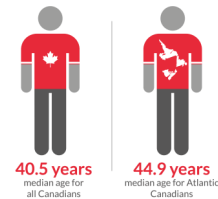
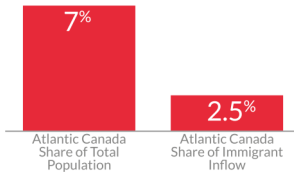


# WHY

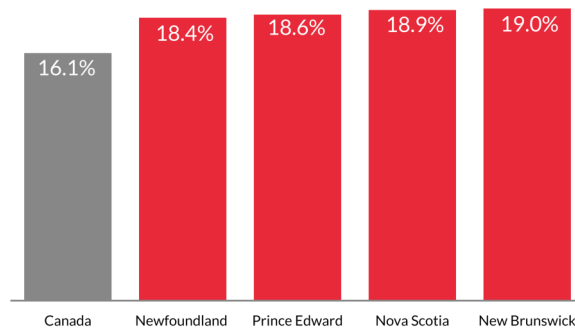
is immigration important to Atlantic Canada?

Atlantic Canada's current rate of immigration is not representative of population share.



An aging population and low fertility rates are resulting in a dwindling workforce, leading businesses to look elsewhere to fill jobs.

Proportion of the Population Aged 65 Years and Older  
July 1, 2016 • Statistics Canada



Dwindling populations have had an impact on communities, such as the closure of a number of rural schools in Atlantic Canada, economic difficulties, and reduced investment interest from businesses.

# WHAT

is our current trajectory in Atlantic Canada?



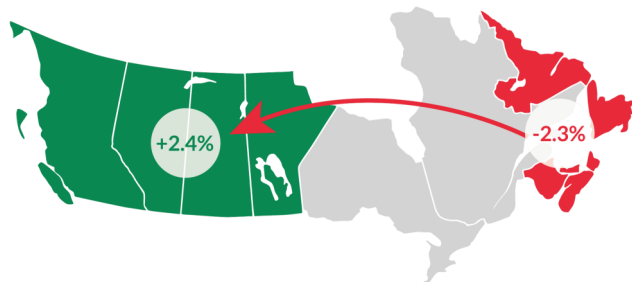
By 2038, aging populations and inter-provincial migration patterns will cause all but one Atlantic province to experience a population decline.

"We cannot sustain economic growth over time unless renewed population growth provides more workers, more entrepreneurs, and more consumers."



Atlantic Canada is the canary in the coal mine, an indicator of the impact immigration will have on the entire country.

Change in Population Share (1984-2014)  
Statistics Canada



Inter-provincial migration has significantly impacted the size and skill distribution of the workforce.

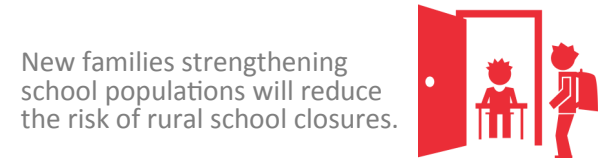
# BENEFITS

of increased immigration to Atlantic Canada

Targeted immigration will close the employment gap, allowing employers to fill positions that have been vacant for extended periods, and grow their businesses.



Skilled immigrants bring new ideas, start their own businesses and contribute to the economy.



New families strengthening school populations will reduce the risk of rural school closures.



A strengthened economy will create private sector growth, creating more jobs and allowing more Atlantic Canadians to stay here and return home.

Skilled immigrants boost trade ties between Canada and the world, further strengthening the economy. Diversity in communities assists children in a global economy.



## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"Atlantic Canada is going through a death spiral at present. The birth rate is below replacement and people are moving out. We have fewer and fewer people to pay the taxes to support the services for an increasingly aging population. And we're getting far less than our fair share of Canadian immigration."

**Former New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna**  
CBC: As it Happens (January 14, 2016)

"As proposed, this initiative would lead to a better understanding of demographic change in New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada, and a more thorough exploration of the actions that should be taken to mitigate its negative impact on the region."

**Dr. H.E.A. Campbell**  
President & Vice Chancellor, UNB  
Past Chair, Association of Atlantic Universities

"Over the summer, I found that the Atlantic provinces were particularly enthusiastic about increased immigration for demographic reasons and because they know that immigration helps to create jobs. That is why we created a pilot project to welcome more immigrants to the Atlantic region and to encourage them to stay."

**Hon. John McCallum**  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship  
Question Period • September 23, 2016

"We need to change that conversation to say [Immigration] is not a social policy, it's economic policy. It's important to our economic agenda, our innovation agenda. If we bring the right people, the motivated people, they will create more jobs and more opportunities for Canadians."

**Hon. Navdeep Bains**  
Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development  
CBC News • October 12, 2016

"Immigration is vital to the future of Canada and especially the Maritime Provinces; should the motion pass, I encourage the [committee] to examine success stories not just in Canada, but beyond our borders."

**Andrew Oland**  
President and CEO, Moosehead Breweries

# M-39

The shrinking population in Atlantic Canada has been identified as the most pressing concern for the future of the region. After studying the economic issues of Atlantic Canada and talking with local businesses whose growth has been hindered by workforce issues, I introduced Motion 39 which mandates the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration to undertake a study to consider ways to increase immigration in Atlantic Canada.

Through this study, the Committee will consider, among other things:

- The challenges associated with an aging population and shrinking population base;
- Possible recommendations on how to increase immigration to the region; and
- Factors that impact the retention of newcomers to Atlantic Canada.

During the debate in the House of Commons on M-39 support was expressed by all parties recognizing that we need to look past the natural inclination of focusing completely on job growth and look at the stresses on the workforce in order to build a sustainable future.

## Immigration as a Means of Growth in Atlantic Canada



**Alaina Lockhart, M.P • Fundy Royal**

✉ [alaina.lockhart@parl.gc.ca](mailto:alaina.lockhart@parl.gc.ca)

☎ 613-996-2332

🌐 [www.fundyroyal.ca](http://www.fundyroyal.ca)

**Private Member's Motion M-39**  
Alaina Lockhart • Fundy Royal