development in telecommunications along the Labrador Coast, and to present an interesting and informative cross-section of opinion which is representative of the feelings of the general population.

Selection of interviewees was not a totally random process in that it was necessary to choose people who could be articulate about telecommunications needs, which in turn depended upon some knowledge of the alternatives available. Following is an assessment of each of the interviewees in the order in which they appear in the presentation. In addition to the presentation, the complete and unedited tapes of each interviewee are available for the Department of Communications and Bell Telephone Company of Canada.

Reverend E. Lewis

Reverend Lewis is the Anglican Minister based at Mary's Harbour in charge of the Battle Harbour Mission, which extends from Henley Harbour to Norman Bay. He has been on the Labrador Coast for three years. He is well educated, well informed and articulate. The unedited interview with Reverend Lewis is forty minutes and is the most comprehensive discussion of telecommunications of all the interviews.

On the unedited tape of this interview is an excellent general introduction to the Mary's Harbour district and an evaluation by Reverend Lewis of the potential for development and the future of the Mary's Harbour region as well as his assessment of poverty in the area and the ambitions of the young people.

On the whole, Reverend Lewis gave not only a comprehensive picture of communications needs for the area but he also made some valuable suggestions which will be discussed in the next chapter. However, a few of his statements are not accurate. His comments on the lack of preliminary work and research by Bell Telephone in setting up the new VHF system appeared to be based more on heresay rather than actual knowledge on his part. His comments on the lack of news on broadcast radio about the movement and location of coastal boats are not accurate. At the time he made these comments, in fact, CBC Corner Brook was issuing bulletins daily on the location and movement of coastal boats.

George Poole

George Poole is a resident of Fox Harbour in St. Lewis Bay, a community of approximately 250 people 9 miles to the northeast of Mary's Harbour. He is the most articulate man in the community and is the leader of the community, although not a terribly popular leader. This unpopularity, however, is not because the community feels he distorts information on their behalf, but because of his egocentricity, aggressiveness, and what seems to many, a disproportionate control or involvement in the various services of the community. As far as his comments on communications are concerned, they are both accurate and fair, and would not be contradicted by anybody in Fox Harbour.

Norman Rumboldt

Mr. Rumboldt is a summertime resident of Matthew's Cove, near Battle Harbour and in more recent years a winter resident of Mary's Harbour. He is representative of a fisherman with average intelligence and limited education. Much of the interview with Mr. Rumboldt dealt with matters other than communications. He is included in the presentation because he does shed some interesting light on radio reception and the kind of programming that the average fisherman enjoys.

John Campbell

John Campbell has lived in a number of localities on the Labrador Coast, most of them in St. Michaels Bay. For the past 10 or 12 years Square Island has been his year-round residence. In fact, he and his family are the only residents of Square Island during the winter months. Campbell is representative of the dying breed of hardy, independent and self-sufficient "oldtimers". Although his statements on tape do not contribute any major new thoughts on the topic, he does show in a lively manner how much inter-community communications via RT means to himself and others who continue to live in the more isolated settlements and homesteads.

Raymond Ward

Raymond Ward lives in Norman Bay in the winter and Snug Harbour in the summer. These have been his homes all his life. His world experience extends little beyond this area. Although he has had no education and is illiterate, Raymond, despite his lack of contact with outsiders, loosens up easily with strangers and delights in being a raconteur. His statements about communications are simple and personalized, and represent truly the situation as he sees it.

Reverend Hettasch

Reverend Hettasch is a Moravian Missionary who was born on the Northern Coast of Labrador of missionary parents. After an education in Europe, he returned to Labrador in 1938 and has lived in nearly all of the northern communities since that time. He is now a resident of Nain. He speaks Eskimo fluently and has a deep concern and knowledge of life and problems in Northern Labrador. The interview with Reverend Hettasch dealt specifically with a rationale for a radio station at Nain. While he has and reveals in his conversation a proprietary paternalism towards the Eskimos, his statements about the needs and uses of such a station, abbreviated in the presentation, are a reflection of the ideas and wishes of both the Eskimos and settlers of Nain who were interviewed, although the strongest concern for such a station came from the Eskimos, while the settlers showed more concern for improved reception of Newfoundland stations and the Goose Bay station.

Father Peters

Father Peters came from the Netherlands to serve as priest and missionary to the Nascapi Indians of Davis Inlet, where he has been resident for the past twenty years. His discussion on tape covered many topics. The video presentation includes his statements on the Indians' use of radios at their hunting camps in the barrens and of the importance of the RTs used by the various agencies in Northern Labrador.

Frank Kelly

Frank Kelly has been a resident of Cartwright for the past 13 years. From Dublin, Ireland he came to Cartwright to work on the USAF radar site and has since become a local entrepreneur and contractor.

He is now President of the neophyte Coastal Labrador Regional Development Association. Through this organization he has come to know people in most of the communities of Southern Labrador. He reflects in the video interview a prime concern for content of, rather than technology of, communications. From experience of three years of listening to Southern Labradorians, Kelly's views on content, on communication between communities and communication on and off the coast, reflect those of most of the residents of the Southern coast of Labrador. There are a few comments in the interview, however, which require elaboration.

Like many coastal residents, Kelly speaks of being Canadian and having the right to enjoy all the services which other Canadians enjoy, a point of view unfortunately, which seldom includes an adequate consideration of how such services are to be paid for and by whom. In the interviews, Father Peters was the only person who asked this question.

Kelly's comments on radio reception at Cartwright need qualifying, because, as is the case in Fox Harbour and Mary's Harbour (as discussed by George Poole and Norman Rumboldt), reception varies considerably locally in relation to proximity of receivers to the power plant. For example, Newfoundland stations which Kelly said he could not receive, are received with much greater regularity in households across the harbour. Kelly's remarks are also now somewhat obsolete, because September installation of an LPRT at Cartwright, now brings in clearly the Goose Bay station which has also recently tied in with the CBC Newfoundland network. Likewise, his comments on routing of summer mail were negated in August when the CNR coastal boats started to pick up mail at Goose Bay. Most of Kelly's comments on summer mail in the video presentation were cut out because it was both irrelevant and confused.

CHAPTER 3

ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS NEEDS

TELEPHONES

The following table lists communities which now have VHF fringe radios or telephones, communities which have HF phones or radios operated by Bell Telephone Company of Canada and communities which have radio telephones operated by other agencies.

LOCATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS ON THE
EAST COAST OF LABRADOR

<u>COMMUNITY</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>BELL TELEPHONE</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
Henley Harbour	Summer	VHF	
Pitt's Arm	Winter	VHF	
Cape St. Charles	Summer	VHF	
Lodge Bay	Winter	VHF	
Battle Harbour	Summer	VHF	
Mary's Harbour	Year Round	VHF	DOT, EPA, IGA
Fox Harbour	Year Round	VHF	DOT
Port Hope Simpson	Year Round	VHF	DOT
William's Harbour	Summer	VHF	
George's Cove	Summer	VHF	DOT
Fishing Ships Harbour	Summer	VHF	DOT
Pinsent's Arm	Year Round	VHF	DOT
Square Island	Summer	VHF	
Charlottetown	Year Round	VHF	DOT, EPA

<u>COMMUNITY</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>BELL TELEPHONE</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
Triangle	Summer	HF	
Snug Harbour	Summer	VHF	
Tub Harbour	Summer	HF	
Frenchman's Island	Summer	HF	DOT
Batteau	Summer	HF	
Black Tickle	Year Round	HF	DOT, EPA
Spotted Island	Summer	HF	
Indian Tickle	Summer	HF	
Pack's Harbour	Summer	HF	
Cartwright	Year Round	HF	DOT, EPA, IGA RCMP, Forestry
Paradise River	Winter	HF	DOT
Eagle River	Year Round		DOT
Rigolet	Year Round	HF	NLSD
Makkovik	Year Round	HF	NLSD, IGA, Forestry
Postville	Year Round	HF	NLSD
Hopedale	Year Round	HF	NLSD, IGA, RCMP
Davis Inlet	Year Round	HF	NLSD, OMI
Nain	Year Round	HF	NLSD, IGA, RCMP
Smokey	Summer	HF	

Explanation...

- DOT - Department of Transport
- EPA - Eastern Provincial Airways
- IGA - International Grenfell Association
- NLSD - Northern Labrador Services Division
- OMI - Oblate Mission
- FORESTRY - Newfoundland Forest Service

A complete list of summer fishing stations without any form of telecommunications would have little meaning because many are not occupied every year and many have easy access to summer settlements with telecommunications. Such a list for the summer of 1970 would include over forty place names, of which half were occupied for only a short duration by Newfoundland fishermen who abandoned them when fish failed to appear. Many of these will not be reoccupied next summer. Those summer stations of a more permanent nature, without telecommunications, will be commented on later in the text.

Because those communities which received VHF phones had only had them in operation for two or three months at the time of the survey, there had not been enough elapsed time for interviewees to give a comprehensive evaluation. Without exception, all acknowledged that the new system was a vast improvement over the HF system. Remarkably little difficulty was experienced as might be expected in a transitional period. At first there was difficulty in obtaining tolls and in reaching the Corner Brook operators but these problems quickly ironed themselves out. The twelve communities using fringe radios, with six on one channel and six on a second channel, have experienced delays of up to two hours in getting through, however, which would create problems in an emergency situation. The system is not old enough to say much about reception failures, all people spoken to felt that such failures had been negligible.

There is a major problem in the fringe radio communities

not easy to resolve concerning incoming calls. The radio is operated by one person and is listed under his or her name. All incoming calls must therefore be person to person calls. The originating operator can or will only hold for one minute. In most cases, the receiving operator must send someone after the person called, a process which can easily take between a half an hour to an hour, by which time it may take another half an hour or more to reach the calling operator. In many instances, neither the calling party nor the receiving party can wait if there is other business at hand. Most people who raised this point did not do so as complaint, because they realized house phones would not be feasible in the fringe radio areas. In fact, their main concern in this situation was not in the inconvenience caused by such delays but in the high cost of personal calls. For example, Bart Penny pointed out that it cost \$1.00 to call person to person to Port Hope Simpson, only twenty-two miles away, and \$1.28 to call the nurse at Mary's Harbour. Thus, the news system in the fringe radio areas places a heavy financial burden on users who are among the lowest income groups in the country.

Another example of the high cost of the new phone system upon the user is the cost of sending telegrams, which must now go by phone to CNT in Goose Bay. Raymond Ward told of a man who travelled to Snug Harbour from Venison Island to send a telegram. He sent a telegram because the round trip by boat consumed an hour and a half and he could not wait to place a call because he had to return to his nets. The message went to Galt, Ontario and it contained seventeen words. It had to be routed by phone to Goose Bay via L'Anse au Loup

and Corner Brook. Because reception was weak, it took eight minutes to get the message across. The message cost \$2.23 and the phone call cost \$3.20 for a total of \$5.43 for a seventeen word message.

Reverend Lewis's suggestion that CNT be reached by a toll-free zenith number merits consideration in view of these costs.

NORTHERN LABRADOR

All of the Northern Coast of Labrador, with the exception of Hopedale (which is VHF through the Pole Vault site) remains on the HFRT system, as do the communities in the Cartwright area except for the village of Cartwright which will soon be tied in with the Pole Vault site there. The weaknesses of the HFRT system are well known and repeated by all, i.e. that there is no privacy, that there is frequent propagation or equipment failure, that there is overcrowding of the channels in peak evening hours, and that in the smaller settlements there are limited hours of the day in which the system is operational. That is not to say that the system is not appreciated, but progress breeds discontent and many of the people in those communities with HFRTs express hope for the improved VHF system. As mentioned previously, Father Peters was the only man who asked, "Whose going to pay for it?"

Propagation failure in Northern Labrador is not crucial in case of emergencies, because local agencies (Northern Labrador Services Division and International Grenfell Association) operate their own chain of radio telephones which provide a reliable back-up

to the phone system. Such is not the case in the Cartwright area outside of the village of Cartwright itself.

There remains, despite real progress in the past decade, a number of serious gaps where no telecommunications of any kind exists. Rexon's Cove, Norman Bay and North River are winter communities in this category, where at the very least a simple HFRT is needed for emergencies, even if the smallness of these communities and an uncertain future does not justify the expenditure of the more costly VHF fringe radios. Although most of the summer stations in Southern Labrador which have no telecommunications are within ten miles of communities which do, West Bay and Gready, thirty and twenty-five miles away from such facilities, should have HFRTs also for emergency purposes.

There is a need for emergency telecommunications facilities in Northern Labrador also. The summer stations in the Makkovik, Postville and Hopedale areas are mostly within fifteen miles of radio telephones, but the winter pattern of the Nascapi Indians at Davis Inlet and the summer and winter patterns of the Nain Eskimos and settlers find those populations widely scattered from the centres. The Indians camp in the barrens for three or four months of winter caribou hunting, sometimes over one hundred and fifty miles from Davis Inlet. The Nain summer cod fishery and autumn seal fishery take place twenty to thirty-five miles from Nain, while the Arctic char fishery takes camps into the fiords as far as three hundred miles north of Nain. Perhaps small portable transmitters and receivers

tuned to the NLSD frequency could provide for emergencies at these places. The feasibility of the Arctic char camps transmitting into the Saglek Pole Vault site might be investigated, if those camps are too remote to reach Nain with small transmitters.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, NLSD & IGA RADIO TELEPHONE SERVICES

Five of the interviewees on video-tape discussed the importance of DOT, NLSD and IGA scheduled RT services. In addition, of the seventy to seventy-five people who discussed communications during the survey period, all but those in the Cartwright area reiterated or reflected the ideas about these services as articulated by the five interviewees. For most of the population, these services provided a dependable, and free listening post for village to village news, shipping information, aircraft traffic, availability and location of fish and wildlife, news of death and sickness among friends and relatives and general gossip. In addition, these services have served as an important emergency back-up to the Bell Telephone system. They have now been greatly curtailed in the Mary's Harbour region with the advent of the new VHF Bell Telephone system, with a consequent loss of general community contact.

Perhaps the most valid specific complaint, is the loss of detailed information on movement of coastal freighter traffic, but it is no less important than the need for general inter-community contact. There is an apparent contradiction on the video-tape interviews, where lack of privacy is lamented on the old Bell Telephone

system and lack of public news is lamented on the DOT system. This can be explained by the fact that the function of each differs. Most of the traffic passed on the DOT, NLS and IGA schedules is of a general nature dealing with matters of concern to all, while telephones are used primarily for personal and private purposes.

Unless alternate means of inter-community communications are established such as community radio broadcast stations, curtailment of these services, especially DOT services in the Mary's Harbour region, seriously deprives the Coastal Labrador people of news and information of great importance to them. In the Mary's Harbour region, the plea is not to ask DOT to maintain its services, which was primarily for passing paid telegrams, but to allow the operators of the DOT sets to continue to operate on a private basis without cost to DOT. It is not likely that this would lessen revenues for Bell Telephone Company of Canada, because the function of the two systems will remain separate and should bring about no reduction in the use of telephones.

RADIO AND TELEVISION

Interviewees and people in general had very little to say about television because it is not received on the Labrador Coast. Those who have had the opportunity to see television elsewhere, recognize its potential and feel that it would be a good thing on the Labrador Coast. For most coastal residents, the only television they have seen has been on Memorial University's VTR unit. The reactions

have, at times, been startling, one instance in particular when an elderly man at Seal Island actually started to talk to his friend as he watched him on video-tape. Surely, there must be little argument against the need for the Labrador Coast to receive broadcast television along with all other areas in Canada not now having accessibility to it.

Of all the topics discussed in regard to communications, reception of broadcast radio stations, especially Newfoundland stations, prompted the greatest disagreement and variety of comments. This is so, mainly because reception does vary a great deal from locality to locality. At Mary's Harbour, for example, reception was considered generally poor, with considerable interference from the local power plant. Furthermore, the new transmitter at St. Anthony, which boosts CBC Corner Brook, tends to cut across other bands and cut out stations which were formally received (for example the Grand Falls stations). On the other hand, Matthew's Cove only fourteen miles from Mary's Harbour, has good reception of most Newfoundland stations. Other communities with uncommonly good reception in Southern Labrador include Black Tickle and Paradise River. None of the coastal communities in both Northern and Southern Labrador receive the CBC station at Goose Bay with any dependability. Sandwich Bay is an exception now because of the new LPRT located at Cartwright.

Reception of mainland Canadian stations also varies from locality to locality and on the whole is sporadic and confined mostly

to night reception. Often U.S.A. stations and Radio Godthaab, in Greenland, are more frequently and more clearly received on the Labrador Coast than are Canadian and Newfoundland stations.

The Newfoundland, CBC network, now reaches Southern Labrador consistently because of the St. Anthony transmitter and LPRT at Cartwright. LPRTs will be needed in Northern Labrador to improve reception there. It is important that this need be met because Newfoundland and Labrador news from Goose Bay is considered the greatest need by coastal residents. In discussing content, local Labrador news, Newfoundland news, the Fisherman and Farmer's Broadcast from St. John's, and the various "Open Line" broadcasts from Newfoundland were most frequently mentioned (in that order) as the main listening interest along the coast, second to "Hockey Night in Canada", which was the run away favourite.

The need for a local community owned and operated radio station at Nain is detailed on video-tape by Reverend Hettasch. Local FM or AM stations at other communities should be considered and investigated also.

CHAPTER 4

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Establishment of a Communications Committee composed of one representative from each of the following communities - Port Hope Simpson, Cartwright, Makkovik, Hopedale and Nain. This committee could meet periodically with the various communications agencies. The expenses for such meetings should be met by these agencies. The representatives on the committee should be chosen by the people in the areas which they would represent, but they need not necessarily be native residents.
2. RT emergency equipment should be installed at Raxon's Cove, Norman Bay, North River and West Bay. One should also be available for Gready, so long as that station remains occupied by Newfoundland and Labrador fishermen.
3. Boosting of TV transmission from St. Anthony and Goose Bay to provide broadcast television for the Labrador Coast as soon as possible, should be considered as an interim measure until the satellite program will be able to fulfill this need.
4. All D.O.T. RT sets should be turned over to the operators who now have them on the coast. These operators should be licensed to use them for scheduled and emergency village to-village communications. The cost of operation would be borne by the owners.
5. A toll-free zenith number should be established for phoning telegrams to CNT at Goose Bay from the Labrador Coast.

6. Public pay phones should be placed in Cape St. Charles, Battle Harbour, Square Island, and William's Harbour.
7. Static Suppressors designed to cut out radio reception interference should be placed in power plants at Mary's Harbour, Fox Harbour, Port Hope Simpson, Cartwright, Makkovik, Postville, Hopedale, Davis Inlet and Nain.
8. A licensed, community-owned and operated AM radio station should be established at Nain, strong enough to reach from Saglek to Makkovik.
9. The CBC radio station at Frobisher Bay should be boosted to beam Northern News Service more effectively to the Labrador Coast.
10. The feasibility of providing portable RT sets for the Arctic char fishing camps in the Torngat Mt. region, to feed through existing facilities at Saglek should be investigated.
11. A questionnaire survey should be conducted to determine the ship-to-shore radio needs of longliner fishermen on the Labrador coast. These longliners come mainly from St. Anthony, Anchor Point, Port au Choix and West Ste. Modeste in the Strait of Belle Isle area.
12. Year-round ~~air~~mail service should be established to assure once weekly mail.

