The Harris Centre Model for Connecting Knowledge and Ideas Province-wide – and beyond!

Presentation to Hebron Public Review Commission

December 5, 2011

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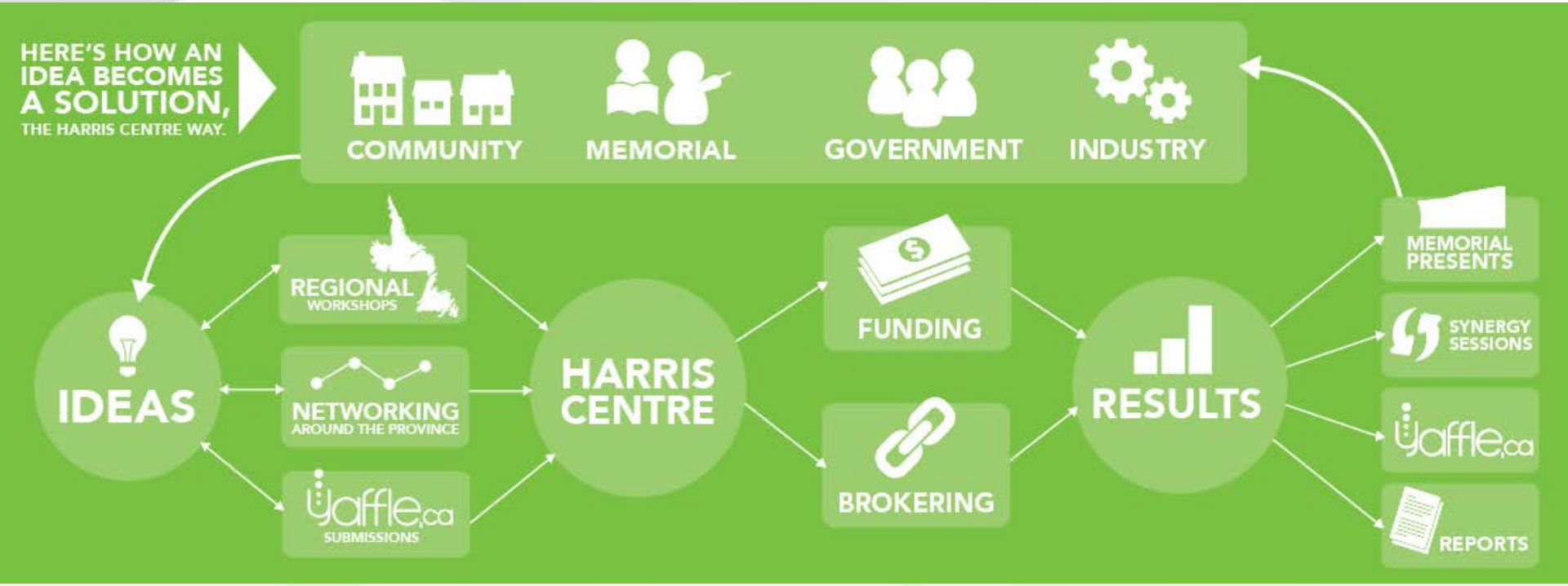
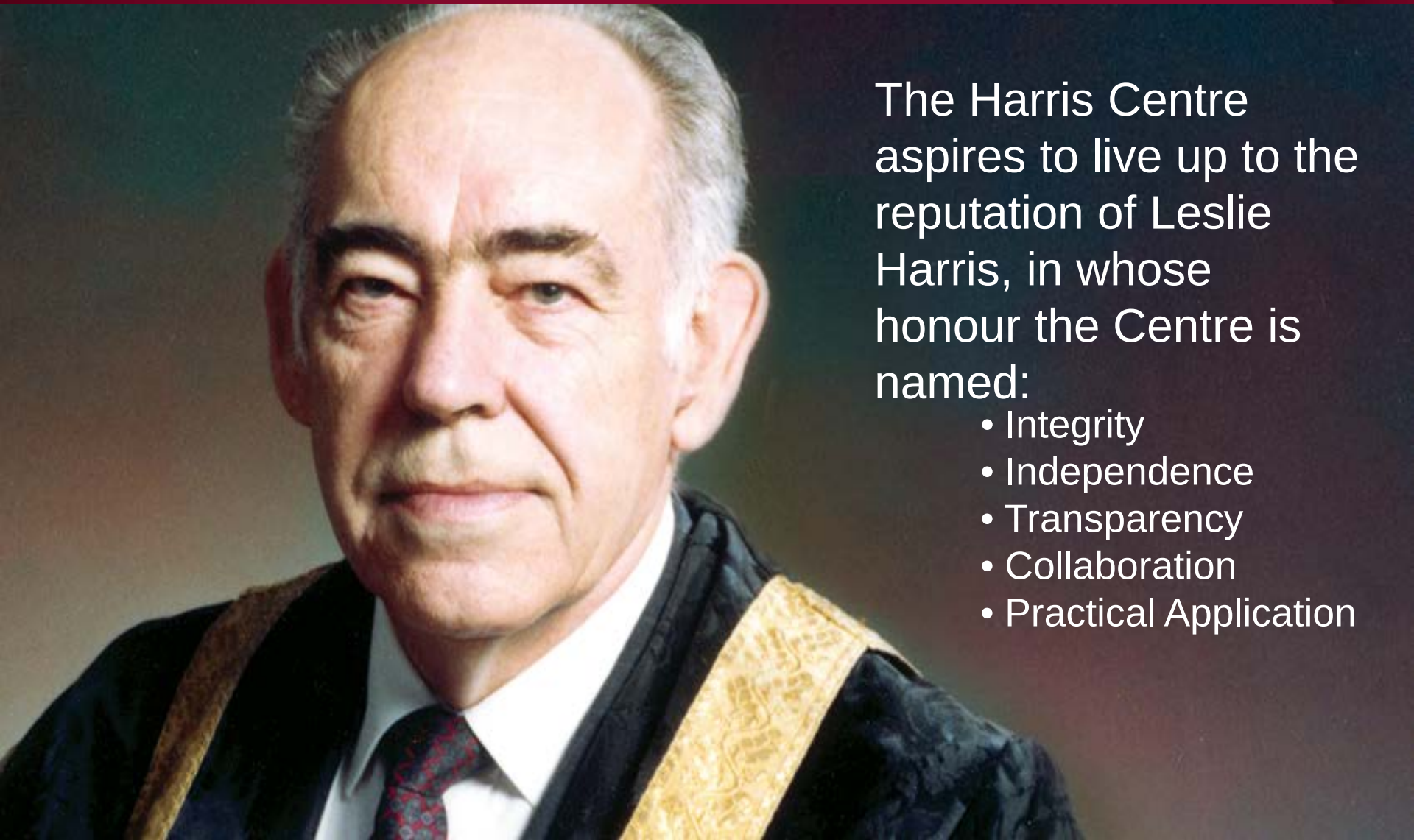


Harris Centre Values



The Harris Centre aspires to live up to the reputation of Leslie Harris, in whose honour the Centre is named:

- Integrity
- Independence
- Transparency
- Collaboration
- Practical Application

Harris Centre Mandate

- Established October 2004
- Coordinate and Facilitate the University's Activities Relating to Regional Policy and Development
- Advise on Building the University's Capacity
- Identify Priority Themes and Projects relating to:
  - Teaching
  - Research
  - Outreach
- Emerging role: Honest Broker

Harris Centre Strategic Goals

Goal 1: Research
Stimulate more research in regional policy and development

Goal 2: Education
Stimulate education in regional policy and development at Memorial University

Goal 3: Engagement
Generate greater interaction of Memorial University faculty, students and staff with stakeholder needs and opportunities

Goal 4: Capacity
Establish Memorial University as a recognized centre of excellence in regional policy and development

Goal 5: Operations
Establish Harris Centre operations for long-term success

Knowledge Mobilization:

Harris Centre Perspective

- Continuum of inside-out, outside-in and co-production

Ideally:

- Engage stakeholders to define issues / needs / opportunities
- Involve partners in knowledge generation
- Ground-truth findings to inform conclusions
- Recognize independence of researcher
- Dissemination / application have many champions…

Harris Centre

Knowledge Mobilization Programs and Initiatives

- Public Presentations
- Invitation-only Sessions
- Targeted Research Funding
- Knowledge Exchange
- Packaging Research to Meet Needs
- Regional Workshops
- New Opportunity Identification: “one-pagers”
- Yaffle.ca

Responding to the Community: Example

Leading Tickles Marine Protected Area (MPA)

Exploits Valley Regional Economic Development Board

Requests Graduate Student research related to Leading Tickles MPA

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Harris Centre circulates "one pager" on opportunity

Biology faculty member responds

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DFO - Memorial collaborative research agreement on MPA's

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The results

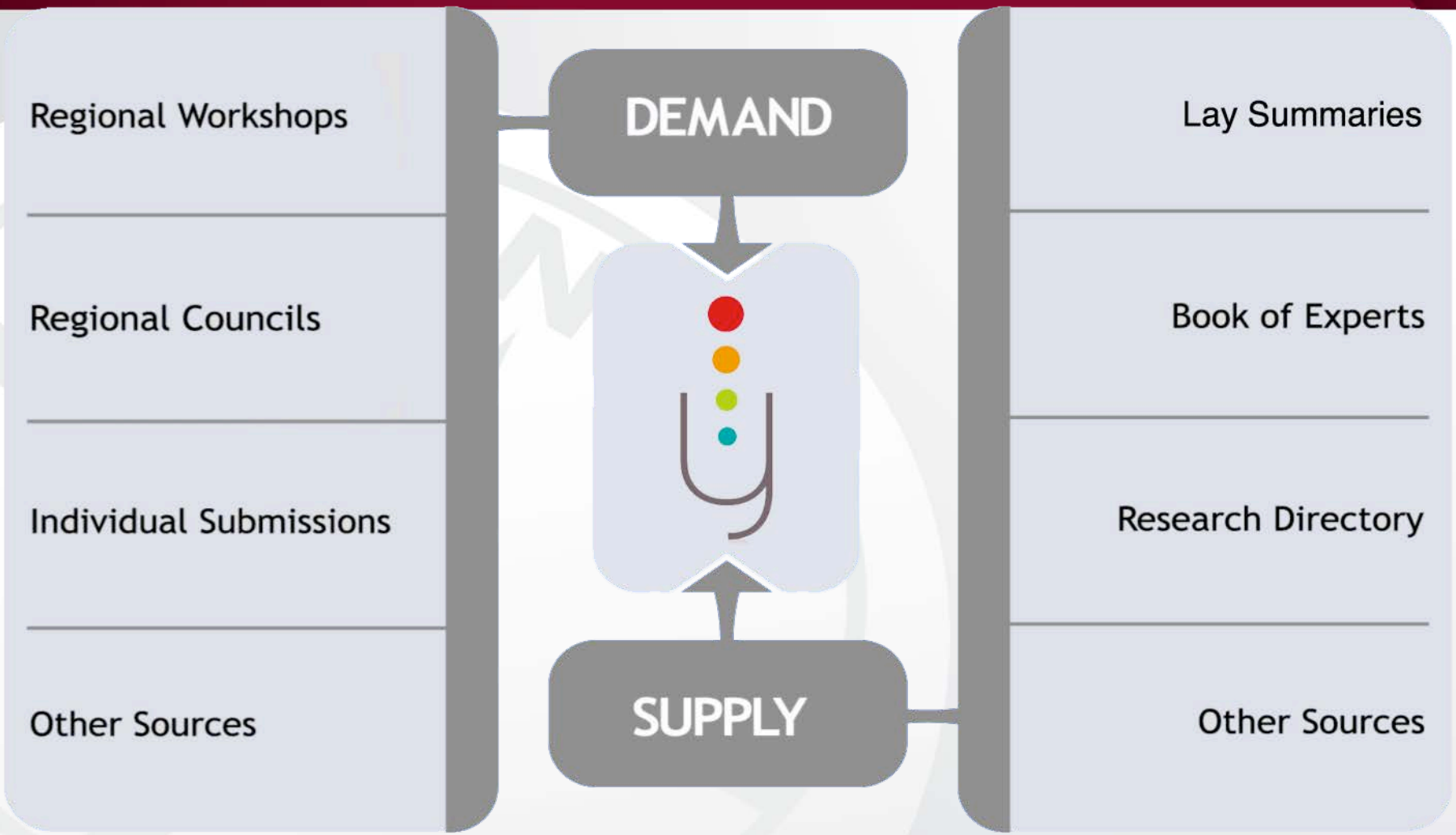
Funding for graduate student research

Research on MPA's for improved fishery/coastal sustainability

Some one-pager successes

- Over 75 faculty connected;
- New ferry design for Strait of Belle Isle;
- Theatre training with kids in Lab West;
- Studying Boom and Bust in Northern Mining Towns (SSHRC);
- Alternate energy in two northern Labrador communities;
- Studying male underachievement in the education system;
- Four seminars on e-marketing (paired leaders), approx 200 businesses;
- SIFE student team working with aboriginal youth on financial sustainability of a cultural museum;
- Dialogues (e.g., regional cooperation, historical significance);
- Feasibility Studies (Bottled Water, Bacon-Wrapped Scallops);
- KT: (e.g., Agriculture in Stephenville; sheep farmers coyote management in Placentia)

A ‘marketplace’ for information



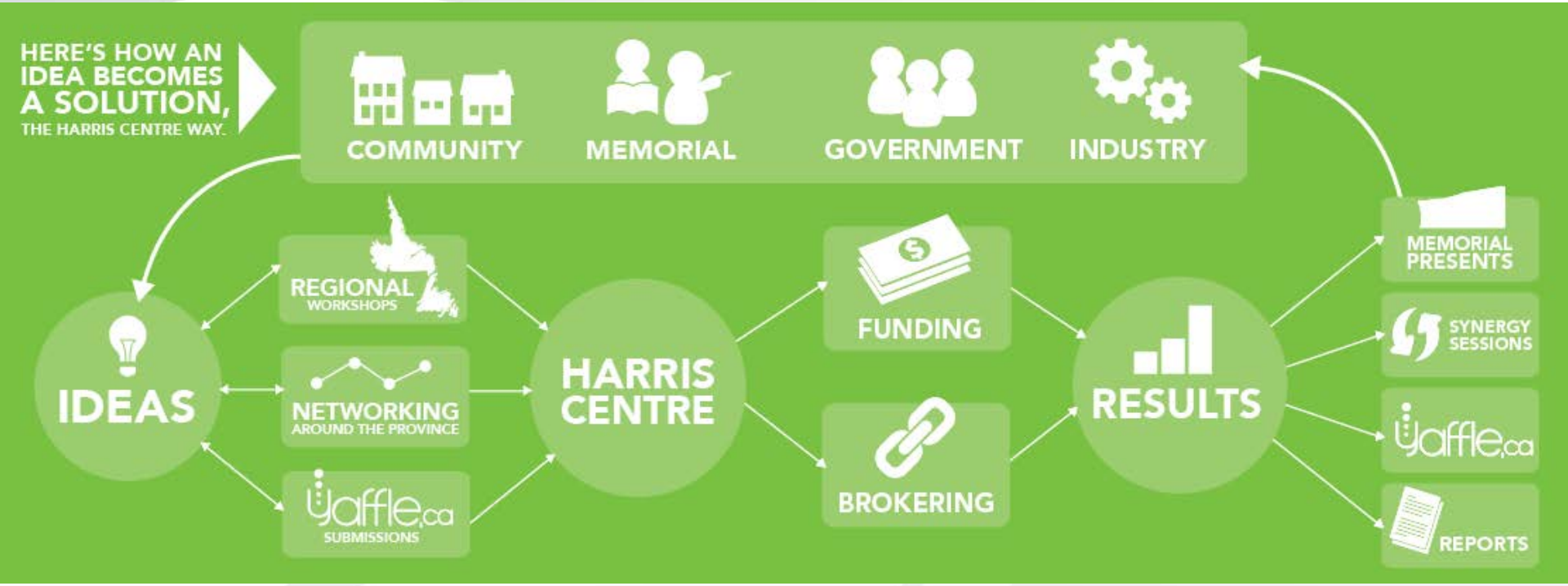
Yaffle Today

- Over 95,000 searches since public launch (Feb. 2009)
  - Accessed from 181 countries over 6 continents
  - Average of 125 users per day
- Graduate Students using Yaffle for thesis topics
- MITACS Identification of Internships
- Government, Community and Media constant users
- 2011 (so far) – over 20 new brokered projects
- University of Alberta interest in adopting Yaffle; discussions under way
- Extension of Yaffle outside Memorial to research and knowledge mobilization partners within NL

Leveraging applied research

- **6 Research Funds:**
  - Applied Research Fund
  - Strategic Partnership
  - MMSB Solid Waste Management
  - RBC Rural & Remote Drinking Water
  - ACOA Standing Offer
  - DFO Marine Protected Areas
- 86 research projects supported
- $1.7 M allocated to research projects
- Applied Research Fund evaluation showed $313,000 leveraged $ 5.4 M

Examples of Research Topics

- Wireless sensor networks for forest monitoring
- Regional governance on the Great Northern Peninsula
- Turnaround migration between the Burin Peninsula and Northern Alberta
- Family friendly policies in N&L
- Groundwater quality of private wells in Western NL
- Production of biomaterials from solid biomass wastes for the mining industry
- Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy in the EU

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