



CURRENT NEEDS IN PEI NEWCOMER COMMUNITIES

Findings, Priorities, and Recommended Action for 2021-2022

Methodology

Survey August 2021

259 participants

Consultations

September – October 2021

Quantitative Analysis

October 2021

Focused Research on Urgent Challenges
(Housing, Mental Health, Racism, and other)
Sept 2020 – August 2021

2020

Survey August 2020

236 participants

Survey June 2020

265 participants

Focus Group

February 2021

Focus Groups and Consultations
September 2000 – January 2021

Large center: 2,000 survey responses / 20,000
immigrants per year $\times 100 = 10.00\%$

Small center: 259 survey responses / 2,000 immigrants
per year $\times 100 = 12.95\%$

Small center: PEI has a population of 165,000 and from
2017-2020, prior to the pandemic, IRSA registered an
average of 2,000 immigrant clients per year.

This data reflects the client base seen in PEI's settlement
sector; it does not reflect international students.

The Immigration Imperative

Credit: David Campbell, President, Jupia Consulting

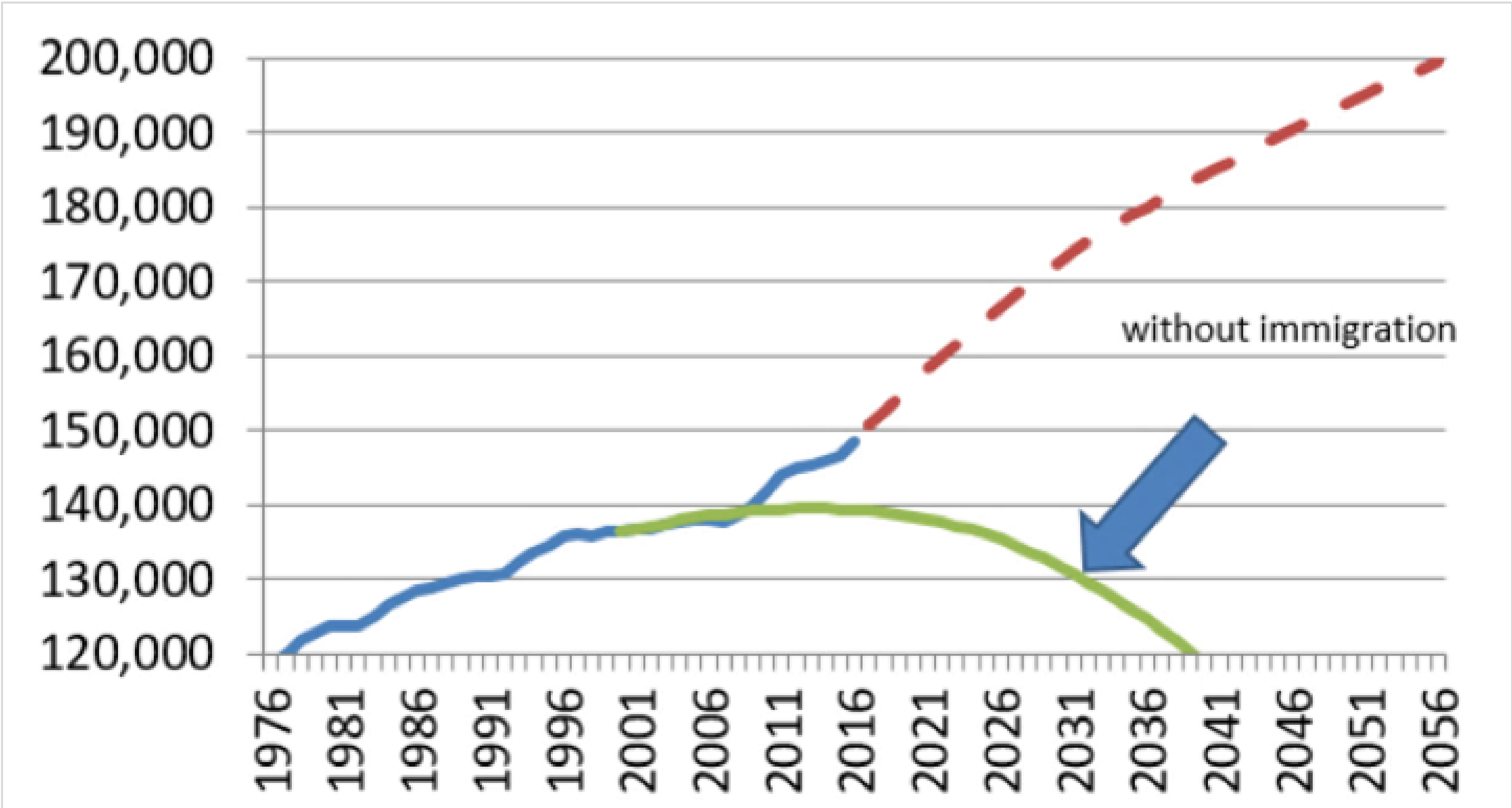
Mitigating Urgent Labour Shortages

Labour Force	March 2013	March 2019	# Change
Born in Canada	78,700	72,500	- 6,200 *
Landed Immigrants	2,900	6,000	+ 3,100

Source: Statistics Canada Table: 14-10-0082-01

Credit: David Campbell, President, Jupia Consulting

Reversing Population Loss



Credit: Nigel Burns, PEI Government

Reversing Population Loss

2011-2016 vs. 2017-2020

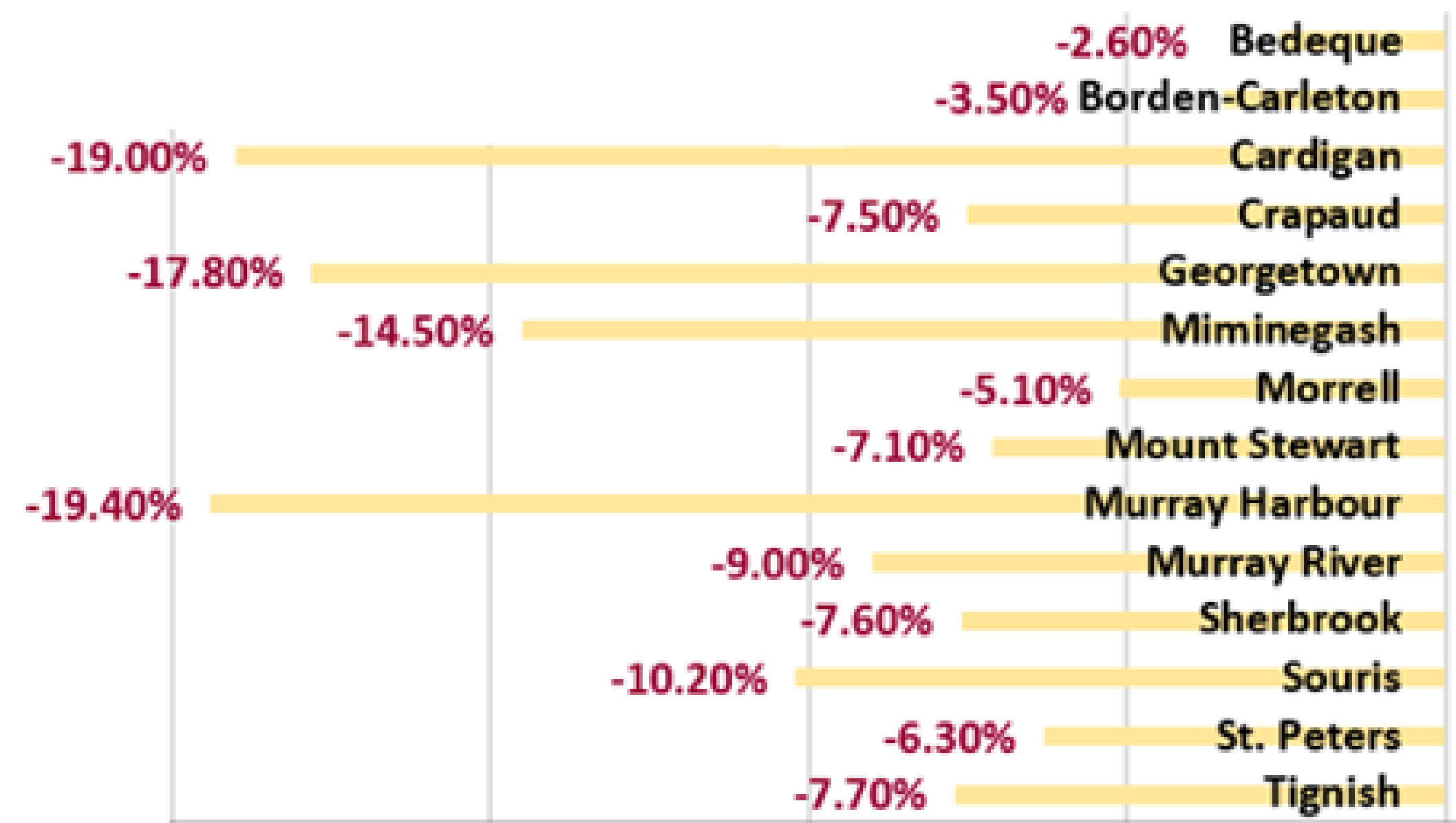
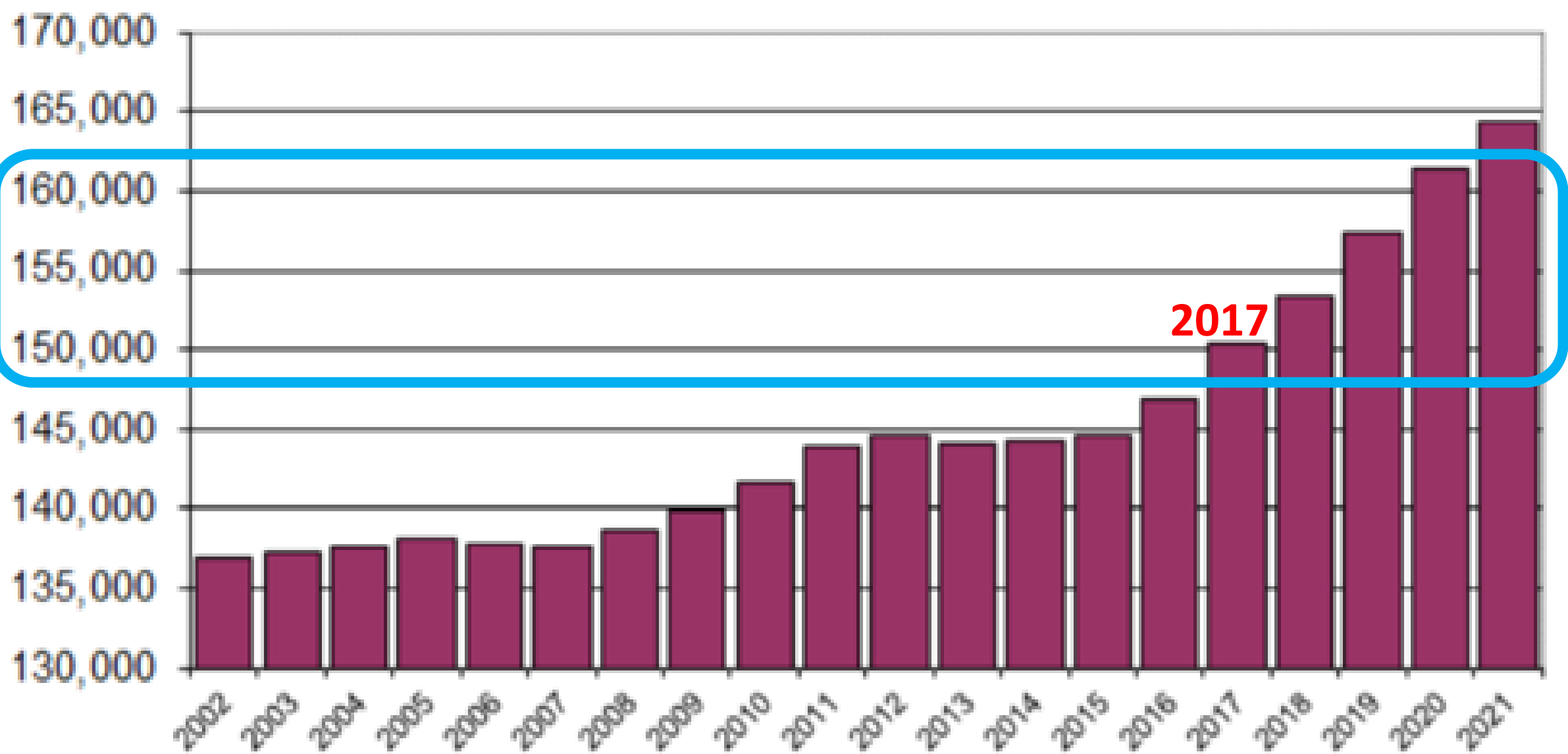


DIAGRAM 1: PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POPULATION, AS OF JULY 1, 2002 - 2021



<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/publication/pei-population-report-annual>

Rural PEI is Growing!

New apartments opening to help support staff at Gillis Lodge in rural P.E.I.



Two new apartment buildings are helping health-care workers at Dr. John Gillis Memorial Lodge in Belfast, P.E.I., find local accommodation — right across the street.

Love this! Newcomers solving local problems! Win - win - win!

Now this is positive news 😊

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-belfast-gillis-lodge-apartments-housing-1.5947580>

Belfast Consolidated, slated for closure just 4 years ago, has grown by about 40 per cent

Shane Ross · CBC News ·
Posted: Apr 07, 2021

 BELFAST CONSOLIDATED



Developers eager to build housing in Borden-Carleton | CBC News

Current and Emerging Needs in PEI's Immigrant Communities

Current and emerging immigrant needs have been monitored and supported throughout COVID using surveys, research, information sharing, collaboration sessions, referrals to immigrant service providers who pivoted in response, and ongoing collaboration with PEI's Office of Immigration and the Department of Economic and Population Growth.

Outside of the immigration and settlement sector, **several high-risk trends have emerged**; challenges that pose risk to PEI's future growth and the well-being of immigrants and Canadians alike.

High-risk trends for 2022

5 High Risk Trends for 2022

High-Risk Trends

1. Housing Supply and Affordability:

- "Lack of housing and family doctors are the main issues"
- "Housing costs unaffordable"
- "Rents are too expensive"
- "Salaries are low and cost of living has increased"

2. Mental Health:

- 'Newcomers face mental health challenges, in a new environment, far from home, there is limited knowledge of basic symptoms, who to ask for help, cultural stigmas and no (known) first-language counselling' – **IRSA/Province are working on; needs are growing**
- "Mental health interpreters are need for mother-tongue mental health support"

3. Healthcare:

- "It's so hard to see the doctors when I'm ill"
- "People with health issues are suffering... fully open walk-in clinics are important"
- "No family doctor and long waits at the ER poses a threat to our health"
- "Can't access preventative, investigative, or follow-up care without a family physician"
- "It is very, very hard to get a family doctor here"

4. Discrimination:

- "One time a total stranger at a grocery store showed me his middle finger and asked me to go back to where I came from"
- "Islanders are not willing to embrace immigrants"
- "Being able to find a job, but still uncertain if I am accepted / not discriminated"

5. Labour Shortages

- "Short staff make situations stressful"; Hard to find labourers"
- "Fear of labor shortages prevent entrepreneurs, like me from expanding"

Source: 2020 and 2021 PEIPIP Survey

1. Housing Supply

Housing Supply & Affordability

51% of Survey Participants are always or sometimes struggling to afford mortgage or rent.

Source: August 2021 PEIPIP Survey

Successful Housing and Immigration Strategies Rely on Increasing Housing Supply:

"People know that we need a healthy immigration policy not only to protect jobs, but to create new jobs and create a sustainable way of life."

Federal Immigration Minister Sean Fraser said, "part of the retention problem is a lack of housing stock... 'the recipe for a successful immigration strategy and housing strategy is to build more supply.'"



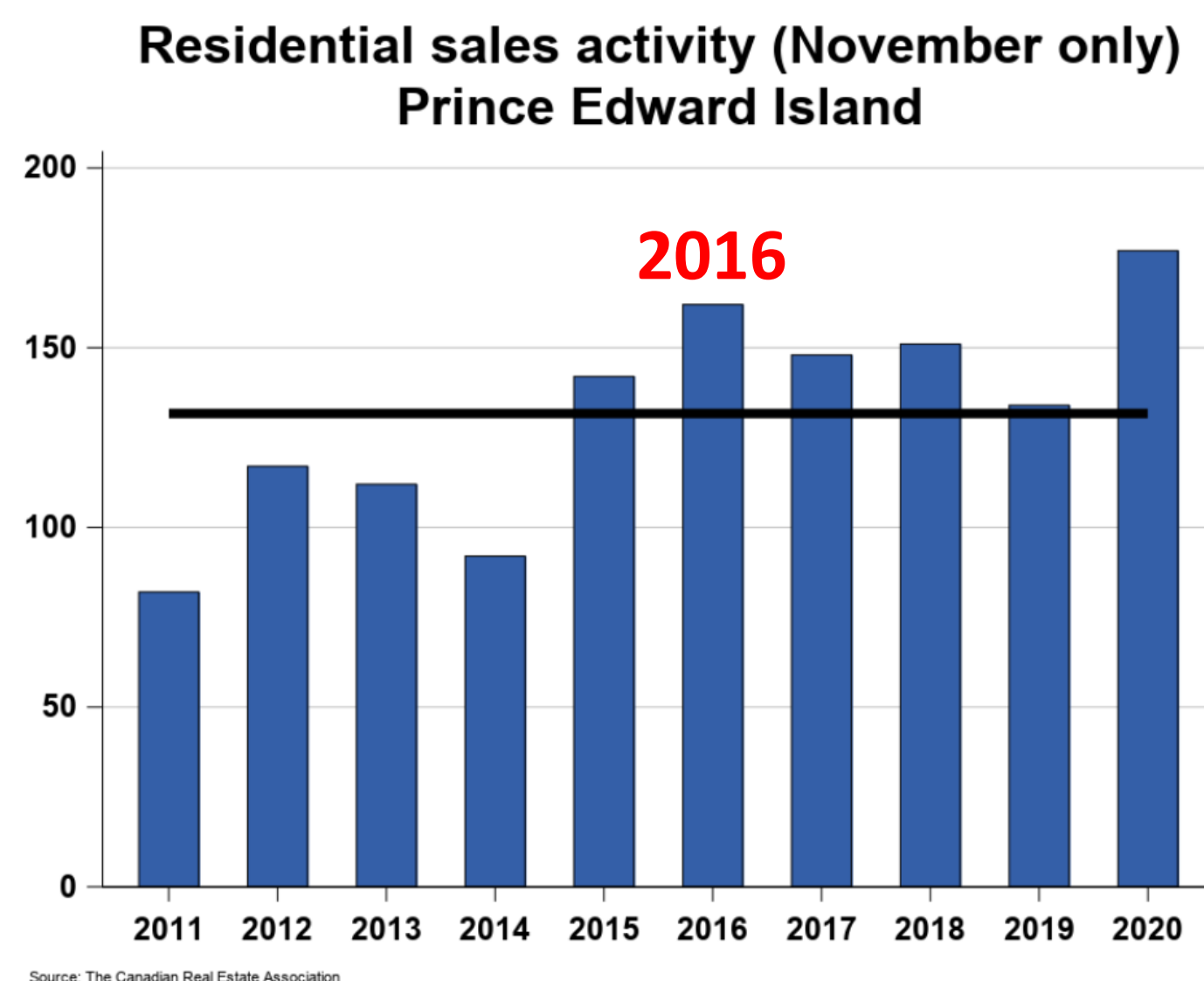
After success keeping immigrants in Atlantic region, pilot program becomes permanent | CBC News

Housing Supply Shortage

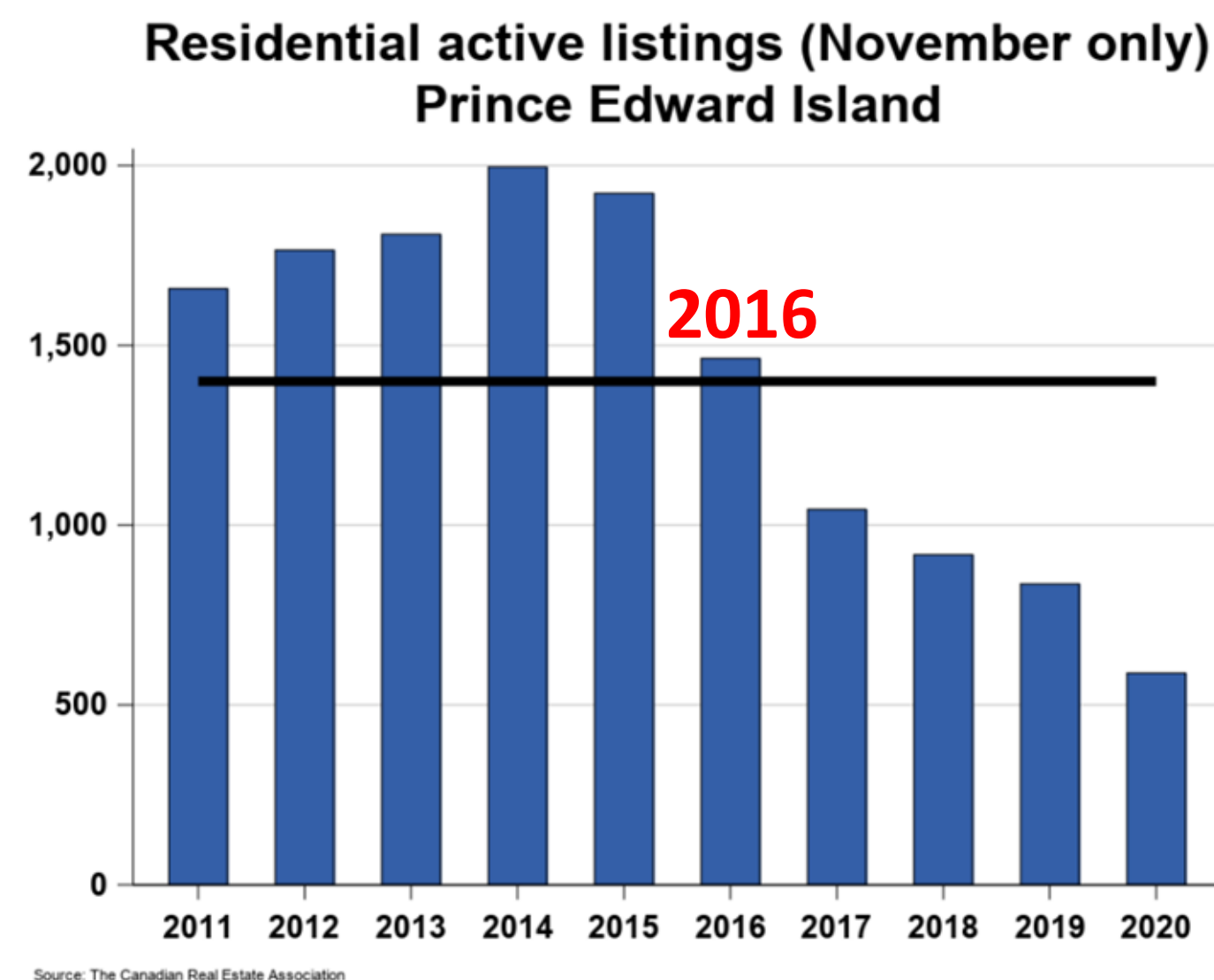
“Higher home prices are caused by high demand and short supply”

- Shaun Cathcart, Director and Economist, CREA

High Demand

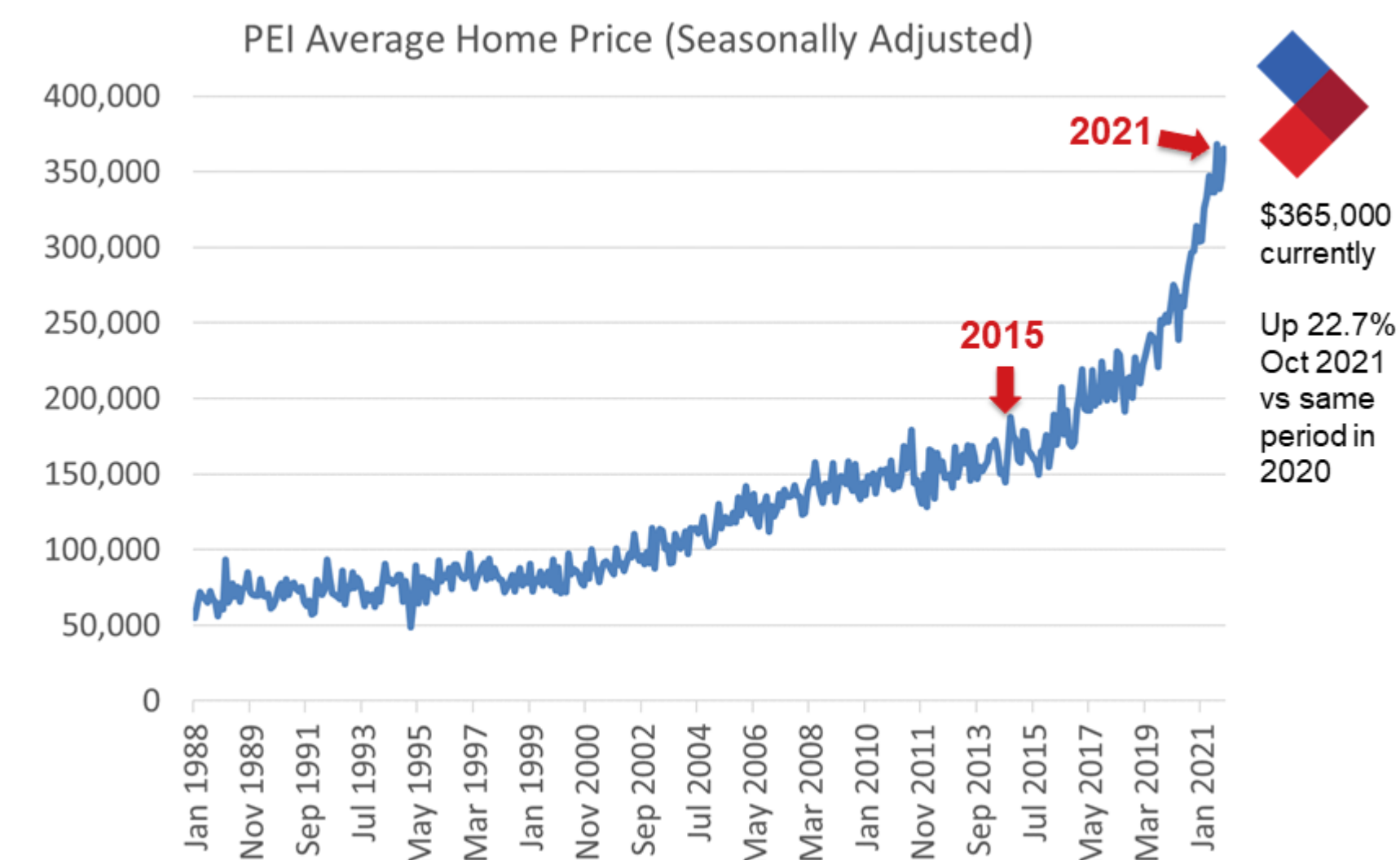


Short Supply



<https://creastats.crea.ca/board/peia>

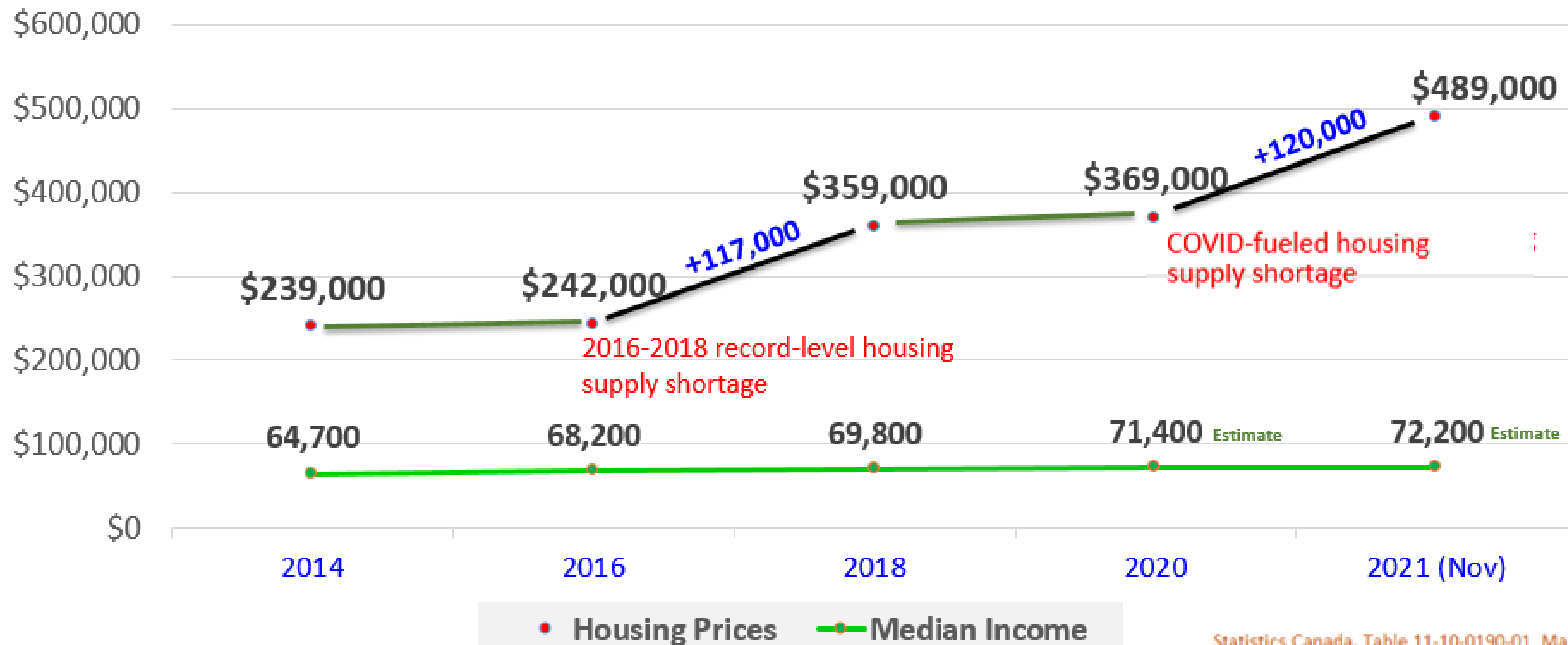
Rapid Price Increases



Resulting in Rapid Price Increases

Housing Case Study

Middle Class, Split-Entry, West Royalty (one neighbourhood), Charlottetown, P.E.I.

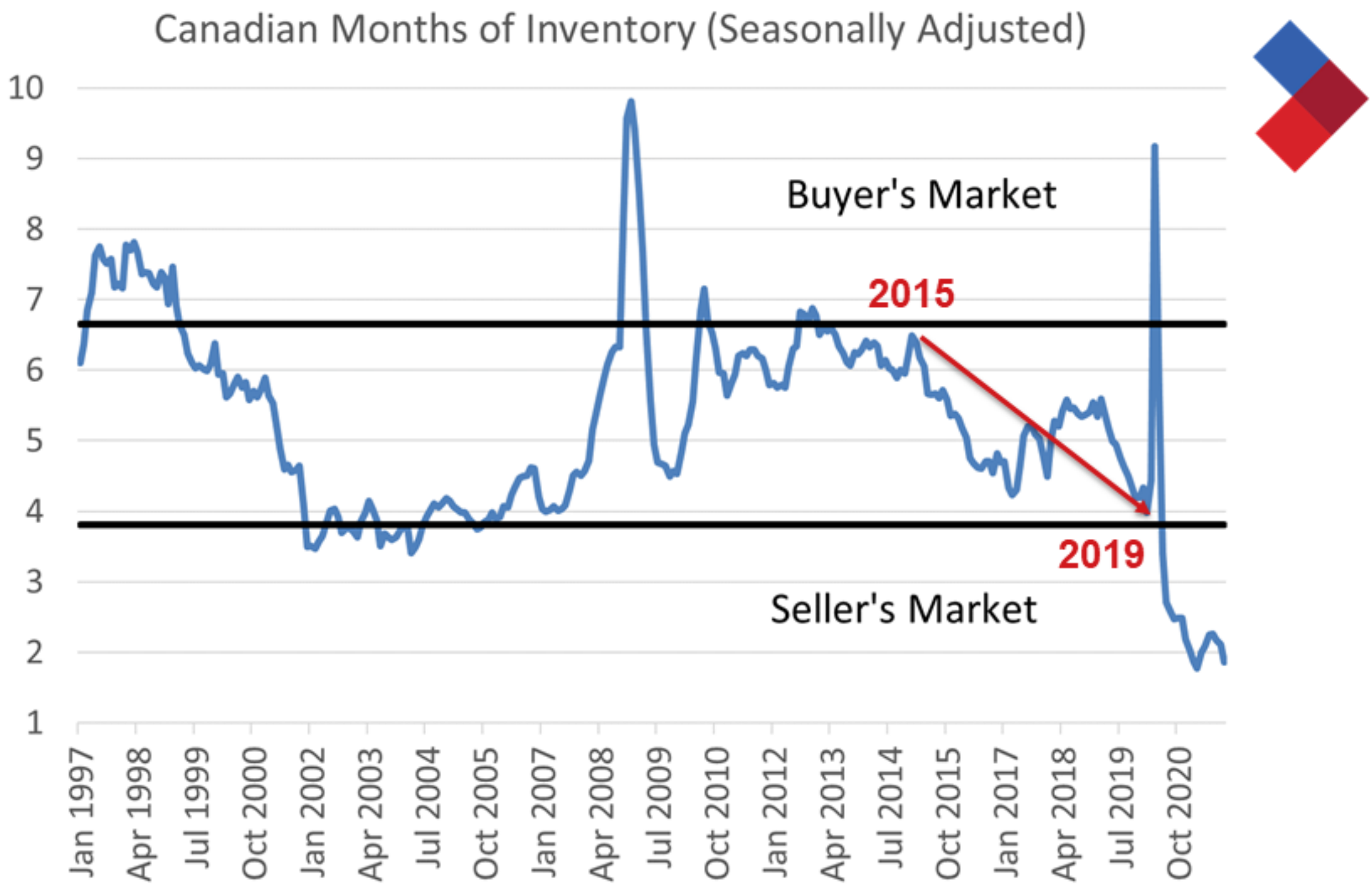
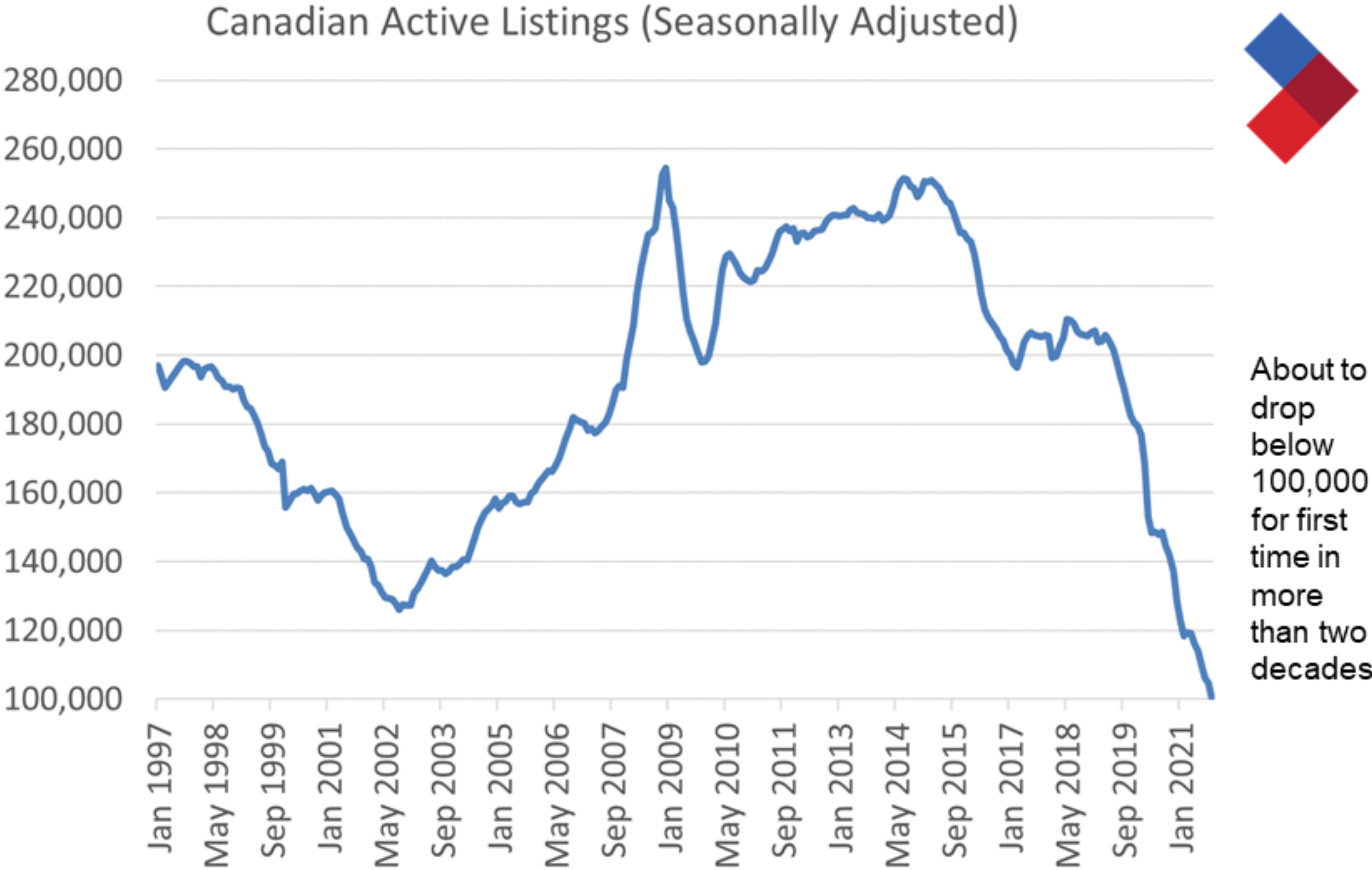


[Statistics Canada, Table 11-10-0190-01 Market Income](#)

StatsCan & PEI historical listing data

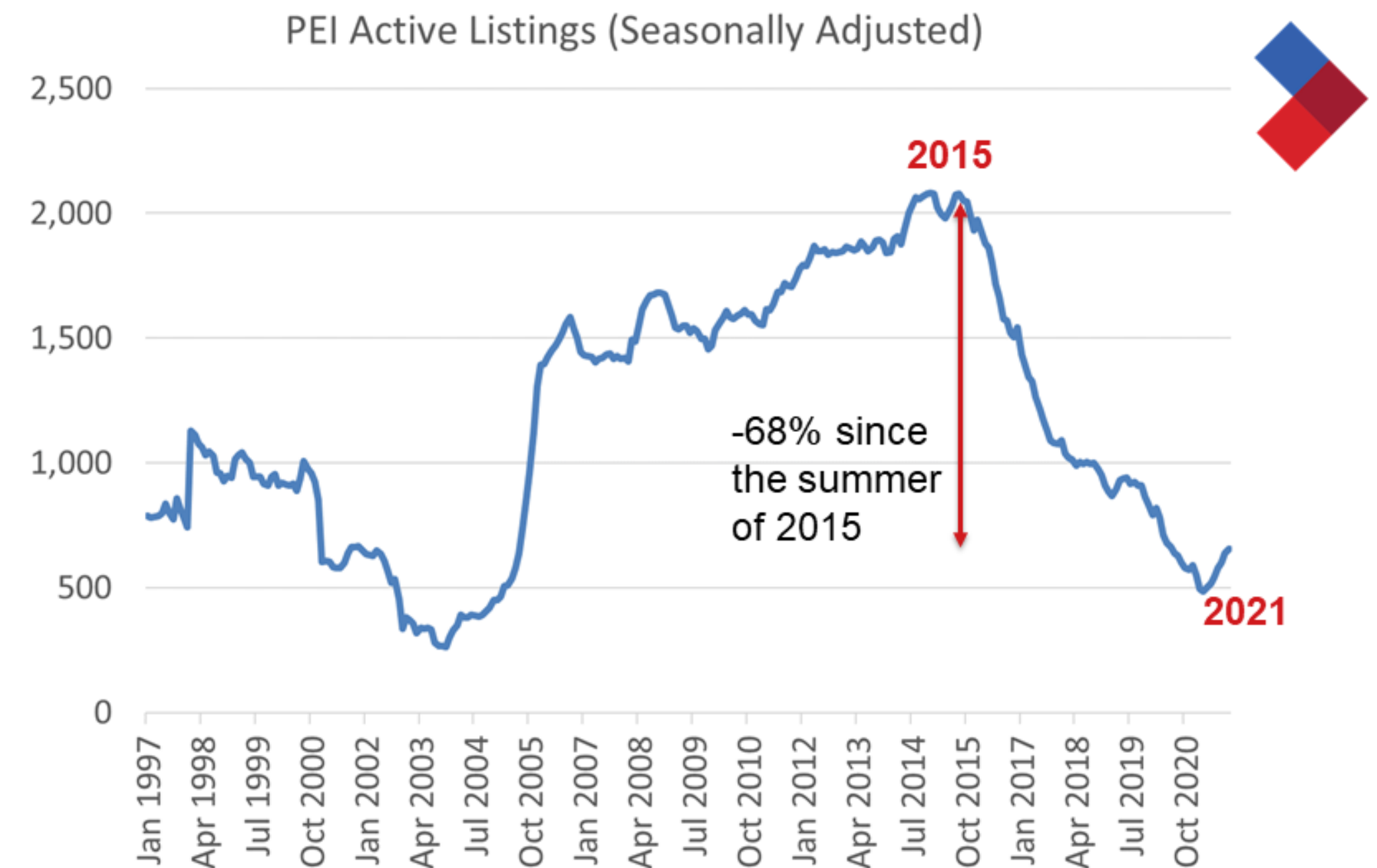
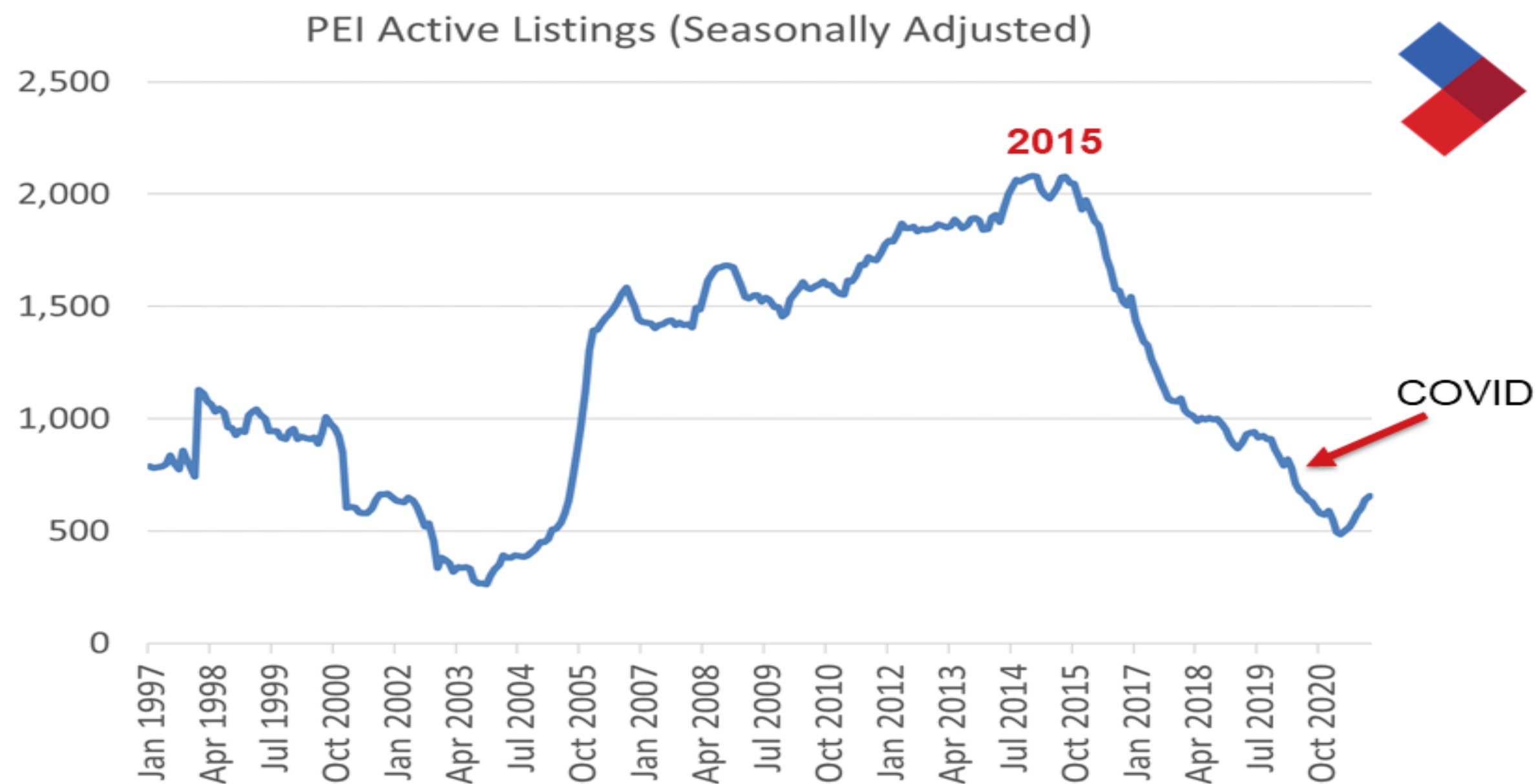
Melanie Bailey, PEIIP

Housing Supply is Low: Canada



Source: The Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA)

Housing Supply is Low: PEI

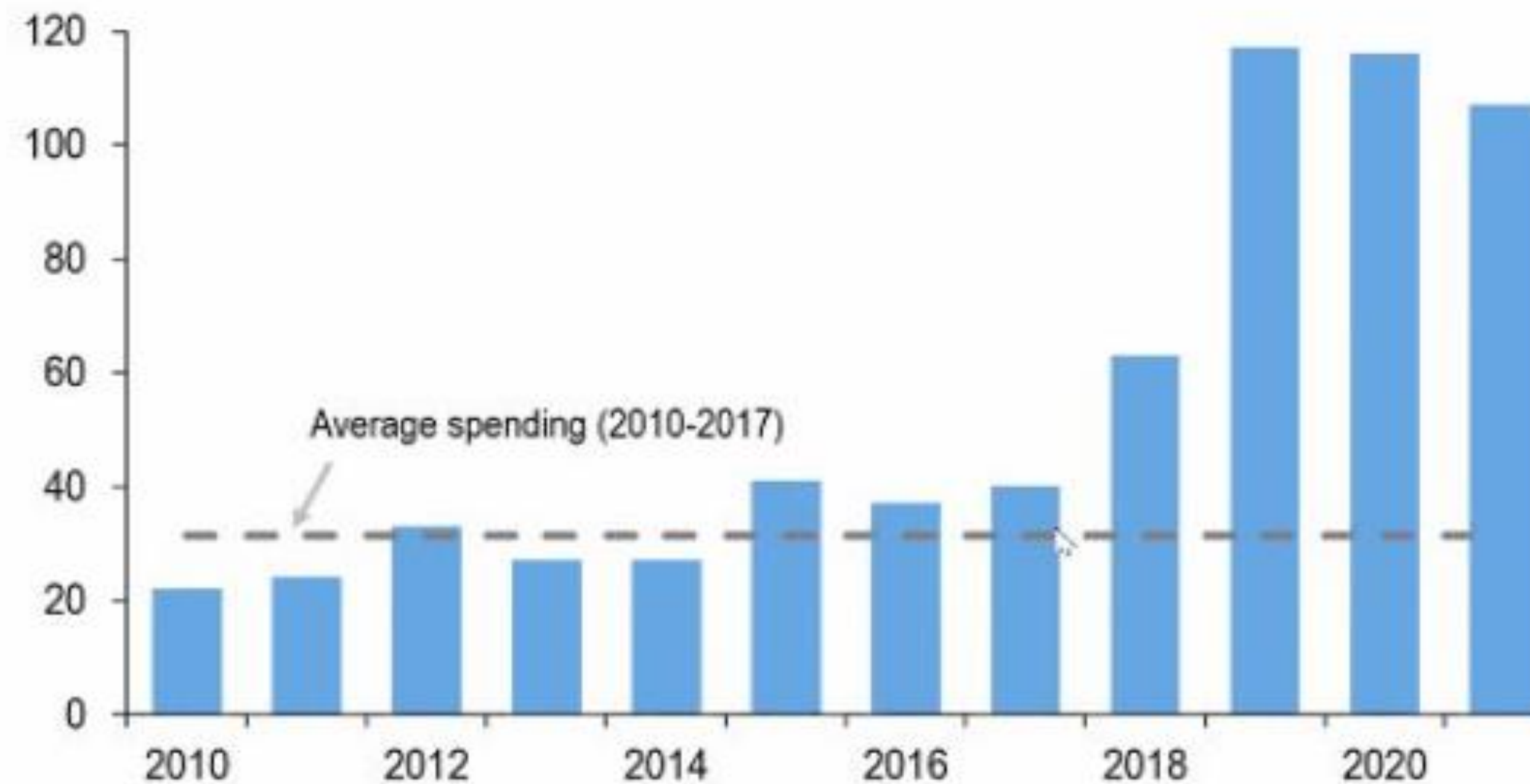


Source: The Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA)

Despite Record-level Investment

Strong Investment in Housing Construction Expected to Continue in PEI

Major project investment, housing, Prince Edward Island (\$ millions)

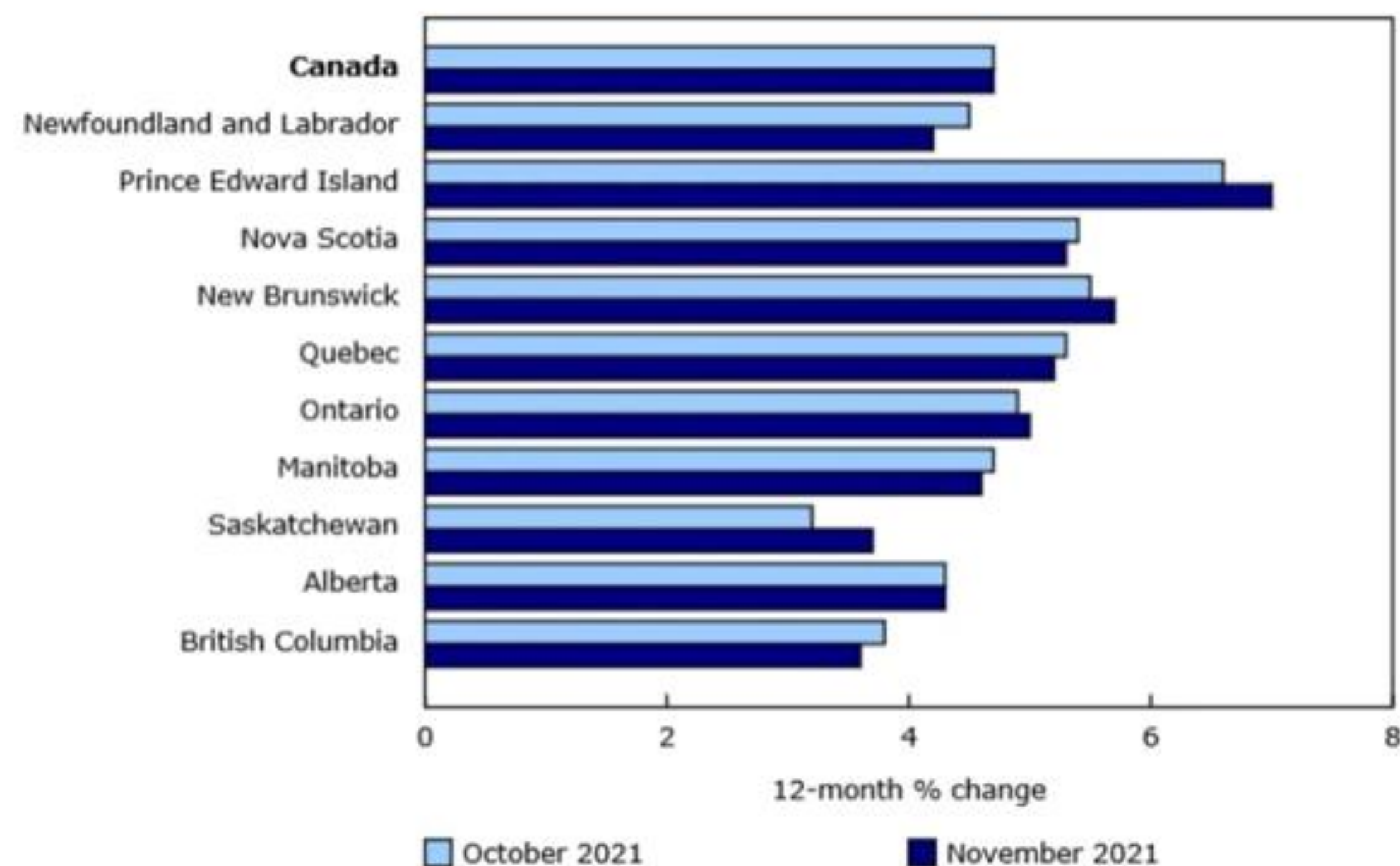


Source: APEC Major Projects Inventory

New Trends Impacting Affordability:

<https://tinyurl.com/PEIInflation>

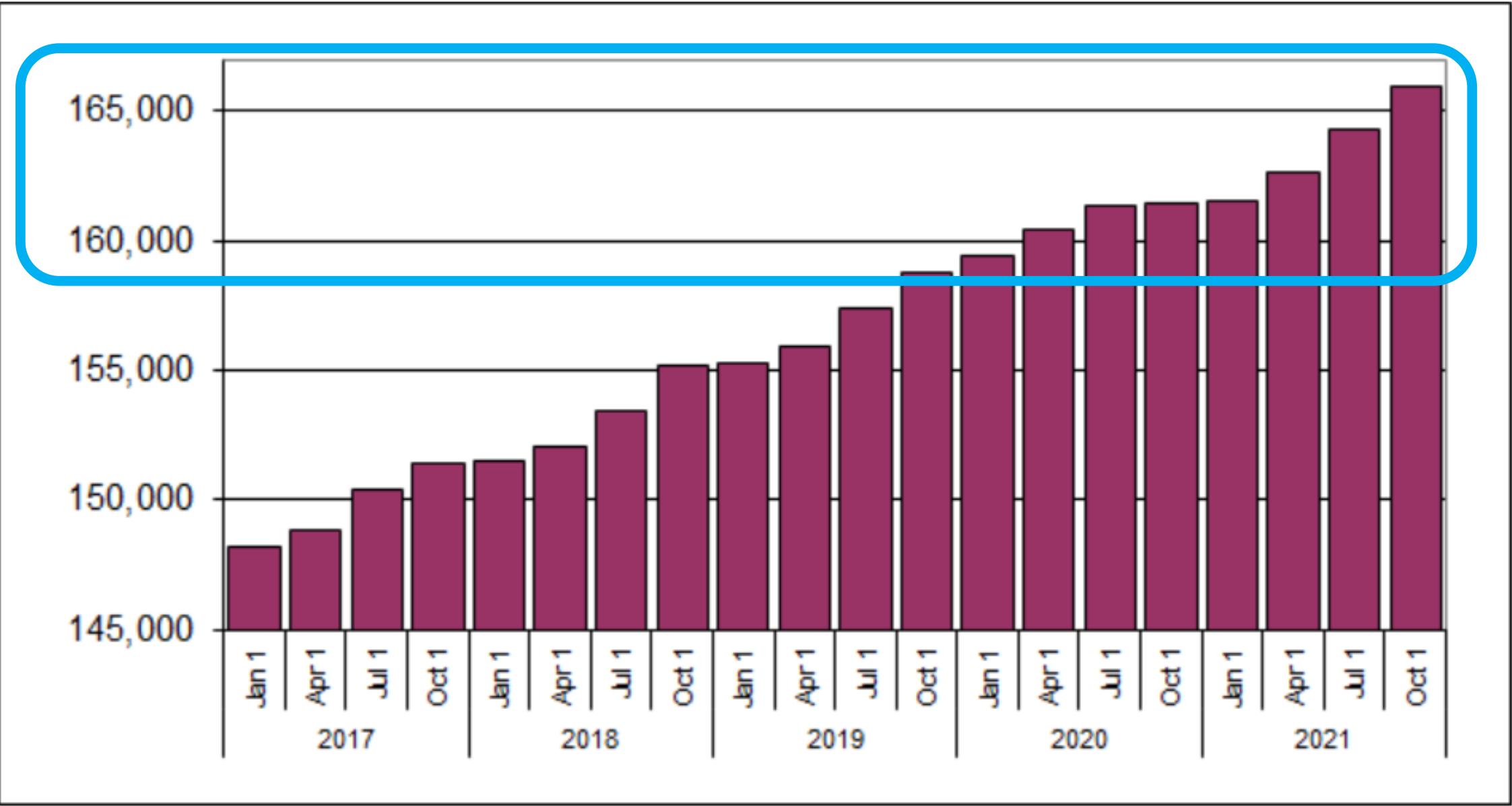
P.E.I.'s inflation rate grew to 7.0 per cent in November.



It's well above the national average of 4.7 per cent.

New Trends Impacting Housing Supply:

DIAGRAM 1: PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POPULATION, QUARTERLY, 2016 - 2021



<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/finance/pei-population-report-quarterly>



David Chaundy · 1st

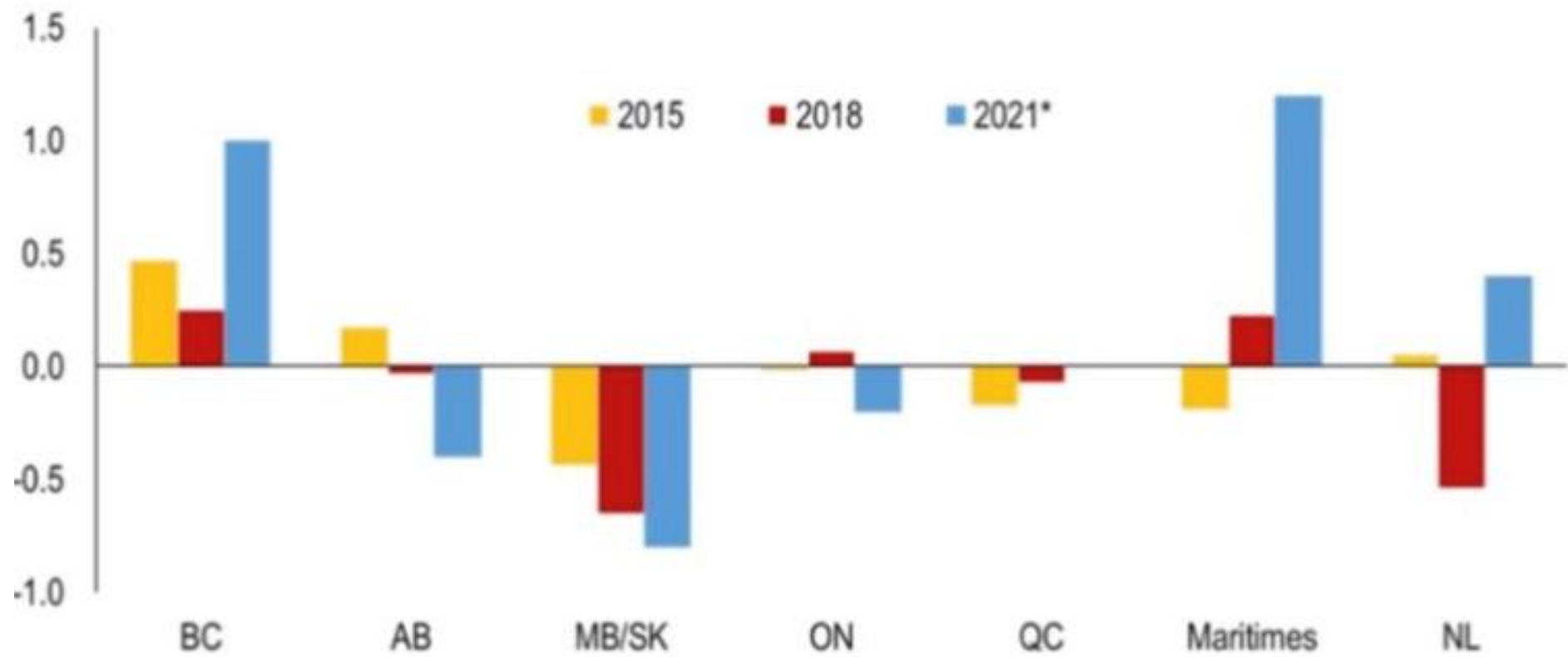
President and CEO at Atlantic Provinces Economic Council

1w · 🌐

We are seeing a significant shift in migration to the Maritimes as we show in this start. And it started before [#covid19](#). For full post see [Maclean's mag](#) ...see more

Maritimes Becoming a Destination of Choice: Will This Trend Continue Post Pandemic?

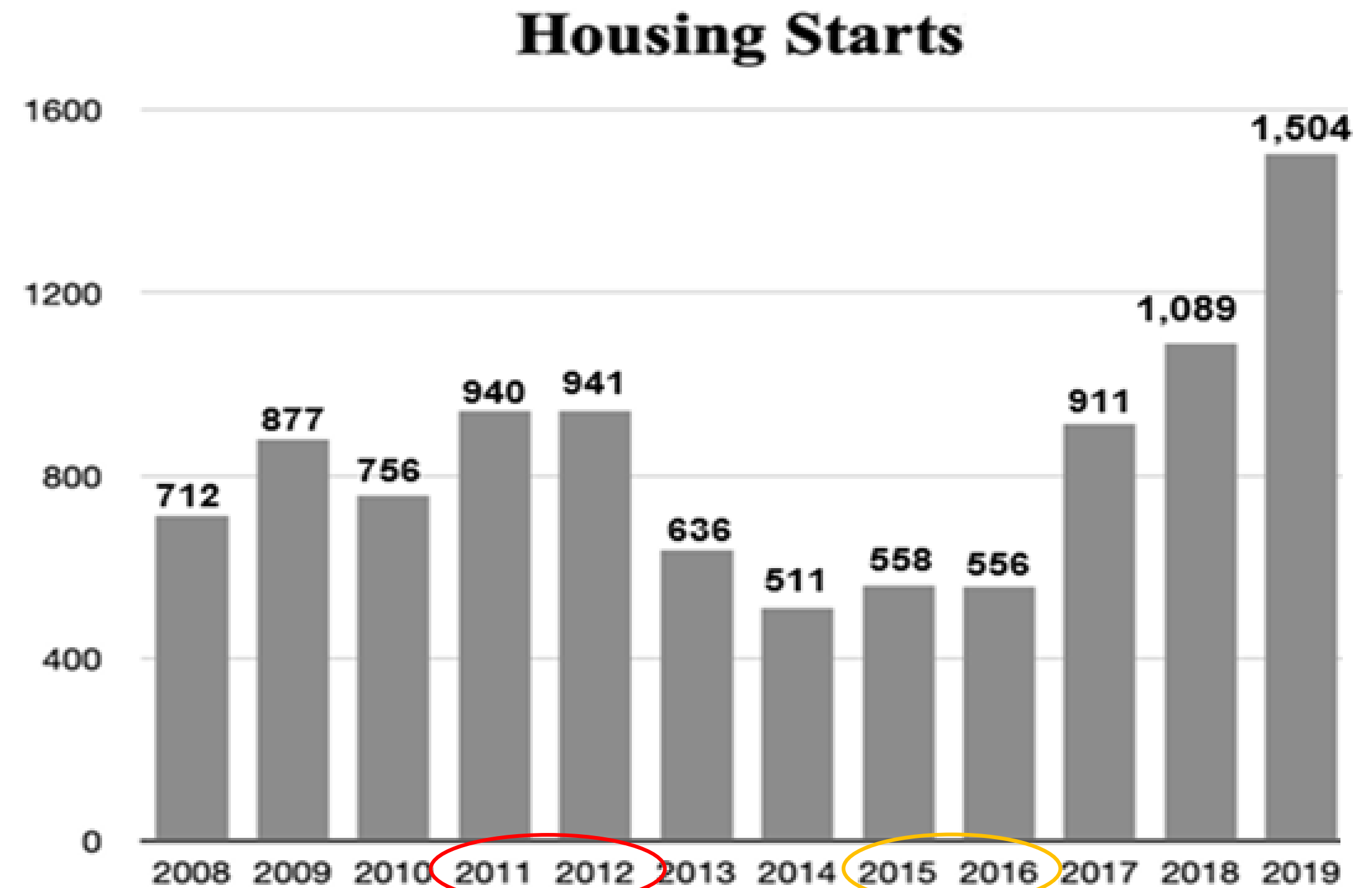
Net interprovincial migration as a share of population (%)



Aligning Development to the Level of Demand

TABLE 3: PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POPULATION AND COMPONENTS OF GROWTH, 2010 – 2020

Year	July 1 Population	(+) Births	(-) Deaths	(+) Immigrants
2010	141,654	1,428	1,177	2,611
2011	143,963	1,404	1,250	1,375
2012	144,530	1,339	1,239	863
2013	144,094	1,397	1,270	1,406
2014	144,283	1,374	1,359	1,341
2015	144,546	1,397	1,114	2,015
2016	146,969	1,387	1,272	2,263
2017	150,402	1,295	1,368	2,102
2018	153,396	1,308	1,389	2,267
2019	157,262	1,353	1,367	2,082
2020	159,625			



- Years immigration/population growth levels were lower, but housing starts were higher
- Years immigration/population growth was **higher**, but housing starts were **lower**

Increasing Budget in Proportion to Demand

Does the 2022 budget allow for a housing response in proportion to historical-level shortages?

Historical Housing Trends: “The housing stock we need, hasn’t been built yet... the current housing situation has been unfolding since 2015 and while some existing supply sustained us for a few years, this is no longer the case... Perhaps there is some instructiveness in looking back to how we managed historical housing demand in the past: in the 40s (nation-wide rapid housing development for returning vets) and in the 70s-80s (housing boom driven by the baby boomers; where our suburbs came from).”

- Shaun Cathcart, Director and Senior Economist, CREA, April 2021

‘While the approach to the current housing challenge needs to be similar in scale of response, the recommended approach is different- there is less land to work with. Land use, density, future sustainability and protecting unincorporated land are all critical considerations in today’s housing response’ – John Dewey, ED, FPEIM, April 2021

PEI’s Housing Supply Challenge (June/21): https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pOqpe5WeID-U8IsMb0CMclCluhFO_Bkp/view?usp=sharing

A Housing Innovation Fund?

Can a Housing Innovation Fund be piloted to accelerate the development and implementation of new ideas for complex housing supply and affordability challenges- encouraging communities and industry to lead portions of the work ahead? Following CMHC's example of making Canada's #HousingSupplyChallenge a challenge that is a job for all, while inspiring and empowering appropriate partners to take action.

Examples of ideas that could be supported through an innovation fund are:

Expediting development through reducing municipal approval time, analyzing and resolving delays, increasing access to labour, innovating for affordability, and inviting others into the housing supply challenge- to share their ideas and apply for funds to implement them.

Town of Stratford Prince Edward Island

Stratford is planning to design a more collaborative process that will promote a safe and ethical space for the public, planners, developers, and stakeholders to work together to address housing challenges in land use planning.

The design of the new planning process will support up-front collaboration and co-design for different housing typologies to build support and buy-in early in the planning process, therefore improving the frequently adversarial nature of the public hearing

"We take projects that are in the system, the regulatory pipeline ... identify ones that aren't moving, and really dissect the problems and the opportunities."

By one estimate, the Halifax area needs as many as 25,000 new units to fill the current demand for housing. (Steve Lawrence/CBC)

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'It takes a village': Tiny homes will help house vulnerable veterans | CBC News

cbc.ca • 2 min read



Lennox Island tiny home project well under 3 homes and counting | SaltWire



Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation...

61,831 followers

Help give Canada the tools it needs to speed up housing construction. This is a chance for municipalities and the housing industry to be a part of the solution by sharing their ideas with the Housing Accelerator Program. <http://ow.ly/TpIQ50HncqP>

In an attempt to generate affordable housing construction in the area, Waterloo Region has made funding available for approved projects that would create new units, convert existing units into affordable rentals, allow for acquisition of land/property to build new housing and repair existing rentals.

A Housing Innovation Fund?

Housing Supply Challenge - Pre-Construction

CMHC Asked: What 1 topic should be prioritized during pre-construction?

PEI Experts Responded (May 2021)

42.86%	Public education and consultation / engagement program focused on densification and livability; or similar approach for councillors and politicians
23.81%	Develop a fast-track process for specific types of housing (e.g. affordable units, conversions)
14.29%	Development of a methodology to do an equity-based review of municipal processes with a roadmap for implementation of changes
9.52%	Roadmap and potential impact of new approaches to zoning
9.52%	Methodology for municipal analysis of pre-development bottlenecks
0.00%	Plan to digitize and streamline approval processes for specific application types with an IT
0.00%	Reconciliation-based public consultation approaches
0.00%	Elimination of studies / approvals for specific housing types (e.g. seniors' housing, non-
0.00%	Other Recommendation (please specify)

Experts advise, the types of challenges that need innovative solutions:

- **Historical housing trends:** <https://tinyurl.com/HousingSituation>
- **Land Use:** <https://tinyurl.com/PlanningLandUse>
 - “Municipalities cover 37 percent of the area of the province and zoning covers 10%. The absence of local property tax in unincorporated areas is encouraging sprawl throughout the countryside. Sprawl consumes and fragments agricultural and other resource land. Agricultural land is a finite resource – once developed, it’s gone”
- **Labour Shortages:** <https://tinyurl.com/ConstructionSectorPEI>
 - “Labour shortages: hundreds of jobs that can’t be filled”
- **Analyzing and Resolving Pre-Development Delays**
 - Ideas here: <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/professionals/project-funding-and-mortgage-financing/funding-programs/all-funding-programs/housing-supply-challenge/round-2-housing-supply-challenge/round-2-applicants>
- **Material/ Supply Shortages**
- **Population Growth:** <https://tinyurl.com/PopulationGrowthPEI>
 - “Forecasted population growth is 10,000 every 5 years”
 - Growth has been trending higher
- **Planning, forecasting, communication, collaboration**
- **Affordability**
- **Population Action Plan:**
 - Housing is critical, but there is also growing demand for education, healthcare, labour, transportation, etc.

Good news for those impacted by rising costs:



Prince Edward Island Government ✓

December 15 at 2:59 PM · 🌐

Islanders receiving benefits through social programs will see their winter allowance double this year for school aged children.





PRINCEEDWARDISLAND.CA

Free Heat Pumps for Income Qualified Islanders | Government of Prince Edward...

Starting December 1, 2021, you can call 1-833-PEI-1873 to book an appointment to check your eligibility for a free heat pump. You will also be...

Island-wide Transit



Two new public transit routes serving Eastern PEI will operate between

Charlottetown to Souris and Charlottetown to Three Rivers.

- Monday to Friday **THREE** round trips per day.
- One-way fare is \$2.
- To guarantee your seat, book in advance by emailing info@T3Transit or by calling T3 at 902-566-9962.

For route schedule: PrinceEdwardIsland.ca/IslandTransit

2. Mental Health

The Province and IRSA are responding to increased mental health needs.

Mental Health

"The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic can be experienced in many different ways, including feelings of depression, grief, fear, panic, and anxiety, which can be normal responses to situations where day-to-day routines are disrupted and circumstances are uncertain"

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00050-eng.htm>

Mental Health

Currently, “**24% of Canadians**” are reporting fair or poorer mental health. However, “before the pandemic, only **8%** of Canadians reported fair or poor mental health”

<https://www.ciim.ca/img/boutiquePDF/canadiandiversity-vol17-no3-2020-d3549.pdf>

Mental Health

Immigrant
mental health
needs are
elevated
further.

- “Recent immigrant participants more likely to report symptoms of anxiety than other Canadians”
- “Recent immigrants reported fair or poor mental health more often than other Canadians”
- “Mental health of more than half of recent immigrant participants has worsened since the implementation of physical distancing”
- “Female recent immigrant participants are more likely to report symptoms of anxiety”
- “Recent immigrant participants financially affected by the pandemic exhibit higher levels of anxiety”

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00050-eng.htm>

Mental Health

As we live and navigate through a global pandemic, emotions certainly run high. How are organizations responding to grief in the workplace and supporting one another? Here are some resources:

[Dealing with the 5 Stages of Career Grief During the Pandemic](#)
[Daily Life Coping](#)

Or dealing with other forms of grief:
[How to Cope With Anticipatory Grief at Work](#)

https://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/stress-coping/grief-loss/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fdaily-life-coping%2Fstress-coping%2Fgrief-loss.html

Many people are experiencing grief during the COVID-19 pandemic. Grief is a normal response to loss during or after a disaster or other traumatic event. Grief can happen in response to loss of life, as well as to drastic changes to daily routines and ways of life that usually bring us comfort and a feeling of stability. Common grief reactions include:

- Shock, disbelief, or denial
- Anxiety
- Distress
- Anger
- Periods of sadness
- Loss of sleep and loss of appetite



NEWCOMER FEEDBACK

“We all know that Covid19 make large and deep change special for mental health and psychological of people either local or new comer... they think no ones care and no solutions for them”

“Being away from family overseas and not knowing when we can see each other again is the hardest part of all”

“Hard to find clients; hard to find vendors... do not know when will it finish and the business may be disappear but the expense is increasing debt still has to pay.... feeling unstable in anything”

“Mental Health service is not available in mother language for family members who can't speak perfect English”

“Keeping healthy relationship was the biggest challenge”

“The gray future of our life”

NEWCOMER FEEDBACK

"Family member passed away, I can't go back home for the funeral and to be with family."

"Spouse is still overseas, taking care of elderly family members or business, other spouse and children are here alone."

‘Elderly family members aren't well, I can't go back home to see them...’

"Children not doing well here, the challenges of immigration was a choice I made, they didn't make this choice."

"Many of us moved for our children, if our children not doing well—how can we?"



Good News: Expansion of Mental Health Services



PEIANC WOMEN'S CIRCLE

PEIANC Women's Circle offers a safe and welcoming space for women of all backgrounds to come together and share.

PEIANC Women's Circle will offer support and coping strategies for stress, families and parenting, relationships, mental wellness, and a place to meet new people.


PEIANC WOMEN'S CIRCLE

In-person seats are limited and we are looking forward to meeting you.

PLEASE REGISTER BY Friday October 1st
carolyn@peianc.com or aynur@peianc.com

DATE: October 8th is first session and will run 5 weeks.
TIME: 12 pm to 2:00 pm
LOCATION: Carriage House/Beaconsfield-2 Kent Street, Charlottetown

Facilitated by PEIANC Family Counsellors
Carolyn Jenkins & Aynur Darian



1-833-553-6983
MOBILE MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE SERVICE

PEI.BRIDGETHEGAPP.CA

Home - Bridge the gapp [Learn more](#)

Bridge the gApp is an online mental health resou...



New Alliance to Build and Support Mental Well-Being Across the Island - PEI Alliance for Mental Well-Being

allianceformentalwellbeing.com • 2 min read

Good news: Culturally-Informed, Trauma-Informed Services are Underway

COUNSELLING SUPPORT (ONE-ON-ONE)

- Increase mental health support through trauma-informed, culturally-sensitive counselling services.

In process; IRSA, through Provincial Support

- Educate and collaborate with other mental health service providers to prepare them for expanded mental health needs in the immigrant community.

In process

- Education on mental health support needs and referral points for services, in support of PEI's immigrant community.

Recommendation

SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL & INTERPRETERS

- Develop and distribute a mental health self assessment tool, with service access points (translate into multiple languages)

In process

- Recommend Mental health/health interpreters and vicarious trauma training

Recommendation

- Per McGill's research in transcultural psychiatry and those working with culturally diverse patients, first-language support should be considered. Develop a list of interpreter's, trained for mental health support.

Recommendation

WELL BEING PROMOTION & EDUCATION

Small group learning sessions, social media posts reminding newcomers of wellness strategies, links to well being insight, and workshops/ interactive sessions on special topics (such as: triple P, other parenting, managing families online usage/social media, healthy relationships, mindfulness, culture shock, grief, managing anxiety and stress, coping strategies, where to seek support, etc.)

In process

Ideas for session topics can be seen here (replicate or purchase material): <https://ca.ctrinstitute.com/topics>

Recommendation

HELPLINE & DIRECTORY

- Island helpline has *only* an English or French option. There are many people in PEI that speak other languages. Can the Island Helpline increase the languages offered? Or, can PEI partner with other provinces that have multilingual crisis support?

- **Such as, in Ontario:**
- Multilingual Distress Line-1-877-298-5444. Support offered in 8 languages, including English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Spanish, Portugese, Hindi,, Punjabi, and Urdu; it does **not** have Vietnamese or Tagalog; not 24 hours (10am-10pm)

Recommendation

Full research report: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EwwRknPFG2LFwlo2tQyOgIAQ0rVfmoBH/view?usp=sharing>

3. Healthcare Access

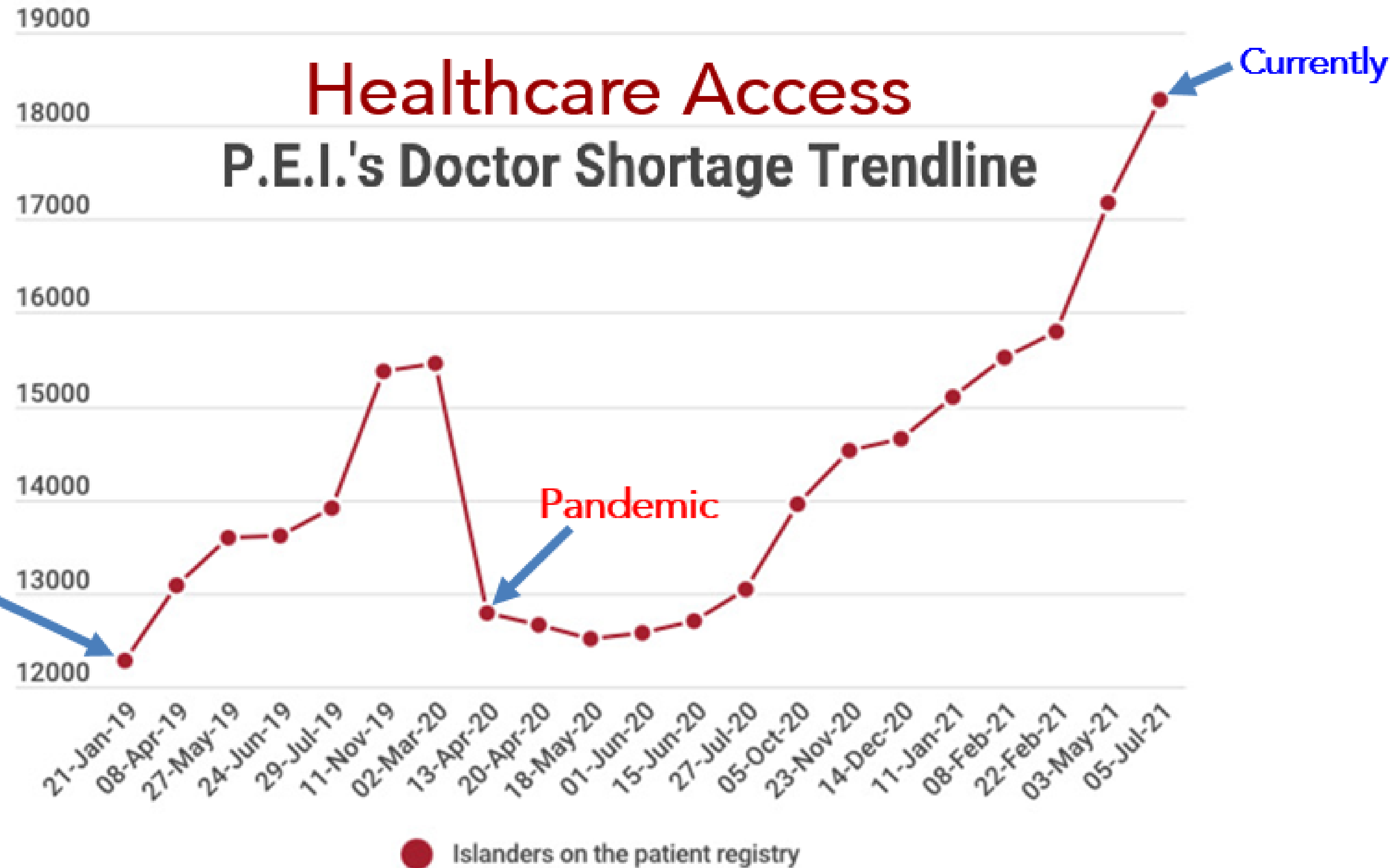
“It’s so hard to see the doctors when I’m ill”

“Can’t access preventative, investigative, or follow-up care without a family physician”

Healthcare access is a crisis point for immigrants.

Healthcare Access

P.E.I.'s Doctor Shortage Trendline



January 2019 Healthcare Access:

"Couldn't access emergency care through the ER despite multiple visits and 10 hour waits. Access to a specialist, for the same emergency situation, took 9 months, despite family physician and patient navigator working hard to intervene. October 2019: While seeing Specialist, family is advised that since so much time has passed their child may have life-long complications".

Source: Province of P.E.I., Wayback Machine www.saltwire.com/atlantic-canada/news/number-of-pe-residents-without-a-family-doctor-tops-18000-100808524/

Healthcare Access: What can service providers do?

1. Refer internationally educated health professionals to job opportunities in healthcare
2. Post regular social media reminders to point newcomers to healthcare access points

How else can we help?

Health PEI

One Island Health System

Click here for the: [Walk-in Schedule](#)

Health PEI maple

Virtual Care Program

www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/virtual-health-care-islanders-without-primary-care-provider

Access virtual medical appointments with a physician

(only those *without* a family physician are eligible)

Good News

Medical homes coming to PEI!



New community health centre announced for Summerside

The province and the City of Summerside, P.E.I., have reached an agreement ... The centre is expected to include a medical home, space for...

40 new doctors recruited to work on P.E.I.

'Working with the recruitment team made the decision to move to P.E.I. an easy one'

Kevin Yarr · CBC News · Posted: Jan 29, 2022 7:00 AM AT | Last Updated: January 29



4. Discrimination

Discrimination

35% of survey participants advise
their child has experienced
discrimination in school (K-12)

Source: August 2021 PEIPIP Survey

Discrimination

“For us, racism started just two weeks into Grade 1. At that time, Kindergarten wasn’t in school, so grade one was our first experience with the school system. Racism was a recurring issue my son faced at school. At times, racism and conflict would spill over into the hockey rink and even the community, where for a year our house was the target of egging, around the window where his bedroom was. Eventually I called the police for help with this situation, but there wasn’t “anything they could do”, which is what teachers and leaders in the school system had also been telling us for six years. For us, the only way to stop racism in schools was to leave the school system and enrol in private school. Our son describes the racism he experienced during his six years in public school as a feeling of powerlessness. This is what we felt as well, powerless to help our son.”

Discrimination

Survey Comments:

- "One time a total stranger at a grocery store showed me his middle finger and asked me to go back to where I came from"
- "Islanders are not willing to embrace immigrants"
- "Being able to find a job, but still uncertain if I am accepted / not discriminated"
- "My son was told that the teacher couldn't understand him and couldn't be moved up a reading group because of it. He is British and reads adult books at home! I have been told to speak English and my husband has been told they want to deal with a Canadian"

Other incidents reported: at grocery stores, job sites, outside stores, and several times at Victoria Park

Source: August 2021 PEIPIP Survey

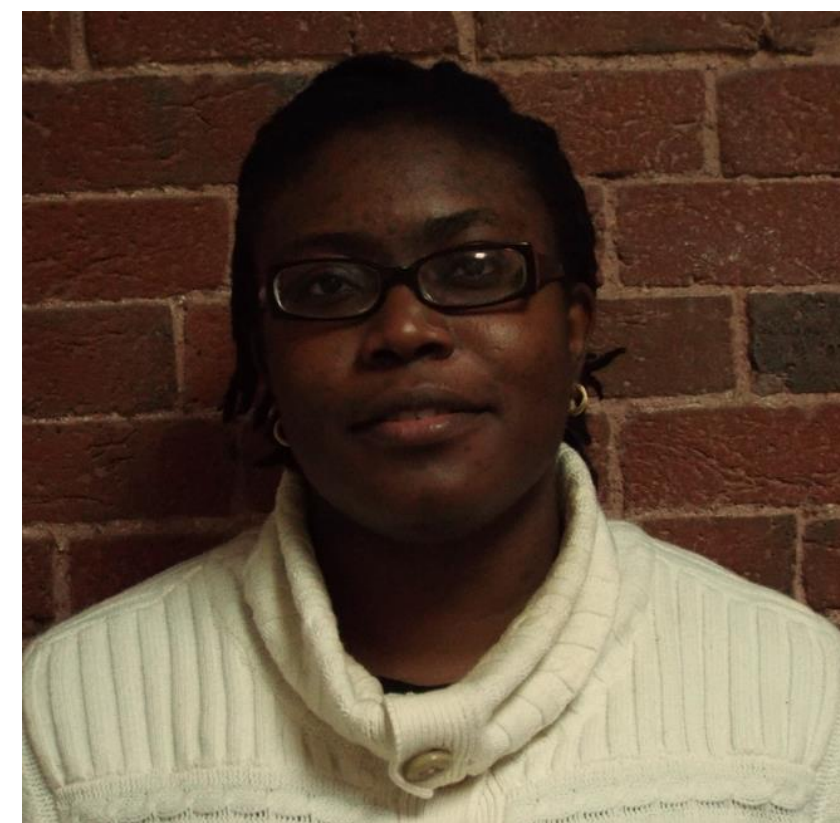


Evelyn Bradley | CBC

Evelyn Bradley – Consultant, Education; Diversity Training; School-based Support



Deborah Langston – PEI Department of Education; Diversity Training and Curriculum Planning



Nnena Ukwa – IRSA; Employer Training



The Power of Stories, an initiative of Wisdom, Truth, Failure, Ceejay Amadi

Encouraging Initiatives & Good News

LEAD THE SHIFT
WORKPLACE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAM

Program date:
July 21 - September 1, 2021

REGISTER BY JULY 15

www.charlottetownchamber.com/leadtheshift

Daniel Ohaegbu
Entrepreneur and DEI Activist

Upcoming program dates coming soon!
www.charlottetownchamber.com/leadtheshift

Daniel Ohaegbu is a leader in EDI transformations with experience developing EDI within academia, industry and community organizations. Daniel's perspective on EDI is shaped by an established academic background, with published work on inclusivity in higher education and his experience as a business leader working in the program development, entertainment and finance sectors. His EDI and advocacy work has led him to establish ASDA, a not-for-profit that serves international students in Atlantic Canada and the community that has become their new home.

To lead, engage, and work with diverse teams and welcome newcomer talent!

Lead the Shift; PEI Connectors Program



Anti-Racism Table

PEI Government Initiative

5. Labour Shortages

More work opportunities for newcomers, if there are enough training programs to bridge them to where the opportunities are.

Labour Shortages Nationally and Internationally

Immigration and Canada's Recovery

Summary of article: <https://lnkd.in/g-RR78EA>

“There’s no magic bullet here”, said Chris Gardner...
“immigration is a fundamental part of the long-term solution to this challenge.”

Another expert responded to say that all of Canada's "workforce growth is going to come through immigration... it’s something that has a huge impact on almost every aspect of the economy and yet, ironically, it’s not one that gets a lot of attention focused on it.”

Is Canadian immigration a model?



By Jake Perez, Editor at LinkedIn News

In order to offset its aging population and boost younger workforce numbers — sparking a spirit of risk-taking, innovation and growth — the U.S. should consider following Canada's lead on immigration, argues [The New York Times](#). Canada's immigration intake is triple the U.S. rate, while its [Provincial Nominee Program](#) pulls off "granular matching between skills and the local labor market," ensuring employment. The Times also argues Canada's processing time averages 18 months while highly-skilled U.S. immigrants on H-1B visas wait years.

<https://www.linkedin.com/news/story/is-canadian-immigration-a-model-4495169/>

Labour Shortages

Sept 18, 2021 — The number of **job** vacancies on **P.E.I.** soared in the second quarter of this year, while the unemployment rate climbed into double digits ...

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-labour-shortage-unemployed-part-one-1.6178393>

Labour Shortages across PEI and Canada



P.E.I. labour shortage predated pandemic but was made worse by it | CBC News

cbc.ca • 7 min read



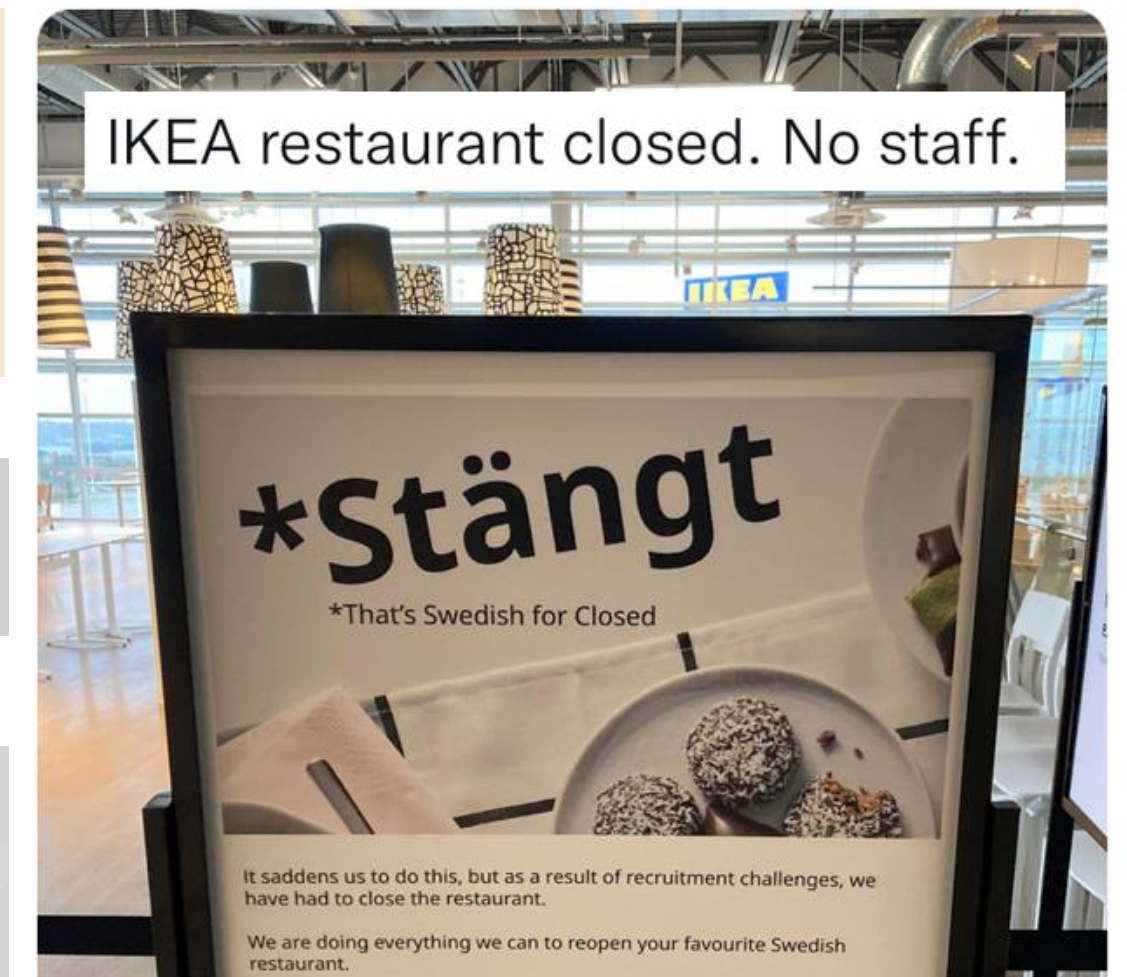
BNN Bloomberg

Unfilled jobs surpassed one million in Canada, a sign that employers are having difficulty finding workers as they ramp up hiring.

Starbucks Canada raising wages amid 'critical staffing shortages'

ATLANTIC.CTVNEWS.CA

'Unprecedented demand' for school bus drivers causing delays in HRM and elsewhere



https://www.rbcgam.com/en/ca/article/macromemo-november-23-december-6-2021/detail?utm_medium=social&utm_source=linkedin&utm_campaign=select-campaign&utm_id=9e9f793fac84951fa3c209dc640feb84&linkId=141835278#mm6

Good News: PEI Innovating in Response to Labour Shortages

Buildforce Canada Magazine

Construction Association
of Prince Edward Island

BUILDFORCE



PRINCEEDWARDISLAND.CA

More training opportunities in early
childhood education | Government of
Prince Edward Island



2021 Skilled Newcomers In Construction

Information Session
Dec. 8th 9:00AM



Construction Association
of Prince Edward Island

Work in
Construction
on P.E.I.

8 weeks in
classroom
8 weeks
paid work

When & Where:
9:00 AM at
Parkdale-Sherwood
Lions Club,
46 Valley Street,
Charlottetown

See you there!

Contact:
Janet@capei.ca
for more info

SUBSIDIZED SUPPORTIVE CARE ASSISTANT MICROCREDENTIAL

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY STUDIES GENERAL



Holland College is now offering post-secondary microcredentials, including a fully subsidized microcredential to prepare students to work as supportive care assistants in long-term care.

The Prince Edward Island-based **Canadian Alliance for Skills and Training in Life Sciences**, or CASTL, has entered into a partnership with Vancouver's **adMare BioInnovations** to offer technical training to prospective life scientists. The deal will see the two organizations collaborate on education programs nationwide. In a press release, they will provide a range of theoretical and hands-on courses aimed at making graduates employable in the life sciences sector.

All High-Risk Trends

1. Housing Supply
2. Mental Health
3. Healthcare
4. Discrimination
5. Labour Shortages

The importance of sharing
good news during difficult times.

Countering Challenges

Inspiring hope in new immigrants through true stories and advice from those that have been where they are; who have struggled, but persevered and have found a new life in PEI.

Inspire Perseverance

"In 2016, she came to P.E.I. with her husband and two children as Syrian refugees. But in the back of her mind, she cannot forget the days leading up to her decision of leaving Syria..." [...see more](#)



'Most exciting Christmas gift': Syrian refugee reflects on journey of becoming Canadian | CBC News

Congratulations to Thinh, Xiaomei, Emma. And congratulations especially to each immigrant that has struggled, overcome, and found the courage to tell their story. [#InspireHope](#) [#immigrationmatters](#)



What a newcomer's journey to get a job in P.E.I can tell us | CBC News

Inspire Perseverance



<https://discover.rbcroyalbank.com/the-black-atlantic-experience-chijioke-amadis-relentless-commitment-to-his-community/>

Inspire Innovation and Creativity

PEI's Elon Musk (Peter Ixkes) brings green innovation to PEI's Housing Industry!



"Painting is a hobby I never dared to do in the environment I grew up in. In that environment, people used to live hard... and they almost always forget about their interests and ideals, because they were in a hurry. Because we lived in the same environment, I had also lost my interests and ideals.

During my time in Prince Edward Island, I felt the poetry and beauty of life again." - Yuzhu

**Cornwall Library
Art Gallery's
current exhibit:**

Yuzhu Yang



Inspirational Stories: Stories of Belonging

Newcomers to be featured on new banners in O'Leary - CBC

Apr 22, 2021 — The Town of O'Leary will be putting up banners this summer on 12 light poles on Main Street, each featuring a different photo of a newcomer ...



The Town of O'Leary will be putting up banners this summer on 12 light poles on Main Street, each featuring a different photo of a newcomer to the area in a town setting.

Town officials are calling the displays "diversity banners" and say they want to signal that they are welcoming everyone.

"O'Leary has always prided itself on being a welcoming community," said Judy MacIsaac, the town councillor who came up with the idea.

This is what welcome looks like! The City of Charlottetown joining celebrations of importance for residents.



Inspirational Stories: Immigrants on the Front-lines

IMMIGRATION MATTERS to Canada's health-care sector

Visit: Canada.ca/immigration-matters
Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Immigrants make up 1 out of 4
health-care sector workers, including:



36%
of
general
practitioners

27%
of licensed
practical
nurses

36%
of
pharmacists



HEALTH CARE



HEALTH CARE



HEALTH CARE



HEALTH CARE



HEALTH CARE (IT)

Thank you for your time and advice:

Thank you for your advice and/or support: Bernadette Reynolds, Craig Mackie, Barry Ansems, Emma Nguyen, Todd MacEwen, Rocio McCallum, Erin Mahar, Carolyn Jenkins, Yvette Doucette, Rosalie Blanchard, Amy MacLean, Belinda Woods, and other IRSA staff; Jamie Aiken; Jeff Young; Kal Whitnell; Li Feng; Jennifer Cairns-Burke, Jean-Marc Beauchesne; Sheila Scott-IRCC; Nigel Burns; Sonya Cobb; Dr. Victoria Esses; Jody Henry; Christina Macleod -Volume 18; Alex MacBeath; Robert Hughes; Shaun Cathcart- CREA; Pierre Leduc – CREA; Romy Bowers-CMHC; Nicole Bellefleur, Beverly Perry, Ali Siadat, and PEI Connectors staff; Sam Sanderson; Ally Guo; Tony Joy; Ajay Mathew; Ceejay Amadi; Ikechukwu Ohaegbu; John Dewey; Wayne Ellis; Truong Chien Ly; Anne Tran; Helena Do; Xiaomei Wang; Cory Bailey; Maxine Rennie; Angie Cormier; Allison Doughart; Scott Smith; Trevor MacLeod; Melody McInnis; David Arsenault; Samantha Murphy; Town of Cornwall; Town of Stratford; City of Charlottetown; City of Summerside; Mayor Steve Ogden; Mayor Minerva McCourt; Mayor Ed MacAulay; Councilor Jill Burridge; Tracey MacLean; Mike Thususka; Jim Wentzel; Christine – Rosemount Editing; the Chinese Association of PEI; New Life PEI; VietPEI; Indo Canadian Association (ICA) and Kerala Association (KAPEI); Sandigang Pinoy, Filipino Association; HK. APEI Photo Studio; Jean McRae; Carolyn Whiteway; Howard Ramos; Rodel Imbarlina-Ramos; Roberto Montiel; Bonnie Wong, Sunny Wang; and others.

Thank you Kailea Pedley, Cape Breton LIP for inspiring this process early in COVID by sharing helpful insights from surveys.
Thank you to Dan Vandebelt, Waterloo LIP, for sharing helpful surveys and insights over the years.

For more information please contact:

Melanie Bailey melanie@irsapei.ca or Emma Nguyen emma@irsapei.ca
PEI Provincial Immigration Partnership Program (PEIPIP)
Immigrant and Refugee Services Association (IRSA) of PEI

A special thank you to all cultural community advisors and survey participants, who took time to provide feedback and helpful advice over these last two years.



CURRENT NEEDS IN PEI NEWCOMER COMMUNITIES

Findings, Priorities, and Recommended Action for 2021-2022