

**OPPORTUNITY FOR MASTERS STUDY AT THE
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND**

Research Area: **Impact Assessment (IA) Efficiency for Clean Growth Projects in NL**

Supervisors: **Dr. Steve Bonnell, Dr. Keith Storey (+ Another TBD)**

The Department of Geography is offering one (1) funded studentship for an MA or MSc student to work in the area of improved IA efficiency for clean growth projects, commencing in Spring or Fall 2025.

An initial overview of the proposed research topic is provided below, for illustrative and discussion purposes. This will be subject to further definition by the student, in consultation with the supervisors and funding organization(s), in the initial stages of the research.

Early inquiries and expressions of interest from prospective students are welcomed, addressed to:

Dr. Steve Bonnell

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This opportunity will be partially funded through an external grant (and is therefore subject to final funding decisions and availability).

**IMPROVING IMPACT ASSESMENT EFFICIENCY FOR CLEAN GROWTH PROJECTS
IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**

Newfoundland and Labrador has an important and growing clean growth sector, which includes proposed and potential development activities in onland and offshore wind, hydroelectric and other types of renewable generation, as well as associated hydrogen / ammonia production, carbon capture and storage, critical minerals exploration and mining, and other initiatives aimed at reducing carbon emissions.

Impact assessment (IA) is an important and widely used process for identifying and addressing the potential environmental and socioeconomic consequences of proposed development activities. Recent years have seen increased IA application to proposed developments associated with the energy transition, reflecting growing interest and activity in these sectors to help address climate change requirements and obligations. It is important that IA processes be viewed and used as enablers of informed and timely decisions about such developments, and not be seen as regulatory impediments to good and necessary projects moving forward in the manner - and according to the timeframes - that we need them to. This will require, however, that some important and enduring issues around IA efficiency be addressed, including various procedural and methodological aspects of current IA practice.

This research will investigate key factors that may be contributing to these IA efficiency issues, as well as potential approaches for future improvements to IA processes and practice in that regard. This will include a particular focus on possible digitalization approaches to improve the effectiveness and efficiency with which IA information is identified, compiled, presented and reviewed, and possible implications for the robustness and timeliness of eventual IA decisions.