

Immigrants/ Settlers to Prince Edward Island: Why They Come and Why They Stay

*A study conducted by Dr Godfrey Baldacchino
on behalf of the
Population Secretariat, PEI Provincial Government*

CONSENT FORM

If you have immigrated to PEI between 1998 and 2003, we would appreciate some minutes of your time.

You are being asked to voluntarily participate in a research study entitled: *Immigrants/ Settlers to Prince Edward Island: Why They Come and Why They Stay*. This research study is being conducted by Dr Godfrey Baldacchino of the University of Prince Edward Island. Please contact Dr Baldacchino¹ or the Office of Research & Development, both at UPEI², should you have any questions or concerns about this study.

The purpose of this research study is to better understand the reasons why recent immigrants have decided to move and stay in Prince Edward Island. In the outcome, a far better picture of the reasons which lure people 'from away' to settle on PEI and to keep them here once they arrive should emerge. By developing this deeper understanding of the migration phenomenon as it affects PEI, the province will, for the first time, have at its disposal relevant and timely qualitative information about the movement of people into this province with a view to settlement. This data should, in turn, guide and strengthen the province's attempts and initiatives to attract suitable settlers.

The resources for conducting the study are being provided by the Population Secretariat, Department of Development & Technology, PEI Provincial Government.³ Some of the interviewers for this study have been identified through the PEI Association of Newcomers to Canada (PEIANC)⁴.

¹ Canada Research Chair (Island Studies) at the University of Prince Edward Island, 550, University Avenue, Charlottetown PE C1A 4P3
Tel: 566-0909; Fax: 566-0756; E-mail: gbaldacchino@upei.ca

² Office of Research & Development, University of Prince Edward Island, 550, University Avenue, Charlottetown PE C1A 4P3
Tel: 566-0637; Fax: 566-0756; E-mail: ord@upei.ca

³ Web-Site at: <http://www.gov.pe.ca/development/ps-info/index.php3>

⁴ <http://www.peianc.com/>

The benefits of participating in this study include (a) the opportunity to share and pool your own immigration experience with that of others; and (2) to contribute towards the development of a better, more fine-tuned, immigration policy by the province. The inconvenience and costs of participating basically consist in the time it takes to run through a standard questionnaire survey: this can take from 20 minutes to 45 minutes, depending only on your readiness and willingness to go into detail.

Your participation in this project is entirely voluntary. You are free to refuse to participate, or to withdraw at any point during the completion of the questionnaire survey, or to refuse to answer any question, all without any negative consequences on yourself or anybody else. In the event that you choose to withdraw from your study, any data that relates to you and with which you may have already provided us will be immediately destroyed and/or deleted from any memory banks or computer files.

One key aim of this study is to give immigration to PEI a human face. To do so, we ask you to allow us to write down your name and other personal information (year of birth, country of birth, etc.). We wish to be in a position to report as to who said or experienced what. The study is therefore not anonymous. Kindly consider this as you decide whether you wish to participate or not in this study. On our part, we guarantee that will ONLY use the data provided in the context of a report on immigration that will contain details of our research findings. The actual questionnaires will be held by the research project coordinator, Dr Baldacchino, and will only be checked in relation to the research exercise and any follow-ups. Raw questionnaire data will be destroyed after 5 years (by December 2010).

10a. If the country where you spent most of your life prior to moving to PEI is Canada or USA, indicate the Canadian province/territory or US state where you spent most of your life: _____.

11. Prior to moving to PEI, did you spend most of your life in a mainly urban or rural environment? Urban Rural
Describe if necessary:

—

12. In the months prior to moving to settle on PEI, in which community were you living? (Indicate village/town/city, region, country):

13. During most of the 12 months prior to moving to settle on PEI, were you gainfully employed? Yes No

13a. If yes, describe your job and its skill requirements:

14. Did you move to PEI alone? Yes No

14a. If no, how many persons accompanied you? _____

15. Did any other friend, relative or member of your community follow you to PEI *after* you had arrived? Yes No

15a. If yes, how many persons followed you to PEI after you arrived?

16. How would you classify yourself in the act of coming to settle on PEI (*choose one*):

- a)- A Canadian, migrating to PEI from another part of Canada:
- b)- A Canadian and Islander (born on PEI), returning to settle on PEI after living elsewhere:
- c)- A Non-Canadian immigrant (skilled worker class):

- d)- A Non-Canadian immigrant (business class):
- e)- A Non-Canadian immigrant (family class):
- f) - Other: _____

17. Would you consider yourself to be a member of a ‘visible minority’ on PEI?
 Yes No

17a. If yes, please choose which ‘visible minority’: _____.
 (Filipino, South-East Asian, Latin American, Black, Lebanese, First Nations, Chinese ...).

18. Did you/your family decide to come to and settle specifically on PEI?
 Yes No

If Yes, proceed directly to question 19.

*18a. If No, choose one of the following, **and then skip to question 23**:*

- a)- We wanted to settle anywhere in Canada; PEI had nothing to do with it:
- b)- We wanted to settle anywhere in the Maritimes; PEI had nothing to do with it:
- c)- Other: _____

19. Rank **on a scale from 1 to 5** how important the following statements have been to you and any accompanying family members in PEI in determining your decision to come to PEI with a view to settlement.

Choose 1 if the statement had *absolutely no relevance* to your decision to move to PEI;
 Choose 2 if the statement had *only a remote relevance* to your decision to move to PEI;
 Choose 3 if the statement had *a minor relevance* to your decision to move to PEI;
 Choose 4 if the statement had *a major relevance* to your decision to move to PEI; and
 Choose 5 if the statement was *a crucial reason* behind your decision to move to PEI.

*(Please mark all statements; however, if you have **NO** opinion about a statement, or if it **DOES NOT APPLY**, leave that statement blank):*

- a) – There was a decent and attractive job available on PEI: 1 2 3 4 5
- b) – There were decent and attractive job prospects on PEI: 1 2 3 4 5
- c) – There were opportunities for growing our business on PEI: 1 2 3 4 5

- d) – We had relatives & friends already on PEI: 1 2 3 4 5
- e) – We had members of the same church/religion on PEI: 1 2 3 4 5
- f) – On PEI, everything was so easily accessible: 1 2 3 4 5
- g) – PEI offered suitable and affordable health services: 1 2 3 4 5
- h) – PEI offered suitable & affordable educational services: 1 2 3 4 5
- i) – PEI offered suitable and affordable housing: 1 2 3 4 5
- j) – PEI was an overall welcoming island society: 1 2 3 4 5
- k) – PEI was a sufficiently ‘laid back’ yet modern place: 1 2 3 4 5
- l) – PEI offered an attractive quality of life: 1 2 3 4 5
- m) – PEI was a charming rural province: 1 2 3 4 5

20. Were there any other key reasons (economic, social, cultural...) for deciding to move specifically to PEI?

If you wish to add to the options in Question 19 above, or explain your choices, do so here:

21. Can you tell us, in as much detail as you wish, *the story* behind your decision to MOVE TO PEI...

So far, you have decided to stay on Prince Edward Island. The next (and final) set of questions refers to your decision to STAY and CONTINUE to LIVE on PEI.

22. Are you actively planning to leave PEI? Yes No

22a. If YES, why are you planning to leave PEI? (Then jump to Question 24.)

If NO, proceed directly to Question 22b.

22b. Rank on a scale from 1 to 5 how important the following statements have been to you and any accompanying family members in PEI in determining your decision to stay on PEI.

- Choose 1 if the statement had *absolutely no relevance* to your decision to stay on PEI.
- Choose 2 if the statement had *only a remote relevance* to your decision to stay on PEI.
- Choose 3 if the statement had *a minor relevance* to your decision to stay on PEI.
- Choose 4 if the statement had *a major relevance* to your decision to stay on PEI.
- Choose 5 if the statement was *a crucial reason* behind your decision to stay on PEI.

(Please mark all statements; however, if you have NO opinion about a statement, or if it DOES NOT APPLY, leave that statement blank.)

a) – I/We have decent and attractive jobs available on PEI: 1 2 3 4
5

- b) – There were decent and attractive job prospects on PEI: 1 2 3 4
5
- c) – There were opportunities for growing our business on PEI: 1 2 3 4
5
- d) – We have close relatives & friends already on PEI: 1 2 3 4
5
- e) – We have members of the same church/religion on PEI: 1 2 3 4
5
- f) – On PEI, everything is so easily accessible: 1 2 3 4
5
- g) – PEI offers suitable and affordable health services: 1 2 3 4
5
- h) – PEI offers suitable & affordable educational services: 1 2 3 4
5
- i) – PEI offers suitable and affordable housing: 1 2 3 4
5
- j) – PEI offers suitable settlement services: 1 2 3 4
5
- k) – PEI is a sufficiently ‘laid back’ yet modern place: 1 2 3 4
5
- l) – PEI offers an attractive quality of life: 1 2 3 4
5
- m) – PEI is a charming rural province: 1 2 3 4
5
- n) – We feel welcome in our neighbourhood: 1 2 3 4
5

o) – PEI is a safe environment where to grow a young family: 1 2 3 4
5

p) –PEI offers suitable language training: 1 2 3 4
5

22c. Can you tell us, in as much detail as you wish, *the story* behind your decision to STAY ON PEI...

23. Every location presents challenges to potential settlers. The following statements are a set of impressions relating to the obstacles or problems that might hinder the attraction of immigrants to PEI.

Rank **on a scale from 1 to 5** how you and your accompanying family members would consider the following issues to be obstacles and problems to attracting other settlers to live on PEI.

Choose 1 if you feel that the statement has *absolutely no impact* on a potential new settler’s decision to choose, or not choose, PEI as their home;

Choose 2 if you feel that the statement has *only an indirect impact* on a potential new settler’s decision to choose, or not choose, PEI as their home;

Choose 3 if you feel that the statement has *a minor impact* on a potential new settler's decision to choose, or not choose, PEI as their home;
Choose 4 if you feel that the statement has *a major impact* on a potential new settler's decision to choose, or not choose, PEI as their home; and
Choose 5 if you feel that the statement has *a crucial impact* on a potential new settler's decision to choose, or not choose, PEI as their home.

*(Please mark all statements; however, if you have **NO** opinion about a statement, or if it **DOES NOT APPLY**, leave that statement blank):*

- a) - PEI is too small, isolated and remote: 1 2 3 4 5
- b) - PEI lacks a public transit system: 1 2 3 4 5
- c) - There is a lack of cultural diversity in the PEI population: 1 2 3 4 5
- d) - PEI does not offer satisfactory settlement assistance to would-be settlers: 1 2 3 4 5
- e) - PEI does not offer satisfactory language service assistance to would-be settlers: 1 2 3 4 5
- f) - There is a limited choice in goods and services on PEI; and what is available is also usually more expensive than elsewhere in Canada: 1 2 3 4 5
- g) - The quality of education in PEI is not up to standard: 1 2 3 4 5
- h) - The quality of health care on PEI is not up to standard: 1 2 3 4 5
- i) - PEI has insufficient medical doctors & specialists: 1 2 3 4 5
- j) - Meaningful employment opportunities for newcomers to PEI are lacking: 1 2 3 4 5
- k) - Social consciousness on PEI is generally 'behind the times': 1 2 3 4 5
- l) - The weather on PEI is too harsh and challenging: 1 2 3 4 5
- m) - PEI is a dull and uninteresting place to live in (especially in winter): 1 2 3 4 5

n) – The PEI community is closed. Newcomers are not really welcome: 1 2 3 4
5

o) – There are just too few people from other countries on PEI: 1 2 3 4 5

p) – There is a shortage of ethnic food and restaurants on PEI: 1 2 3 4 5

q) – Salaries and wages on PEI are lower than in the rest of Canada: 1 2 3 4
5

r)- Flights from/to Charlottetown are few, expensive and inconvenient: 1 2 3 4
5

24. What would you consider to be the main obstacle(s) or problem(s) to attracting other settlers to PEI? (*This may be one of the above issues, but not necessarily.*)

Thank You very much for your support.

25. Is there anything that you would like to add?

Once you have completed the questionnaire, please mail to:
Dr G. Baldacchino, 403 Dalton Hall, UPEI, Charlottetown C1A 4P3
or Phone / leave message on: (902) – 566 0909 if you wish to arrange a pick-up.

For any queries or comments, feel free to e-mail: settlers@upei.ca

