

NEWSLETTER

January 2019

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Trends in Annual Inflows of Permanent Residents in Canada, its Provinces and Territories (2015-2018).

Ather H. Akbari (Saint Mary's University)

There was a sudden rise of 9 percent in permanent resident inflows in Canada in 2016 due to sudden increase in refugee inflows. Since then, the annual inflows have tapered off to almost their pre-2016 level, showing a slight rise of 1.6 percent in 2018 over their 2015 level. Provincial trends are similar to the national trends in all provinces. Exceptions are the provinces of Alberta, where there was a substantial decline in 2018 inflows compared to their 2015 level, and British Columbia, where inflows were higher in 2018 compared to 2015. Among Atlantic Provinces, only PEI welcomed fewer immigrants over the last year.

Table: Annual inflows of Permanent Residents by Province, Territories and Total (2015-2018).

Prov/Terr.	2015	2016	2017	2018
NL	1,125	1,190	1,170	1,305
PE	1,185	2,315	2,350	1,870
NS	3,400	5,485	4,515	5,225
NB	2,580	4,675	3,650	3,995
PQ	48,975	53,245	52,395	44,310
ON	103,615	110,020	111,945	117,320
MN	14,900	16,825	14,705	13,145
SK	12,520	14,860	14,675	13,820
AB	47,205	49,200	42,090	36,140
BC	35,735	38,075	38,440	38,700
YU	265	210	225	275
NWT	210	185	240	245
NU	35	35	40	20
Other not stated	80	55	40	10
TOTAL	271,835	296,365	286,480	276,380

Immigration Supports Diversity in Local Communities

*Jennifer Watts, Immigrant Services
Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS)*

Through many years of offering programs supporting immigrants to settle and stay in Nova Scotia, ISANS has seen the impact of increased diversity in small centers and rural communities. ISANS delivers programs that support the integration and retention of immigrants that increases population diversity and builds a more welcoming province.

The following are two examples of programs that support immigrants and employers in small centres and rural communities.

English in the Workplace Program

For over 20 years, ISANS has offered this unique program to support newcomers and employers in the workplace. English in the Workplace (EWP) is a 12-week training program for immigrant employees, to help with on-the-job language skills. ISANS offers customized individual or group training, delivered at the workplace by a qualified English as an Additional Language instructor at no cost to the employer or employee. The program helps employees become more effective at their jobs. Training can be done in-person in the workplace or by distance. Distance training is delivered live over the internet, using a web-camera and software for shared audio-visuals and is an effective resource for employers in rural or small centres. The program is offered in two 90-minute sessions per week.

EWP focuses on the following skills development:

- workplace vocabulary and terminology
- telephone skills
- customer service skills
- workplace communication and teamwork
- writing emails, letters and reports

To be eligible for the program the employee needs to work a minimum of 20 hours per week and be either a Permanent Resident, Canadian citizen or a TFW with a letter of nomination. The employer commitment includes allowing the employee to attend training during working hours, providing an uninterrupted space for classes (office, conference room, etc.) and ensuring that the client attends at least 80% of their classes.

Communication skills are often critical in ensuring successful integration and retention of immigrants in the workplace. EWP is an effective tool to support practical skill development for the employee and to support the employer in effectively communicating with their new employees. EWP has been successfully implemented with rural businesses in NS including the communities of Oxford, Yarmouth and Sambro.

Engineering Competency Assessment Program

The Engineering Work-based Competency Assessment Program is an unpaid 12-week placement for immigrants to demonstrate their engineering competencies and to identify skill gaps with a Nova Scotian engineering employer. The program offers an immigrant the opportunity to explore how the engineering profession is practiced in Canada and to demonstrate their qualifications to a potential employer. The program also offers participants the opportunity to submit a work experience record to Engineers Nova Scotia (ENS) which may be considered towards the one year North American experience requirement. ISANS

Employment Specialists work with Internationally Educated Engineers who are eligible for the program to find the right fit with a Nova Scotian engineering firm.

Since 2012, more than 90 engineers have completed the program with at least 14 completing placements outside of Halifax Regional Municipality.

One example of the success of this program in a small centre in Nova Scotia is the story of Ahmad Ayash who arrived in Lunenburg with his family in February 2016. He came with his wife and children through a private sponsorship agreement. The sponsoring group wanted to ensure Ahmad's success in Nova Scotia by working in his field. His sponsor connected him with ISANS where he started by meeting with an Employment Specialist in person and then over Skype for Business. Together Ahmad and his Employment Specialist worked on a Return to Work Action Plan to bring him back to his engineering field. Although his language was advanced, he still needed to improve his communication skills. He participated in a number of online language courses and he completed the ISANS Orientation and Communication for Engineers course where he learned about the Canadian engineering communication skills. He also was approved to complete the Engineering Competency Assessment program. Through this program, he completed 3-month work experience with Stelia Aerospace in Lunenburg. This experience made him more confident about his skills and knowledge. The company offered him an entry level engineering job for 6-months. During this period, Ahmad explored other civil-structural engineering jobs in his field. He was successful in finding a civil engineering position with Rikjak Projects Inc. in Lunenburg.

These two programs are some examples of how ISANS, through innovative programs, helps with settlement, integration and retention of

immigrants in rural and small centre communities in NS.

The Changing Face of Rural Prince Edward Island

Jonathan Hamel, Craig Mackie, and Melanie Bailey, PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada

Rural PEI is changing. More and more newcomers are choosing to work and live outside the greater Charlottetown area. In the last couple of years, the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada (PEIANC) has seen an increase in the number of newcomers living in rural PEI who are seeking settlement assistance. While the increase has been small, it seems the trend of newcomers choosing rural Prince Edward Island will continue to grow.

Among the key factors contributing to this population shift is a new immigration program that gives extra points to those who choose to live in rural areas. As well, the Atlantic Immigration Pilot (AIP) lets Atlantic employers hire qualified candidates for jobs they haven't been able to fill locally. There is a significant number of rural employers participating in the AIP. A smaller, but also important, factor that has contributed to this shift is immigrants who have lived on the Island for years deciding to take advantage of the peace and pace of life offered by rural communities.

In 2017, PEIANC saw an increase of 1.12% in registrations for newcomers living in rural PEI over and above what was seen in the previous seven years. While this isn't a large number, it is a number reflecting a trend. The largest increase has been in the King's County with an increase of 0.55% in new registrations in 2017. This translates into a total of 47 new registrations. It is important to note West Prince County also had a strong representation with 43

new registrations. This represents 2.13% of all new registrations in PEI for 2017.

With a mandate to bring diverse communities together and empower newcomers to build a future on PEI, the PEIANC has been working with newcomers since 1993. The Association provides short-term settlement services, and long-term inclusion and community integration programs. These include Settlement services, Employment Assistance programs, Immigrant Youth supports, Language programs and Community Engagement activities.

To aid newcomers who are choosing to settle in rural PEI, the Association has a satellite office in Summerside staffed by a full-time Settlement Worker supported by other PEIANC staff. PEIANC also has a part-time office in Montague. Staff from the Charlottetown office travel out twice weekly to provide services at this location. Staff also regularly travel throughout the Island to meet with newcomers, community groups/organizations and employers.

To assist our rural contacts and the business sector found throughout PEI, the Association's Cultural Inclusion Training (CIT) program provides workshops and presentations to the community at large. There are tailored to the length of time and subject matter requested by employers, communities and agencies. By working with government representatives, businesses, teachers, students, and community organizations, CIT assists in easing the cultural transition of newcomers into Island workplaces, schools, and communities.

A key area in which PEIANC supports newcomers is through our Employment Assistance Services (EAS). Employment Counsellors provide newcomers with support in developing their career path in Canada. Many come with foreign credentials that may not be fully transferrable or accepted by Canadian credentialing societies or employers. Assessing

previous skills, employment and education backgrounds, helps our clients prepare to meet the demands of Canadian employment sectors. Employment Counsellors are in constant contact with rural employers, including those who hire temporary foreign workers in the fields of agriculture, fish industry, and manufacturing.

Another area in which PEIANC offers vital work related to newcomer attraction and retention is through the PEI Immigration Partnership (PIP) under the national Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) initiative. Through this partnership, the PIP Coordinator, Melanie Bailey, is actively working to improve newcomer integration and retention. Falling under Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, PIP is a community engagement project designed to improve collaboration and coordination of efforts between partners for improved newcomer attraction and integration within PEI communities. The need for welcoming and inclusive communities that are able to attract and retain increased numbers of immigrants remains high. Late in 2016, PEI's census results raised deep concern for a number of PEI communities experiencing double-digit population decline over five years. Meanwhile, PEI's growing communities are not immune to population loss. While they are attracting newcomers, retention remains a challenge.

The provincial government's Inclusive Communities Program - Rural Growth Initiative is another program leading to a changing rural PEI. The purpose of the Inclusive Communities Program is to cultivate inclusiveness and support population retention rates by promoting a culture where newcomers feel they belong and their skills are valued.

The trend of newcomers choosing to live, work, and play in rural Prince Edward Island will continue. Especially since the provincial

government along with many rural communities and employers have made it a priority to attract and retain immigrants. As these efforts bear fruit, the face of rural PEI will change. The PEIANC stands ready to help.

From Big to Small: Insights into Migration to Rural New Brunswick

Justin Ryan, Multicultural Association of the Greater Moncton Area

I stood, watching what all the other eyes are watching, itching in anticipation. Tick, tick, tick. The line of red dots slowly drops, one by one, until finally it switches to green and the floodgates open.

Time to hustle. We only have precious seconds, and we jostle for position, pulses racing. Just in time, my foot touches down on the opposing sidewalk as the green switches back to ominous red, and the next wave begins their wait. In three and a half minutes, this whole process will repeat itself.

Other places, you just cross the street, but not here at Shibuya Station crossing in downtown Tokyo. My office lies close by, so twice a day I join the throngs as they make their way across the busiest crosswalk in the world. On average, 2,500 people cross the street in a hit, but that includes nighttime. I'm usually there during peak moments, so when I go across, essentially the entire population of Shediac traverses the street inside of forty seconds.

Across the sea from my office lies the Chinese capital, Beijing. The greater metropolitan district holds nearly 22 million souls, yet that doesn't even make it the biggest in China, let alone the world. There are fewer than 750,000 people in all of New Brunswick, which would

make it only the 11th-largest city district of Beijing, so essentially they have 10 city zones of Beijing that have more people than our entire province. The downtown district of Chaoyang weighs in at a hefty 3.5 million people, all crammed together. New Brunswick has around 10 people per square kilometer. Chaoyang has 7,500.

That was the scale of life living in Asia. Then I moved to Moncton, and got married at the Mount Allison University chapel. The local university town of Sackville has a population of around 5,000, which is roughly how many people had been working in my Tokyo skyscraper. The change in scale was barely comprehensible.

Keep in mind that I grew up in Australia with horses grazing in the field across the river from my backyard. My mother would come out from the bedroom, dressed in finery for a night out, and ask my father how she looked. Without glancing up from his newspaper, he would declare she was the prettiest woman in town. She'd scowl, knowing full well she was the only woman in town.

So I understand it both ways, moving from semi-rural Australia to a crammed Asian metropolis, then on to New Brunswick. And while Greater Moncton may be small on this scale, everything I've just outlined it massively amplified when we get into rural centres. So let's imagine the kinds of journeys that newcomers make in coming from cities of this scale and moving to true rural NB.

The first thing you notice is the staggering number of trees. You take it for granted if you're from here, but New Brunswickers simply have no concept of how many trees you have by comparison. As I'd drive to go camping at Fundy, I'd come over a ridge and in one sweeping glance over that vista I'd see more

trees than I'd see in a year in Japan, and in a lifetime in my semi-arid down-under homeland.

The next is the reliance on having a car. Six years in Japan, no car and I didn't miss it once. I could take public transport literally anywhere, and if I missed the train I had to wait for an eternal eight minutes for the next one to come along. Here, I'd have to wait until more like Tuesday.

Thirdly, I was 27 years old before I saw a snowflake. Now I'm...a little more familiar with snow. If memory serves, I have a shed somewhere in my back yard, but it's hard to be certain right now. You may be used to putting your kids outside to play in the cold and build a snowman, but since most of us are arriving here from far more temperate climates, it's simply not something we grew up with. You know how to do things like tie a scarf and whether the kid needs mittens or gloves. It's all very new to most of us.

Next would be getting a job or running a business. If you've come from a bustling metropolis then there's enough economic diversity that your speciality in designing low-rise high-density housing makes perfect sense, but in many rural areas there are essentially two types of jobs—the one at the 'big place' (the mill, the prison, the seafood processing plant) or the one at mom-and-pop shop. So as a new arrival in small, rural areas often you're either buying out a store from a retiring owner or you're doing shift work.

But the biggest challenge by far is just fitting in. Newcomers often talk about the difference between the locals being friendly and being friends. The smaller the town, the more you know Bob because your parents both went to the same local high school and Bob's kids play with your kids. You and Bob went hunting last summer and there's the funny story with a racoon and tin of fishing bait. You both eat at

the diner and like the way that Janet batters the fish, which she learned from her mother who used to run the diner (and of course who also went to school with your parents and with Bob's).

Then Pratyush turns up. It's nice to have a CFA (Comes from Away) join us, but we're not quite sure what to do with Pratyush, especially since we can't even really pronounce his name. He doesn't hunt and he's never had poutine and cows are apparently sacred so it's a polite 'no' on the freshly barbequed steak, which all adds up to mean that starting a conversation is fine but maintaining one is a lot more difficult.

Don't get me wrong; Pratyush thinks rural New Brunswick is awesome, and he's right. The people, the landscape, the lifestyle, the affordability...it's completely overlooked as a destination. He just knows that it's going to take a long time for him to work out how to navigate his way through this, and a lot longer until his kids are considered one of the group.

So when you meet him, keep that in mind. Go the extra mile. Invite him around for dinner. Little things have big impact, giving you an unusual opportunity to genuinely change lives, so grab it with both hands. If you're worried about dwindling rural populations, now it's up to you to make the newest and most vulnerable arrivals feel right at home

New Satellite Offices Supports NFLDs Newcomer Settlement, Retention and Diversity.

Ken Walsh, Association for New Canadians

When I resumed my position with the Association for New Canadians (ANC) following

a one-year leave of absence spent in the remote coastal Labrador community of Nain, I was excited to find out that the organization was planning to establish Regional Satellite Offices across the province. Serendipitously, my partner had recently left her position as a Mental Health and Addictions Counselor in Labrador for a counselling position with Western Health in Corner Brook. It wasn't long after that I joined her on the west coast of the island in my new role as Senior Settlement Coordinator with the ANC's Western Regional Satellite Office.

Established in St. John's in 1979, the ANC is a non-profit, community based organization dedicated to the settlement and integration of immigrants and refugees to Canada. Our organization's mission is two-fold: to provide a full range of settlement programming for newcomers to the province from the moment of arrival until citizenship; and, to create welcoming communities by building cultural intelligence and promoting public education among organizations of all kinds. With over 110 full-time staff and 300 volunteers, the ANC delivers programming and supports to newcomers to help ensure a smooth and successful settlement process.

While the organization's main headquarters are located in the provincial capital, St. John's, the ANC now operates five (5) Satellite Offices across Newfoundland and Labrador – Central Island (Grand Falls-Windsor), Western Island (Corner Brook), Southern Labrador (Forteau), Northeast Labrador (Happy Valley-Goose Bay), and Western Labrador (Labrador City). Through establishment of Satellite Offices in these areas, the ANC is helping to ensure that newcomers have access to the same suite of settlement programs and support services regardless of where they choose to live, work, or study in the province.

Various pan-provincial outreach efforts over the past number of years helped lay the foundation for the ANC's expansion to regions outside the St. John's Census Metropolitan Area (SJCMA). Bi-annual Settlement Outreach projects saw Settlement staff, including Settlement Workers in the Schools (SWIS) workers, delivering information sessions to stakeholders and providing settlement supports to newcomers across Newfoundland and Labrador. Our province-wide Diversity Outreach Initiatives included consultations with business owners, employers and other stakeholders, which led to the development of a series of cultural competency workshops aimed at helping businesses and organizations hire and retain newcomers. These, along with other distance/outreach programs such as the ESL Outreach Tutor Program and the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program, helped the organization identify and develop relationships with key stakeholders across the province, including municipal governments, school districts and staff, post-secondary institutions, businesses, community groups, and NGOs, among others. Contacts and relationships that developed as a result of these pan-provincial outreach efforts helped lay the groundwork for the ANC's transition into smaller centres across the province.

Corner Brook has a population of around 20,000 and is the service hub for the western and northern regions of the island portion of the province. It is home to Western Health's head office and primary healthcare facility, Western Memorial Regional Hospital. The City is also home of Memorial University's Grenfell Campus, as well as College of the North Atlantic and Academy Canada campuses.

Historically, immigrants to the western region of Newfoundland and Labrador were primarily of European descent, including English, Irish and German, however Corner Brook is also home to

a significant Lebanese, Syrian, and Chinese immigrant population dating back to the early 20th century. In fact, many of their family names are still prominently displayed on historical structures around the city, including on several buildings along Broadway, one of the city's main shopping and entertainment districts.

In more recent years, Corner Brook has become a destination of choice for newcomers from a wide range of countries who come to the region to live, work, and attend post-secondary institutions in the city. Indeed, there were over 170 international students from nearly 40 different countries who arrived in 2018 to study at Grenfell Campus of Memorial University.

In addition to the international student population, there is also a high number of economic migrants who arrive in the region each year for various employment opportunities. Many arrive as Permanent Residents, others apply for their permanent residency after some years working through initiatives such as the Provincial Nominee Program or the new joint federal-provincial Atlantic Immigration Pilot Program. Corner Brook and the western region also has a large population of International Medical Graduates who come to the area to work for the regional health authority, Western Health. Of course, it's important to note that many of these newcomers do not arrive here alone. They often bring their families with them - partners, spouses, and children – which has helped to increase the newcomer population in the region and add to the increasingly diverse cultural mosaic in our schools, workplaces, and communities.

With Canada's lowest birthrate, most rapidly aging population, and a provincial labour force that is projected to shrink by as much as 10% by 2025, it's fair to say that Newfoundland and Labrador is facing significant demographic challenges. While it's not the only solution,

immigration will play a key role in helping to address some of these issues. The Provincial Government recognizes the important role that immigration plays in helping to grow our economy and communities, and has set out its strategy to improve immigration outcomes in *The Way Forward on Immigration to Newfoundland and Labrador*, a five-year action plan designed to increase the provincial immigration target to 1,700 immigrants annually by 2022:

“Attracting and welcoming immigrants to Newfoundland and Labrador is only part of our challenge. Ensuring immigrants and their families have access to the services they need to succeed and lay down roots is critical to retention.”

- *The Way Forward on Immigration to Newfoundland and Labrador*

The Association for New Canadians looks forward to continuing to provide the programs, services, and supports needed to help ensure a positive settlement experience for newcomers across Newfoundland and Labrador. Whether people choose to settle in remote, rural or urban centres on the island, or in the “Big Land”, we'll be there to help.

Events Organized by ARGEIAD

(Note: Member updates are solicited before the publication of newsletter and are published as provided by the members).

Immigration and Sustainable Development

On November 30-2018, Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration, Aging and Diversity (Saint Mary's University) and Jarislowsky Chair in Cultural and Economic Transformation (Memorial University of

Newfoundland) together organized a one-day event entitled *Immigration and Sustainable Development*. The event was held on Memorial University campus in Saint John's Newfoundland. Event report is forthcoming.

A link to the conference program:

<https://www.smu.ca/academics/sobey/sobeyeventslisting/immigration-and-sustainable-development-.html>

News Releases:

<https://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2018/aesl/1129n01.aspx>

<https://www.mun.ca/marcomm/news/?id=5083>

Conference Summary:

<https://smu.ca/webfiles/NLsymposium.pdf>

ARGEIAD Member Updates

(Note: Member updates are solicited before the publication of newsletter and are published as provided by the members).

Ather H. Akbari (Saint Mary's University)

Akbari, Ather. "Emigrant population as a source for export growth in developing countries" Presented at 34th Annual conference of Pakistan Society of Development Economists, Islamabad, Pakistan: December 12-14, 2018.

<https://smu.ca/webfiles/AkbaripresentationPIDDecember13Islamabad.pdf>

Akbari, Ather. "Immigration, Training and Sustainable Economic Growth in Atlantic Canada" Memorial University of Newfoundland: November 30th, 2018.

<https://smu.ca/webfiles/AkbaripresentationStJohns.pdf>

Evangelia Tastsoglou (Saint Mary's University)

Tastsoglou, Evangelia. "Gendering Violence and Precarity in Forced Migration: Asylum Seeking Women in the Eastern Mediterranean", Principal Investigator, Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Insight Development Grant (for 2 years)

Ted McDonald (University of New Brunswick)

McDonald, J.T., Cruickshank, B. & Liu, Z. J (2018). "Immigrant retention in NB: an analysis using administrative Medicare Registry data" *Journal of Population Research*. DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12546-018-9217-8>

Upcoming Events

Symposium Sur L'Immigration Francophone En Acadie Du Nouveau-Brunswick Université de Moncton

February 25 2019

Nouveau-Brunswick Université de Moncton

Event is planned by ARGEIAD in cooperation with Université Moncton (contact person: Professor Leyla Sal) to discuss the challenges and issues immigrants and francophone immigrants face in their new home.

21st National Metropolis Conference: Doing Immigration Differently

March 21-23, 2019

Halifax Convention Centre

ARGEIAD is a partner with the Association of Canadian Studies (ACS) in organizing this conference. Conference web site address is: <https://www.metropolisconference.ca/halifax/en/program.php>