

Making mobile workers in the oil sands era

January 21, 2016

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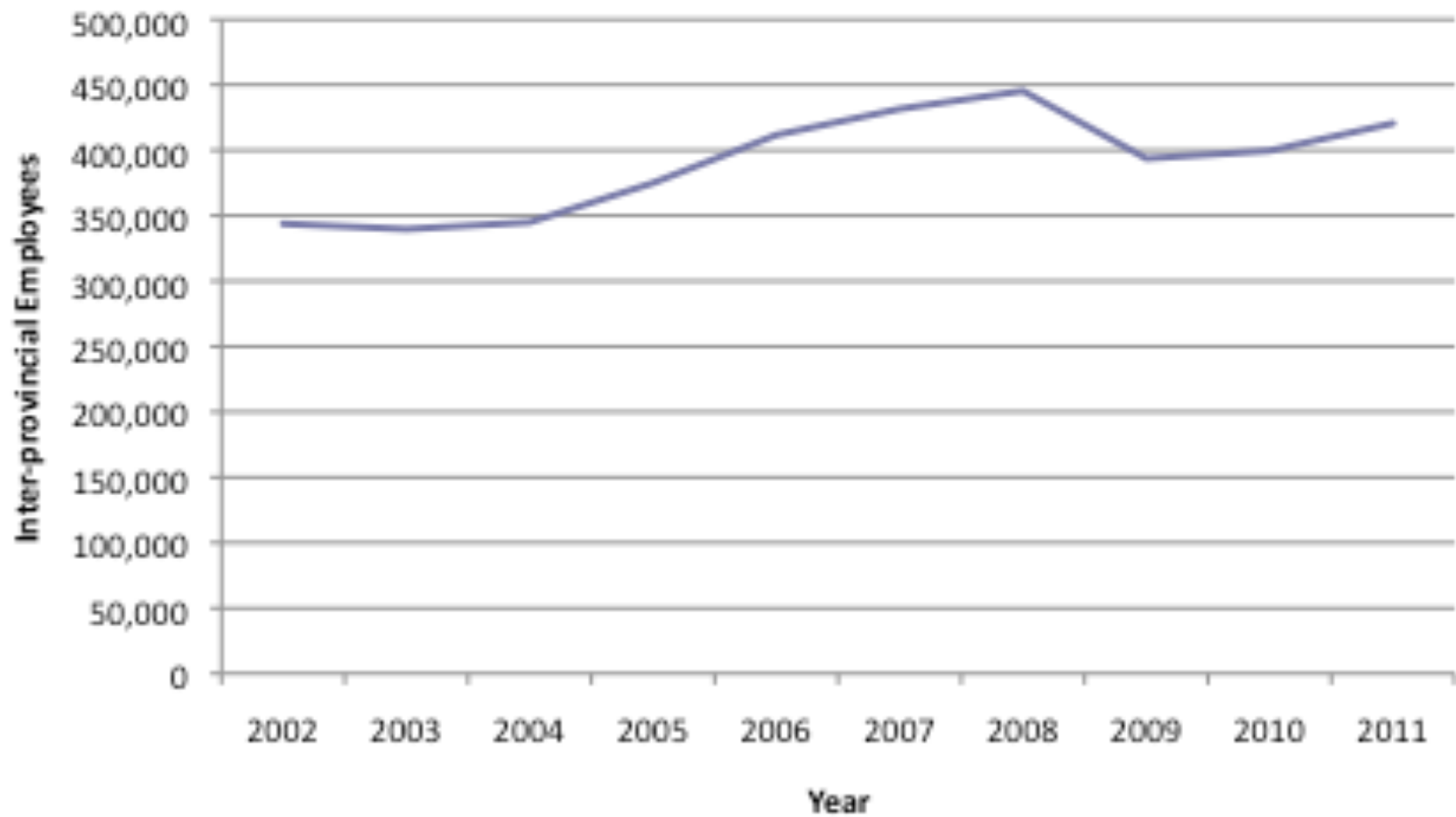


**Meet the
“inter-provincial
employee”**



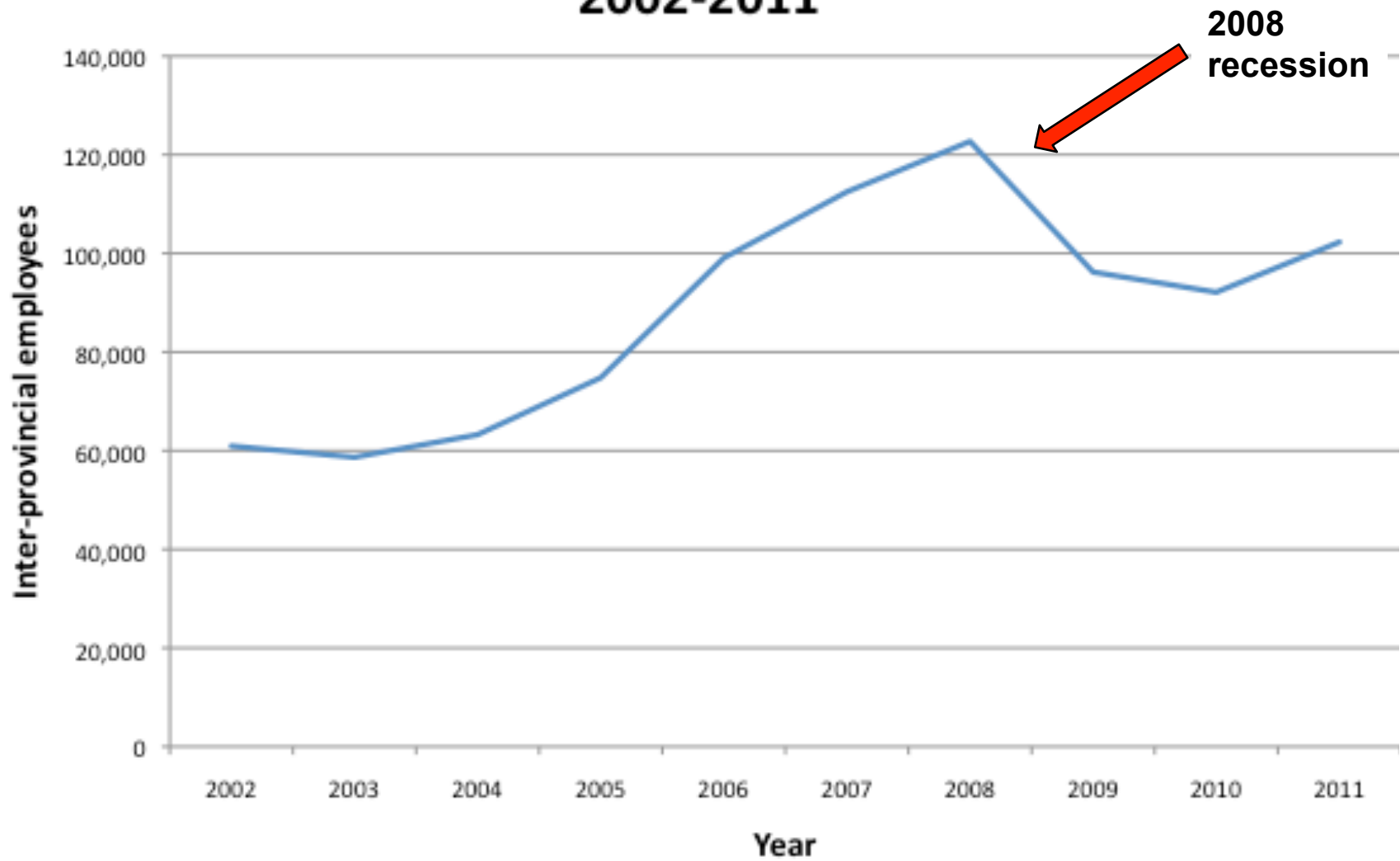
Photo: Sunny Freeman, HuffPost Canada

Inter-provincial employees in Canada, 2002-2011



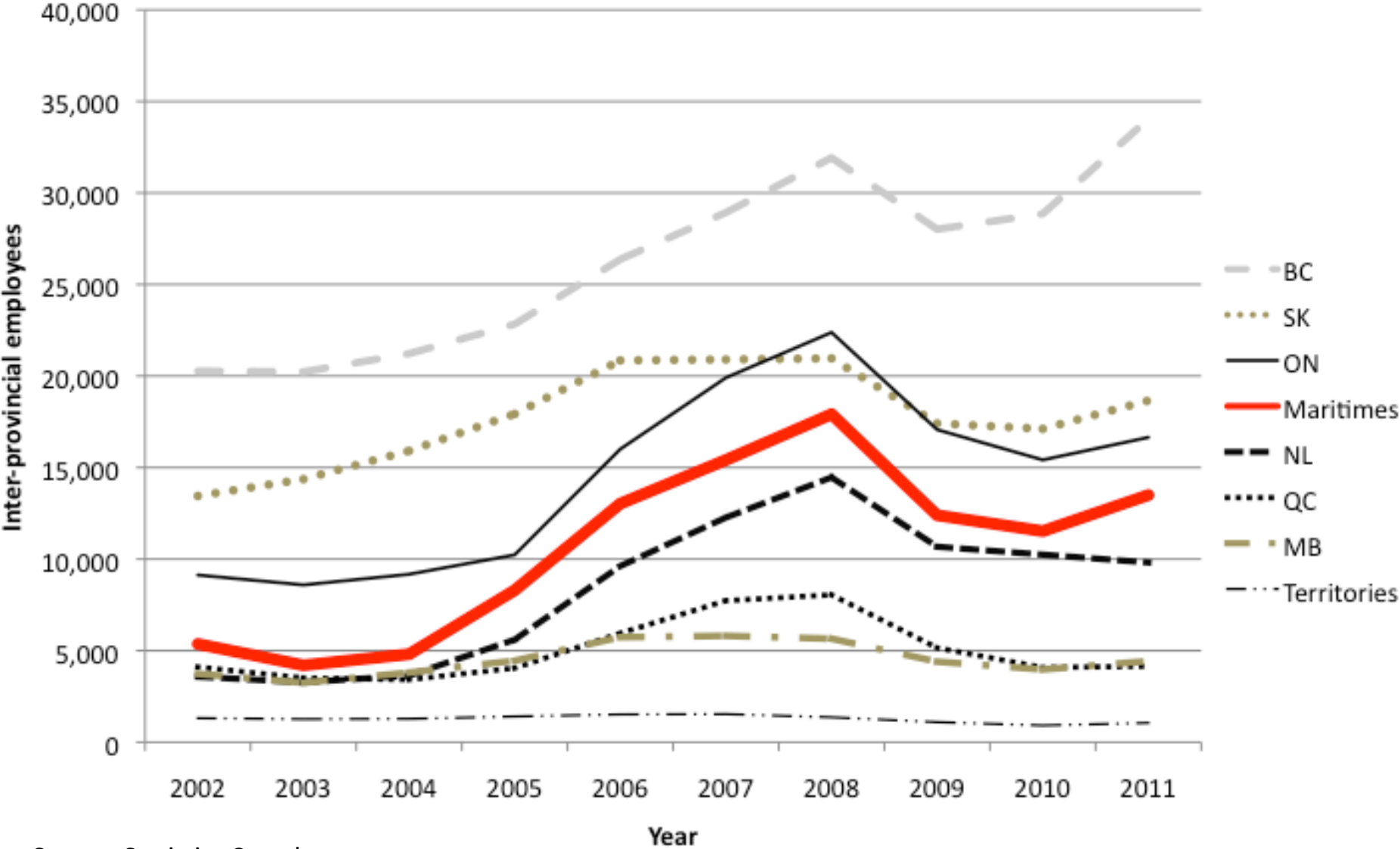
Source: Statistics Canada

Inter-provincial employees in Alberta 2002-2011



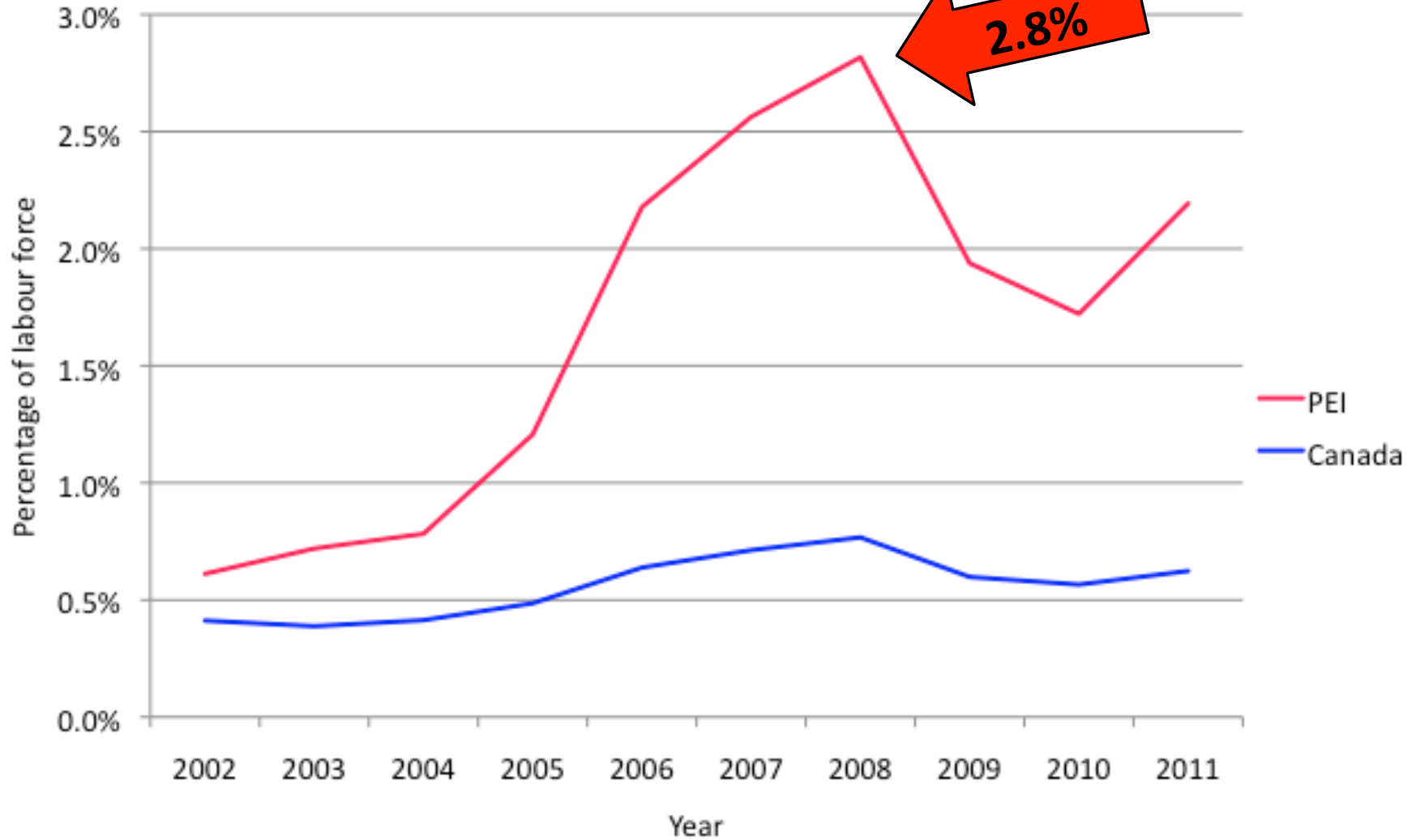
Source: Statistics Canada

Number of inter-provincial employees in Alberta by province or territory of residence, 2002-2011



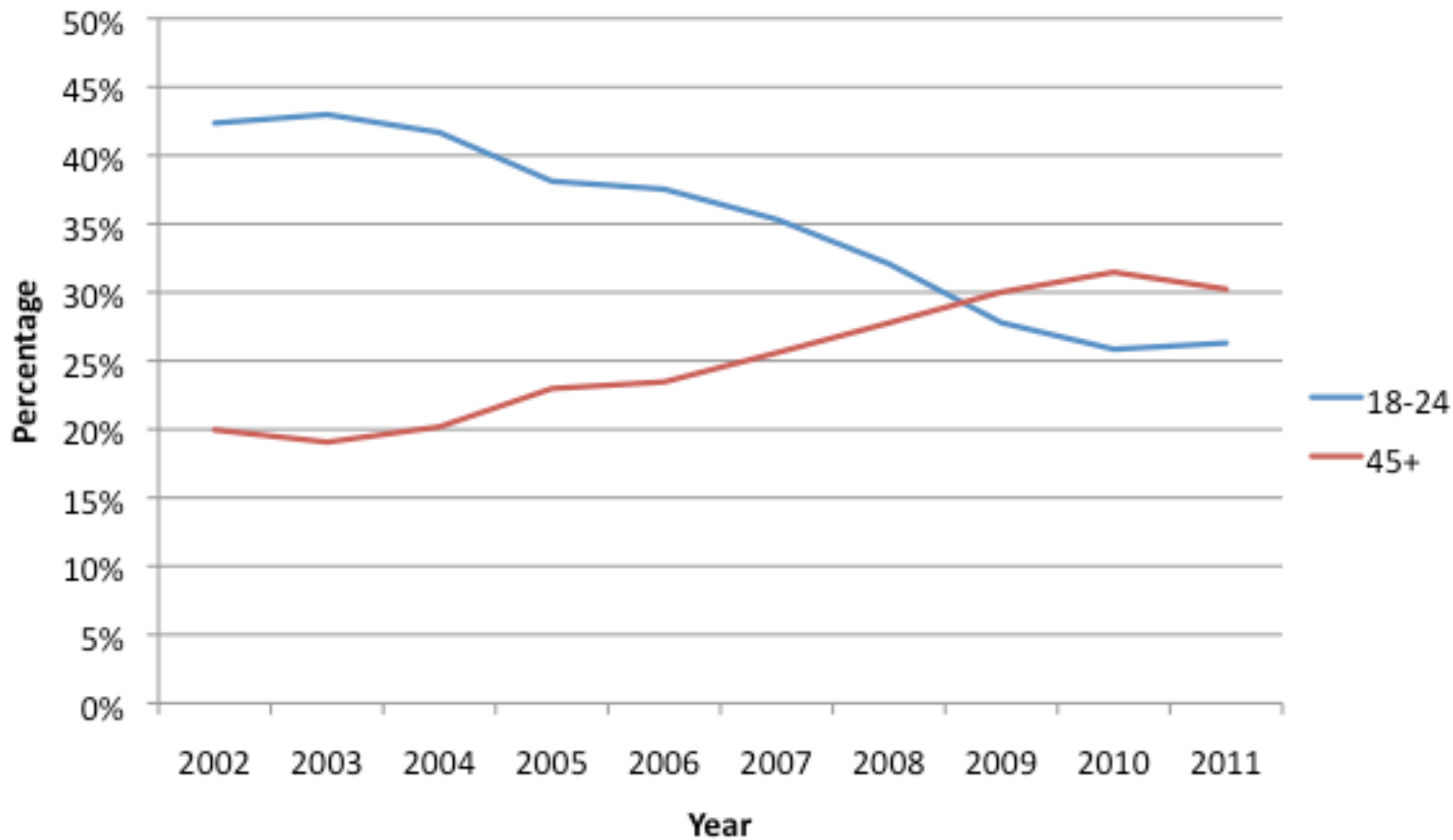
Source: Statistics Canada

Inter-provincial employees in Alberta as percentage of total local labour force (15yrs +) 2002-2011



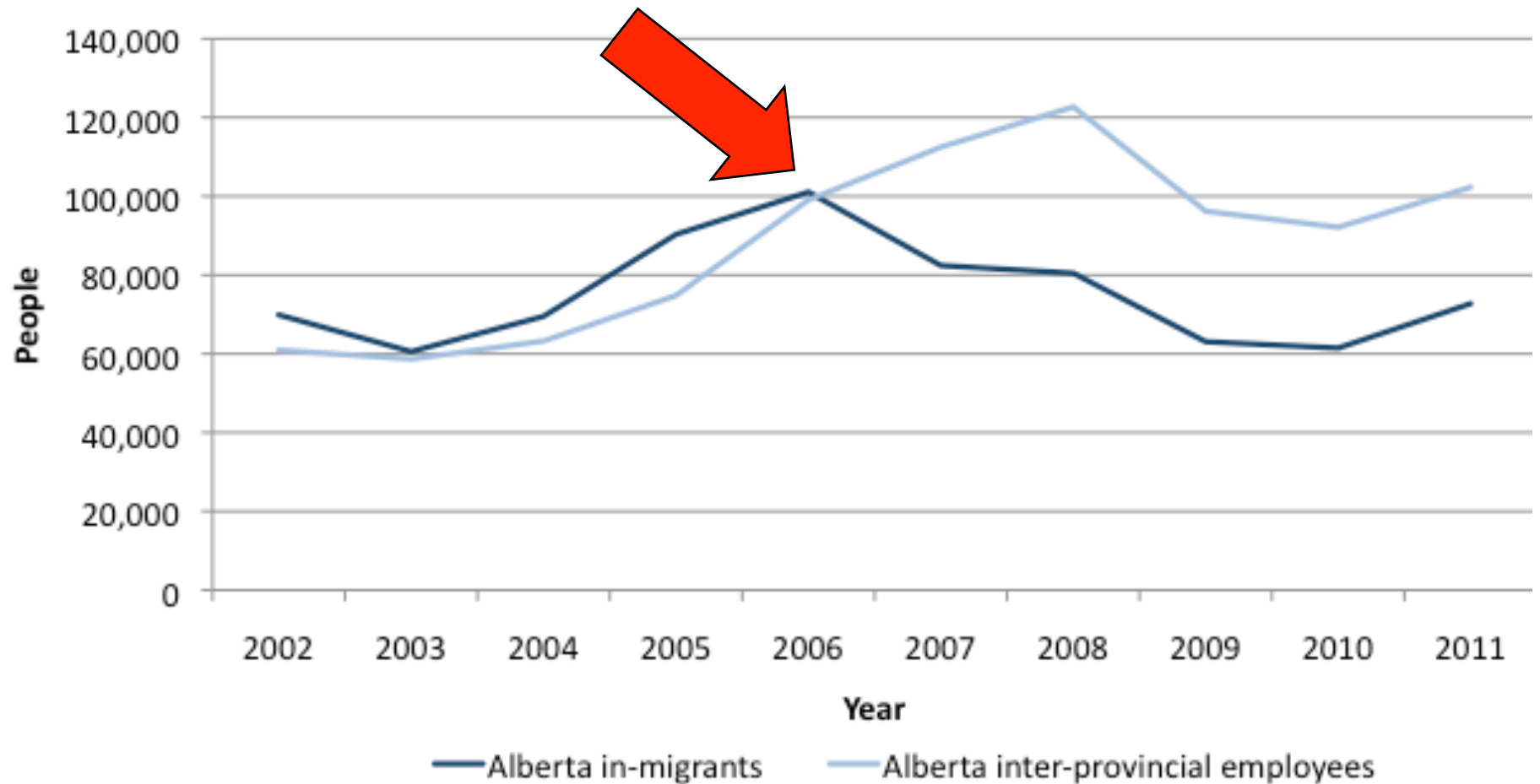
Source: Statistics Canada

Age composition of inter-provincial employees in Alberta 2002-2011



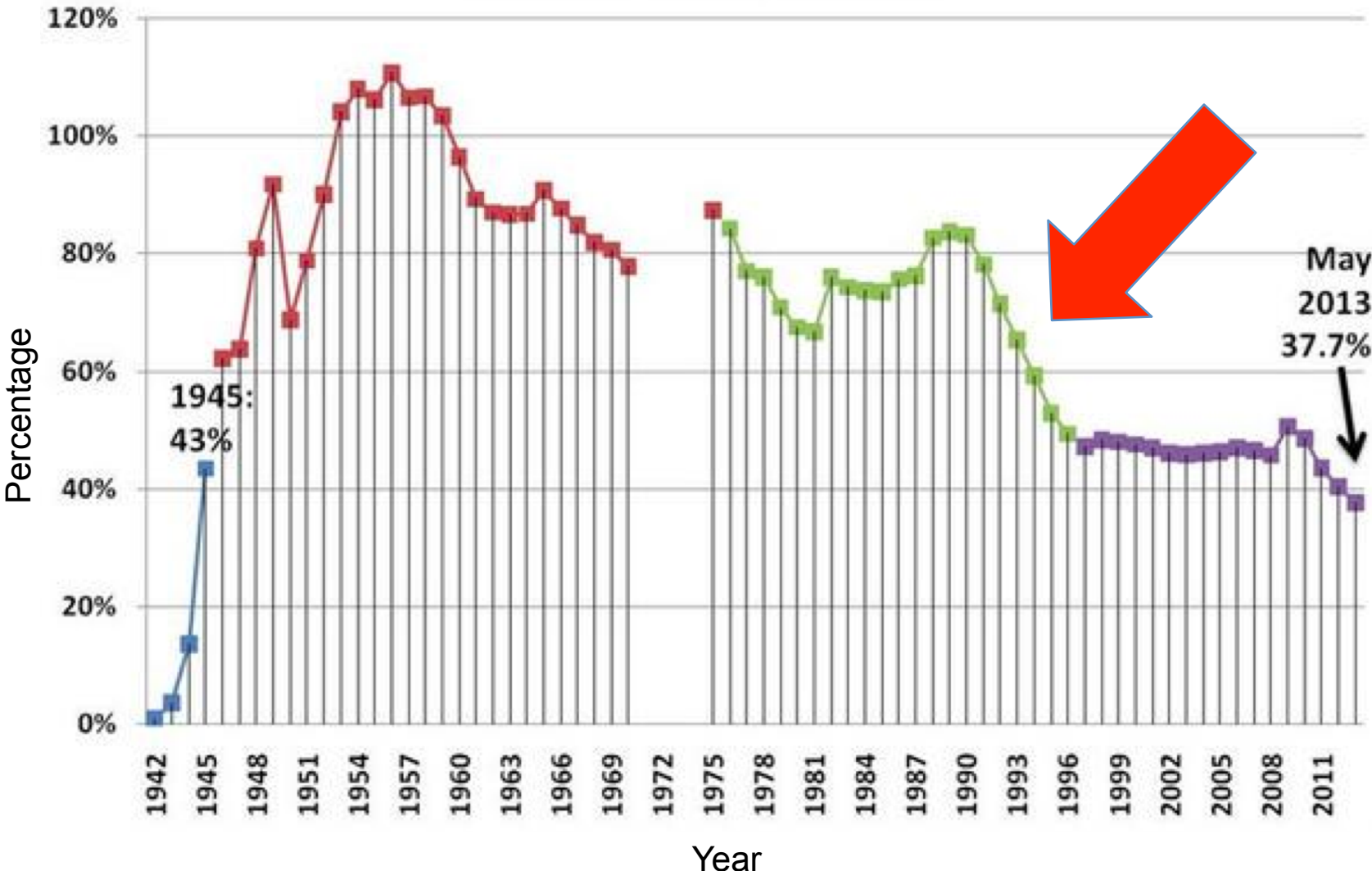
Source: Statistics Canada

Alberta in-migrants and inter-provincial employees 2002-2011



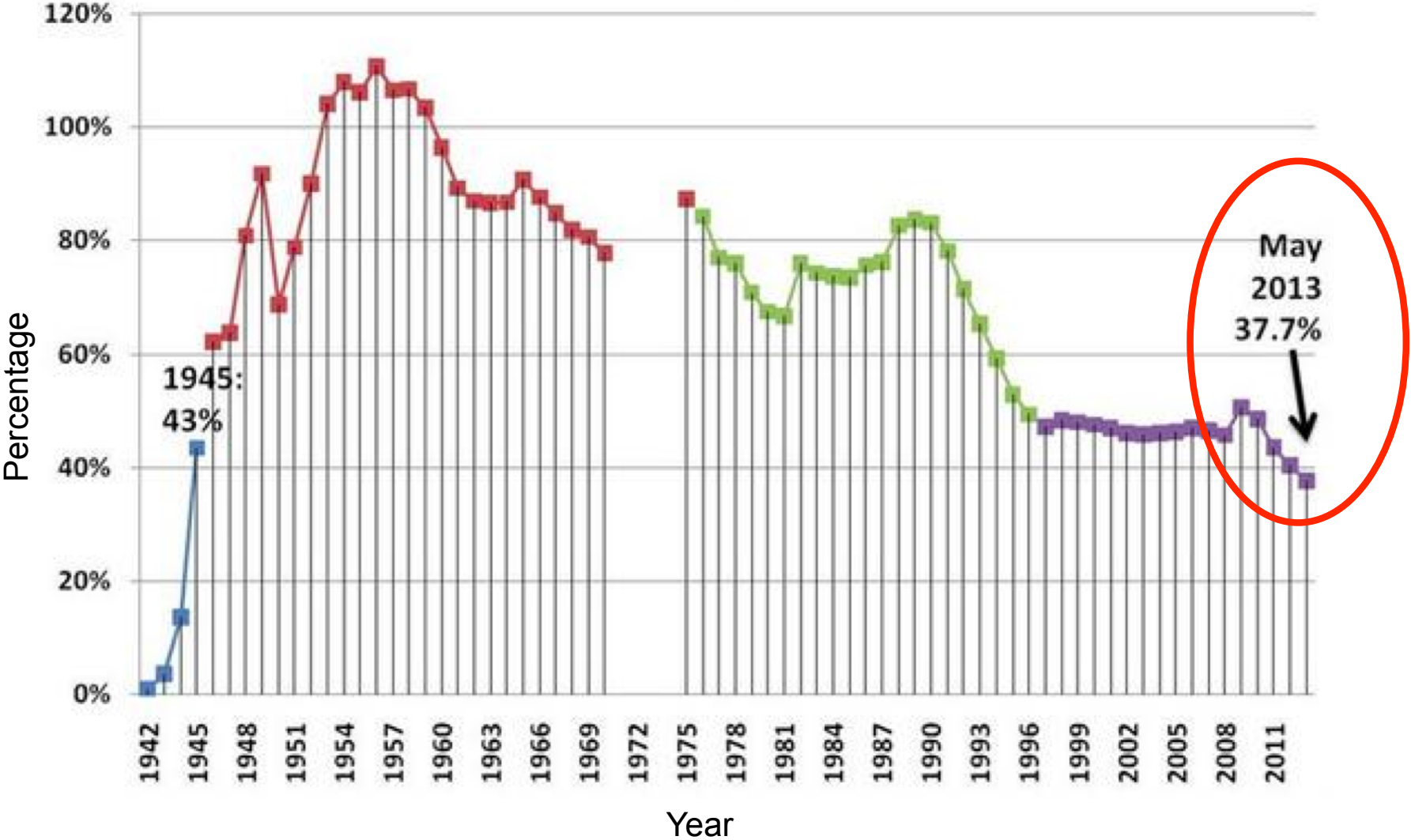
Source: Statistics Canada

% Unemployed receiving regular EI benefits



Source: Armine Yalnizyan, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

% Unemployed receiving regular EI benefits

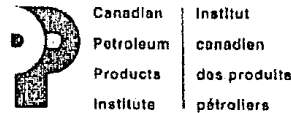


Source: Armine Yalnizyan, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives



Source: Yahoo News Canada

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December 12, 2011

Honorable Peter Kent
Minister
Environment Canada
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H3

Honorable Joe Oliver
Minister
Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth Street, 21st Floor, Room C7-1
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E4

Dear Ministers Kent and Oliver:

We are writing to you today on behalf of the Energy Framework Initiative (EFI) which represents Canada's energy sector value chain. The purpose of our letter is to express our shared views on the near-term opportunities before the Government to address regulatory reform for major energy industries in Canada. The objective of regulatory reform is very clear: to enable economic growth and job creation while continuing to ensure responsible environmental and social outcomes.

Throughout the world today, governments are facing the need for fiscal restraint and careful allocation and management of scarce human and financial resources. The focus is increasingly on job creation and economic health. Canada is in a more favourable position than many countries, in part because the government has chosen to proceed prudently to ensure our economic recovery, and in part because natural resource industries – like Canada's energy sector - have sustained the



RESOURCES

Labour is key to being an energy superpower

EUGENE LANG AND CHRISTOPHER SMILLIE

Special to The Globe and Mail

Published Wednesday, Dec. 05, 2012 6:32PM EST

Last updated Thursday, Dec. 06, 2012 5:15AM EST

“...we simply have nowhere near the skilled trades labour force to satisfy even today’s demands, let alone to fulfill our lofty aspiration to become an energy superpower.”



Jason Kenney ✓

@jkenney

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I will work hard to end the paradox of too many people without jobs in an economy that has too many jobs without people. [#shuffle13](#)

RETWEETS

138

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7:44 AM - 15 Jul 2013



Table 4-4: Foreign workers as a share of provincial labour forces, 2002-2012

	2002	2009	2012	growth ¹⁷
	%			02-12
NL	0.41	0.59	0.97	2.34
PEI	0.19	0.82	1.36	7.27
NS	0.30	0.65	0.87	2.92
NB	0.13	0.59	0.74	5.52
QC	0.35	0.73	1.02	2.88
ON	0.78	1.32	1.63	2.10
MB	0.33	0.87	0.84	2.57
SK	0.29	1.09	1.66	5.67
AB	0.61	3.03	3.03	5.01
BC	0.90	2.87	2.99	3.31
Canada	0.61	1.52	1.79	2.94

Sources: Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Statistics Canada CANSIM table 282-0002. PBO calculations.



Photo: jasonwoodhead23, flicker

“I thought it would be all young fellows... the truth was, there was more middle-aged fellows than anybody. And they were all there for the same reason: they *all* needed to make the money.”

“There’s no money to be made [in PEI]!
Who’s going to go work for ten dollars an
hour? You can’t! You just can’t. It’s
impossible.... I tried to stay away from [the
oil patch] as much as I could.

“You’re just like a cow: getting off the plane, they funnel you towards a bus, you get on the bus, they take you to a place, you’re given your card, you go to your room. And you’re at work the next day, like a good cow.”

“They call it “Wapatraz” because it’s like a jail.... It’s totally dry, so no drinking. You can’t leave and come back without going through a security gate. They can check your belongings at any time: your room, your car, whatever... It’s just f-in’ eat and sleep.”

“Oh, you just get into a mindset. When you’re away from home your mindset is: ‘I’m not home with my family; I might as well just work’.... I don’t mind at all. Again, I’m away from home, so you can work ten hours and, do what? Go to your room? You know, your room is the size of a big closet.... I could have asked for time off but, you know, I was here working, so that’s all I wanted to do.”

““Oh yeah, there’ll be work next week.’ Well, four days later he calls, ‘No, it got delayed, it got cancelled.’ So it’ll be another two weeks. Two weeks later, ‘Oh, it’s still delayed.’ And then, the last time I went out to go work...I got as far as Toronto and he called me and told me the work got cancelled or delayed or whatever because of rain. So I had to turn around from Toronto and come back home.... 800 and some dollars later out of my own pocket.”

“Industry has to have the ability to bring in workers and shed those workers.”

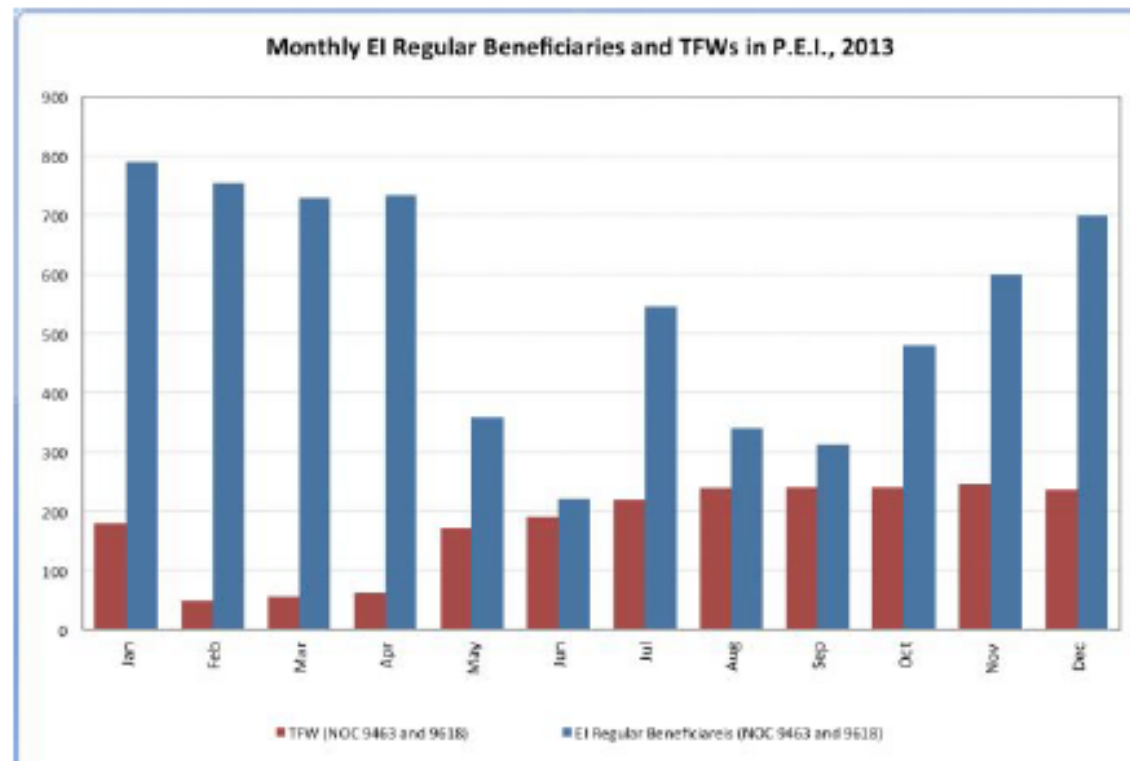
The Guardian

The Guardian > News > Local

P.E.I. companies hiring foreign workers while Islanders collect EI: Kenney

[Teresa Wright](#)

Published on September 19, 2014



*Success
is your dreams
with work clothes on.*



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