

A COMMUNITY FORUM ON IMMIGRATION, MOBILITY, AND ECONOMY

Organized by

Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration, Aging, and Diversity (ARGEIAD)

In Partnership with

**University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI)
PEI Association for New Comers to Canada (PEI-ANC)
PEI Immigration Partnership (PIP)
and MacKillop Centre for Social Justice**

From 8. 30a.m. to 3.30p.m.

March 15, 2019, McMillan Hall, UPEI, Charlottetown, PEI

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The steering committee would like to gratefully acknowledge the initiative and support of Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration, Aging and Diversity (ARGEIAD) in organizing the community forum on Immigration, Mobility, and Economy at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) in Charlottetown in Prince Edward Island. The committee would also like to thankfully acknowledge the invaluable contributions made by the other partners, University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI), PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada (PEI-ANC), PEI Immigration Partnership (PIP) and MacKillop Centre for Social Justice.

Insights from a group of invited guests enormously enhanced the coverage and the quality of deliberations at the forum. This group included as speakers Dr. Ather Akbari (Keynote Speaker, Chair ARGEIAD), Hon. Sean Casey (MP), Dr. Neb Kujundzic (Dean of Arts, UPEI), Peter Meggs (Town Councillor, Cornwall), Ron Atkinson (City of Charlottetown), Jeff Young, (Manager, Business Integration, Office of Immigration, PEI) and Philip Brown (Mayor, Charlottetown). The group also included as panelists Ms. Melanie Bailey (Project Manager, PIP), Ms. Mary Boyd, CM (Director, MacKillop Centre for Social Justice), Dr. James Sentence (Chair, Dept. of Economics, UPEI), Bill Campbell (President, King's Square Affordable Housing Corporation) Dr. Jerry Wang (Director, Recruitment and International Admissions, UPEI), Mr. Craig Mackie (Executive Director, PEI-ANC), Mr. Thilak Tennekone (Diversity Consultant, Public Service Commission, PEI), Ms. Teresa Tu (Program Officer, Department of Immigration, PEI), Ms. Vivian Beer (HR Manager, PEI Bioalliance), Dr. Peter Bevan Baker (MLA and Leader, Third Party, PEI), Dr. Najam Chisti (Ex-President, Muslim Society of PEI Inc.), and Joe Byrne (Leader, NDP, PEI). The steering committee would like to extend their gratitude to all the invited guests for their significant contributions.

The forum would not have been a success without the lively engagements of the enthusiastic group of participants, for which the committee would also like to extend its gratitude. We would also like to thank Chris Marlon Perera for excellent services as the Conference Assistant, Sam Buchanan (Manager Conference

Services, UPEI) for excellent conference services, Chartwells for excellent catering services, and Pater Audio for excellent audio-visual services.

Thank you!

Steering Committee:

Dr. Wimal Rankaduwa, *Professor, Department of Economics and Coordinator, International Studies, UPEI;*
Member, ARGEIAD, SMU

Dr. Judy-Lynn Richards, *Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, UPEI*

Dr. Richard Kurial, *Associate Professor, Department of History, UPEI*

BACKGROUND

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SYMPOSIUM

On March 15, 2019, the Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration, Aging and Diversity (ARGEIAD), organized a community forum on Immigration, Mobility and Economy, at the McMillan Hal, UPEI, Charlottetown from 8.30am to 3.00pm, in partnership with the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI), PEI Association for New Comers to Canada (PEI-ANC), PEI Immigration Partnership (PIP) and MacKillop Centre for Social Justice.

The community forum proceeded through a succession of four sessions. The opening session, which was moderated by Dr. Wimal Rankaduwa, featured the presentations by Dr. Neb Kujundzic, Peter Megs, Ron Atkinson, Jeff Young and the Keynote Speaker, Dr. Ather Akbari. This was followed by a session of an interactive panel discussion (Panel I), which was also moderated by Dr. Wimal Rankaduwa. Among the invited panelists were J.W. "Bill" Campbell, President, King's Square Affordable Housing Corporation; Melanie Bailey, Project Manager, PEI Immigration Partnership (PIP); Dr. Jim Sentance, Chair, Department of Economics, University of Prince Edward Island; Mary Boyd, CM, Director, MacKillop Centre for Social Justice; and Dr. Jerry Wang, Director, Recruitment and International Admissions, UPEI.

The next session of panel discussion (Panel II) was moderated by Dr. Judy-Lynn Richards and focused on the challenges, success stories, and best practices. The invited panelists were Craig Mackie, Executive Director, PEI-ANC; Thilak Tennekoon, Diversity Consultant, Public Service Commission, PEI; Vivien Beer, HR Manager, PEI Bioalliance; and Teresa Tu, Program Officer, Office of Immigration, PEI.

The last session (Panel III) featured views on immigration, diversity, and community from social and political organizations. The group of panelists included Hon. Sean Casey, MP, Liberal Party of Canada; Dr. Peter Bevan-Baker, Leader, Third Party, PEI; Joe Byrne, Leader, New Democratic Party (NDP), PEI, and Dr. Najam Chisti, Ex-President, Muslim Society of PEI Inc. This session generated great enthusiasm among the participants that resulted in active interaction and lively exchanges with speakers. The session was moderated by Dr. Wimal Rankaduwa.

The community forum which was attended by more than 70 participants successfully concluded at about 4.00pm. A list of attendees, which indicates the names and affiliation of those who have willingly signed at the entrance, is found in a separate section of this report.

The forum was announced mainly through e-mail messages or telephone communications sent to various private, public, and community organizations, and individuals. An electronic copy of the poster and program, which were widely circulated, are presented at the end of this report. An announcement that appeared on the UPEI website, Journal Pioneer, and The Guardian, which can be found at the following links:

<http://www.upei.ca/communications/news/2019/03/community-forum-immigration-mobility-and-economy>,

<https://www.journalpioneer.com/community/immigration-forum-march-15-at-upei-292043/>

<https://www.theguardian.pe.ca/community/immigration-forum-march-15-at-upei-292043/>

Part 1

OPENING SESSION

“IMMIGRATION MOBILITY AND PEI ECONOMY”

The opening session featured speeches and presentations made by the invited guests and speakers representing federal and provincial governments, organizers, and the Keynote speaker. Photographs and more biographical information of the speakers can be found on the websites listed under each of the speakers in the biographical information section of this report. The session was moderated by Dr. Wimal Rankaduwa.

Highlights of their presentations are stated in the remainder of this part of the report, following brief statements of their affiliations.

Dr. Neb Kujundzic: *Dean of Arts, University of Prince Edward Island*

Dr. Kujundzic, speaking on behalf of UPEI, acknowledged that we inhabit the traditional territory of Abegweit Mi'kmaq First Nation, and stated that it is a fact that fits well into the forum where many opportunities and challenges that the island and the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) currently facing are discussed.

UPEI currently has more than 1,200 International students, from more than 80 countries which are truly transformative for our province. Some of the challenges include integration and retention of them after graduation and helping them to promote diversity and change the fabric of our society. The opportunities at the same are many. The island is already transformed with increased diversity and opportunities that did not exist even five or ten years ago. That is the direction that the university is certainly taking and continuing to take.

Jeff Young: *Manager, Business Integration, PEI Department of Immigration*

On behalf of the department of immigration, Jeff Young welcomed the participants and informed the following. The department of immigration is responsible for promoting and administering immigration programs in PEI. It supports entrepreneurs as well as skilled labor and employers looking for skilled labor to fill labor shortages gaps in PEI. Immigration is a very important tool in PEI in promoting cultural diversity, population growth, and the economy.

Steve Ogden: *Mayor, Town of Stratford*

The Mayor of Stratford thanked everyone for participating in the forum and, underlined the importance of immigration as an economic engine for the province. In Stratford, it has been one of the key things that have driven the town forward. The town has a very vibrant contingent of newcomers in population, who contribute immeasurably to the richness and the texture of the town. The economy has unprecedented growth in Stratford largely fueled by newcomers who are coming bringing in new skills, new perspectives and new business ideas, and new businesses that employ people and make our town and our Province a much better place to live. The mayor stated that he values the contribution of newcomers and the overall impact of immigration had on his community and Province and Country. Because it enriches his whole country or province and make them stronger and prosperous and reflects the diversity in his world. Everyone is welcome

in Stratford. The town has a diversity and inclusion committee that's very active, and the town is a very welcoming community which would welcome any newcomers to Stratford.

Ron Atkinson: *Economic Development Officer, City of Charlottetown*

On behalf of his worship and city council, welcome to Charlottetown. Immigration is a really important issue in the province (PEI) and the city of Charlottetown. In the same way as his worship would have mentioned the change in our city is profound in the last ten and twenty years. Every chance to discuss the issues which impact newcomers and retention in our city and our province is a great chance to do that

Peter Meggs: *Councilor, Town of Cornwall*

Peter Meggs informed that the mayor Minerva McCourt and Lori Bingley, the engagement coordinator, send their regrets. Lori chairs the town's diversity committee and provides all the services that the town provides to newcomers. The town is honored when newcomers choose Cornwall as their destination for business or their residence. There is an awful lot of growth resulting directly from the work and contribution of newcomers in Cornwall. It is very important for the town to provide those with services and to make sure that newcomers feel welcomed in the town.

Dr. Ather Akbari: *Keynote Speaker,
Chair, ARGEIAD
Professor, Department of Economics, Saint Mary's University*

The keynote speaker focused on the mobility of immigrants and the native-born and made the following remarks. The mobility is good for the population, and for Canadians to learn about other places and contribute nationality. However, for small provinces due to the demographic changes, this does present some challenges. That is why smaller provinces and regions are more involved in attracting immigrants to reverse the decline in the natural growth of the population.

Immigration is one of many tools that policymakers consider in reversing population decline in the face of the decline in the natural growth of population in this region. Improving the productivity of Labor Force to meet some economic challenges posed by the decline in population is another. The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and provincial governments work in that regard. Another important tool is to exploit the opportunities that the elderly population presents.

The importance of immigration in Prince Edward Island: Last year, the Canadian population grew by 529900 people, which accounted for 1.4% growth in population. Natural growth component of this population was 20%. In PEI population grew by 3273 people (2.1%), 0.3% of which was attributable to the natural growth and the rest to international migration and interprovincial migration, and temporary foreign workers. Immigration has become a driver of population growth in Canada with regional variations. In PEI net immigration contributed to about 47% of population growth in 2017-2018.

Some Concepts and Frameworks relating to immigration: Three groups of theoretical explanations exist on immigration based on the questions they address: what causes migration? Why some people are more likely to migrate, and why migrants prefer some places over the others?

What causes migration? The explanations of reasons for migration can be classified as follows: (a) push-pull Theory (conditions in the source countries act as push factors, and similarly, economic and non-economic conditions at the destination act as the pull factors); (b) macroeconomic models (focusing on economic conditions like unemployment rate, cost of living and inflation) and microeconomic models (focusing more on individual and family decision making); (c) new household economic perspectives (focusing on joint decision-making in families, households and larger

community; and (d) the segmented labor market analysis (emphasizes the structure by which the Industries recruit and develop migration flows). The experience suggests that once the migration has been established, it tends to persist. The social capital and migrant networks help understand the persistence and expansion of migration.

Most migration theories view migration as a prolonged process of decision-making influenced by many factors, which include three demographic characteristics of migrants: age, life cycle, and gender. All data suggests that it is the younger who are most likely to migrate because they are more likely to benefit from their migration decisions and enjoy the benefits of migration for a longer lifetime. The same applies to the newly-established households which are in the early stage of the life cycle. Gender also plays an important role. In many economies and many cultures, it is the male household member who makes the decision and the rest follow that decision. This has been changing in recent years.

Other characteristics include education, language skills, and labor market experience. It is found that migrants tend to be more educated, and those that migrate to Canada tend to have higher educational content compared to the non-immigrant population. Education provides them the means to find out information about other places that they are going to migrate to. In that way, language skills also play an important role. The language skills related to the languages spoken at the destination makes it is easier to integrate into the labor force. The labor market experience that is relevant to the destination is also important.

Where migrants settle is an important issue for Atlantic Canada where migration is generally from rural to urban areas. Many factors influence the choice of settlement destinations, including economic, social, and cultural factors. There are two types of settlement processes that are important: persistence of established locations and the emergence of new locations for migrants. The social networks and ethnic-based resources developed by migrants over time are key factors for the persistence of established locations. New locations arise because of the new or unusually rapid growth of employment opportunities. Employment opportunities arise due to the growth of the industrial sector and attrition (due to retirement and death). The recent data released by Service Canada suggest that almost all job opportunities in Atlantic Canada from 2017 to 2020 arise due to attrition. The sponsorships or deliberate recruitment of newcomers through programs like Provincial Nominee programs also help create new locations

Migration in Prince Edward Island: The migration data for three groups (Canada-born residents, resident immigrants in 2011, and recent immigrants) are analyzed based on the 2016 Canadian population census. Each group is divided into five groups: children and youth, post-secondary students, non-working adults, working adult, and retirees.

First, we look at migrants by birthplace and compare Canadian-born(non-immigrants) and immigrants. Between 2011 and 2016, there was a modest net out-migration from PEI (695 people) which includes both immigrants and native-born. Relative to immigrants, the outmigrants were about 8.7% higher. In the case of the Canadian born, there was a net in-migration. The out-migrants of non-immigrants from PEI were 96%, and there was a 4% gain due to in-migration of non-immigrants from other provinces. There was a net out-migration of immigrants, which was about 2.4 times higher than in-migration. Among immigrants, In-migration from other Canadian provinces was 700 whereas out-migration to other provinces of Canada was 1700. The out-migration of recent immigrants was also higher, resulting in net out-migration from the province.

Where people go: The total net out-migration from the province was 695 people. The out-migration from the province (8690) is about 8% more than the total in-migration (7995). Most people from PEI went to Ontario (2500). At the same time, 2,700 people came from Ontario, which is encouraging. Another major source of migrants was Alberta to which the province also lost 1830 people. New Brunswick is the second in terms of net migration to PEI, and Manitoba is the third. In terms of in-migrants Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Alberta are the top source provinces.

In the case of non-immigrants, almost the same trends can be observed. The largest destination of out-migrants was Ontario, which also sent the largest number of in-migrants that resulted in a positive net in-migration of 305 people.

The Province lost one thousand immigrants to other provinces in Canada resulting from 1700 out migrants and 700 in migrants. Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta were the popular destinations. Nova Scotia is also a large sending province following the larger provinces. There is a movement not only out of Atlantic Canada but also within Atlantic Canada.

In the case of recent immigrants (i.e., those who have been in Canada during the past five years) the net migration was negative as out-migration exceeds in-migration. Ontario is the largest recipient of recent immigrants from PEI. The same province also sent the most recent immigrants to PEI.

Each group of people (Canadian-born and immigrants) was further divided into five different groups as children, post-secondary students, non-working adults, working adults, and retirees to examine movements of those groups. Overall, in the case of working adults and post-secondary students, out-migration exceeded in-migration resulting in a net out-migration. In the case of retirees aged 65 and over (who are either working part-time or not), there's a net in-migration. Among Canada born migrants, almost the same trends can be observed. However, in the case of working adults and non-working adults, there is a more significant positive balance. Children move with working adults, and when families move to PEI, they also bring children with them, and as a result, we observe a positive balance for them.

Since 1990, there has been a rising trend in arrivals of permanent residents to PEI, due to deliberate attempts on the part of all levels of governments, community organizations, and settlement organizations. Among the Atlantic provinces, Nova Scotia received the most immigrants in most of these years. PEI arrivals fluctuated since 2004. All the Atlantic provinces experienced increasing trends. In 2008/2009, PEI received the most immigrants among the Atlantic provinces. In terms of the movement of immigrants, a net out-migration for all the five groups among immigrants, and recent immigrants can be observed.

Retention Rates: I have used data from the 2016 Census and IRCC to calculate retention rates for the recent immigrants. All of the retention rates for Atlantic provinces are relatively lower compared to the rest of Canada. The retention rates for Atlantic provinces are as follows: PEI 39%, Newfoundland and Labrador 71%, Nova Scotia 65%, and New Brunswick 60%. The retention rate also varies by entry class. This is the first time that the Census Data allowed us to have a breakdown by immigrant entry classes. The retention rates for the family class and refugees in PEI are 83% and 72%, respectively. Economic class immigrants tend to be most mobile, and their retention rate is the lowest. In Nova Scotia, the retention rates for Refugees, family class, and economic class are 86%, 88%, and 70%, respectively. The refugees in Newfoundland Labrador have the lowest retention rates in that province. Although immigration in all these provinces has increased, their retention rates are the lowest relative to the rest of Canada. However, the rate has increased over time. For example, in Nova Scotia, it has increased from 40% to 75% from the early 2000s to the present.

The provincial migration patterns are affected by the age composition of migration. We considered working adults and non-working adults and retirees. Not much research is done on youth migration. Most of the available empirical studies have focused on interprovincial migration of adults in working age. Empirical research shows that age, education, knowledge of official languages, wage level, and as well as employment growth are important factors for migration in case of adults of working age. In case of retirees, although very few retirees move their migration can have important effects on their communities of origin and destination, as they have been in their source region for a long time, have established networks, and have family connections. Their out-migration can have an impact on the networks they established and the roles they played in the community as members, volunteers, and leaders. The source region loses all those benefits received from the elderly population. Low-fertility rates guarantee the Aging of the Canadian population. Most retirees move relatively short distances

Migration is closely tied to local economic growth and employment opportunities. Noneconomic factors such as the presence of welcoming communities, environment, availability of ethnic Networks, and working conditions also play an important role. At present, we do not have much information available on non-economic factors.

The keynote speech was followed by the following exchange of ideas between Dr. Najam Chisti (from the audience) and the keynote speaker

Dr. Najam Chisti: It was a nice presentation about the demographics of all those immigrants living here. Being an agricultural province, how can PEI seduce new immigrants to come to the farming background and stay on the island? We have lots of lands here, is it a possibility that governments can do something about it?

Dr. Ather Akbari: First, the provinces can learn from the experience of other provinces what is being done there. Other provinces have been able to retain more immigrant by creating welcoming communities. A role must be played not only by the government but by all stakeholders, including settlement organizations, business sectors, community groups as well as the governments in creating welcoming communities. That is more important. To create welcoming communities, first, it is important to spread knowledge. Why is it important for the province to have more immigration? That must be explained. Some surveys have been done on opinion polls about immigration. Those are available Atlantic Canada wide. We do not have information about individual provinces as to how people in individual provinces view migration. That is one important role that governments can play in this regard.

Dr. Najam Chisti: Manitoba is doing a great job over there. Many immigrant families from Ukraine and other places came, and they were provided with the land, and now they grow crops and sell them to the farmers' markets and other places over there.

Dr. Ather Akbari: Prairie provinces have done this also in the past, as you know. Soon after the first World War, there was a lot of immigration in Prairie Provinces. For the same reason, that the government actively recruited immigrants there and provided lots of agricultural land to Ukrainian immigrants. Similar experiments could be done in provinces like Prince Edward Island. Nova Scotia has done so, not that they have given land to new immigrants, but they worked with Agriculture Nova Scotia to attract immigrants in rural areas.

Part 2

SECOND SESSION: PANEL I

"IMMIGRATION, MOBILITY AND PEI ECONOMY"

Following the keynote speech delivered by Dr. Ather Akbari, a panel was convened to address critical issues raised in the keynote speech and present their perspectives on immigration, mobility, and economy.

The panel consisted of:

- J.W. "Bill" Campbell – President, King's Square Affordable Housing Corporation
- Melanie Bailey – Project Manager, PEI Immigration Partnership (PIP)
- Dr. Jim Sentance – Chair, Department of Economics, University of Prince Edward Island
- Mary Boyd, CM: Director, MacKillop Centre for Social Justice
- Dr. Jerry Wang – Director, Recruitment and International Admissions, University of Prince Edward Island

The moderator of this session of the forum was Dr. Wimal Rankaduwa from UPEI.

The presentations of the panelists were preceded by the address by His Worship **Philip Brown**, Mayor of Charlottetown. In his address, the Mayor highlighted the importance of immigration by relaying the story of "Moore Real Estate" company and Lebanese immigrants in PEI. The mayor emphasized his conviction that diversity is a builder of the nation, province, and the city.

Bill Campbell: *President, King's Square Affordable Housing Corporation*

Diversity is a pillar of our province and cities. Immigration promotes diversity, and diversity is important. In attracting immigrants, not only well to do but also the lesser privileged immigrants must be invited, and a balance must be created. Focusing on challenges and obstacles to attract and retain immigrants in PEI, he stated the following as necessary steps to be taken:

- a) A system of guaranteed minimum basic income that goes beyond initial support provided to immigrants should be developed.
- b) Removing obstacles for professional accreditation that prevent highly skilled professional immigrants
- c) Developing a system of pay raise that recognizes the experience of immigrants
- d) Providing a system of affordable daycare
- e) Providing more seats in English language training programs
- f) Increase the availability of family physicians
- g) Improve accessibility to dental health services
- h) Increase the availability of suitable accommodation at affordable rents, and
- i) Remove the conditions that make it hard to access government support systems.

Melanie Bailey: *Project Manager, PEI Immigration Partnership (PIP)*

According to the data available at the PEI Association for Newcomers (PEI-ANC), the association has provided services to about 9000 immigrants from 79 countries during the last five years. The top five source countries immigrants in 1918 were China, Vietnam, India, Philippines, and Syria.

Immigration is imperative for Canada, PEI, and all its communities. The work to improve integration and retention fall under four pillars: pre-arrival, basic needs, employment and or business opportunities, and community and workplace integration. Working in collaboration with all the stakeholders to help immigrants to develop relationships, and a sense of belonging in the community is very important for retention and integration. The recent growth of the Vietnamese community provides a great success story in PEI.

The activities of several municipal governments such as Stratford and Cornwall play an important role in creating welcoming communities. According to the growth projections for 2019, PEI leads the country in economic growth. Economic growth in PEI is seen in the communities which experienced a growth of immigrants. So, immigration makes it possible for PEI to emerge as a have province from a have-not province and a leader in Canada.

Dr. James Sentence: *Chair, Department of Economics, UPEI*

The recent data indicate that international immigration has made a significant contribution to population growth and economic growth that outperformed Canadian on average and most of its provinces. At the same time, the retention rates, particularly among the economic class of immigrants, has been the lowest in the country. This is generally considered to be a policy failure. The entry of far more immigrants than are likely to stay may be viewed not necessarily as a problem but a positive element in attracting and retaining more immigrants.

The economy of PEI is growing. It is also one of the poorest provinces in the country with the lowest average wages and a relatively limited industrial/occupational profile. The reality is that there is an opportunity but not for everyone. Faced with this reality, some immigrants will find opportunity and stay, and many will probably not and will leave for parts of the country (like Toronto) where opportunities are widely enough spread that everyone can find something. This isn't a reality that only immigrants face, but also native-born children have been facing for decades as they complete their education and training and head out into the world to look for work.

Some suggest that immigration policies should more specifically try to attract immigrants that are more likely to find some opportunity on PEI. The limited capabilities of Governments in identifying existing economic opportunities and matching them with talents and abilities of potential immigrants, and the narrowness (idiosyncrasy) of the possibilities PEI offers pose practical difficulties in making effective policies and efficient matching. The greater flow and stock of immigrants has improved the efficiency of matching immigrants to jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities. With a larger group to consider, employers are more likely to find candidates who better suit their needs. On the entrepreneurial front, a greater volume of initiatives increases the likelihood that some successful enterprises will be established.

The other approach often suggested is to work on non-economic factors such as support systems, settlement services, and better access to language training. Perhaps counter-intuitively, the large numbers of immigrants brought in, even those that leave might help contribute to those efforts. Concerning retention, most analysts point to the existence of a community of similar individuals, people who share their culture, beliefs, cuisine, and so on. Bringing in large numbers of immigrants and international students, as PEI has done, might in effect jump-start the process, increasing the stock of immigrants to something closer to the threshold needed, even if it means the flow of people through the Island is at what looks like a disappointingly high rate. The larger stock of internationals has changed the face of PEI, Charlottetown in particular, eliciting a change in cuisine and foodstuffs available and social and cultural opportunities which might have taken much longer to develop if the province had taken a more targeted approach to immigration, at the lower levels per capita seen in the rest of Atlantic Canada.

Mary Boyd, CM: *Director, MacKillop Centre for Social Justice*

Mary Boyd focused on the experience of the refugee class of immigrants and urged the need for a broader view on immigration on several fronts making the following points. About 85% of refugees in the world find shelter in the poorest countries. The rich nations could be more generous in this respect. The rationale for immigration should not be continuous economic growth, which is commercial. In attracting immigrants, countries must consider the fact that they fill their deficits by creating deficits elsewhere. For an immigrant refugee, it takes about 15 years to reach the living standard of a native. The poverty rate among the refugees in PEI is very high. It is necessary to find creative ways of living happier with a sense of belonging. It is important to encourage more women to immigrate. Short-term solutions will not work in a fast-changing world where humans must think about the possibility of their extinction by the end of the current century as David Suzuki has pointed out. For the long-term survival of humans, the economy has to shrink. Economic growth is a challenge to all which should be handled together by all. We need to think about changing the ways we live, attitudes we have towards goods accumulation of goods and consumption. We need to think as countries, citizens of countries and look at immigration also from that point of view. We need to remove barriers and create vibrant, welcoming communities.

Dr. Jerry Wang: *Director, Recruitment and International Admissions, UPEI*

The focus of Dr. Jerry Wong's presentation was on international students. The attraction of international students and talents are critical for the growth of UPEI and any academic institution in North America. The number of international students increased significantly from 204 in 2006 to 1200 in 2019 from 83 countries. UPEI plays important roles in providing service to newcomers by educating children of newcomers and by providing opportunities for students (both foreign and native-born) to develop international connections. International students face challenges in several areas, such as housing. UPEI receives a lot of support from provincial and municipal governments through projects like AIPP in helping international students meet these challenges. UPEI has an office dedicated to aiding the process of transition from a student to a professional, to an employee and a taxpayer (Study Stay PEI). Over time, UPEI has become an institution servicing multi-functions and multi-stakeholders.

Part 3

THIRD SESSION: PANEL II

"CHALLENGES, SUCCESS STORIES, AND BEST PRACTICES"

The purpose of this session was to bring together the perspectives on challenges, success stories, and best practices for attraction and retention of immigrants from the public, private and community partners who are involved in creating welcoming and vibrant communities.

The panel consisted of:

- Craig Mackie – Executive Director, PEI Association for New Comers (PEI-ANC)
- Thilak Tennekoon – Diversity Consultant, Public Service Commission, PEI.
- Vivian Beer – Manager, HR Strategy, PEI Bioalliance Inc.
- Teresa Tu – Program Officer, PEI Office of Immigration,

The moderator of this session of the forum was Dr. Judy-Lynn Ricards from UPEI.

Craig Mackie: *Executive Director, PEI Association for New Comers (PEI-ANC)*

PEI-ANC is a province-wide organization which was initially formed to help refugees about 25 years ago. It currently provides short-term settlement services and long-term integration services to newcomers. The need for newcomers (immigrants) has increased on the Island due to shrinking native-born population and population aging. Over the last five years, PEI-ANC had 9000 registered clients from over 100 countries. In 2018, the top five source countries of newcomers were China, Vietnam, India, Philippines, and Syria. They were closely followed by Mexico, Jamaica, Egypt, Israel, Brazil, South Korea, Italy, and Nigeria. Never before, so many people came from so many countries to call the island home.

Consequently, the Island is in the midst of a historic shift. These immigrants came through various provincial and federal streams such as AIPP. PEI is the most successful province in AIPP. At present, on average, 50-60 refugees come annually mostly from Africa and Syria. The temporary residence population, which includes international students, temporary foreign workers, and visitors, is growing fast. PEI-ANC provides various services to newcomers in several languages. For example, a newcomers' guide has already been published in seven languages. As a result, the website of PEI-ANC records 30,000-40,000 visitors in a month, and PEI has become a gateway to Canada.

Canada is a promised land, but the newcomers soon face challenges related to credential recognition, culture, language, food, and shelter (housing), weather, and people, which leads to frustration and even anger. They face prejudice, discrimination, racism, and ignorance. These are undeniable facts of life that PEI-ANC works to change. Some of the issues that newcomers deal with include PTSD among some refugees, parenting difficulties, child behavior issues, changes in the power structure in the family leading to domestic situations, social exclusion (among seniors in particular), low spousal language skills, addiction issues, and workplace issues due to discrimination. PEI-ANC works with the public (governments), private, and community partners in helping with these issues and developing good practices and strong community partnerships. The formation of a significant number of Social and cultural organizations among immigrant communities has been a remarkable positive development in this respect.

Vivian Beer: *HR Manager, PEI Bioalliance Inc.*

Vivian Beer provided a brief overview of the PEI Bioscience community and the growing opportunities for both immigrants and non-immigrants in that community. The PEI bioscience community has a special focus on animal and fish health and nutrition. It has fifty-eight (58) companies the most of which are located in Charlottetown. Their annual revenues exceed \$ 200 million. There are about 1600 employees. About 80% of them are from the Atlantic region. The number of positions advertised and the range of jobs in each of the different categories are growing dramatically. The number of jobs advertised increased from 125 in 2017 to 210 in 2018. By March 2019, over 100 jobs have already been advertised. The mid-size growing companies generate about 40% of jobs. New companies seek individuals with multidisciplinary skills to fill these jobs.

Thilak Tennakoone: *Diversity Consultant, Public Service Commission, PEI.*

Thilak Tennekoone described how he connected with immigrants in his various capacities as an immigrant, organizer of activities that bring together various ethnocultural communities and a key member of organizations providing various services to newcomers. Commenting on in his current role as the Diversity Consultant for PEI government (Public Service Commission) he stated the following. The office of Diversity Consultant considers various dimensions of diversity, including ethnocultural diversity. The group of people who include immigrants, refugees, international students, and other newcomers is a major focus group. Most often, the Diversity Consultant deals with current challenges and other issues faced by immigrant communities and focuses on the services and programs established for the benefit of immigrants and newcomers. Among the major challenges faced by immigrants about employment are the issues of foreign credentials assessment, language skills, and eligibility. The office of the Diversity Consultant has developed several programs to provide help in credential assessment, training, education and professional development in partnership with licensing bodies, regulatory bodies, community organizations, and settlement and integration service providers such as PEI-ANC. However, there is a need for more support systems, bringing programs, internships, and job-shadowing opportunities for immigrants and newcomers. The diversity and inclusion policy of the province is currently under review to make the entire government is more accountable for diversity.

Teresa Tu: *Program Officer, PEI Office of Immigration*

Speaking on her own experience as a high-school student who came alone to study English at the age of 16 years, the speaker confirmed that she faced numerous challenges mentioned by Craig Mackie earlier in the session. She found that it was difficult as a newcomer to enter already formed groups of students. She connected with PEI-ANC and began to involve in volunteer work, which helped her made a lot of friends. She entered UPEI as a student, where she later worked as a representative of International students. After graduation from UPEI, Teresa Tu joined the PEI Office of Immigration, where she works on the retention of international students. The office successfully met the last year's target rate of retention, which was at 10%.

Part 4

FINAL SESSION: PANEL III

"VIEWS ON IMMIGRATION, DIVERSITY, AND COMMUNITY"

The main purpose of this session was to bring together the views on immigration, diversity, and community building from the main political parties and community organizations active on the island.

The panel consisted of:

- Hon. Sean Casey – MP, Liberal Party of Canada
- Dr. Peter Bevan Baker – MLA, Leader, Third Party, PEI
- Joe Byrne – Leader, New Democratic Party, PEI
- Dr. Najam Chisti – Ex-President, Muslim Society of PEI Inc.

The moderator of this session was Dr. Wimal Rankaduwa from UPEI.

Hon. Sean Casey: *MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Fisheries*

Commenting on immigration from a local perspective, Hon. Sean Casey made the following remarks. It is and always has been a hallmark of the Trudeau government. The Prime Minister repeats every opportunity that diversity is our strength and that Canada is stronger not in spite of our differences aside because of them.

Very early in the Mandate of the government, there was a meeting in PEI of four provincial premiers and about five Federal cabinet ministers. One of the things that emerged from that meeting was the Atlantic growth strategy. The strategy has several pillars, but the first one that was pushed forward was the Atlantic immigration pilot. This was a pilot project unique to Atlantic Canada. That was an entirely separate stream of immigrants to come in to augment gaps in our Workforce. It brought employers into the picture to help with the settlement of every single immigrant. It included their families. The Atlantic immigration pilot is in its second year now, and it has been such a roaring success, in terms of the number of companies that have signed up, the number of companies that have participated, and the number of people that have come. This opened new spaces up for 2,000 new immigrants across Atlantic Canada. Just last couple of weeks, there's been a steady stream of cabinet ministers through PEI including the Prime Minister, the Immigration Minister, the Fisheries Minister and the Rural Economic Development Minister. When the Immigration Minister was here, a couple of significant things happened. One of them was to reverse a mistake that was made by the government in 2014 when they closed the immigration in Charlottetown. He announced the reopening of that office, something of which we are extremely proud. The other was he paid a visit to a company called Seafood Express. Seafood Express is a trucking company which found it hard to get truck drivers. Seafood Express is one of the participants in the Atlantic immigration pilot. About 60% of their truck drivers are immigrants. The expansion of Seafood Express that you see out there on the corner of the Sherwood road is a result of being able to attract people to come to Canada with their families and to be put on a fast-track citizenship and to be able to fill a labor gap. So, there is no more concrete example of the synergy that happens when the good policy and good people come together, and it's added with a bit of good entrepreneurial risk-taking. That's a happy story that is close to the ground.

Hon. Sean Casey stated that he would be happy to engage in a further discussion about the immigration policy of this government whose impact can be seen in PEI.

Chijioke Amadi (*Black Cultural Society*) posed a question following Hon. Sean Casey's presentation as follows: We talked about immigration on the island and how we have newcomers' programs that welcome immigrants. From your perspective, what do you think the island is done for the black community. What can we do or what can you help us do or what do we have to do so you can actually know that there is a black community on the island and actually give us a voice because we don't have a voice. So please tell us what you can help us do to actually make us part of what you're trying to do. We don't look for money and stuff like that.

Hon. Sean Casey responded as follows: That's a challenging question. One of the things that we do here in Prince Edward Island and right across the country is to foster an environment of inclusion, to foster an environment that encourages individual expression that encourages those who share the same culture the same history the same values to be able to come together and to be able to celebrate those. You said you don't want money, and handouts. But, there is funding within the Department of Canadian Heritage for cultural celebrations, that isn't something that you're interested in but to the extent that the black Cultural Society, for example, seeks to project their voice, is there really a hand up available from the government.

Tamara Steele (*Black Cultural Society*) clarified that individually the black people who are immigrating to PEI aren't necessarily looking for handouts, but the society, however, might be a different story.

Hon. Sean Casey responded further as follows: Frankly, It is not particularly difficult for any individual to make a contribution to the society in Prince Edward Island, whether it be political organizations or charitable causes We actually have right across multiple sectors real challenges in attracting volunteers. The voluntary sector is absolutely one place where connections can be made where skills can be showcased and where leadership can be honed. On an individual basis, where you came from or what color you are would not in any way affect communities that are available to contribute and that certainly has been my experience. And, on a collective scale the black cultural Society or any other would be able to express their culture, history and traditions and celebrate them. The federal government does see merit in that and does have funding envelopes available for that. And, to the extent that help is needed, from any organization black Cultural Society or any other, I am happy to help through the process.

Dr. Najam Chisti: *Ex-President, Muslim Society of PEI, Inc.*

Dr. Chisti stated that he has lived on the island for 40 years and he is still not considered an islander, and he does not worry about it as even those who were born on the island are not considered islanders. Further, he stated that he was the President of the Muslim society of PEI, and he has devoted his time to the community work. There are Muslims from 29 different countries living on the island. To retain professionals on the island, we constructed the first mosque in Prince Edward Island. It has helped retain the professionals like engineers and new immigrants to the island. The mosque has become a place for social gathering and getting information as to what to do what not to do and who to meet. Many immigrants feel lonely in PEI for various reasons. You may ask why. The refugees' culture is completely different from what we live in here in Canada. Refugees live in a closely-knit Society where they visit friends, and relatives unannounced, which is difficult here. They enjoy the freedom of speech and the freedom of expression without being faulted. But they are still reluctant to engage in politics actively. There are other cultural differences which make it difficult to teach them against the things which they have been doing for years and years. So, you must understand the culture first before we can ask them to be part of our society, and that is the biggest challenge for all our Islanders.

The issue of professional accreditation must be addressed to avoid the waste of talents due to not working in their own profession. Muslim men are the breadwinners, and women stay home and take care of the family. If they can't bring the food to the table, they feel impotent. Lack of language skills may be a problem. The onus is on them to learn as fast as possible so that they can be productive. Self-governing bodies that have a protectionist policy is a great hindrance, and they have come a little farther up but not in many professions like doctors, Engineers, and even plumbers. Immigrants are not asking for treatment that they should be given over somebody else. Everybody should

be on merit whether they are Canadians or immigrants. A difference in the Island way of life should be made. The island way of life is slow, and people do not embrace change very fast; it takes many years.

Dr. Peter Bevan-Baker: *MLA, Leader, Third Party, PEI*

Dr. Bevan-Baker acknowledged that the land on which the forum takes place is the traditional and ancestral land of the Mi'kmaq, and that has special relevance today. Immigration is what has created this island (PEI), and immigration will also create the island of the future. Because of the movement of people, the world is constantly changing.

Dr. Bevan-Baker stated that he is a first-generation immigrant to Canada and Prince Edward Island. When he was a child in Scotland, the communities there were relatively isolated. In the fairly recent past, the world has changed from a world of isolated communities to a more connected and crowded world. Humans, a species which should learn to live in isolation and tolerate each other has had to learn to live together collectively on, to more than tolerate each other and accept each other to be inclusive and to be able to live well together. The changing world brings both challenges and opportunities—the opportunities to relate to learning from people who come to life with different perspectives because of their religion, culture, and language. All of these are tremendous opportunities for us to expand our perspective on what it means to be human. The proximity and the need for us all to live well together in a crowded planet also brings challenges—the challenges of acceptance of not feeling threatened or fearful of people who look and behave differently and have different beliefs.

PEI immigration has a very mixed history. We have exploited certain people horrendously in the past and to a lesser extent today. It is an immigration program that's designed to suit economic situations (whether that's to provide cheap temporary foreign workers to keep some industries going or attract who are enormously rich and can be forced to abandon their deposits). But is that the way to grow a community? Is that the way to create a place where people can coexist on care and love for each other. That is a much bigger question. The government needs to review the central reason for why immigration is there. It should be to produce an island which reflects the diversity of a changing world in which we can all feel proud of the place, rather than to keep certain sectors alive and economy going. We're very good as human beings at erecting barriers based on race, religion, belief, age, gender, and sexual orientation and quickly create silos that divide our cells. We are much less good at recognizing the commonalities that exist between all human beings we live on an island. Absolutely in many respects, the earth on which we live can be viewed as an island flashing through space and in the same way that the microcosm that is PEI.

Joe Byrne: *Leader New Democratic Party, PEI*

Joe Byrne focused on the three areas of awareness, credential recognition, and inclusion, and made several important points for attraction and retention of immigrants and creating a welcoming community. About awareness, the panelist pointed out that language is an opportunity and not a barrier. Diversity makes individuals and communities stronger, resilient, and more understanding, and hence, needs to be embraced. The capacity to empathize, sympathize, and understand is a function of diversity. We need to understand that due to the existing system of the pension, there will be a lot of newcomers who will face problems of financial security during their age of retirement. The issue of credential recognition is a serious problem that makes qualified newcomers unable to live their dreams, which is an unacceptable situation in modern times. About inclusion, it is necessary to embrace differences, engage each other on different cultural and linguistic perspectives, and celebrate them to build strong communities.

Sarah Tamula: *President, Black Cultural Society, PEI.*

In responding to the panel presentations, Sarah Tamula highlight that jobs and quality of life, which partly depends on the sense of belonging, are the two reasons that attract people to come and live on the island. Some newcomers have faced problems of inclusion in the broader community. They also do not know where to turn to get information on the opportunities and help.

Raymundo Yu: *Sunrays/Migrant Worker Support*

As an immigrant who lived on the island for about 30 years, Raymundo Yu described the problems of (a) accreditation, particularly of foreign medical doctors, and (b) availability of long-term housing at affordable rents. He also highlighted the importance of volunteering as a way out of exclusion.






Dr. Peter Bevan-Baker stated that the availability of long-term housing is a complex, multifaceted problem. The factors such as government policy, the provincial tenancy act which is forty years old, lack of support services provided to newcomers, increase in short-term rental units, lack of available spaces, and slow pace of government actions are responsible for that.

Joe Byrne pointed out that property sales normally increase as the demand increases, creating shortages, which led to a shortage of affordable housing. The government's refusal of public funding for housing will make the problem worse. Instead of giving grants to private developers, the government should own and manage the housing. On temporary foreign workers, the speaker stated that the employment standards act needs to be revised to make it easier for temporary foreign workers to express their concerns about employers, and make the temporary work permits a pathway to residency. Strict language requirements need to be reviewed to solve the accreditation difficulties of foreign professionals, such as medical doctors.

The Report Prepared by Dr. Wimal Rankaduwa.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION OF SPEAKERS/PANELISTS

This section of the report contains short biographies of the invited speakers and panelists in the forum, in the order of their presentations at the community forum. Some biographies were provided by the speaker or the panelist. The rest are slightly modified, versions of the biographical information provided in the websites listed under the respective speaker or panelist. More information may be obtained by visiting the websites listed.

	<p>Dr. Neb Kujundzic Dean of Arts, University of Prince Edward Island</p> <p>http://islandscholar.ca/people/nkujundzic</p>
	<p>Jeff Young Business Integration Manager, Office of Immigration, PEI</p> <p>https://www.linkedin.com/in/jeff-young-9b0b0765/?originalSubdomain=ca https://www.princedwardisland.ca/en/employee/young-jeff</p>
	<p>Steve Ogden Mayor of Stratford, PEI</p> <p>http://www.townofstratford.ca/cms/one.aspx?portalid=11992863&pageid=13672642 https://www.facebook.com/steveogdenpei/</p>
	<p>Ron Atkinson Economic Development Officer, City of Charlottetown</p> <p>https://www.linkedin.com/in/ron-atkinson-b1502830/?originalSubdomain=ca https://www.charlottetown.ca/contact_us</p>
	<p>Peter Meggs Councilor, Town of Cornwall, PEI</p> <p>https://www.linkedin.com/in/peter-meggs-86989871/?originalSubdomain=ca</p>



Keynote Speaker

Dr. Ather Akbari,

Chair, Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration, Aging, and Diversity (ARGEIAD).

Professor, Department of Economics, Saint Mary's University

<https://observatoirevivreensemble.org/en/ather-akbari-phd>

<https://smu.ca/research/profiles/faculty/Akbari92.html>



Philip Brown,

Mayor, City of Charlottetown

Mayor Philip Brown was born and raised in Charlottetown. He graduated from the University of Prince Edward Island in 1981 with a Bachelor of Arts in History, followed that with two years in Quebec studying French, and completed his Bachelor of Education in 1987. He taught for 28 years at the elementary level and works with the family business as a business accountant and public relations officer.

Mayor Brown has volunteered on many boards and committees through the years, including the Charlottetown Minor Hockey Association, UPEI Board of Governors, and the Charlottetown Legion Executive. He served two terms on Charlottetown City Council from 2001-2006.

https://www.charlottetown.ca/mayor_council/city_council/meet_my_councillor



J.W. (Bill) Campbell

President, King's Square Affordable Housing Corporation

J.W. (Bill) Campbell involved in the private sponsorship of refugees for the past thirty years. He has created non-profit housing corporations to help house refugees at affordable rental rates and enhance sponsorship. He has also created a non-profit bank to provide lending to newcomers to PEI to upgrade their foreign credentials. He was an elected member of the Sponsorship Agreement Holders Council of Canada. Currently, he is Board Member of the Catholic Refugee Sponsorship Council of Canada. J.W. (Bill) Campbell received the Order of PEI in 2015.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/j-w-bill-campbell-150646103/?originalSubdomain=ca>



Melanie Bailey

Project Manager, PEI Immigration Partnership (PIP)

<https://www.peianc.com/en/meet-the-staff>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/melanie-bailey-60027866/?originalSubdomain=ca>



Dr. James Sentance

Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Economics, UPEI

Dr. Jim Sentance is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Economics Department at UPEI, where he has taught since 1985. His research is primarily related to the economy and policy related issues of Prince Edward Island. He is a frequent commentator in the media on topics related to his research.

<https://www.islandscholar.ca/people/sentance>



Mary Boyd, C.M.

Member of the Order of Canada

Director, Mackillop Centre For Social Justice

<https://www.gg.ca/en/node/150>



Dr. Jerry Wang

Director, Recruitment and International Admissions, UPEI)

www.upei.ca/discovermore/jerry-wang



Craig Mackie,

Executive Director, PEI Association for New Comers

<https://www.peianc.com/en/meet-the-staff>



Vivian Beer

HR Manager, PEI Bioalliance

Vivian has over 15 years of experience working in senior management and operating her own marketing company. Projects have included international business development, HR planning, market research, sales/marketing management, events organization, and business-to-business partnering programs. As Manager, HR Strategy for the PEI BioAlliance since 2012, she collaborates with bioscience companies and academic institutions to promote job opportunities, build HR best practices, support skills development and generate public awareness of bioscience careers. Vivian has a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Public Administration Diploma from the University of Prince Edward Island. She is a published writer and photographer and is actively involved in community work. Vivian is a board member of BioTalent Canada; a national organization focused on attracting talent to the bioeconomy.

<https://peibioalliance.com/staff/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/vivian-beer-8b318169/?originalSubdomain=ca>



Thilak Tennekoone,

Diversity Consultant, Public Service Commission, Govt. of PEI

Thilak Tennekone has a number of years' experience in the areas of diversity and inclusion program management, immigration programs, multicultural promotion/education, and cultural diversity programs. Over the past 20 years, Thilak has worked as the Diversity Consultant with the Public Service Commission, Government of Prince Edward Island. Thilak is responsible for the diversity and inclusion policy development, implementation, research, and diversity program management within the PEI Public Sector. Thilak also worked as the Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the Town of Stratford and currently a Member of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO Advisory Committee on Inclusive Municipalities. Thilak has played an active role in the community serving with a number of organizations, advisory groups, ethnocultural associations, and diverse community organizations. Thilak was recognized as one of the top 25 immigrants to Canada in 2015. He also received the 2016 PEI Human Rights Award for advancing Human Rights and Equality in PEI and UPEI Distinguished Alumni Award in 2018.



Teresa Tu

Program Officer, Office of Immigration, PEI

Teresa Tu moved to Charlottetown at the age of 16 for the education adventure by herself. She graduated as an international student from the University of Prince Edward Island in 2016 where she obtained a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a specialization in Finance, a Minor in Economics and a Co-operative Education Designation. Tu was a member of the UPEI Student Union Council, and she worked with the Buddy Program connecting international students with domestic students through planning, coordinating and executing events. Teresa is currently working for the Province of PEI to help more people to integrate in PEI. In addition, Tu has been an active volunteer for local community events. After living here for close to a decade, she has fallen in love with this Mighty Island and now calls it "home".

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/employee/tu-teresa>
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/teresa-tu-398b90ab/?originalSubdomain=ca>



Hon. Sean Casey

The Hon. Sean Casey is the Member of Parliament for Charlottetown. Sean is currently the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Mélanie Joly. He was first elected in 2011 and has previously served as the Veterans Affairs Critic, the Justice Critic for the Liberal Party, as well as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Jody Wilson-Raybould.

Hon. Sean Casey has extensive legal and business experience. Sean was the Regional Managing Partner at the law firm of Stewart McKelvey. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2008. From 2003-2008, Sean worked as President of the Paderno Group of Companies. He worked extensively in strategic planning, financial management, operations, and human resources. Sean elected to return to Stewart McKelvey and was named Managing Partner in 2008.

<http://scasey.liberal.ca/biography/>
<http://scasey.liberal.ca/>



Dr. Najam Chisti

Ex-President, Muslim Society of PEI Inc.
Ex-Vice President, PEI Multicultural Council

<https://myeastcoastexperience.com/top-25-immigrants/>



Hon. Peter Bevan Baker

MLA, Leader, Third Party, PEI

Hon. Peter Bevan-Baker arrived at the Prince Edward Island Legislative Assembly in May 2015 after following a long and winding road. That road began in Aberdeen, Scotland, moving through Newfoundland and Ontario before arriving in Hampton Prince Edward Island in 2002.

On the way he studied music, became a dentist, married “the kindest person I’ve ever met,” had 4 children, wrote 6 plays and a musical, and ran as a Green Party candidate in 10 elections before finally succeeding in May 2015 when he became the proud MLA for Kellys Cross – Cumberland. In doing so, Peter became the first Green Party member of the Provincial Legislature. On April 23, 2019, Peter was re-elected in the newly established district of New Haven-Rocky Point, and with a caucus of eight, he formed the first Green Official Opposition in Canada.

Peter has always been active in his community, contributing in a variety of ways. Whether it was directing plays at his local elementary school, chairing the board of the Victoria Playhouse, or coaching soccer, he always felt and acted on a strong sense of community responsibility.

<http://www.assembly.pe.ca/peterbevanbaker>



**Joe Byrne,
Leader, New Democratic Party, PEI**

<https://www.ndppei.ca/joe/>

STEERING COMMITTEE



Dr. Wimal Rankaduwa

Professor, Department of Economics, University of Prince Edward Island
Member, ARGEIAD, SMU

<https://www.islandscholar.ca/people/wrankaduwa>



Dr. Richard Kurial

Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Prince Edward Island

<https://www.islandscholar.ca/people/rkurial>



Dr. Judy-Lynn Richards

Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology
University of Prince Edward Island

<https://www.islandscholar.ca/people/jrichards>

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS (ATTENDEES)

There was no prior registration of participants. A general request was made to attendees to provide information on name, affiliation, and contact details, and sign on the list which was available at the entrance of the venue of the forum. The following is a list of participants who willingly signed on the list. Many attendees who did not sign on the list. At one point, we counted more than 80 participants in the forum.

Dr. Wimal Rankaduwa	<i>UPEI</i>
Peter Meggs	<i>Councillor, Town of Cornwall</i>
Ron Atkinson	<i>City of Charlottetown</i>
Marilyn J.Yap-Yu	<i>Sunrays Hospitality</i>
Jeff Young	<i>PEI Office of Immigration</i>
Emily Rutledge	<i>Career Development Services</i>
Dr. Najam Chisti	<i>Muslim Society of PEI</i>
Farida Chisti	<i>Women's Institute</i>
Lan Do	<i>VietPEI</i>
Nghia Truong	<i>VietPEI</i>
Noella Richard	<i>Cooperative Integration Francophone</i>
Sarah Tamula	<i>President, Black Cultural Society PEI</i>
Kady McDonnell	<i>Study & Stay</i>
Maigan Newson	<i>Province of PEI</i>
Mary Boyd, CM	<i>MacKillop Center for Social Justice</i>
Laura Lee Howard	<i>Board Member, PEIANC</i>
Let La Rosa	<i>Pilipino Canadian Association</i>
Raymundo Yu	<i>Sunrays/Migrant Worker Support</i>
Steve Ogden	<i>Mayor, Stratford</i>
Bill Campbell	<i>CMEC</i>
Tracy Nguyen	<i>Viet PEI</i>
Teresa Tu	<i>Island Investment Development Inc.</i>
Melanie Bailey	<i>PEIANC</i>
Chijioko Amadi	<i>Black Cultural Society</i>
Joan Rousseau	<i>CIF</i>
Rakhesh Uthman	<i>Indo Canadian Association</i>
Sean Casey	<i>MP, PEI</i>
Dinh Nhu Nguyen	<i>PNP</i>
Phong Vu	
Huong Do	
Marilyn Murphy	<i>ACOA</i>
Lieu Nguyen Thi Bio	
Doreen Daley	<i>Student, UPEI</i>
Tamara Steele	<i>Black Cultural Society</i>
Lisa Hughes	<i>ACOA</i>

Vivian Beer	<i>PEI Bioalliance</i>
Ouma Cuniah	<i>UPEI</i>
Carol Gillis	<i>Home Stay, Charlottetown</i>
Brian Moase	<i>City of Charlottetown</i>
Philip Brown	<i>Mayor, City of Charlottetown</i>
Selvi Roy	<i>UPEI/ACIC</i>
Thilak Tennekone	<i>Public Service Commission, PEI</i>
Carolina Arango	
Leon Liang	<i>UPEI</i>
Anna Kuznetsova	<i>UPEI</i>
Craig Mackie	<i>PEIANC</i>
Chera-Lee Gomez	<i>McInnes Cooper</i>
Joe Byrne	<i>NDP, PEI</i>
Dr. Peter Bevan-Baker	<i>Green Party</i>
Chris Marlon Perera	<i>Indo Canadian Association</i>
Tony Reddin	<i>Council of Canadians</i>

**Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration,
Aging and Diversity (ARGEIAD)**

In Partnership with

**University of Prince Edward Island UPEI)
PEI Association for New Comers (PEIANC)
PEI Immigration Partnership (PIP)
and MacKillop Centre for Social Justice**

Presents

**A COMMUNITY FORUM ON
IMMIGRATION, MOBILITY AND ECONOMY:**

McMillan Hall, UPEI, Charlottetown

March 15, 2019

8:30 - 3:30 pm

No cost - lunch is provided

ALL ARE WELCOME-RSVP REQUIRED

ime.forum2019@gmail.com or 902-213-6106 (call/text)

ARGEIAD's mandate is to provide community outreach on issues to promote research and mobilize knowledge focusing on the economic significance of immigration, diversity and aging associated with the demographic shift. ARGEIAD has representatives from both university and community organizations, e.g., PEIANC.



IMMIGRATION, MOBILITY AND ECONOMY: A COMMUNITY FORUM

McMillan Hall, UPEI, Charlottetown

March 15, 2019

(Tentative Program)

- 8:30-9:00 Welcome by Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration, Aging and Diversity (ARGEIAD), Saint Mary's University (SMU)
- Address by Dr. Neb Kujundzic, Dean of Arts, on behalf of University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI)
- Addresses on behalf of PEI Government/Federal Government/Local Government
- 9:00-9:45 Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ather Akbari, ARGEIAD, Saint Mary's University
- "Immigration, Mobility, and PEI Economy"**
- 9:45-10:00 Coffee Break
- 10:00-10:45 **Panel:** Melanie Bailey, PIP; Mary Boyd, CM; Dr. James Sentance, UPEI; Bill Campbell, KSAHC. Dr. Jerry Wang, UPEI.
Moderator: Dr. Wimal Rankaduwa, UPEI and ARGEIAD
- 10:45-12:00 Considering the Research: What Next?
- 12:00-12:45 Lunch (provided)
- 12:45 – 1:45 **Panel:** Craig Mackie, Thilak Tennekone, Teresa Tu, Vivian Beer
"Challenges, Success Stories and Best Practices"
Moderator: Dr. Judy-Lynn Richards, UPEI
- 1:45-2:00 Coffee Break
- 2.00-3.00 A Panel of Representatives from Social/Political Organizations: Hon. Sean Casey, MP for Charlottetown PEI; Dr. Peter Bevan-Baker, Leader, Third Party, PEI; Joe Byrne, Leader NDP, PEI; Dr. Najam Chisti, President, PEI Multicultural Council
"Views on Immigration, Diversity and Community"
Moderator: Dr. Richard Kurial, UPEI
- 3:00-3:25 Community Responses, Lessons Learned, Options and Choices
(Questions and Answers)
- 3.25-3.30 Conclusion