

Halifax Policy Colloquium
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Community and Locally Informed Immigration Policy

Purpose:

Give voice: To highlight the voices and stories of the first Island-born Chinese on PEI, who were faced with the specific challenge of fitting into a close knit community.

Educate: To increase awareness of the concept of Islandness and how it specifically affects the human integration process culturally, socially, economically, and politically.

Connect: To connect Chinese Islanders to the recently arrived Chinese newcomers for the purpose of friendship and support.

Share: To share with policy makers the value of voice to educate community, and to understand how community context informs appropriate, locally based policy decision making.

Method: Is it possible to have my Model here? If not: Iterative method resulted in the proposed model (see model).

Findings:

Attributes of Islandness, intense connectivity in social networks can exclude minority groups, keeping them liminal.

Linking people with their past, acknowledging history, and telling stories are processes that can be used to build capacity for increased integration and retention of immigrants.

Policy Recommendations:

Repeat the 1991 Race Relations in Prince Edward Island Survey.

Encourage the understanding and concept of Islandness, increasing our knowledge of ourselves and society.

Following the model of place-based approaches, encourage storytelling as a method to build social cohesion, increasing integration and retention.

Collect local migration data for improved policy formation.