

In other words, it is a mistake to think that there has to be any direct link between a region's resources and the size of population it can or should sustain.

Export staple developments are critical elements in the development of those regions which have resource bases. The question, however, is to what degree do the staple industries and their derivatives dominate and control the process of economic development? More comprehensive approaches to economic development attach a great deal of significance to the role of indigenous service industries and import-competing industries of a region in the economic growth process. Improvements in the quantity and quality of the supply of inputs to these industries, improvements in their technology, innovations, improvements in the management, improvements in productivity and profitability are regarded as very important contributors in their own right -- not just as an element derivative from the export staples industries. Central to our report is the discovery of evidence that this more balanced or comprehensive approach to development has genuine merit. While the recently published five-year plan of the Newfoundland government is a splendid piece of work, it is accurate to say that it gives relatively more emphasis to export staples and to particular approaches to managing, owning, and capturing the revenues from export staples than does our report. While the provincial government portrays natural resources almost as the only anchor by which the province can gain the leverage needed to force employment opportunity to come to Newfoundland, our report sees additional ways by which normal market forces can be used to increase employment.