



P.O. Box 1749
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B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 10.3.2
Halifax Regional Council
April 30, 2013

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Chair
Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee

DATE: April 15, 2013

SUBJECT: Local Immigration Partnership Opportunity for HRM

ORIGIN

April 11, 2013 Presentation by Gerry Mills, Director of Operations with Immigrant Settlement and Integration Services, to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee on Local Immigration Partnership and Opportunity for HRM.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Sec. 3.2 of CP&ED's Terms of Reference.

RECOMMENDATION

The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend Halifax Regional Council request staff provide a report to determine the benefits and costs of having HRM negotiate a funding agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) for 3-year funding to house the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) Coordinator.

BACKGROUND

In 2009 Citizenship and Immigration Canada initiated a partnership with the Province of Ontario to create Local Immigration Partnerships (LIP) with local and regional governments to provide ground-level funding to coordinate initiatives related to immigration at the local level, recognizing they are most familiar with the needs of the communities they serve. There are currently over 40 Local Immigration Partnerships established at the local/municipal level across Canada from Ontario to Calgary.

In 2005 Regional Council adopted HRM's Immigration Action Plan. In 2010 Regional Council assigned the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee with "oversight of the progress of HRM's Action Plan and related initiatives".

In May 2012 Citizen and Immigration Canada requested the Immigration Settlement and Services (ISIS) bring together stakeholders in HRM to examine the feasibility of and support for establishing a Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) in Halifax. In March 2013 a community forum was held in Halifax and included stakeholders from all three levels of government, business, community organizations, universities, unions, immigration support agencies, health and recreation services.

In April 2013 Mr. Gerry Mills, Director of Operations for the Immigration Settlement and Services (ISIS) provided a presentation to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee on Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) and the results of the Stakeholder Forum carried out in March (attached).

DISCUSSION

CPED determined that the forum held in March 2013 showed strong support for the creation of a Local Immigration Partnership in HRM by those in attendance. They also determined that there could be advantages in HRM taking the lead in the negotiation with Citizen and Immigration Canada and in administering a grant should it be forthcoming. Advantages identified by the Committee include:

- Alignment with HRM's Immigration Plan
- Demonstrating that HRM is open to immigration
- Providing a focus for the work under the umbrella of "welcoming community"
- Supporting Halifax as an internationally recognized city

The Committee recognized that there may be both benefits and costs associated with negotiating and administering an agreement with Citizen and Immigration Canada in order to establish a Local Immigration Partnership and requests that Regional Council support advancing this initiative through a staff report outlining the costs and benefits of such an agreement for consideration by Regional Council

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications at this time.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A community forum was held at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel in Halifax on March 7th 2013 which included a diverse group of stakeholders from the three levels of government, business, community organizations, universities, unions, immigrant support agencies, health and recreation service providers and local immigrants.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications

ALTERNATIVES

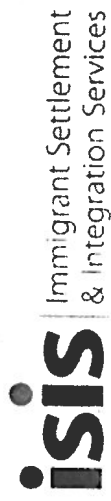
The Committee did not provide Alternatives

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 'A': Presentation submitted to CP&ED entitled, *Local Immigration Partnership and Opportunity for HRM*

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk
Marion Currie, Government Relations & External Affairs, 490-6422



Local Immigration Partnership and Opportunity for HRM

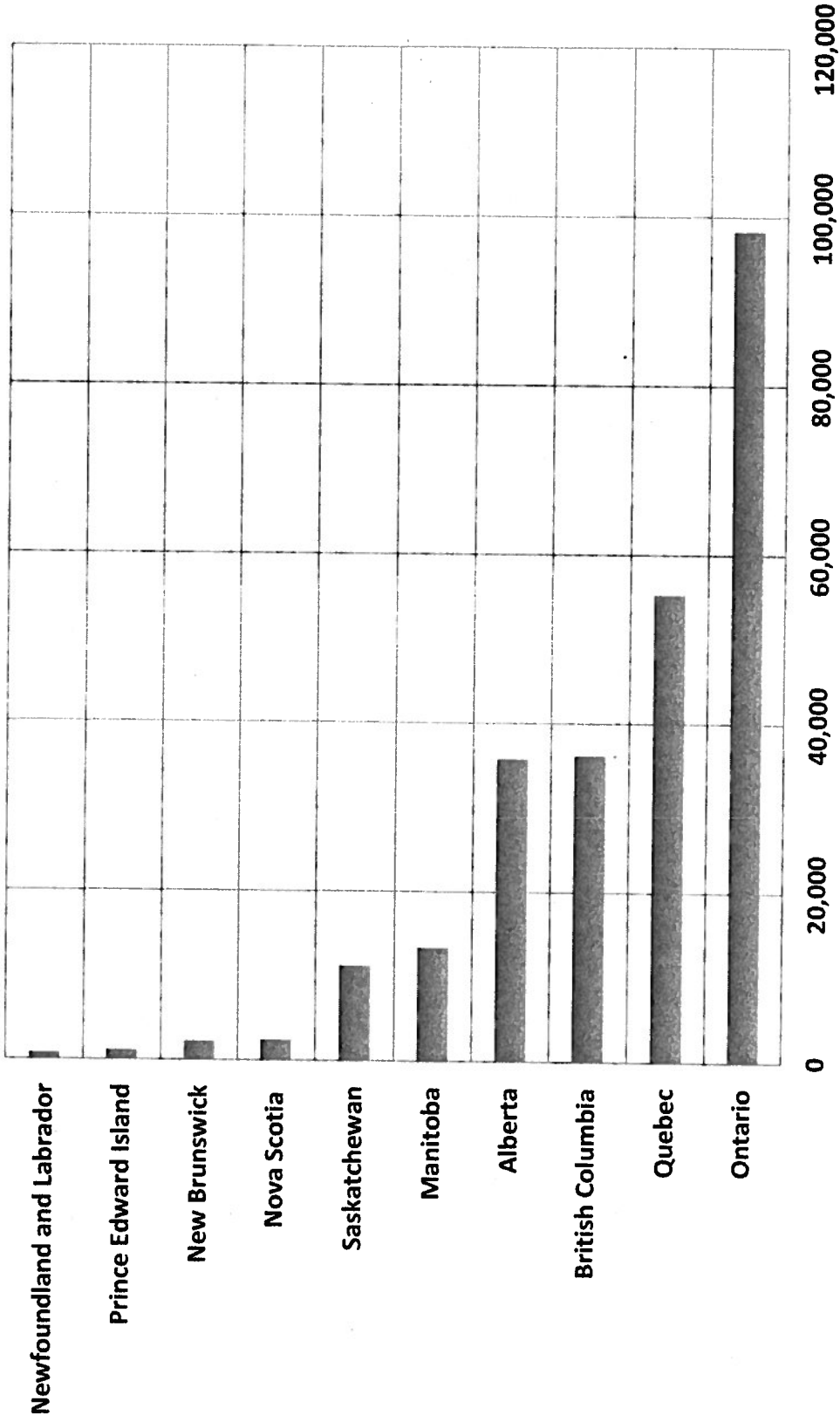
April 12th, 2013
Gerry Mills
gmills@isisns.ca

This
presentation
includes:

What is the context for immigration in HRM?

What is a Local Immigration Partnership (LIP)?

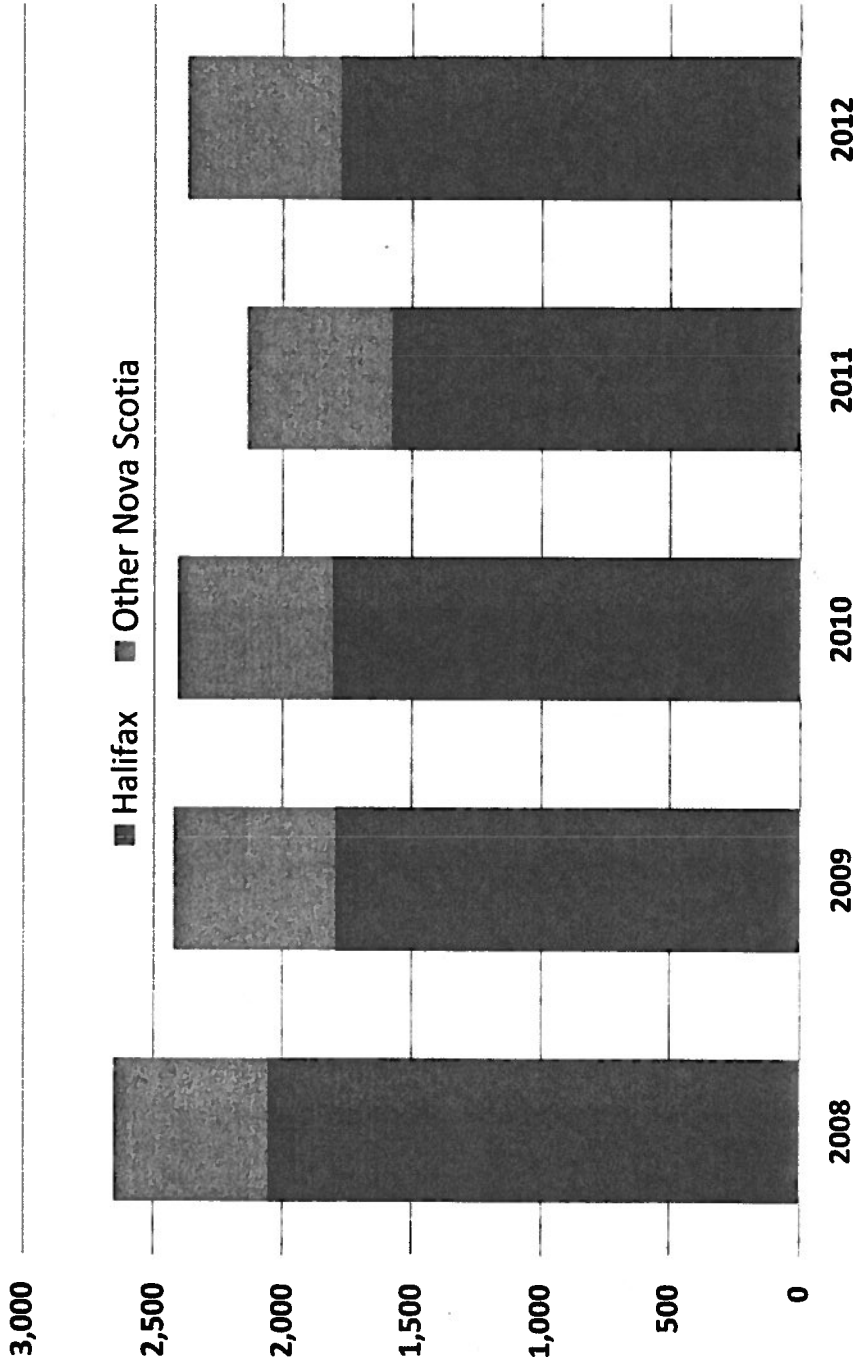
How is the LIP initiative an opportunity for HRM?

Nova Scotia receives fewer than 1% of immigrants to Canada**Permanent Residents to Canada by Province 2012**

Source: Citizenship & Immigration Canada / ISIS

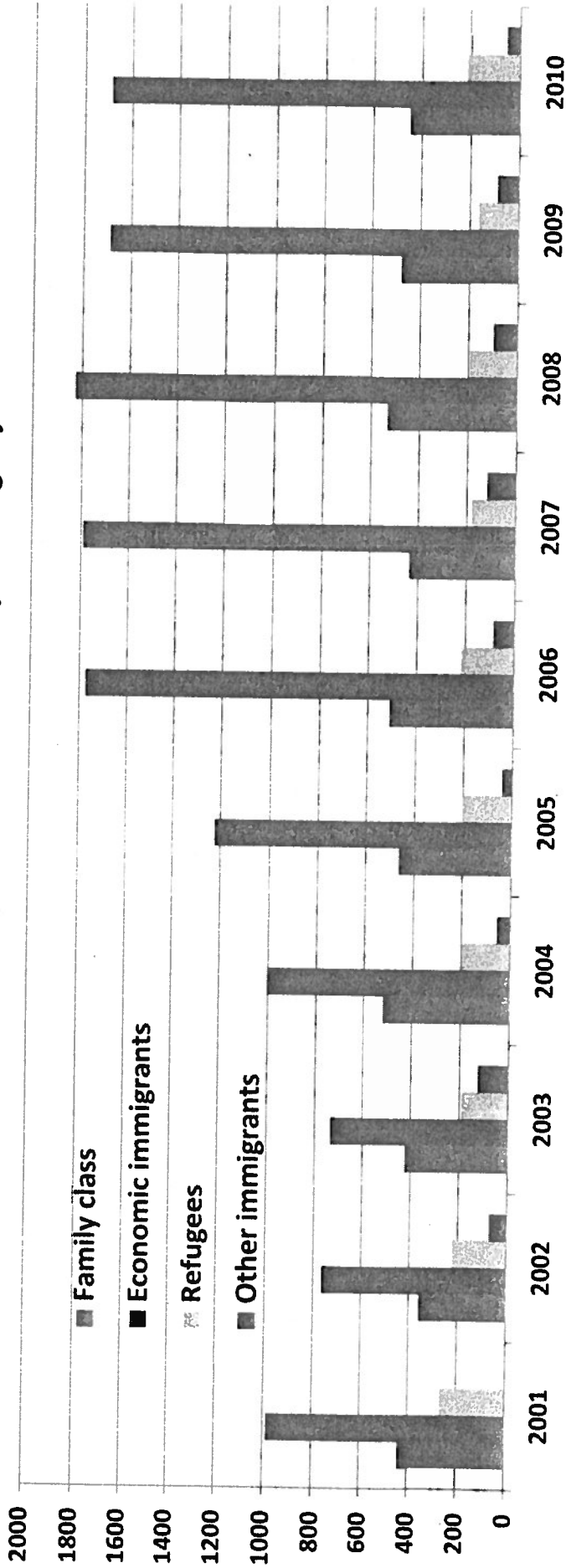
Immigration to NS has been decreasing gradually

Permanent Residents to Nova Scotia 2008-2012



Source: Citizenship & Immigration Canada / ISIS

Permanent Residents to NS by Category

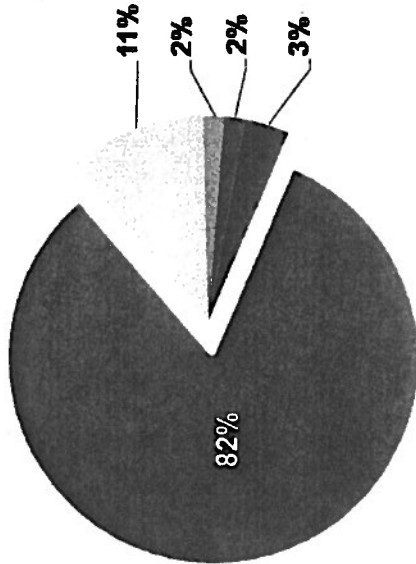


Halifax has very few immigrants in terms of population

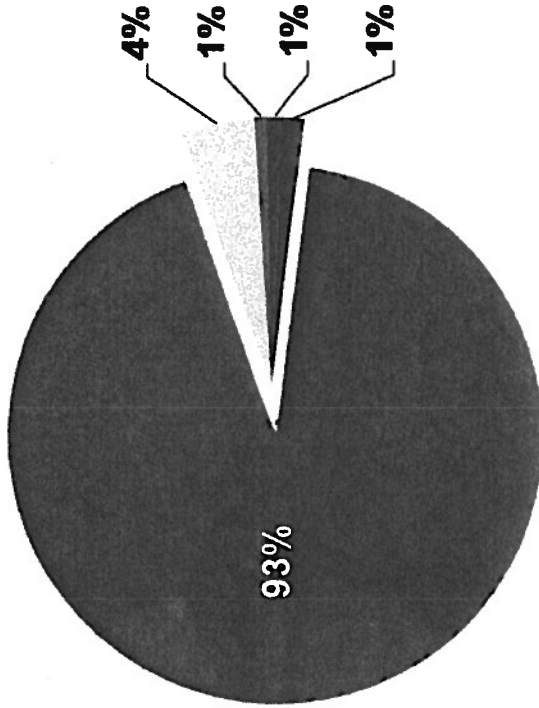
Population immigration status

- Canadian Born
- Immigrated before 1991
- Immigrated between 1991 and 1995
- Immigrated between 1996 and 2000
- Immigrated between 2001 and 2006

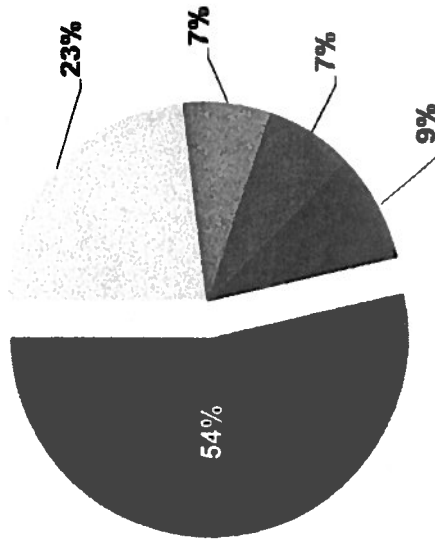
Winnipeg



Halifax



Toronto

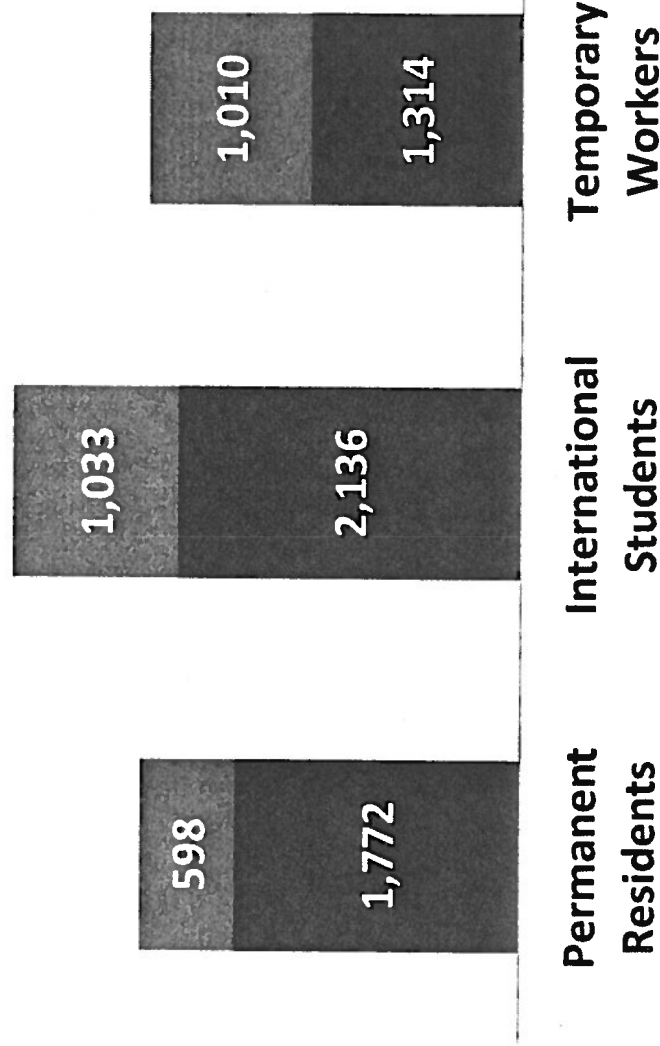


Source: Statistics Canada / Census 2006 / ISIS

Many people say Nova Scotia has become more diverse – this impression is due more to the increase in **temporary** residents rather than an increase in immigration

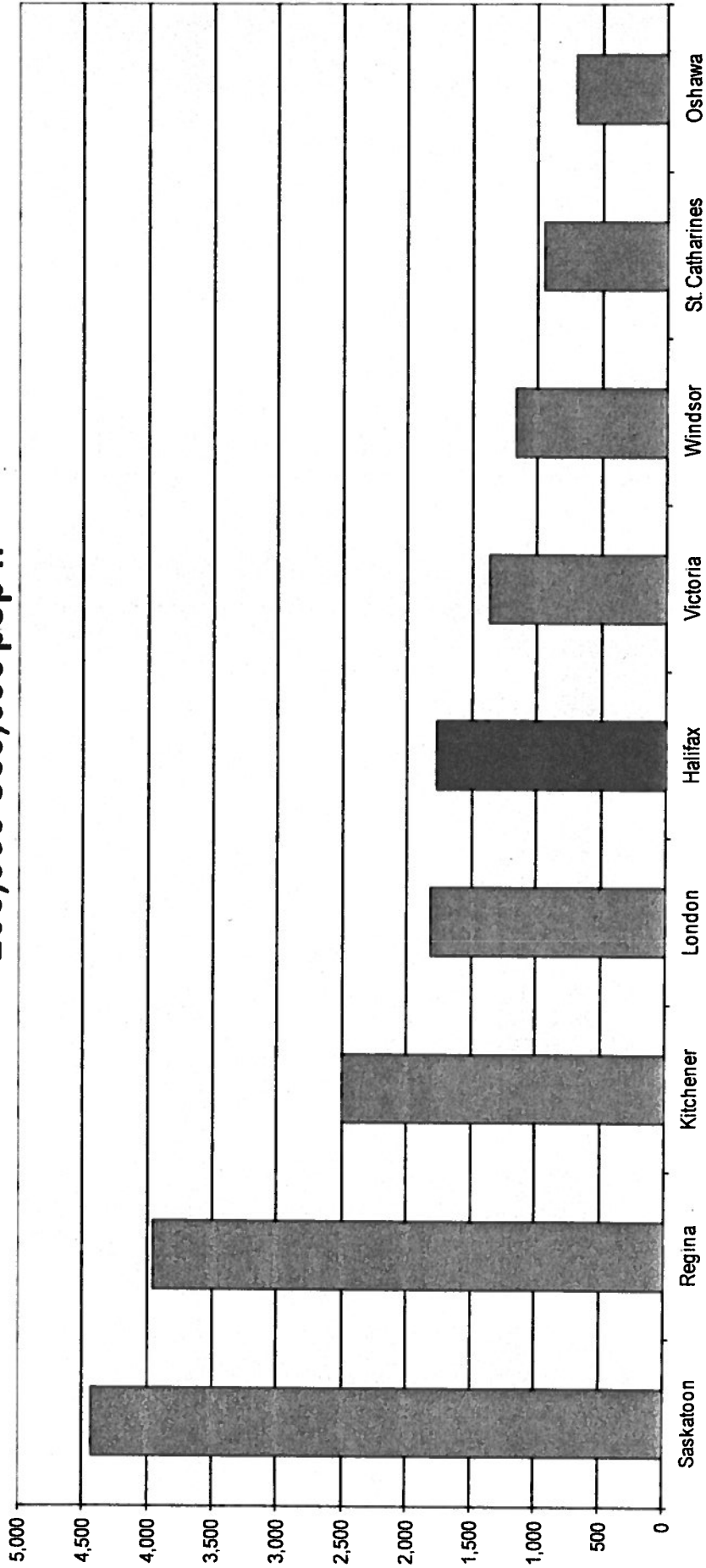
Newcomers to Nova Scotia 2012

■ Halifax ■ Other Nova Scotia



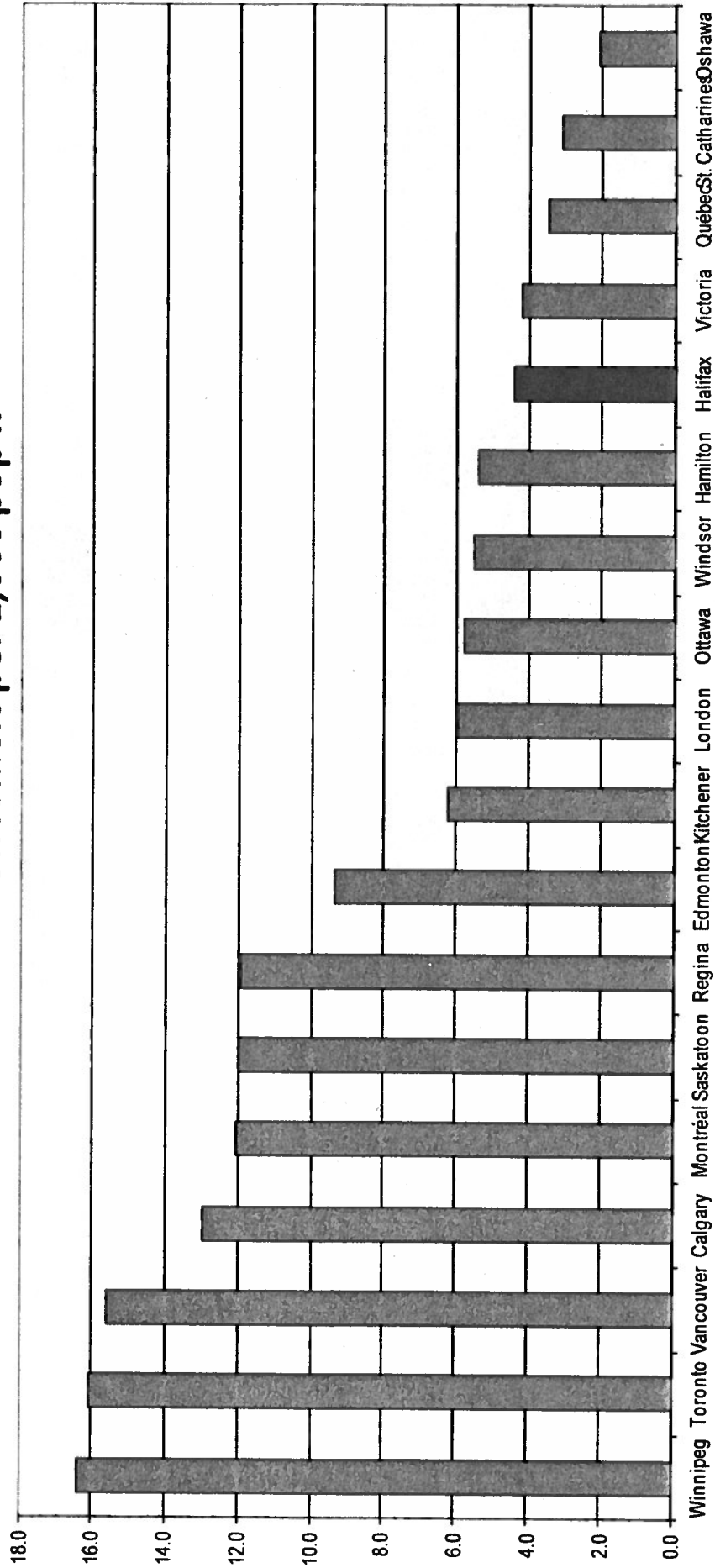
Source: Citizenship & Immigration Canada / ISIS

**Immigration by City 2012
200,000-500,000 pop'n**



Halifax is well below other major cities

**Immigration by City 2012
Newcomers per 1,000 pop'n**



Immigrants, who settle here, are doing well

Retention rate increased
from 48% to 75%

- 40% int. educ. immigrants in NS are working in their fields. (24% Ont; 22% BC; 60% Cdn born)
- Immigrants in Halifax earn more than non-immigrants, but not in Toronto. (A.Akbari – SMU)
- In 2009, the unemployment rate of all immigrants in NS was 7.4%. (In Canada -10%)
- Among recent immigrants, unemployment rate in NS was 10.7%. (In Canada -15%)
- Immigrants to NS contribute a higher % of their income to income tax than Cdn. Born.

What is a Local Immigration Partnership (LIP)?

- Initiated and funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). Now over 40 LIPs in Ont., Calgary and more in development.
- Municipally-based and focused, a LIP is a collaborative community initiative to promote the settlement and integration of immigrants.
- Builds on a community's strengths and promotes linkages between sectors by engaging a range of stakeholders, including mainstream institutions.
- It is NOT a provider of services or programs.

**What is one
municipality
saying about
their LIP?**

“..one overarching achievement that encompasses all others, is that the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC) has been the catalyst for bringing together approximately 80 individuals representing diverse communities, sectors and organizations, who are sharing resources, ideas and creating innovative ways to address the needs of newcomers to Hamilton.”

What has happened to date with forming a LIP in Halifax?

- Funding from CIC was received by ISIS to investigate forming a Halifax LIP (Phase 1).
- Research on different models has been completed.
- A LIP advisory group with reps from YMCA, HRSB, ISIS, GHP and HRM was formed.
- Community forum with 90 participants to explore creating a Halifax LIP was held in March.
- Proposal (Phase 2) submitted to CIC for funding for p.t. coordinator for 3 years approved in principle and CIC is ready to negotiate.

What were the recommendations that came out of the forum?

- Negotiate with CIC for 3 year funding.
- Form a Halifax LIP to establish a local collaborative approach to building a welcoming community for immigrants.
- Overwhelming support for HRM to take the lead.
- After setting up the LIP, focus on:
 - a) facilitating conversations to enhance collaboration
 - b) developing and implementing a social marketing plan to create a cultural shift that will make Halifax a more welcoming community.

Why should HRM take the lead?

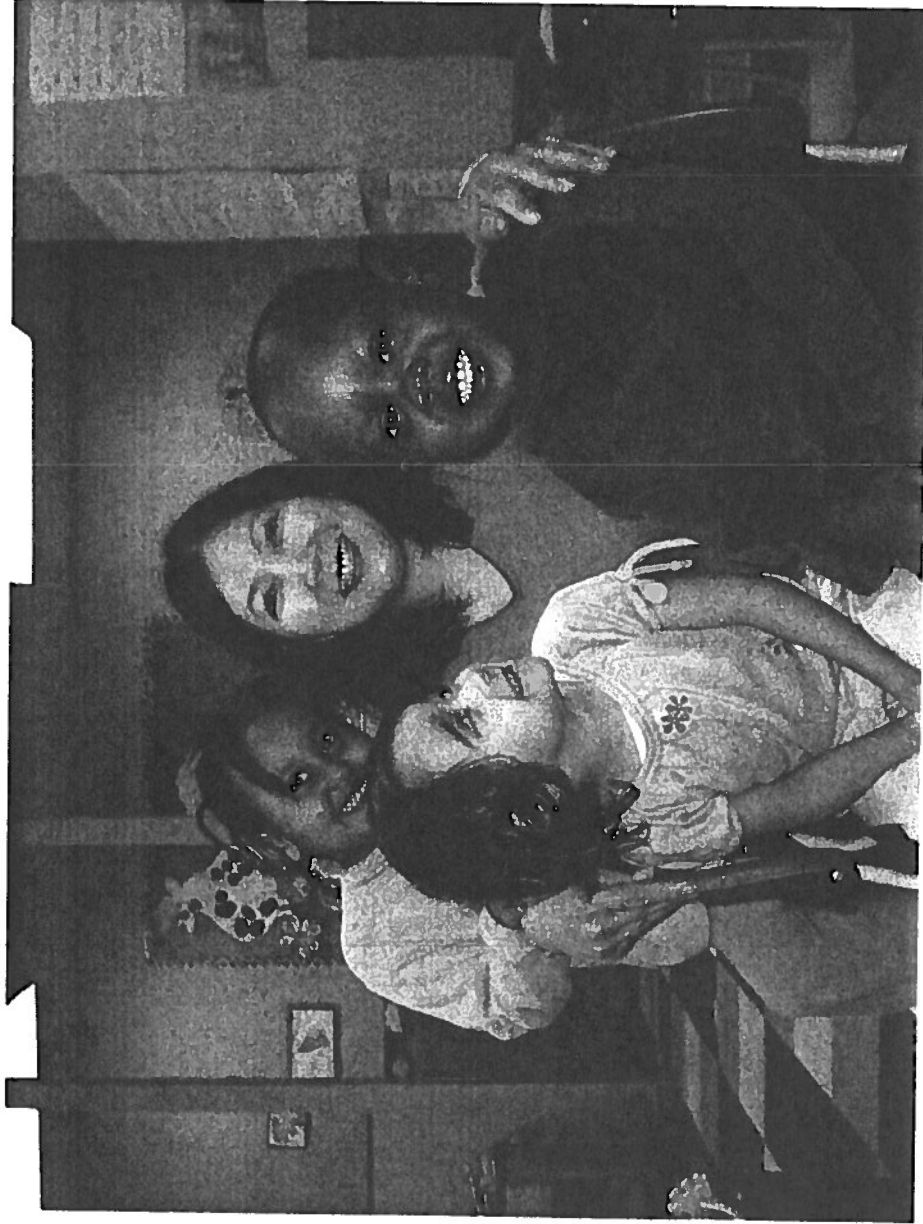
- Fits with the timing of the update of HRM's Immigration Action Plan.
 - Demonstrates that Halifax is 'open' to immigrants and provides a focus for activity.
 - Responds to HRM's current thrust towards being an internationally recognized city.
 - Demonstrates commitment to establishing Halifax as a welcoming community.
-

What might the LIP Coordinator do?

- Research best practices.
- Develop LIP values, outcomes, priorities & measures.
- Ensure diverse, multi-stakeholder representation on LIP initiatives.
- Leverage partnerships within the community.
- Organize HRM staff and community forum.
- Take lead on education & promotion around welcoming communities initiative.
- Provide updates to CP&ED Committee.

What might the role of HRM be?

- Negotiate funding agreement with CIC for 3 year funding. (Proposal submitted by ISIS was around \$60,00/yr for pt staff person, meeting expenses and overhead)
- Administer/supervise the LIP coordinator. (office, payroll, etc)
- Contribute in kind support – office, materials, supervision etc.
- Encourage a welcoming community lens when developing HRM’s Brand. (both HRM Corp Comm & GHP)
- Develop action plans on the outcomes described in the HRM Immigration Action Plan.



**An example of a
Welcoming
Community**

Thank you

Questions?