

Prince Edward Island Population Update February 2006

The Province of Prince Edward Island is moving forward its efforts to increase the population by 1.5 per cent annually through immigration, retention, and repatriation initiatives.

Significant events include:

1. The release of a report on attracting new immigrants to PEI by the Steering Committee of the Legislative Assembly on Community Affairs and Economic Development.

Recommendations include:

The Government of Prince Edward Island work towards achieving a more responsive immigration program that includes stronger partnership with the federal government, and opportunities for increased participation from communities, employers, not-for-profit groups and other interested parties.

The Government of Prince Edward Island provide leadership to help remove specific barriers to immigration and successful integration into the receiving community.

The Province of Prince Edward Island support efforts to increase public awareness of immigration issues.

The Province of Prince Edward Island work in cooperation with the other Atlantic provinces to promote immigration initiatives for the region as a whole.

Immigration strategies to be used as a tool to assist francophone communities in the province.

The consultations and dialogue on the topic of immigration continue.

An immigration office be opened in the Province of Prince Edward Island.



2. The enhancement of the Provincial Nominee Program by the addition of a new category and extending the existing agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada.
3. The negotiation of a new agreement with CIC for work off campus and following graduation for international students.
4. The commissioning of a Research Project by Dr. Godfrey Bladacchino, research chair at the Institute of Island Studies to look at “Why settlers come and why they stay.” We will be releasing the findings of this survey within the next couple of weeks.
5. An Immigration Settlement Forum was held in November to provide an opportunity for consultation with businesses, municipalities, communities and academics to provide input and reaction to the strategies being considered by the province.
6. The Association of Newcomers, a settlement service organization conducted six public meetings across the Island creating awareness and providing information on welcoming communities.
7. The province expects to announce a provincial strategy within the next couple of months.
8. Promotion of Atlantic Canada is one priority of a Population Table created through an Atlantic Provinces Partnership Framework.

