

NEWS RELEASE

Atlantic Canada lost 66,396 people to the rest of the country since 2000

September 02, 2021
For immediate release

HALIFAX— Atlantic Canada experienced a net outmigration of 66,396 people between 2000/01 and 2019/20, finds a new study released today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“People leaving Atlantic Canada is not only a symptom of the region’s economic weakness, but a potential threat to its future well-being,” said Alex Whalen, policy analyst at the Fraser Institute and co-author of *Voting with their feet: Migration in Atlantic Canada*.

The study finds that between 2000/01 and 2019/20, 66,396 more residents left Atlantic Canada for provinces outside the region compared to people outside of the region moving to Atlantic Canada. In addition, young, working-aged people disproportionately left the region during this period.

A total of 74.3 per cent of Atlantic Canada’s interprovincial outmigrants during this period moved to Alberta and Ontario.

Between 2000/01-2019/20, New Brunswick experienced a net loss of 21,974 people, Nova Scotia 20,805, Newfoundland and Labrador 19,927, and Prince Edward Island 3,690.

The study also found, however, that Atlantic Canada experienced in-migration in four of the past five years, as more people moved to the region than left. However, the quantity of in-migration has not been enough to offset the outmigration experienced in the years leading up to 2016/17. Moreover, it appears that people were leaving the struggling provinces of Alberta and Ontario rather than moving to opportunities in Atlantic Canada.

Newfoundland & Labrador has the highest rate of net outmigration in the region at 1.9 people per thousand, and the third highest in the country. New Brunswick is the second highest at 1.5, followed by Prince Edward Island at 1.3, and Nova Scotia at 1.1.

“International evidence shows that people tend to move where they are likely to find higher paying jobs and opportunities,” said Whalen.

“It’s imperative that Atlantic Canada focus on these issues to keep younger, working-aged people in the region.”

(30)

MEDIA CONTACT:

Alex Whalen, Policy Analyst
Fraser Institute

To arrange media interviews or for more information, please contact:
Drue MacPherson, 604-688-0221 ext. 721, drue.macpherson@fraserinstitute.org

Follow the Fraser Institute on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

The Fraser Institute is an independent Canadian public policy research and educational organization with offices in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal and ties to a global network of think-tanks in 87 countries. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for Canadians, their families and future generations by studying, measuring and broadly communicating the effects of government policies, entrepreneurship and choice on their well-being. To protect the Institute's independence, it does not accept grants from governments or contracts for research. Visit www.fraserinstitute.org