

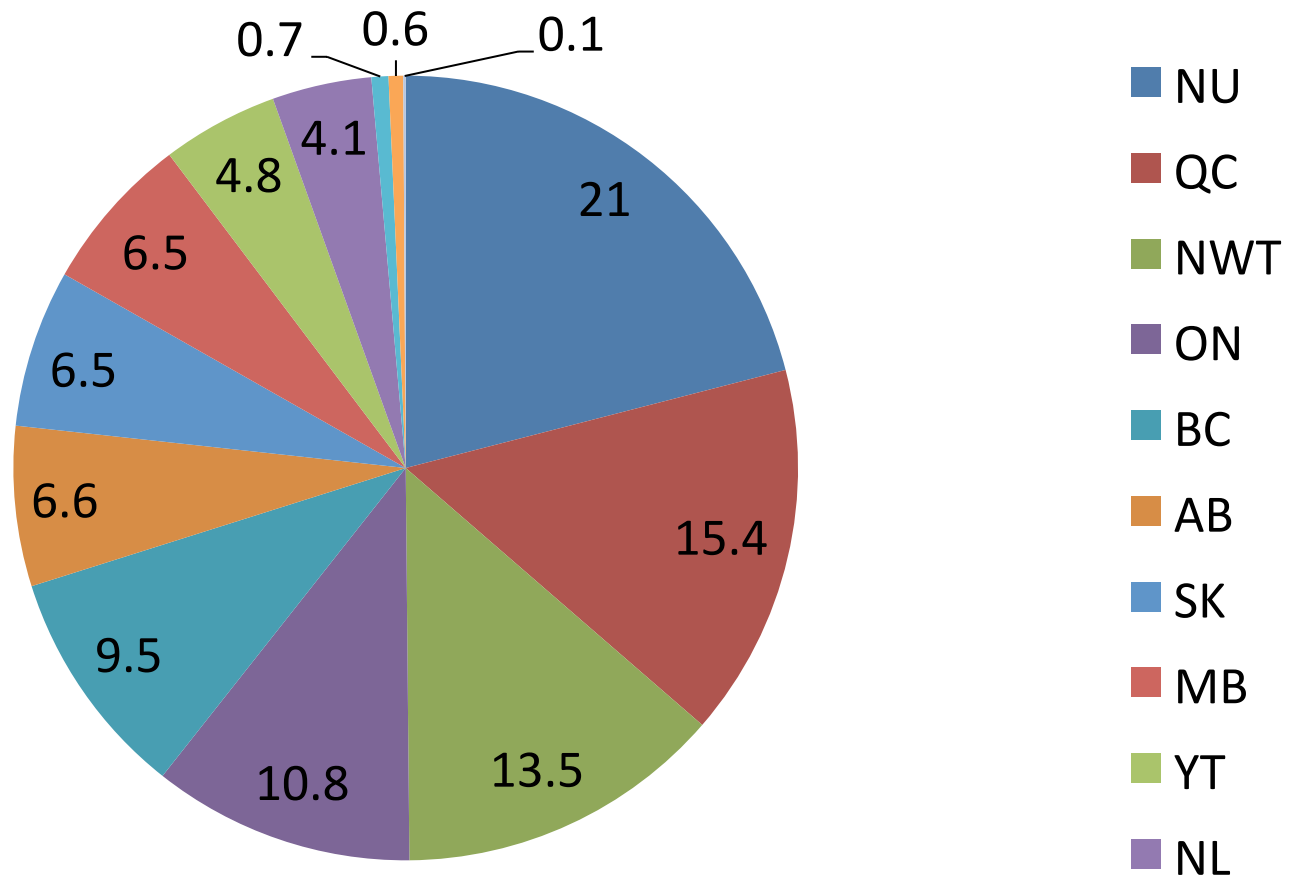
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URBAN SETTLEMENT IN THE ATLANTIC: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Outline

- Atlantic Canada –statistics
- Atlantic Canada Settlement Service Providers
- Opportunities in immigrant settlement
- Challenges
- New directions

Total Area of Provinces and Territories as % of Canada





Definitions: Population centres

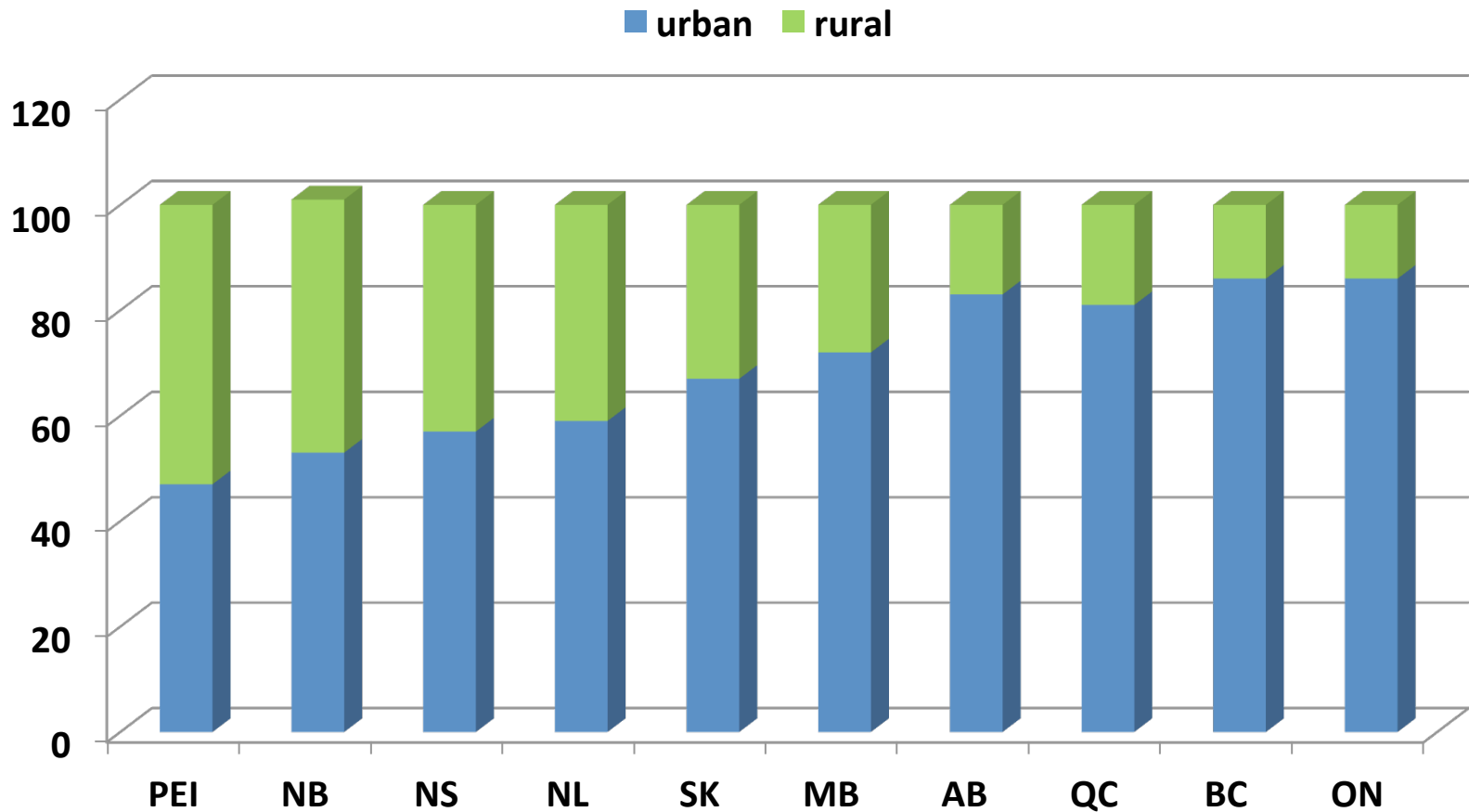
As of 2011, StatCan uses the term “population centres”

- small population centres - between 1,000 and 29,999;
- medium population centres - of between 30,000 and 99,999;
- large population centres – “Metropolitan” - 100,000 and over.

Atlantic Population

- The **population** of the four Atlantic provinces in 2011 was about 2,327,650.
- The total number of immigrants arriving in the region in 2014 was 8,029
- Metropolitan areas (>100,000):
 - **Halifax - 414,400**
 - **St. John's - 211,700**
 - **Moncton - 146,100**
 - **Saint John - 127,300**

Atlantic Canada has a higher percentage of rural population



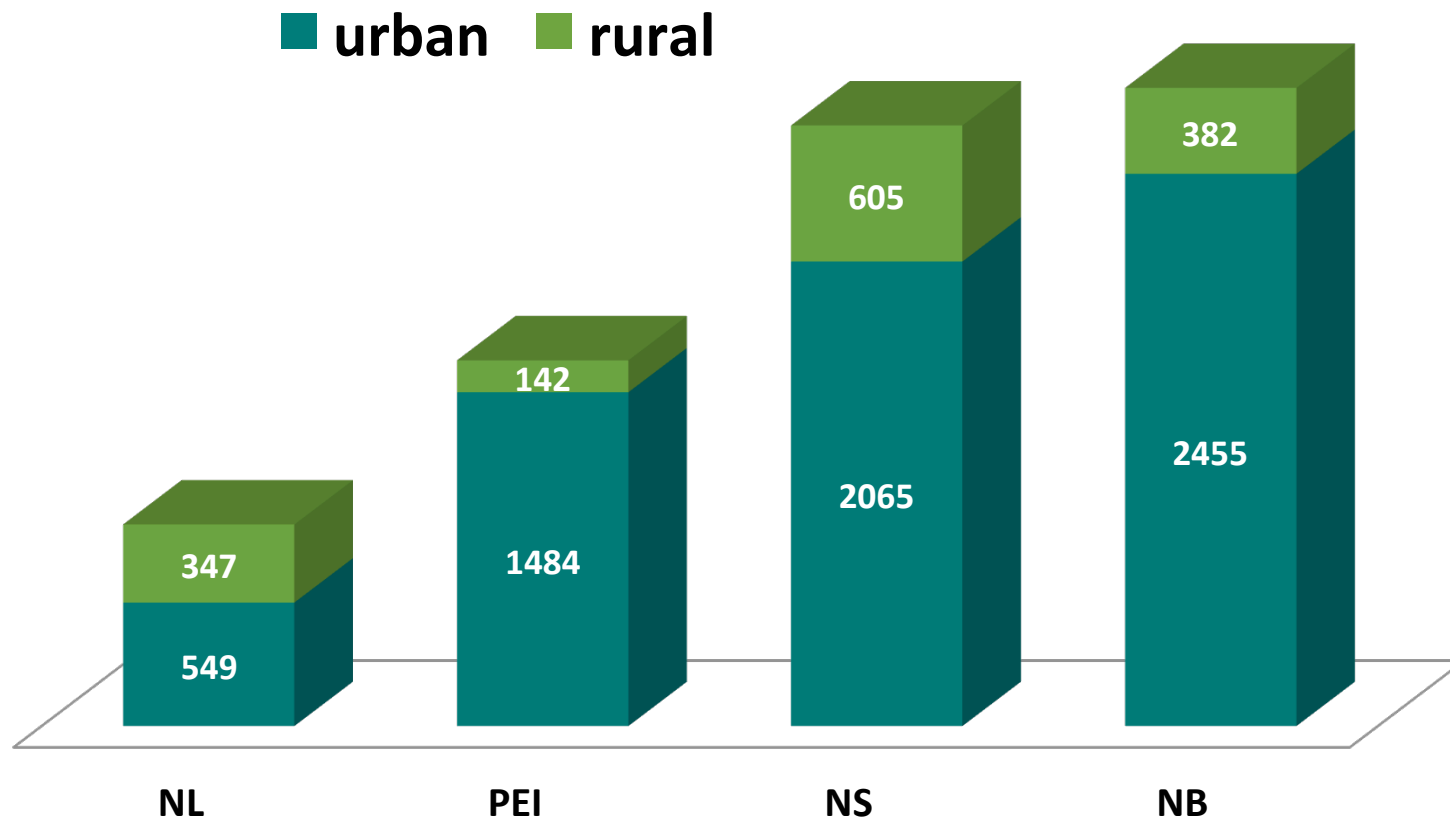
Source: Statistics Canada/ISANS - 2011

Population distribution

	Population	Urban	Rural
PEI	140,204	65,543	74,661
NS	921,727	521,338	400,389
NL	514,536	305,566	208,970
NB	751,171	394,479	356,692
TOTAL	2,327,638	1,286,926	1,040,712

Source: Statistics Canada/ISANS - 2011

Most immigrants to the Atlantic go to urban centres



Source: Citizenship & Immigration Canada/ISANS - 2014

Settlement Service Providers

- 7 large organizations that have been delivering services for many years: one in each major centre, 2 in Halifax
- 5 that are only immigrant-serving agencies (ISAs), 2 YMCAs
- All funded by Citizenship & Immigration Canada as well as by provincial governments
- Members of Atlantic Region Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies (ARAISA)

Settlement Service Providers

Others funded by CIC to support immigrants:

New Brunswick – 14 groups (10 ISAs)

Newfoundland – 3 groups

Nova Scotia – 6 groups

Prince Edward Island – 4 groups

MAGMA
Multicultural Association
of the Greater Moncton Area



AMGM
Association multiculturelle
du Grand Moncton

St. John's

- Association for New Canadians (ANC)
- 50 staff
- 600 clients /year

Moncton

- Multicultural Association of Greater Moncton (MAGMA)
- 28 staff
- 700 clients /year



Halifax

- Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS)
- 130 staff
- 4,000 clients /year

Services available

- Language training
- Settlement & orientation services
- Resettlement Assistance Program for government-assisted refugees
- Employment services
- Business orientation
- Community connections
- Child minding
- Diversity training



Big and small

- Size of city and size of agency provide opportunities and some challenges for major immigrant service providers in Atlantic urban centres, as well as for our clients
- Opportunities: big enough & small enough
- Challenges: too small
- Many opportunities/challenges are flip-sides of the same issues



Opportunities

Atlantic urban settlement providers **big enough**

- to offer specialized services
- to diversify funding sources
- to manage with limited budgets
- to have good IT resources
- to be recognized and included



Opportunities

Atlantic settlement providers
small enough

- to provide easy access for clients, fewer waitlists
- to have range of services in one organization
- to be nimble and flexible and responsive



Opportunities

Atlantic urban centres **small enough:**

- For clients to integrate into community
- For settlement providers to connect easily with partners
- For settlement providers to have access to leaders



Challenges

Atlantic urban settlement providers
too small

- For settlement providers to adjust easily to budget cuts – whole envelope not large
- For settlement providers or community to have some specialized services (e.g. counseling for victims of torture)



Challenges

Atlantic urban centres **too small**

- For clients to have good public transit
- For all clients to have ethnic community support
- For clients to find specialized employment opportunities in some sectors
- For settlement providers to have community partners experienced in immigration issues



New Directions

Is the urban-rural divide still true?

- Technology is shrinking the divide between urban and rural areas
- Settlement Online Pre-Arrival
- Live streaming & other distance services (e.g. medical professionals doing OSCE exam preparation - Halifax/Sydney/Truro/Russia)

