PEI PIP quarterly snapshot

Q2 (July - Sept 2026)

PEI PROVINCIAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

PEI's Provincial Immigration Partnership (PIP) is an Island-wide initiative that supports the development of community-based partnerships working to build more vibrant and inclusive communities across PEI.

Learn more about PIP's vision and mission here!

"STAY TUNED TO PIP'S SOCIAL MEDIA TO REGISTER FOR IN-PERSON SESSIONS STARTING NOVEMBER 13!"

"Open Doors PEI - Hiring For Success" Is Building Momentum

Open Doors PEI continues to make meaningful progress as the project moves forward. The presenters, Annette and Shielly, recently shared their first draft of the presentations and resources with IAT members, receiving thoughtful questions, valuable feedback, and strong encouragement. The discussion reflected a clear appreciation for the program's goals, along with helpful suggestions and new connections to support further engagement with employers across PEI.

With the support of a Diversity Equity and Inclusion consultant, Tamara Steele, the presenters are continuing to refine their presentations and toolkit, drawing on insights from employers and HR professionals to ensure the content is relevant, practical, and responsive to workplace needs. IRSA and CBDC Central have also supported this work by connecting the presenters with approximately 30 employers to help inform the project's development.

These important steps are helping strengthen Open Doors PEI and deepen our understanding of how the program can support employers in fostering more inclusive workplaces across Prince Edward Island. As the project progresses toward its upcoming workshops, we look forward to continuing to build connections, share knowledge, and support meaningful change.



EMPLOYERS & HR: Register for sessions in Charlottetown, Summerside, and Montague here: https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/open-doors-pei-hiring-for-success-pei-pip-4886411



Zhang (Annette) Hui



Shielly Pahwa Bahl



Tamara Steele

SPO - WORKING GROUP



PEI has three IRCC-funded SPOs (service-providing organizations), commonly known as settlement organizations: (1) Coopérative d'intégration francophone de l'Î.-P.-É. (CIF), serving all French-speaking newcomers across the Island; (2) PEI Community Navigators (PEICN), serving newcomers living or working in rural PEI; and (3) Immigrant and Refugee Services Association PEI (IRSA), serving newcomers living or working in Charlottetown or Summerside. Last year, PIP convened these stakeholders to discuss how newcomers to PEI can more easily find the right settlement organization, support smooth referrals, navigate differences in client eligibility, collaborate without duplication, and provide human-centred, cohesive, wrap-around services. Going forward, this will become a quarterly working group to address these and other relevant topics, with the next meeting being November 5th.

International Students & Grads Working Group

Strengthening the International Student & Graduate Pathway

Our working group recently began exploring how we can strengthen the journey for international students and graduates in PEI from education and employment through immigration and long-term retention.

A key message from our discussion was that PEI has many strong programs, partnerships and organizations already supporting international students and graduates. The opportunity is to better connect these resources and create a more coordinated pathway.

Three areas are emerging as priorities for further exploration:

1. One Pathway
Explore a coordinated international student and graduate pathway that helps students understand their next steps from arrival through education, employment, immigration and permanent residency.

2. Employment
Strengthen connections between graduates, employers and educational institutions so international graduates can access relevant, sustainable employment that supports both their career goals and PEI's workforce needs.

3. Retention
Explore proactive support for graduates who may be at risk of falling out of their pathway due to employment challenges, work-permit timelines, licensing, credential recognition, housing or other barriers.

The opportunity
Our discussions reinforced that the challenge is not a lack of programs it is coordination between them.

We want to explore how PEI can better connect the resources that already exist:
Attract → Educate → Connect to Employment → Connect to Community → Support Permanent Residency → Retain

This is an early stage of our group's work, and we look forward to continuing the conversation with students, graduates, employers, educational institutions, government and community partners.

Together, we can build a clearer, more connected pathway for international graduates to succeed and contribute to PEI.



PEI PIP - OUT & ABOUT!

PIP goes out and about!

Along with several other non-profits and ethnocultural organizations, PIP staff were invited to tour the **new addition to Confederation Centre of the Arts.** We were excited about the welcoming vibe and the potential of this space for community events. The rooftop view will be quite stunning!

PIP staff participate in the **PEI Local Forum on Equity and Racial Justice**, hosted by Canadian Network for Equity and Racial Justice (CNERJ) and the provincial Anti-Racism Office. Connections were strengthened with valuable partners including L'nuey and WorkSource Alliance, and discussions brought out many themes familiar to PIP's work, including mental health and belonging.

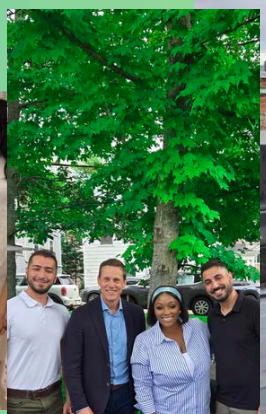
As a member of various national, regional, provincial, and local committees, PIP adds their lens to many discussions. These include the **Feel Well Community Action Network** (around mental health and wellness), **Steering Committees for Eastern, Western, and Central Community Navigators**, the **Atlantic Advisory Committee for ARAISA** (the regional umbrella organization for settlement service providers and Local Immigration Partnerships), the **P2P Standing Committee on Immigration to Small, Medium, and Remote Communities**, and two **National LIP Secretariat Working Groups** (Newcomer Engagement and Equity & GBA+).

PIP staff also hosted a table at **Emancipation Day** and spoke at the **Mid-Autumn Festival.**

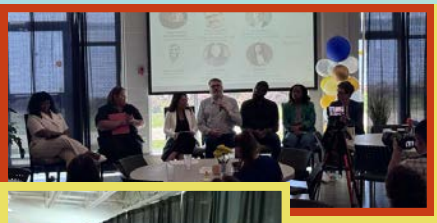














BELONGING TOUR PEI 2026



As part of the Belonging Tour PEI 2026, Alive House hosted an engaging gathering that invited people to reflect on what it means to feel at home in a place. The PEI Provincial Immigration Partnership was pleased to take part, contributing an interactive workshop on Putting the Pieces Together alongside community members and partners.

The session offered many ways to participate, including conversation, writing, drawing, reflection, and a hands-on puzzle activity. Each activity encouraged participants to look at the different experiences, relationships, and opportunities that help people feel included and supported.

The discussion also touched on the broader impact of creating welcoming environments. When people feel valued and have opportunities to participate, it can strengthen workplaces, support the local economy, and help build healthier communities across Prince Edward Island. As one speaker reflected, "Belonging is more than being present in a place; it is feeling seen, valued, and connected to the community around you."

One of the most meaningful outcomes of the gathering was the creation of the Belonging Circle. The conversations that began at this forum will continue in October when Alive House returns to PEI and invites community partners to refer young professionals or jobseekers to attend a launch at Government House and then discuss their challenges and opportunities in a focus group. This opens the door to something that could continue well beyond the day itself, bringing people together around a shared interest in making PEI a welcoming place for everyone. More to come on this in our next newsletter edition!

A heartfelt thank you to Templeton Sawyer, Founder of Alive House, for bringing this initiative to PEI and creating the opportunity for these conversations to take place.

PIP is also thrilled to have been invited to join the planning committee for the National Belonging Summit 2027!

Welcoming Week 2026

& "Meet Your Neighbours: The Many Cultures Of PEI"







Welcoming Week is celebrated in early September across Canada and in many countries worldwide. This year, PIP invited community partners to organize Welcoming Week "activations." These included ten community events, numerous social media campaigns, multilingual welcome billboards, and a video series highlighting newcomer stories. A big shout-out to PEI Community Navigators, who hosted at least six of these events, from a soccer tournament to apple-picking, during their "PEI Neighbours Week," which coincides with Welcoming Week. Thanks also to College de l'Île, Culture Summerside, IRSA and RIF for their activations! Next year, PIP plans to collaborate closely with PEI Community Navigators from the outset to maximize both organizations' efforts.

The Arts Guild approached PIP last spring about its CultureSHIFT funding, leading to a unique Welcoming Week event focused on the arts as both a career and a way to foster community belonging. The result was "Meet Your Neighbours: The Many Cultures of PEI," an arts mixer in collaboration with the Guild and IRSA's DiverseCity Festival. Panelists and table leads included Tiffany Liu (musician), Jane Ledwell (Creative PEI), Reequal Smith (Oshun Dance), Elena Herweyer (Art Fresh Marketing Agency), Xin Liu (visual artist), Bren Simmers (Poet Laureate), Emil Tupas (FDM), Kirstie McCallum (NSCAD/CCOA), Tomoyo Suzuki (visual artist), Kathleen Wiens (Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology), and Éliane Laberge (Innovation PEI). Performers included Lucie Liu, Iván Garnica, Filipino Dance Masters and Oshun Dance. The event raised awareness within the cultural sector of barriers faced by newcomer artists and highlighted how professional, semi-professional, or recreational arts participation can foster belonging. It also provided newcomer artists with valuable connections, insights, and resources to enter or advance within PEI's arts community.

Thanks to everyone who made Welcoming Week/PEI Neighbours Week a success!







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