Presentation Outline

• Overview of Newfoundland and Labrador and TCII
  o Population and Economy
  o Provincial Business Innovation Agenda

• RIS Research in NL

• RIS Pilot Initiatives in NL
Economy

- 2017 exports from Newfoundland and Labrador were worth $10.2B, up from $8.4B in 2016
- Primary goods exported: Oil, Seafood, Minerals, Paper, and Electricity
- Traditional Industries: Fishery, Forestry, Mining, O&G
- Emerging Industries: Technology, Aquaculture, Ocean Tech.
Government of NL reset the focus on innovation with release of a new Business Innovation Agenda, 2018:

1. Product Development and Commercialization
2. Productivity
3. Growth and Internationalization
4. Workforce Skills and Talent

Recent collapse of oil prices created sense of urgency.
Ocean Supercluster

• Industry-led consortia taking leadership for Canada's selected superclusters

• Potential for $125-$250M in non-repayable federal funding

• Investing in incremental activities that build on strengths and address gaps

• Ocean Supercluster (OSC) collaboration:
  1. Shared interest in technology-driven solutions to enhance the ability of Canada’s ocean-based firms.
  2. Success requires a deliberate cluster-building strategy to drive innovation more collaboratively.
Regional Innovation Systems Research in Rural NL

- Local research led by Memorial University using social network analysis and RIS
- Investigated social capital and network ties in rural areas
- Findings include gap in collaboration between key participants e.g., tourism operators and support organizations, municipalities, etc.
- Recommendations: understanding commonalities, better communication, promotion of existing assets, growing relationships
Territorial Innovation Models on Northern Peninsula, NL
(Carter & Vodden 2017)

- Reviewed applicability of territorial innovation models (i.e. regional innovation systems, quadruple helix) are for remote rural regions like Great Northern Peninsula
  - Strong focus on agglomeration economies excludes many rural regions
  - Partnership between business, NGOs, government, & educational institutions
- Weak and dispersed private sector, low municipal capacity identified as key barriers for these models in rural places
- Paper recommends efforts to strengthen regional governance capacity and entrepreneurship and suggests entrepreneurial ecosystem model may be more applicable approach for rural
Goals of RIS3 Pilots
Each pilot to identify three or four common and attainable initiatives.

Objectives of the RIS3 pilots:
• Enhance connectivity;
• Identify opportunities to explore innovations for adaptation and adoption for existing and new technologies;
• Foster greater global opportunities and global pipelines;
• Encourage further collaboration between wider entrepreneurial actors.
Information and knowledge exchange (EDP)

- Knowledge sharing and brainstorming of Steering Committee
- Guest speakers who are industry or academic experts
- Submission of existing reports
- Generation of reports if requested
- TCII’s role is to provide logistical and administrative support
Visioning and Priority Identification

- Degree of visioning exercises vary
- Some sectors completed extensive strategic planning processes previously
- Opportunity Identification & Management – decision making tool
Early Observations

- Most pilots have very sparse populations, most under 30,000.
- Most pilots are primarily composed of micro or small SME’s – maybe finding RIS3 approach difficult to understand.
- Pilots in larger populated areas with well defined sectors, moving forward faster.
- The progress & information requirements for the various steps varied depending sector and/or region.
Early Opportunities Being Explored

Forestry & Agriculture

- New strategic initiative to develop a centralized facility that will benefit both sectors
- Build on existing energy cogeneration capability of pulp and paper mill
- Explore innovative opportunities to expand capacity and efficiencies for both sectors related to operations, new product and market opportunities
- Opportunity to build on collaboration with academic R&D with greater input of industry players
Early Opportunities Being Explored

Ocean Technology
- Greater collaboration among existing industry players
- Explore areas to increase value-added products and services
- Build on existing testing and research facilities to fill infrastructure gaps
- Opportunity to dovetail with other Federal initiatives
Status of Pilots

- Staggered launch dates for all pilots
- Total of 81 Steering Committee members identified with 77 confirmed for all pilots – 35 businesses.
- Two pilots are near identification and prioritization of action items
- Other pilots still Entrepreneurial Discovery Process stage
- Continue on monitoring and evaluation process
Conclusions

- Still early stages and ongoing
- All pilots may not realize its objectives
- People are asking questions and are staying engaged
- Genuine interest to see this through - see where it leads
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Thank you