

Population Characteristics on Prince Edward Island as a Small Island: Setting the Stage

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Outline

- Background on PEI Population Characteristics
 - “Natural Growth”
 - Interprovincial and international migration
 - Age profile
 - Counties, Cities, Towns, Villages and Farm Populations on PEI
 - Retention of International Migrants
- PEI in the Context of Other Small Islands
- Population Strategies, Some Disquieting Messages and Unpredictability of the Future

Research on Population Issues: PEI and other Small Islands

Theses by our own MA Island Studies students:

- Grant Curtis (2015), “Islandness and Migration from Southeastern Ireland to Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, and the Miramichi of New Brunswick, 1700–1850”
- Laura Lee Howard (2009), “Let Them in but Keep Them Out: Liminality and Islandness of the First Born Chinese Islanders”
- Current student (Katharine MacDonald) writing her thesis on the experiences of recent young return migrants to the Island

Government Reports:

- Landmark consultation process and Population Strategy Report by the IIS itself commissioned by the Conservative Binns government in 1999/2000 titled, “A Place to Stay?”
- Settlement Strategy report, 2010, Innovation and Advanced Learning
- Many of my PEI statistics borrowed from: 1) 41st Annual Statistical Review 2014, 2) PEI Population Projections 2014-2053, 3) PEI Population Report 2015 (2 & 3 from Finance)

Academic Research on Small Islands Population Issues:

- Most well known John Connell, U. of Sydney, Australia
- One of our own Godfrey Baldacchino, former Canada Research Chair in Island Studies; also U. of Malta

Components of Population Change on Prince Edward Island

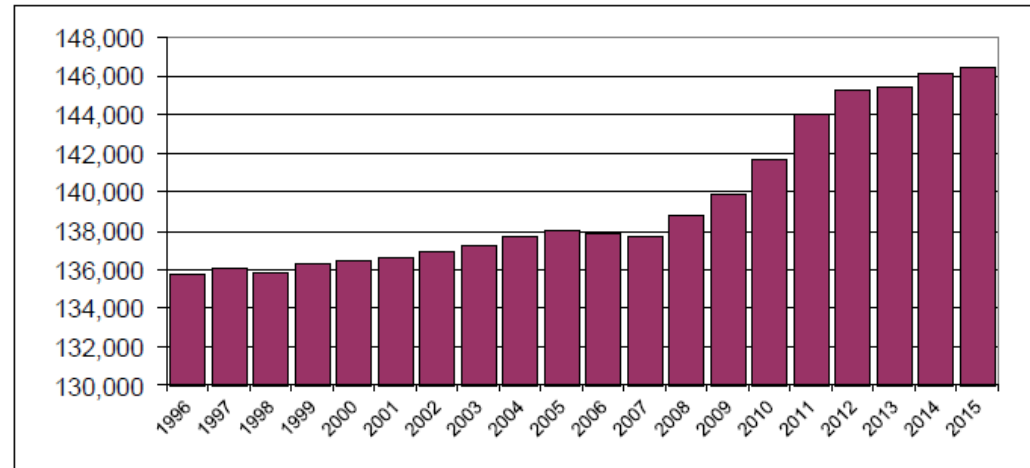
Statistics for PEI:

- Taken largely from the 41st Prince Edward Island Annual Statistical Review, June 2015 & PEI Popn. Reports (all from Dept. Finance)
- Slow, steady growth until mid-2000's
- As of July 1, 2015 – 146,447 people

Population Change Components (simple version):

- Natural Increase = Births – Deaths
- Migration = Immigration – Emigration

DIAGRAM 1: PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POPULATION, AS OF JULY 1, 1996 - 2015



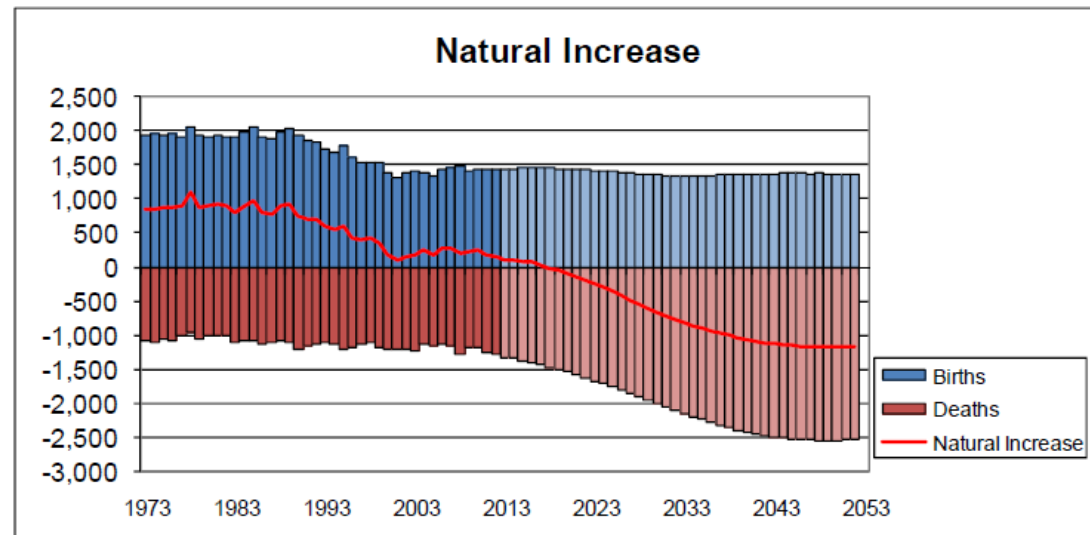
Historically, births > deaths by wide margin

1998: Births = 1,539, Deaths = 1,108 Net Gain 431 people

- Difference steadily decreasing

2014: Births = 1,428, Deaths = 1,338 Net Gain 90 people

- Negative in not too distance future.
- No different than most other 'developed country' jurisdictions



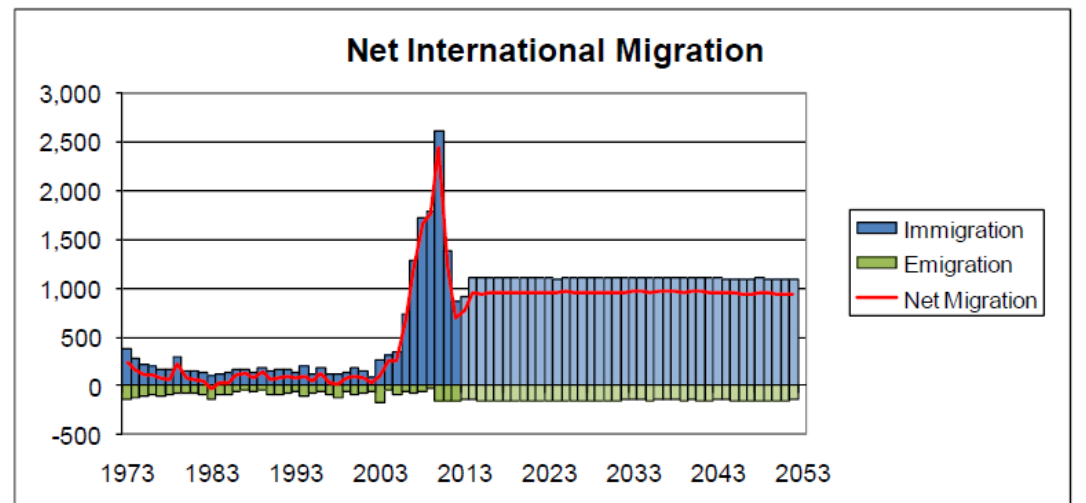
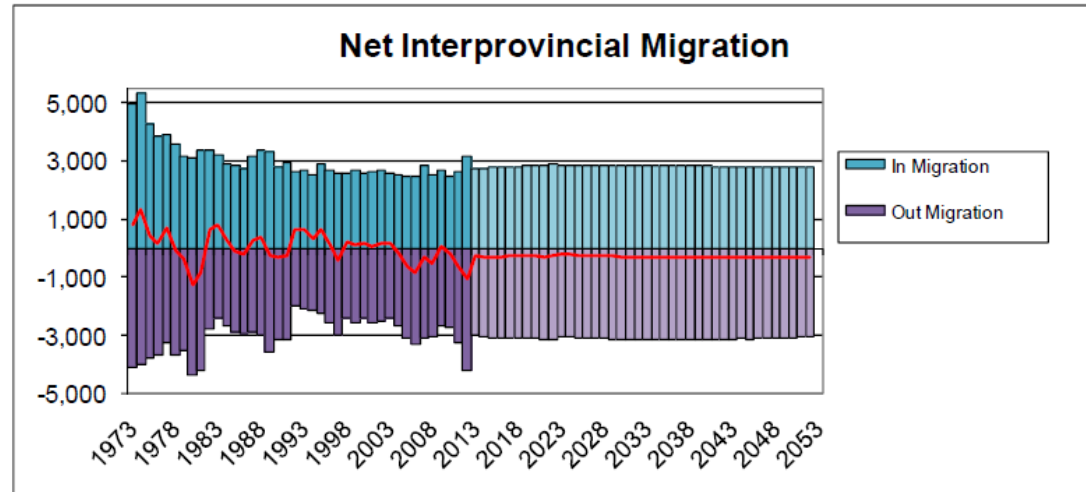
Migration on Prince Edward Island

To/From Canada

- Since 2004, in all but one year, more people leaving PEI for Canada than coming to PEI and gap is increasing
- Now difference is about - 1,200 people/yr.
- Equivalent to a major PEI urban centre
- PEI has highest level of gross provincial migration (in and out) as % of total popn (@ 4%) of any province in Canada

To/From International

- For many years, net about zero (immigration = emigration)
- Last ten yrs., immigration > emigration
- Greatest difference in 2010 @ +2,463
 - Height of PNP
- 96% Permanent Residency Economic Class (PNP, Federal Skilled worker, etc.)
- Small # in Family (43) and Refugee (51) categories
- Now more steady at + 1,300
- Effectively, the only component showing net gains (except temporary residents)
- Likely a relationship between outmigration to rest of Canada and high international in-migration (more on this later)



Changing Age Profile on Prince Edward Island

- Age profile changing dramatically on PEI
- See population 'pyramids' (image bottom right)

1973: most of popn. < 30 yrs., typical of 'developing country'

2013: most of popn. > 50 yrs.

Dependency Ratio used to describe % of popn. < 15 yrs. + % popn. ≥ 65 yrs. compared to % popn. 16-64 yrs.

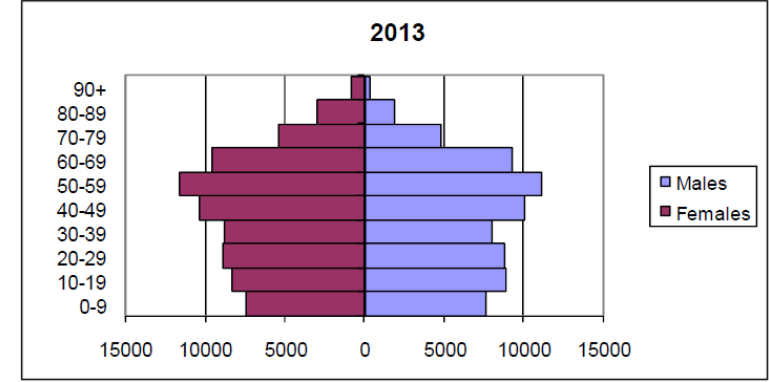
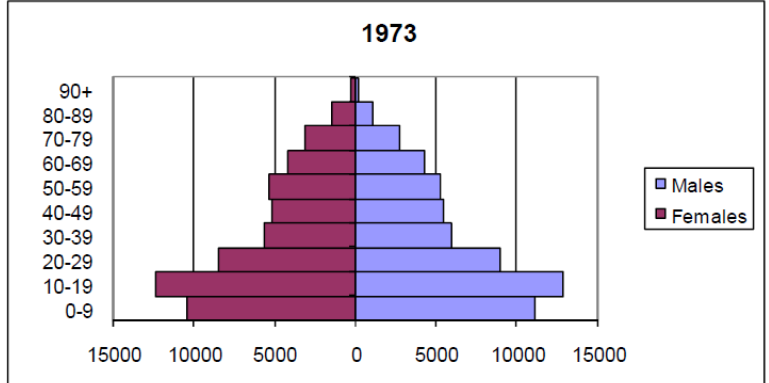
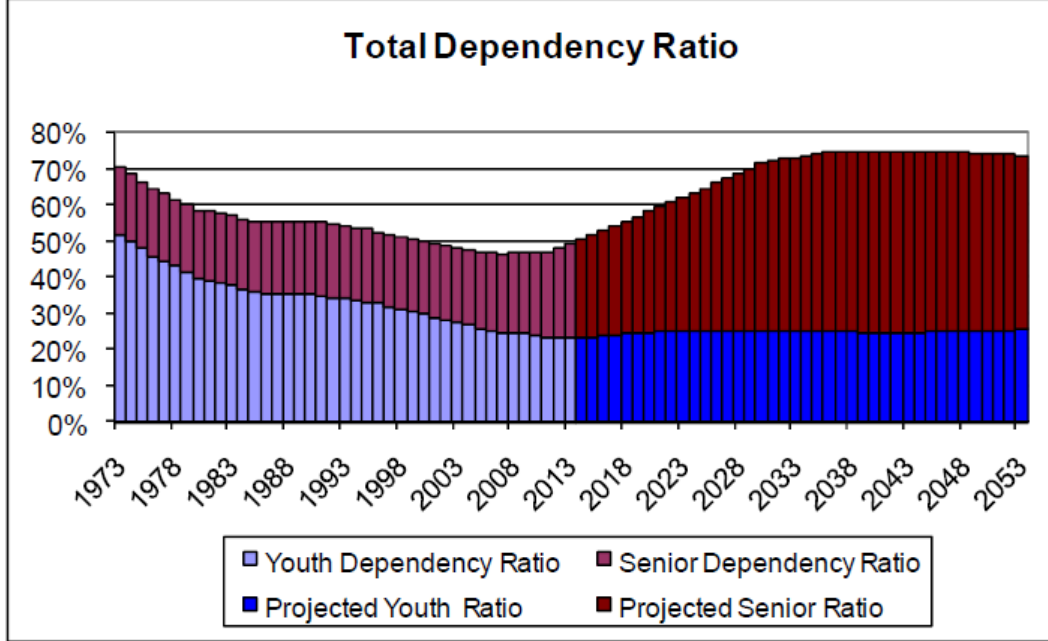
- Theoretically, young and old 'depend' on labour force-aged popn.

Simplistic:

- Many seniors in labour force past 65
- Many students not in labour force until 20's and why cutoff at 14 yrs. of age
- Many external transfers (\$) supporting youth and elderly
- Many 16 to 65 dependent on state \$ as well

BUT, in PEI, last decade only period when Dependency less than 50%

- Different form of dependency than in the past
- Formerly, most children; future, mostly elderly
- Consequences: public spending, health, education, consumption patterns



Age Group	2012 ^(r)			2013 ^(r)			2014 ^(p)		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Total Dependency Ratio									
0-14	24.1	22.9	23.5	24.4	23.0	23.7	24.7	23.3	24.0
65+	22.3	26.6	24.5	23.8	27.8	25.8	25.0	29.0	27.1
Total	46.4	49.4	47.9	48.1	50.7	49.5	49.7	52.4	51.0

r: revised data p: preliminary data

Where is Population Increasing and Decreasing?

Prince County:

1921 = 34,834 (39.3% of province)

2011 = 46,875 (33.4% of province)

Most of this growth in Summerside (East Prince)

Queens County:

1921 = 30,509 (34.4% of province)

2011 = 73,346 (52.3% of province)

Most of this growth in Charlottetown and region

Kings County:

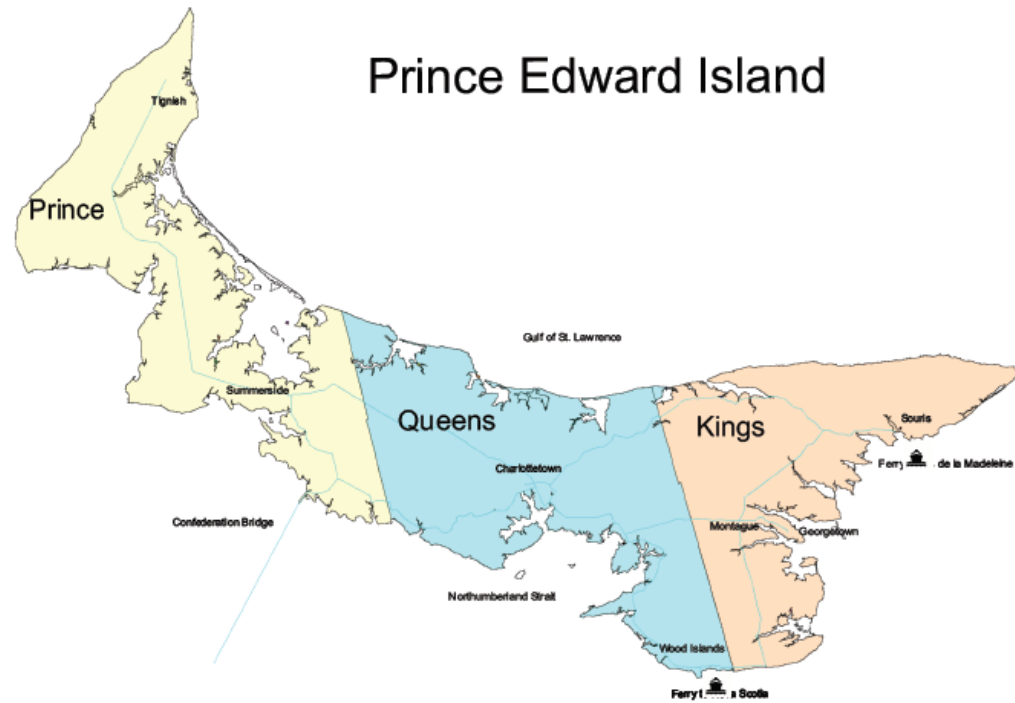
1921 = 23,272 (26.3% of province)

2011 = 19,983 (14.3% of province)

Is Everyone Moving to Queens County?

- Out-migration from Prince and Kings Counties to Queens County but only modest
- < 300 people/year combined over past several years
- Recognize that county-to-county not necessarily rural to urban

Prince Edward Island



Source: Compiled by P.E.I. Department of Finance based on Statistics Canada Census of Population 1931, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011.

Cities, Towns and Farm/Non-Farm Populations on PEI

Cities, Towns and Villages (1991 to 2011):

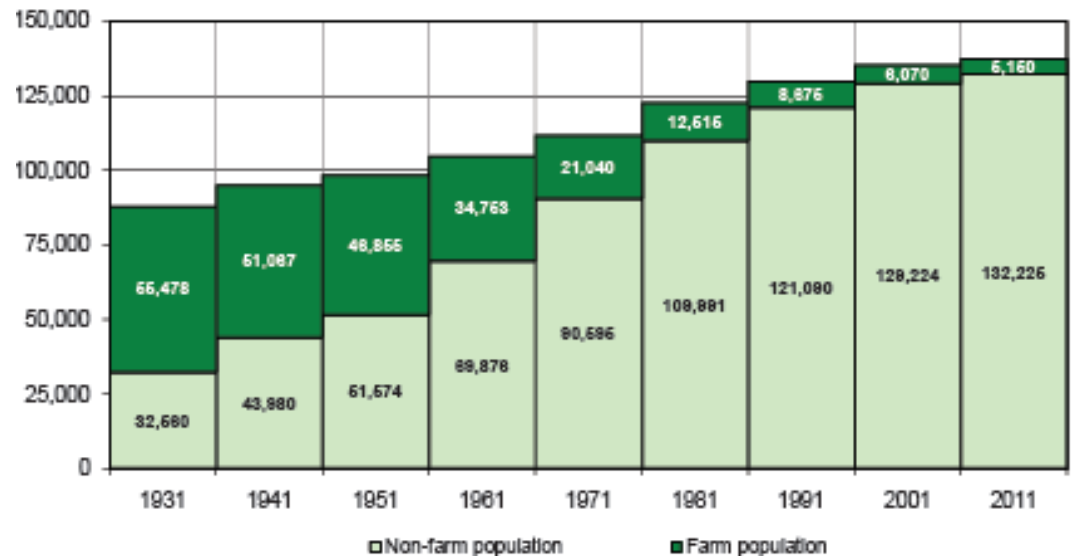
- High Growth in only three places: Charlottetown, Stratford & Cornwall (42,691 to 48,298)
- No change in medium to small cities: Summerside, Kensington, Alberton, Souris, Montague
- Small towns and villages largely losing popn., but some anomalies:
 - Hunter River 354 to 294
 - Kinkora 321 to 339
 - Lennox Island 222 to 293
 - Miminegash 210 to 173
 - O'Leary - 880 to 812
 - Tignish 839 to 779

Farm to Non-Farm Population:

- 1931 – farm popn. = 63.0%
- 2011 – farm popn. = 3.7%
- Canada: 31.7% (1931) to 2.0% (2011)



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



Retention of International Migrants?

- Earlier, alluded to relationship between international in-migration and provincial out-migration
- Likely correlated. Economic migrants moving to other provinces.

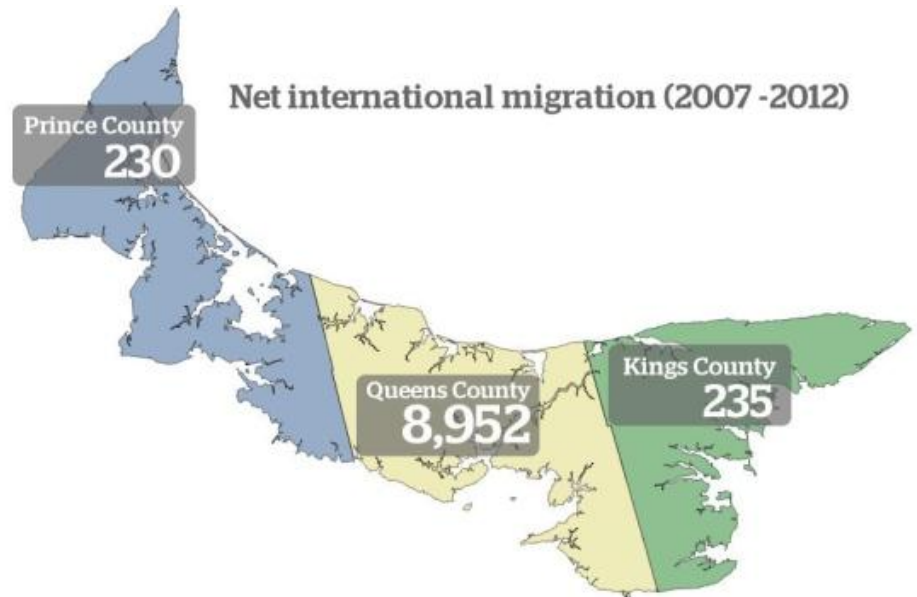
Comparison of County-Level Migration Statistics

- > 90% of international migrants settle in Queens County (see figure at right from CBC series, 2014)
- Net Interprovincial outmigration from Queens growing rapidly

Difficult to assess retention rates statistically

Grant Thornton report, 2012

1. One-Year Retention: # PNP economic immigrants defaulting on good faith deposits (\$25K) i.e., stayed in PEI < 1 yr.
 - 2002/03 – 78%
 - 2008/09 – 53%
 - Share steadily declining over this period (therefore, retention increasing)
2. Longer Term Retention: tax filer data.
 - Over 2000-08 period, of those who specified PEI as intended destination, only 37% still filing in PEI at end of period
 - In Manitoba – 83%; BC & Alberta – 95%, Newf. – 23% (from Next City website)
 - **BUT**, how do you define 'success'?



Small Island Population Characteristics: How Many of these Resonate on PEI

- Migration (whether permanent or temporary) and the remittances that come from migration has become a way of life on small islands, is part of the culture and is passed down as an expectation from one generation to the next.
- Many islanders, in community with their children, perceive their islands as beautiful places replete with critical virtues of familiarity, security and relative stability, but no place to live...migration almost an inevitable decision for most youth.
- Ultimately, an economic rationale underlies most migration moves. A quote in an article by one of our own UPEI faculty (Dr. Jean Mitchell) with respect to Vanuatu, the most important reason for leaving was '*bilong winim smol vatu bikos i no gat rod long winim vatu long aelan* (to earn a little money since there's no way to earn money on the home island)'.
- At no time during the past quarter of a century has there been substantial return migration to most islands and island states, despite the centrality of an ideology of return. Return has been greatest where distances have been less and economic opportunities greater, and consequently least in more remote islands and regions.
- Migration is always selective. ..Migration that has become more 'skill-selective' leads to 'brain drain' and strains the social structures and possibilities of communities
- Many islanders are now overseas as at 'home'. Notions of home thus change, provoking anxious and partisan debates over the extent to which cultures are retained or transformed
- Part of globalization is the increasing mobility of people for work and pleasure and the expectation that we live in a mobile society. As Marshall (2004: 145) phrased it, after many visits to an isolated Micronesian atoll: 'People are no longer bound to places but they are still bound up in them'.

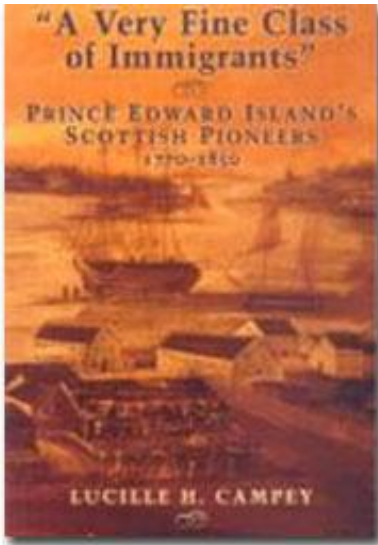
Islanders and Outsiders

- On many small islands, there has often been an 'us' vs. 'them' dichotomy
- A way of defending island societies from external threats
- 'Come From Away' only one of many terms used to describe outsiders to small islands
- Viewed as quaint but at best exclusionary
- Often covers up deeper internal divisions/dichotomies: class, politics, kin/family, religion, region/community

"come from away's", "wash-ashores" (Nantucket Island), *"haole"* (Hawaii), *"ferry-loupers"* (Orkneys), *"kalamaradhes"* or *quill-wielders* (Cyprus)



Some Disquieting Messages



- *"We don't need any immigrants coming to our island [PEI] that is perfectly fine the way it is our ancestors are likely rolling in their graves over this bless their souls. Keep your business in your own country if it is so great there. We don't want or need it."* Posted on March 23, 2013, Guardian Online Newspaper
- *"It is this complex set of connected homogeneity and rich social capital – supported by a very accessible provincial government – that constitute the Island community and society. This is what recent immigrants – largely excluded from this nexus – have explained as finding bewildering, exasperating, clique-like, clannish, small-minded even racist, and invariably difficult to plug into."* (Baldacchino, 2012, p.358)

From Research on Islander/Immigrant Perceptions of Quality of Life (Randall, 2014)

- *"In general, I find the people in Charlottetown are very friendly! If you are stuck in a street, if you cannot find the way, sometime people can come up to say "Hi" to you and to help you out; to point you in the right direction to find the place you are looking for? But, on the other hand, I personally don't feel it's very easy to be very close with them! Like, how should I describe that? ... For example, they always consider like the Islanders first? And always try to ask where you are from? Like from East end? Or West end? And who are your parents?"* (Chinese Immigrant Participant - Recent).
- *"I work at the store, especially on this topic, when a customer is in line, they should have their turn for services, but he [the customer] would rather continue to wait, so that a counter person at the store who is local, is able to serve him. Some people's speaking attitude is not very friendly. If there is no problem with the service, then it is fine, but if there is a little bit of a problem, they immediately will give you a bad face, very ugly, and be impolite. It has little effect on my quality of life. But if they do not change their attitude, we can't integrate."* (Chinese Immigrant Participant - Established).

Government Capable of Focusing Efforts on Population Issues

- May disagree with international recruitment process and % retention outcomes but has met objective
- Greatest net gains in international recruitment in Atlantic
- Settlement Strategy
- “PEI is My Home”
- Office of Immigration, Settlement and Population
- Inter-Departmental initiatives (Health, Post-Secondary, Chambers of Commerce, Education)
- Has enabled PEIANC to play a leadership role

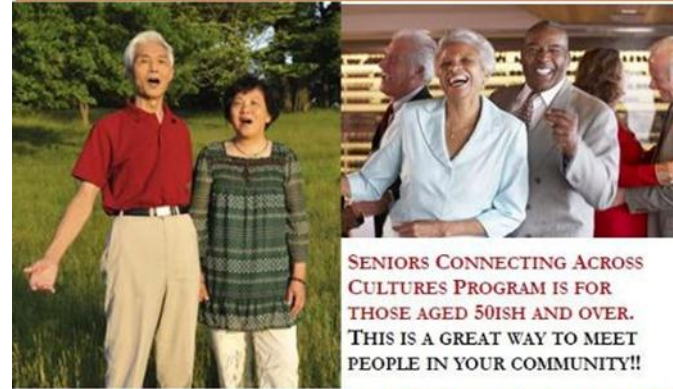


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Location: Trinity United Church Hall Gym, 220 Richmond St.



Difficult to Predict Future

- Many influences on population are structural, external, difficult to control

Past Predictions Inaccurate

Example 1: The 2000 “A Place to Stay?” Report.

Prediction: 1 in 4 Islanders would be ≥ 65 yrs. by 2036

Reality: This level reached by 2013

Prediction: Estimated labour force would peak in 2006 and shrink thereafter

Reality: Has continued to increase – 82,800 in 2014.

Example 2: Statistics Canada estimate of PEI Population projections (2013 & 2014)

Prediction: 2013 Report - PEI popn. would peak in 2028 at 152,000 and decline to 138,000 in 2053

Revised Prediction: 2014 Report , PEI popn. would peak in 2034 at 157,500 and decline to 153,000 by 2053

- Major revision in only one year

Can make development of public policy challenging

- What other events are emerging (e.g., refugees, fewer jobs ‘out west’, change in temporary foreign worker program, retirement migration) and will emerge in the future (????)

