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Rob is Executive Director, Engagement for Memorial University, where is leading the development of an Engagement Framework for the University. He is also founding director of The Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development, which was launched on October 1st, 2004. The Harris Centre's mandate is to coordinate and facilitate Memorial University's educational, research and outreach activities in the areas of regional policy and development.

Rob has operated his own consulting business and has served as a Director and Assistant Deputy Minister of Policy in Economic Development departments in Newfoundland and Labrador and in Saskatchewan. He was Vice President, Corporate Development, Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan, and was founding Director of the Sustainable Communities Initiative, a partnership of the University of Regina, the City of Regina, and the National Research Council of Canada.

Rob holds a Ph.D. in Industrial and Business Studies from the University of Warwick, England, which he attended as a Commonwealth Scholar and an Institute of Social and Economic Research Doctoral Fellow. He was Newfoundland's representative on the International Advisory Board of the North Atlantic Islands Program and co-edited *Competing Strategies of Socio-Economic Development for Small Islands*, published in 1998. He is also co-editor of *Remote Control: Lessons in Governance for and from Small, Insular and Remote Regions*, published in 2009. He has taught, consulted, published and presented extensively on community economic and regional development, strategic economic planning, sectoral and cluster development and knowledge mobilization.