



new conversations

Economy. Immigration. Communities.

Agenda

- Opening / Acknowledgment of the land
- Demographic and labour market presentation
- Question period
- Panel
- Break and networking
- Open discussion
- Next steps



new conversations

Economy. Immigration. Communities.

Western Restigouche in 2030

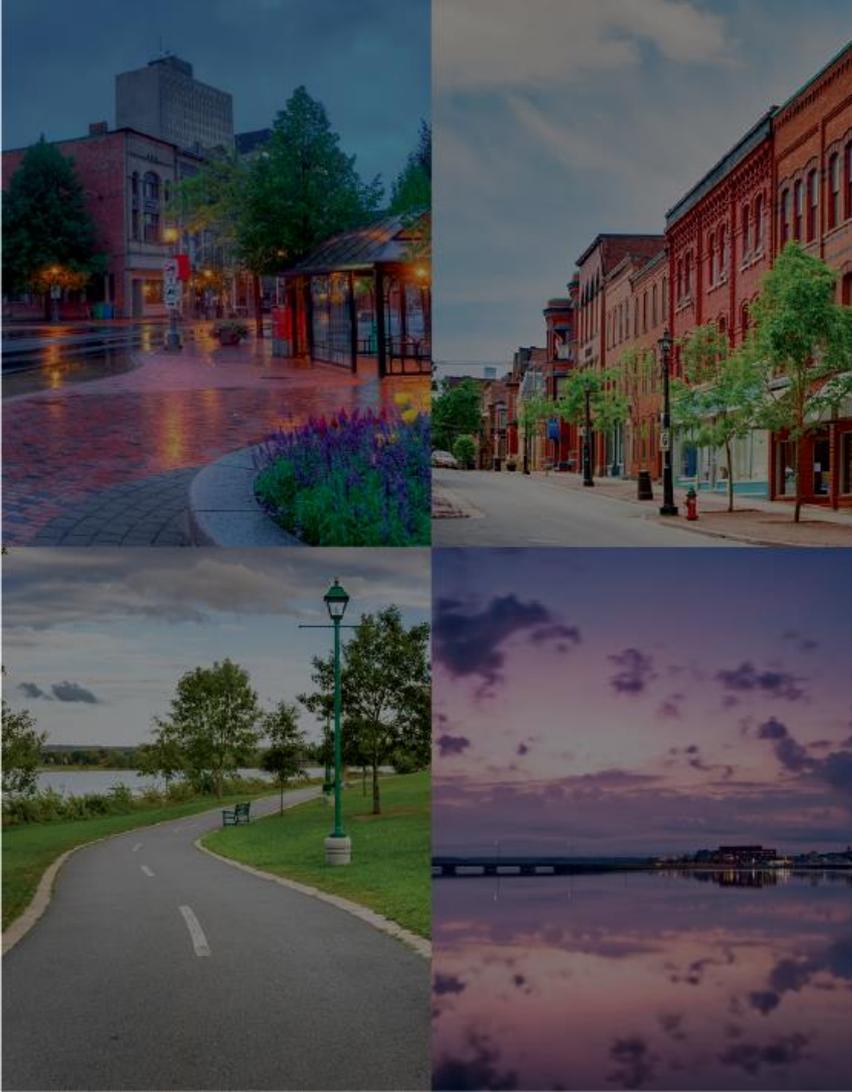
What's wrong with an aging and declining population? Japan has little immigration and seems to be doing fine...

Why do we need immigrants when so many young people are leaving the province?

With unemployment so high, why do we need more immigrants?

Part of the problem is that employers don't pay enough. Will immigration just keep wages down?

Why should we spend money on attracting more immigrants instead of improving the lives of New Brunswickers?



There are many
questions... it's time to
start the conversation!

Our Conversation Tonight:

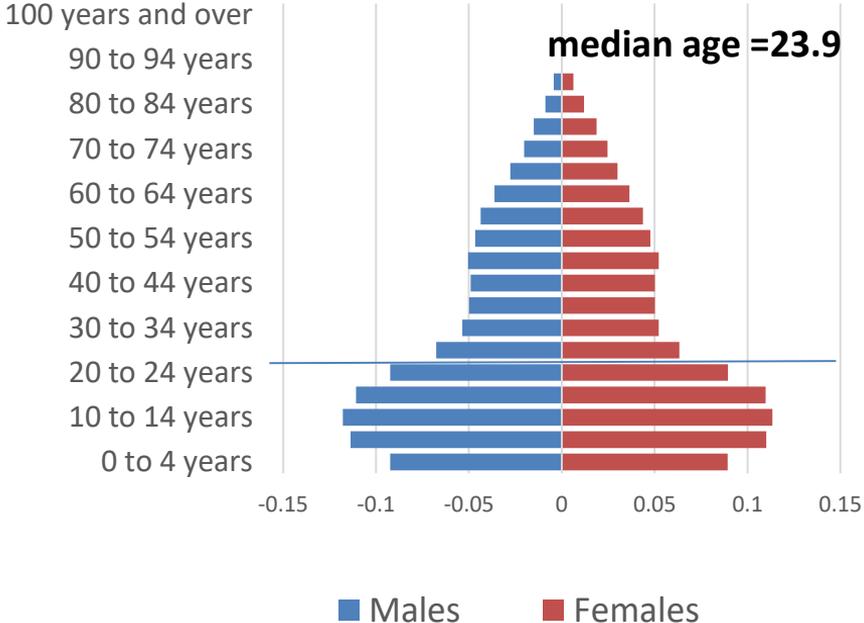
- The **aging population**: “New Brunswick’s Largest Problem”
- A **declining workforce**: What it could mean for my province and my community.
- The **immigration imperative**: Why immigration is central to our future prosperity.

Population Aging

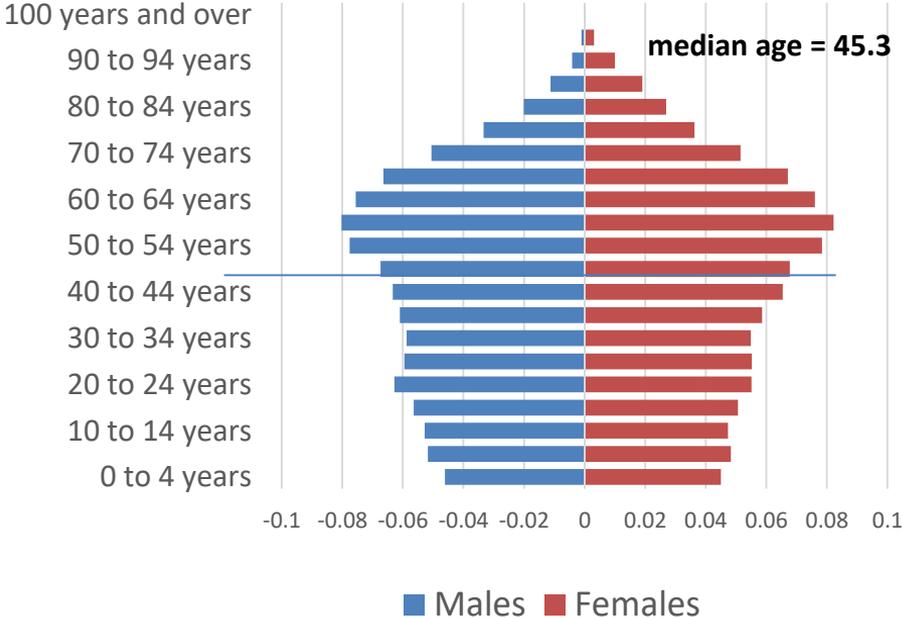
“An aging population is our province’s largest challenge.” – Premier Brian Gallant

NB is aging fast, as baby boomers grow older and life expectancy continues to progress.

1971

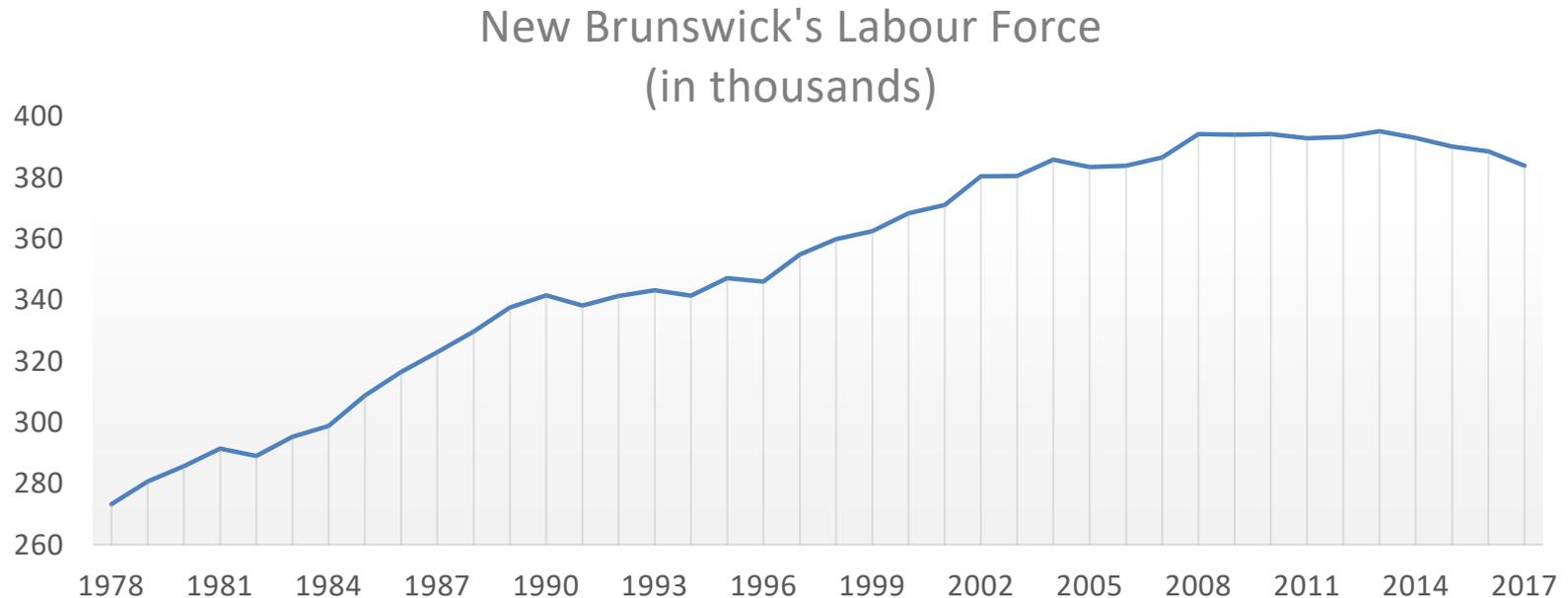


2017



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM, table 0510001.

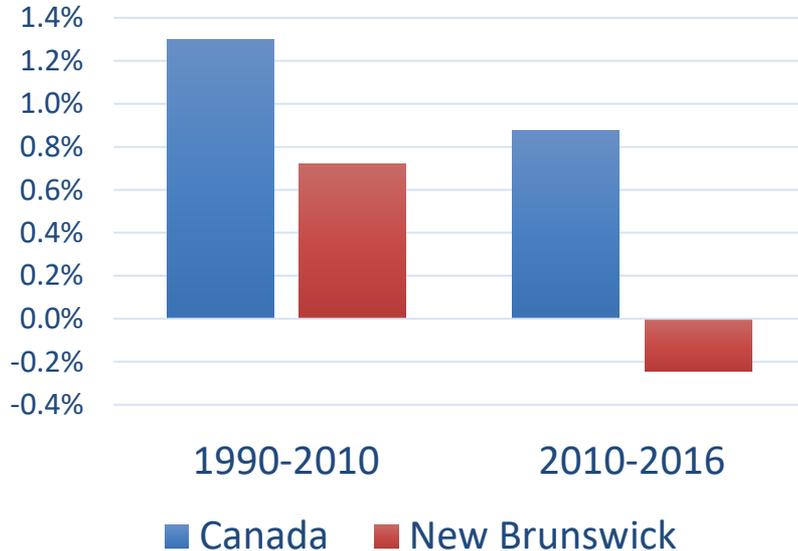
For decades, NB's economy has been fueled by a steady flow of new workers. This is no longer the case. With baby boomers retiring, the province is now losing workers.



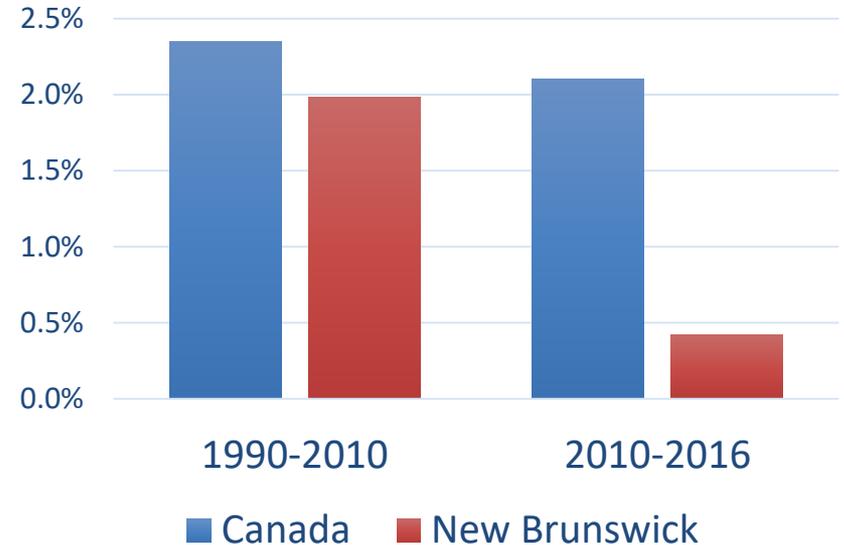
Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM, table 2820002.

NB's economy has slowed sharply with its recent labour force decline - much more so than Canada as a whole.

Labour Force Growth (annual average)



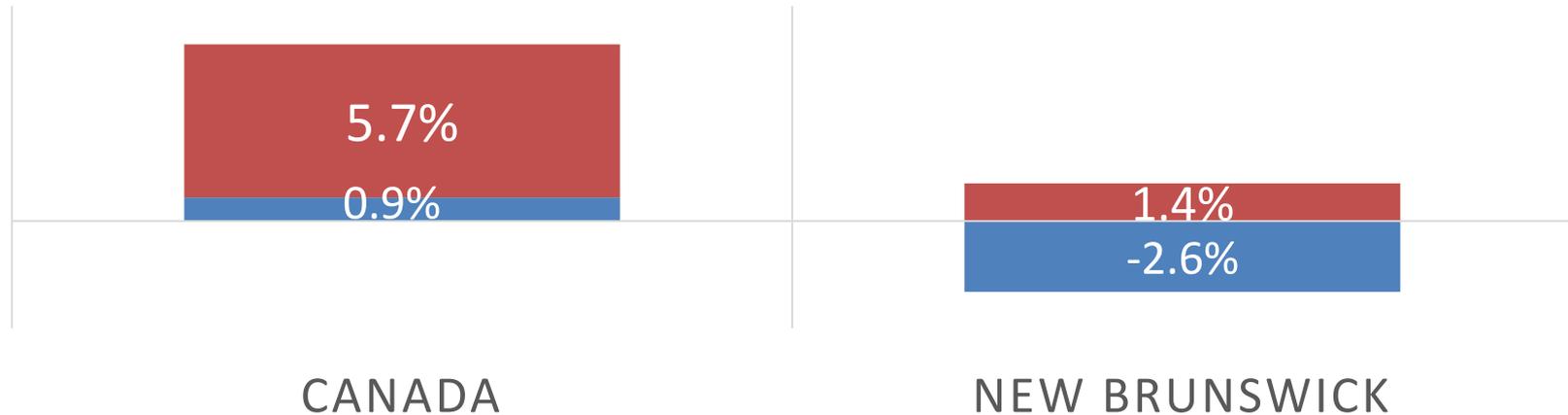
Real GDP Growth (annual average)



Faster aging and lower immigration are the main reasons why NB's labour force is declining, while Canada's is still growing strong.

LABOUR FORCE GROWTH, 2010-2017

■ Born in Canada ■ Born outside Canada



A Declining Workforce

What it could mean for my province
and my community

What is at stake if current labour force trends continue?

- Based on recent trends, NB could lose 30,000+ workers in the next 15 years.
 - That's billions in economic activity and hundreds of millions in lost tax revenue.
- Meanwhile, demand for public services will only grow as baby boomers continue to age.
- Health care spending rises dramatically as seniors age. Today, 65,000 people are aged 75+. In about 15 years, this number will have doubled.

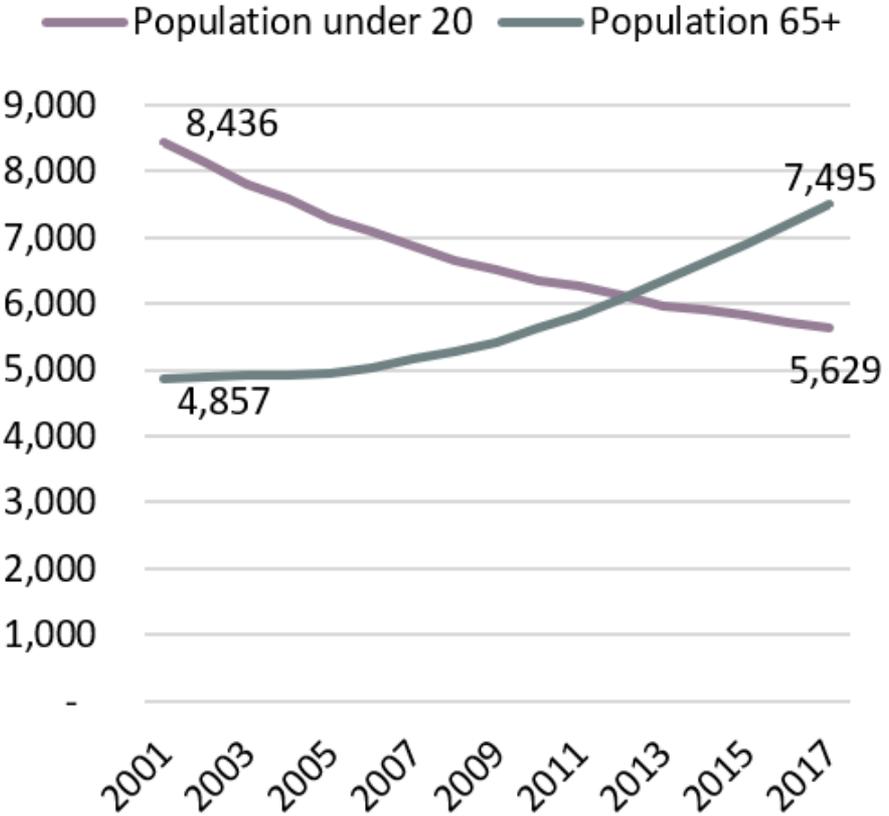
What about Western Restigouche?

- With the exception of Saint-Quentin, the population is declining (from 2011 to 2016):
 - Saint-Quentin (+4.7%)
 - Kedgwick (-5.3%)
 - Restigouche County (-5.0%)
- And the population is also getting older, faster.
Median age:
 - Kedgwick (47.6)
 - Saint-Quentin (48.6)
 - Restigouche County (51.7)

What about Western Restigouche? (cont'd)

- According to Statistics Canada, there were 15,800 people in Restigouche County's labour force (either working or seeking employment) in 2006.
 - By 2016 that number had dropped to 14,330 – a decline of ~10 percent.
 - Saint-Quentin's workforce dropped by seven percent over the decade.
- A number of employers in the region are increasingly finding it hard to find qualified workers.

Population trend in Madawaska and Victoria counties by selected age group (2001-2017)



Source: Statistics Canada annual population estimates.

What about Western Restigouche? (cont'd)

- Western Restigouche is strategically important to the NB economy:
 - The region has a large forestry sector.
 - It is the centre of New Brunswick's growing maple syrup industry.
 - Maple syrup output up from 75,000 gallons in 2000 to more than 550,000 in 2017.
 - The world class Restigouche River provides the region with an important recreational fishery and tourism destination.

But, a significant number of workers are heading towards retirement.

- 3,800 workers are 55+ (2016 Census)*
- Over one in four workers are heading towards retirement (2016 Census)
- 40% of entrepreneurs are 55+ *

These factors bring serious challenges to the strength of the economy in the years ahead.

The Immigration Imperative

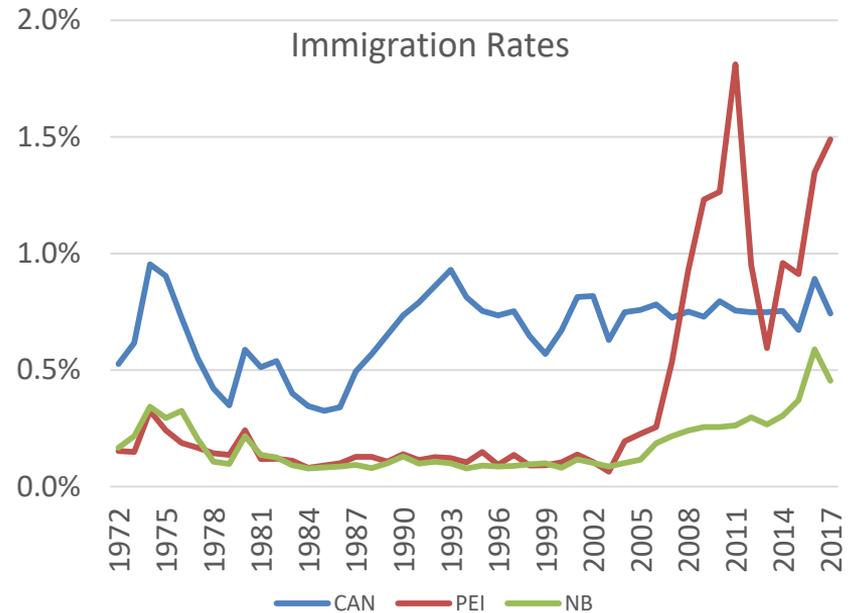
Why immigration is central to the future
of my province and community

How can NB reverse the tide of a declining labour force?

- Our province needs to:
 - Encourage more New Brunswickers to join and/or stay longer in the labour force.
 - Draw more workers from other provinces and retain more New Brunswickers.
 - **Attract and retain more immigrants.**

The case of PEI shows the potential of immigration for NB

- For over a decade, PEI has pursued an aggressive immigration strategy. Since 2007:
 - Pop – PEI: + 10%; NB: +2%
 - GDP – PEI: +15%; NB: +6%
 - Labour force—PEI: +7%; NB: -1%
- Of note:
 - Unemployment in PEI did not increase (it is down slightly).
 - PEI is significantly younger and aging slower than NB.



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM, table 0510004.

Some common myths about immigration

- Wages in New Brunswick are not competitive enough to attract immigrants
- Governments subsidize immigrant wages
- Immigrants (and temporary foreign workers) are paid less than local residents
- Immigration lowers local wages
- Immigrants take the jobs of New Brunswickers

Western Restigouche in 2030

- Will Saint Quentin continue to be a hub for forest products and maple syrup?
- Will the broader western Restigouche region continue to have important tourism, forestry and maple syrup industries?
- Will new industries emerge related to agriculture, tourism and personal services?
- Will the workforce be there to ensure the region and its communities can take advantage?
- Will a new generation of entrepreneurs emerge?

Western Restigouche in 2030 (cont'd)

- 96% of northwestern New Brunswick residents are at least third-generation Canadians.
- This has created a strong social cohesion that contributes to the high quality of life in the region.
- We need to ensure that newcomers will be welcomed into our communities and become a productive part of our future.

What's your vision for NB?

- Immigration holds much promise to: (1) grow our economy, (2) slow down population aging, and (3) make our communities more vibrant.
- Our province is at a crossroads. We face the choice between:
 - **Status quo**: leads to diminished prosperity and more youth leaving; or
 - **A more dynamic, open NB**: draws talent and investment from across the world and competes successfully in global markets.



Questions?

**NEW BRUNSWICK
MULTICULTURAL
COUNCIL**



**CONSEIL
MULTICULTUREL DU
NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK**