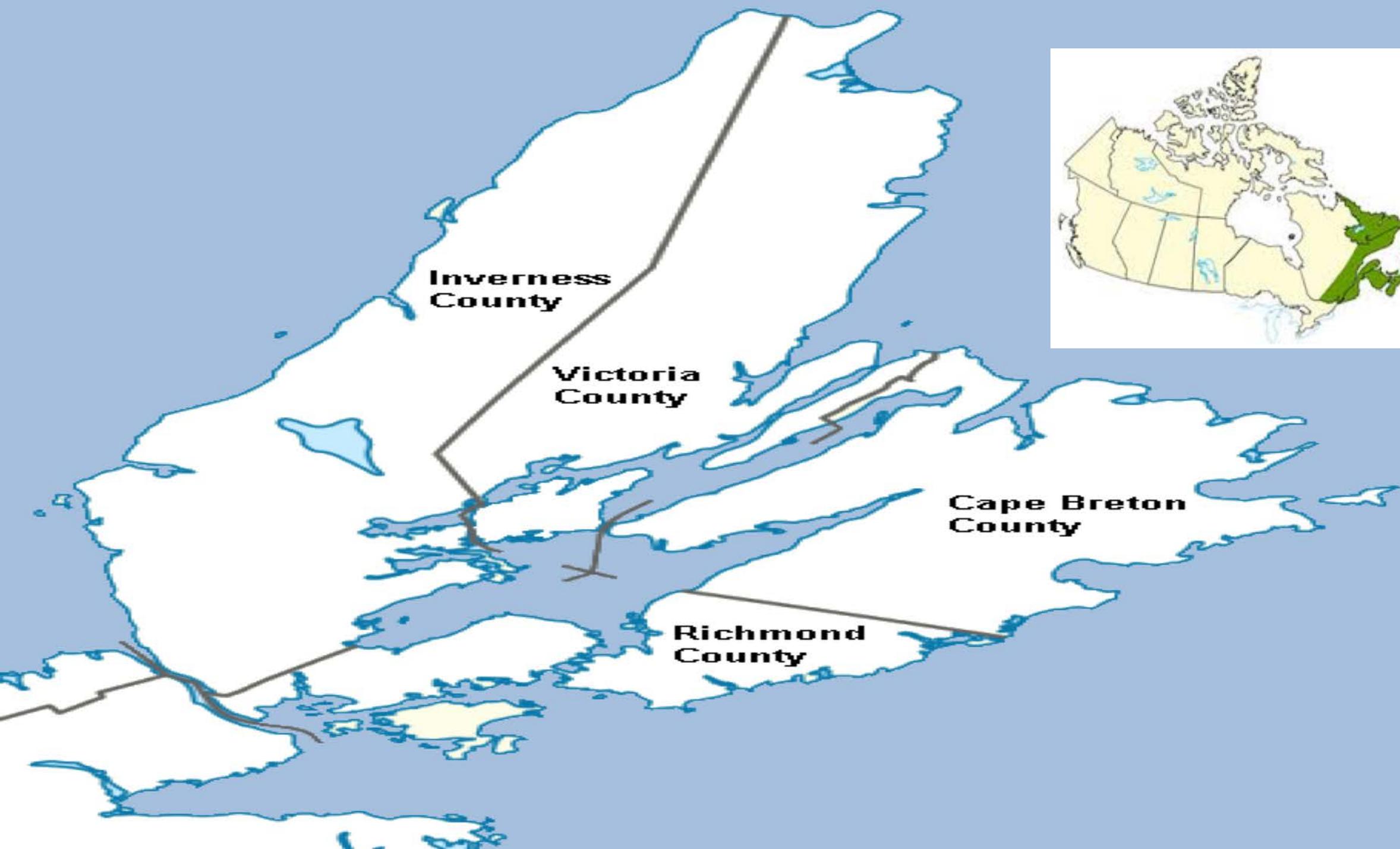


## "I Owe My Soul: An Examination of Appalachian and Canadian Coal-Mining Communities"

- By
- Angela Spiers Ed.D,  
LPCC-S, NCC
- Lawrence Crouch  
LPCC, Ph.D
- Ralph Turner Ed.D,
- Ann Burns Ed.D,
- Jacob Hurd







# Appalachian Region

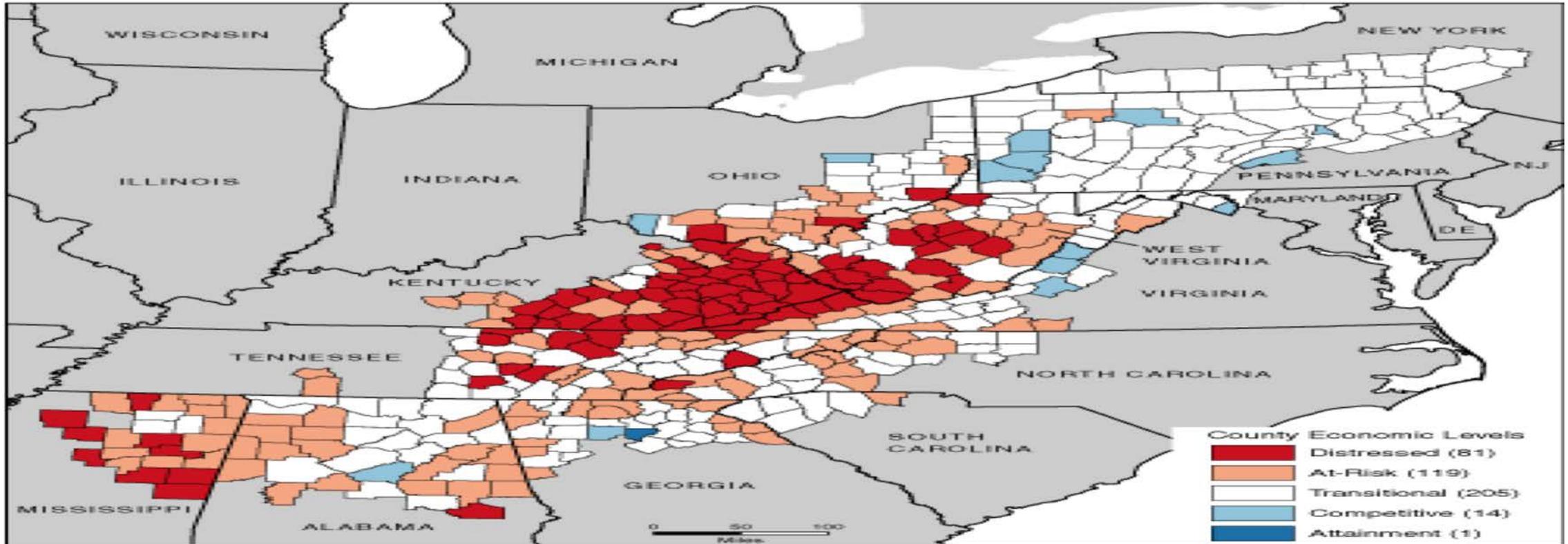
**The Appalachian Region**, as defined in ARC's authorizing legislation, is a 205,000-square-mile region that follows the spine of the Appalachian Mountains from southern New York to northern Mississippi.

- **It includes all of West Virginia and parts of 12 other states: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky (54/120):, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.**
- **Also, the mountains expand into Canada. the locations are Newfoundland, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick**
- 42% percent of the Region's population is rural, compared with 20% of the national population.
- The Appalachian Region's economy, once highly dependent on mining, forestry, agriculture, chemical industries, and heavy industry, has become more diversified in recent times, and now includes manufacturing and professional service industries. Its poverty rate, 31 percent in 1960, was 16.7 percent over the 2012-2016 period.
- The number of high-poverty counties in the Region (those with poverty rates more than 1.5 times the U.S. average) declined from 295 in 1960 to 93 over the 2012-2016 period.



# Appalachian Counties--Economic Status

[https://www.arc.gov/research/MapsofAppalachia.asp?MAP\\_ID=148](https://www.arc.gov/research/MapsofAppalachia.asp?MAP_ID=148)



Created by the Appalachian Regional Commission, August 2018

Data Sources:

Unemployment data: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, LAUS, 2014–2016

Income data: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, REIS, 2016

Poverty data: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012–2016

Effective October 1, 2018  
through September 30, 2019

# Eastern Canada--Economic Status



Canada is home to 24 permitted coal mines – 19 of which are currently in operation. They're located in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia.

In Canada, the history of commercial coal mining dates back nearly three centuries

Coal dust also presented a major health hazard for underground miners, causing respiratory ailments such as silicosis and black lung disease (pneumoconiosis). In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many killed by, or exposed to, hazardous dust.

## Culture, Poverty and Education in the Appalachian Region



### Barriers to Growth -Intrinsic and Extrinsic

- Geographic and social isolation
- Relationship of the people to the land
- Value of “kinship” ties
- The relevance of schooling (“Livin’s more important than school”)
- A stagnant economy
- Distrust of outsiders and government
- Powerlessness and reluctance to change
- Fatalism
- Results of political and economic exploitation

[Elam, C. (2002). Culture, poverty and education in appalachian Kentucky. *Education and Culture*, 18(1), p. 10. ]



# Mental Health

## Appalachian Mountains

- Suicide rate is 17% higher than the national rate
  - Depression
  - Addiction
    - more than 1 in 10 live in a SUD Home
- (Elder & Robinson, 2018)

## Eastern Canada

- Addiction, depression, ptsd
- assistance needed
- Mental illness affects one in five people (over 200,000 Nova Scotians)
- The impact of mental health on Canadian society is staggering, affecting an estimated one in five Canadians and costing the economy at least \$50 billion a year.
- Waits are at some of the longest they've been since 2012 at some hospitals and clinics in Nova scotia.

# Social Cultural Ramifications

## Counselor and Educational implications

- Spousal abuse rate
  - More than one in three women and more than one in four men in the United States have experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime

## Education effects

- Faculty and staff are finding more government grants to assist in meeting needs for children in neglect

## Counselor and Educational implications

- Access to social services or counseling
- Pressure on Teachers for 'filling in' for lack of services

## Community churches

- Supplying food banks and donations to families in need
- social culture of accepting assistance stigma

Grandparents in the U.S. Region	Total grandparents living with grandchildren (thousands)	With caregiving responsibility (thousands)	Percent
U.S.	5,772	2,427	42
Non-Appalachian U.S.	5,370	2,227	41
Metropolitan areas	4,541	1,791	39
Nonmetropolitan Areas	829	436	53
Appalachia	402	199	50
Metropolitan Appalachia area	227	108	48
Appalachia	175	91	52
Distress	57	32	56
Attainment	52	23	44
Competitive	40	18	46
Transitional	253	126	50
North	145	65	45
South	217	112	42
Central	40	22	55

Mather, M. (2004)



# Child abuse & neglect

In 2017 52 states reported 673,830/74,312,174 children

Child abuse and neglect

Physical 18.3%,

Sexual 8.6%,

Neglect 74.9% (food, emotional, daily needs)

Approximately 8% of the U.S. POP.(24.9 million Americans) lives in the Appalachian Region.

- 65% reported experiencing significant trauma with the majority experiencing childhood trauma
  - 15% had been assaulted as adults
  - 11% had witnessed severe or fatal violence
- (American Psychiatric Association, 2018)

According to my parents this is how they got to and from school everyday



# Dialect and Traditions

## Appalachian

## Eastern Canada Dialect

Appalachian English (mountain talk)

- Created by Scotch-Irish mainly settled

Traditions

- Celebrating holidays with their family
- Story telling
- Music
- Never meet a stranger

Cape Breton

Traditions

- Celebrating holidays with their family
- Story telling
- Music
- Tea, get togethers
- Never meet a stranger

# Dancing and Music

## Eastern Canada

- Fiddle music
- Irish Celtic sound
- Step Dancing and Square Dancing

*Muscle and blood and  
skin and bones  
A mind that's weak and  
a back that's strong*

## Appalachia

- Square dancing
- Clogging
- Clogging traces back 700 years in Europe. The biggest festival and hall of fame for clogging is in Maggie Valley North Carolina.
- Appalachia music is a way of storytelling/ folk story (Mahoney, 2014).
  - Bluegrass
  - Country
  - Mountain music



# Coal Camps



## Appalachia

- Housing
- Company store
- pay
  - Script
  - Workers would exchange their pay for goods and services at the company store. For example,
    - Pickaxe, shovel, mining helmet, lighter fluid, groceries, etc.
    - company would hire gunman to maintain order.

## Eastern Canada

- Housing
- Company Store
- pay
  - Bobtail sheet
- Workers would exchange their pay for goods and services at the company store.

For example,

- Pickaxe, shovel, mining helmet, lighter fluid, groceries, etc



# Dangers in mines

- CAVE COLLAPSE
- WATER
- OXYGEN
- EQUIPMENT
- PHYSICAL DAMAGE ON KNEES AND BACK
- Canary in Coal Mine



# Mortality Rate

## Appalachia

Higher Mortality rate 37% higher than the national (Elder & Robinson, 2018).

Black Lung mortality rate

- West Virginia (29 percent),
- Kentucky (20 percent),
- Pennsylvania (20 percent) and
- Virginia (15 percent) (reinburg, 2018).

## East Canada

- Assistance needed particularly in Nova Scotia in 2016 96,000 people below poverty
- Transportation problematic
- 22.2 percent children living below poverty
- lack of affordable housing

# Interview

## Virginia Miner

- 1977-1990
- knowledge on the machinery
  - shuttle car could short out
  - breaks
  - miners were vindictive and treated anyone any way to get the ton of coal out
  - forced to do illegal cuts
    - 20 foot cuts are legal
  - if the fan is down workers had to be out in 15 min or less
- calls from the outside for warning

## Nova Scotia Miner

1 whistle = work in the mine

2 whistle = no work in the mine

3 whistles= accident in the mine

Company Store: If you complained would cut off your power and give you no work/starve. No compensation and no benefits, strike occurred on June 25, 1925. Coal Dust Lung/Black Lung 90% miners Died.

“Hub Mine” Glace Bay

# Current Events

## Appalachia Coal Community

Protest in Harlan County Kentucky

Protest effects

- Workers
- Company
- Town

They blocked train tracks to keep coal from leaving the mines

Their 401 K was frozen as well

According to ABC News

## Eastern Canada Coal community

- June 25 each year coal miner memorial day due to a strike on June 25, 1925 over 300 miners were shot and 1 killed William Davis had 9 children at the time and one on the way. Miners do not work on June 25 due to the New Waterford strike.
- Invented Medicare by purchasing a “check off” to buy a hospital.

# Government aid to coal communities

## Appalachia

Congress appropriated

\$30 million

- Kentucky,
- West Virginia, and
- Pennsylvania.

•\$10 million.

- Virginia,
- Ohio, and
- Alabama.

(Appalachian Voices, 2017)

## East Canada

The government is providing \$600,000 to fund project to lower poverty rates.

Main focus for the funds:

- Food Security – initiatives that provide Nova Scotians with adequate access to food.
- Youth Transition – enabling Nova Scotia youth to become independent adults.
- Transportation – helping Nova Scotians access the transportation they need.

(Dolores, 2018)

# Career and Lifestyle Concerns

- Applicable to other careers related to mining
- Health-Life Insurance concerns for
  - Black Lung,
  - OCPD,
  - Skeletal/ Knee and Back issues
- Community Supporters Relocation  
Safety/Hygiene Concerns/ Ventilation  
Relocation for families

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