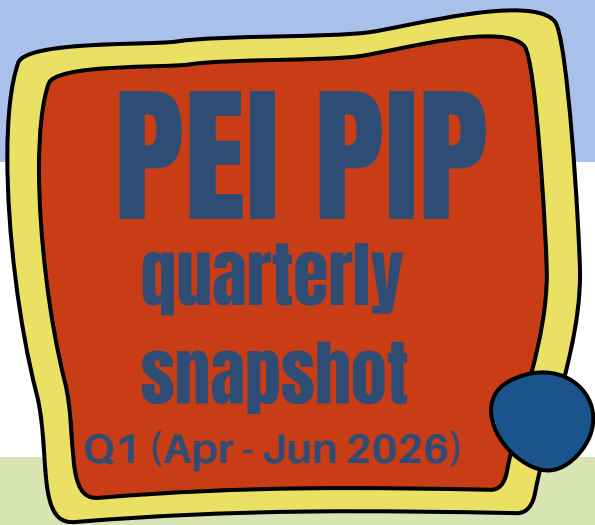




PEI's Provincial Immigration Partnership (PIP) is an Island-wide initiative that supports the development of community-based partnerships working to build more vibrant and inclusive communities across PEI.

Learn more about PIP's vision and mission [here](#)!

RIF FORUM: SHAPING A FUTURE IN FRENCH

How can we create lasting connections that help newcomers feel welcome and supported as they settle into our communities? That question was at the heart of the annual RIF Forum, hosted June 15-16 by RIF ÎPÉ (*Réseau d'intégration francophone de l'Î.-P.-É.*). PIP attended the forum alongside Francophone organizations working in immigration, settlement, and community inclusion.

Although RIF's structure is different from PEI PIP's, the conversations felt familiar. Both networks are focused on strengthening welcoming communities and supporting the many systems that help newcomers thrive.

The first sessions focused on the K-12 school system, including welcoming classrooms, supports for immigrant students, and responses to racism. Panelists included representatives from a student welcome centre in southern New Brunswick, two TÉEs (the Francophone equivalent of SWIS workers), and the *Conseil scolaire de langue français*. Another session highlighted a New Brunswick pilot program offering wrap-around support for internationally trained teachers entering the French school system.

Anti-racism was another shared area of focus. Within the Francophone and Acadian community, RIF ÎPÉ is leading this work in collaboration with CIF and *Bienvenue Évangéline*, with attention to three pillars: governance, education, and programming. A related survey is planned for May 2026.

Day two turned to post-secondary students, another area of interest for PEI PIP. A panel from Collège de l'Île featured the President and two staff members who work directly on student experience, followed by international students sharing insights from their own experiences.

The forum closed with interactive break-out groups focused on practical solutions for international students—an energizing reminder that welcoming communities are built through collaboration, shared learning, and action.



INTRODUCING NEW PIP PROJECT COORDINATOR, VALENCIA LYNES



I am excited to join the PIP team as a Project Coordinator and grateful for the opportunity to contribute to meaningful work in the community. My passion for project coordination began while working in the Prime Minister's Office in The Bahamas, where I gained experience in project and event coordination, stakeholder support, and community engagement. I genuinely enjoy connecting with people, creating opportunities, and helping initiatives make a positive impact. During my time in school, I served as Student Union Vice President, an experience that further strengthened my passion for supporting and engaging with my community. I look forward to collaborating with the team and serving the communities we support.

PEI PIP quarterly snapshot

Q1 (Apr - Jun 2026)

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IMMIGRANT ADVISORY TABLE HELPS SHAPE SERVICE NAVIGATION FOR NEWCOMERS

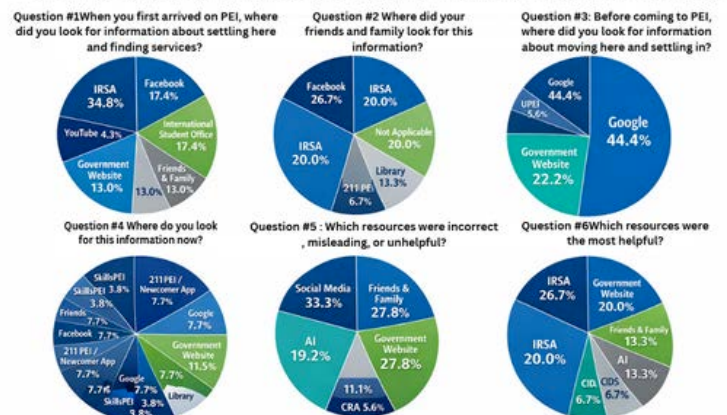
During the May IAT meeting, several questions were presented to IAT members to support improvements to the navigation systems designed to serve newcomers to the Island.

Key Findings:

- Settlement agencies were the strongest information source overall, especially when participants first arrived on PEI and when identifying the most helpful resources.
- Google was the most common source used before coming to PEI, followed by government websites and social media.
- For current information needs, participants reported using a mix of AI tools, IRSA, government websites, social media, and community-based sources.
- Social media and informal sources such as friends and family were most often seen as incorrect, misleading, or unhelpful.
- Government websites remained an important source across several questions, but they were not always identified as the top choice.
- The findings suggest that newcomers rely on both official services and informal, community-based channels, which highlights the need for clear, trusted, and easy-to-access information in PEI.



Immigrant Advisory Table Information Navigation Survey



MAKING CONNECTIONS AT IRSA'S OPEN HOUSE

On June 2, 2026 IRSA welcomed community members, partner organizations, and local leaders to its Open House, creating an inviting space to connect, learn, and celebrate the services that support newcomers and residents in our community. The event highlighted the importance of coming together to build relationships, share information, and strengthen community ties.

A special moment of the day was the Mayor Philip Brown's visit, which added to the sense of community spirit and support. Overall, the Open House was a meaningful reminder of the value of collaboration and connection in helping our community thrive. As a partner, PIP was honored to be a part of this event and looks forward to more events in the future.

OPEN DOORS SUMMERSIDE & LAUNCH OF BIPOC ECONOMIC INTEGRATION REPORTS 2



Open Doors Summerside brought community members, partners, and leaders together on June 11, 2026 for an engaging event focused on connection, learning, and economic inclusion across Prince Edward Island.

The event featured remarks from Mayor Dan Kutcher, who joined as guest speaker and shared insights with attendees on community development and the importance of collaborative efforts in Summerside and beyond.

Attendees also heard presentations from Nancy Clement, Mitch Martin, Claus Schmidt, Sarah Miller, Shamara Baidooobonso, Renita Bartlett, and Angela Maria Rueda Torres, who shared valuable information, perspectives, and resources connected to economic participation and community support.

A key highlight of the event was the launch of the BIPOC Economic Integration Needs Assessment Report and Action Plan, two landmark documents that outline a concrete path toward stronger economic outcomes for Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) residents across Prince Edward Island.

The gathering was made possible through the support of event sponsors and the catering team, whose contributions helped create a welcoming space for conversation, networking, and shared learning.

Overall, Open Doors Summerside provided an important opportunity to bring people together, strengthen relationships, and highlight ongoing work to build a more inclusive and connected community.

DIVERSECITY FESTIVAL 2026

The PIP team is excited to be part of the 2026 DiverseCity Festival, a vibrant summer celebration of diversity, inclusion, and multiculturalism hosted by IRSA across Prince Edward Island. This year's festival includes events in seven Island communities, creating opportunities for newcomers, established Islanders, community organizations, employers, performers, artists, and attendees to come together in a welcoming and accessible space. In June, we had the opportunity to present our surveys in Charlottetown and we look forward to taking part in the remaining events. If you see us, come and spin the wheel, do our mini-survey, and take a treat!

It has been a wonderful opportunity to connect with new people, share information about our services, and have meaningful conversations with individuals from a wide range of backgrounds. We also enjoyed the energy of the festival, including the many performances, dancers, drummers, singers, cultural demonstrations, food vendors, arts and crafts, and activities that help showcase the many cultures that make our communities stronger.

There is still plenty of time to join in the celebration. We encourage everyone to come out to one of the upcoming festival days, meet the many organizations taking part, enjoy the performances and activities, and celebrate the diversity that makes our Island community so special.

We hope to see you there!

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us!



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