Beyond the Economy: Foundations of Out-Migration and Rotational Migration in an Atlantic Canadian Town

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What conditions within a community contribute to and allow for circular migration?

What are perceived as the social and economic implications of such rotational migrations upon family and community?
The Strait Area
Port Hawkesbury and The Strait Area

- Heavily industrialized.

- Unique history of industrialization which shares commonalities with current conditions in Fort McMurray

- Currently undergoing a period of relative economic decline and deindustrialization

- Local population has a history of out-migration and temporary migration to other areas and sectors

- Large number of individuals involved in rotational labour migrations to work camps in Fort McMurray
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Workmen Make It Official by Changing Signs At Port Hawkesbury
Cultural values as a result of deindustrialization in the Strait Area

- A valorization of industrial work.
- A familiarity with economic instability.
- The lingering promise of industrial development.
Questions for further research:

- What forms of decision-making processes take place prior to the commencement of cycles of rotational migration?

- How is rotational migration impacting upon family dynamics?

- What are the individual intentions of migration?

- How do cycles of migration to Northern Alberta compare with previous migrations from the area?