Rural Youth Out-migration: A look at some numbers

Presentation to the launch of:

Finding a Place in the World: Understanding Youth Outmigration from Shrinking Rural Communities

April 30, 2018, Halifax

Ray D. Bollman
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Professional Associate, Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development, Memorial University
Outline

1. Learning from:

2. “In-betweenness”
   - Are rural<>urban migrants always “in-between” rural and urban?

3. Dimensions of rurality: density & distance-to-density
   - Both density & distance-to-density matter

4. Rural Canada is growing – but not everywhere

5. The demographic structure has changed markedly:
   - More retirees than labour market entrants

6. Why rural youth leave / return?

7. Some numbers re:
   - Supports to leave
   - Supports to stay
   - Supports to return
FINDING A PLACE IN THE WORLD

Understanding Youth Outmigration from Shrinking Rural Communities
1. Learning from “Finding a Place in the World . . . “

2. Key points:

1. “youth outmigration is not the problem for policy intervention” (p. 9)

2. “supports to leave” and

3. “supports to stay” (p. 3)

4. “. . . the objective has to be creating and sustaining communities with the characteristics that make distinctly rural life attractive to return migrants and new in-migrants, and inclusive and respectful of the young people who already call a rural place ‘home’. “ (p. 10)
Ross Creek Centre for the Arts
Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Arts · Passion · Wonder
Soheila Esfahani
Artist Statement

Inspired by my experience of living in both Western (Canadian) and Eastern (Iranian) cultures, my work focuses on the concept of cultural translation and investigates the processes involved in cultural transfer and transformation. My art practice navigates the terrains of cultural translation through two theoretical frameworks: Walter Benjamin's understanding of translation as a departure from the original, and Homi Bhabha's concept of the third space as a negotiated space of “in-betweeness.”

My own experience as an immigrant influences my application of these theories: I have departed my original home (Iran) and now live in the third space, identifying as neither Canadian nor Iranian, but someone in-between. Since the third space hinges on an act of negotiation, the audience's interaction with my art is crucial. Viewers' unique experiences and cultures inform their “reading” of the work, thus allowing them to enter the third space by engaging in cultural translation: the viewers carry their culture across onto my art and vise versa.

My Cultured Pallets series uses shipping pallets to embody and facilitate this cultural translation. These transient installations emerge from my ongoing process of marking shipping pallets with various designs and ornamentation and an email address. After exhibiting the work, I return the pallets to circulation and track them by engaging in email correspondence with those who find them. By remaining in a permanent state of transit, the works symbolize “in-betweeness.”

Returning to the etymological roots of translation as “carrying or bringing across,” my practice explores the concept of cultural translation.
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   - Both density & distance-to-density matter

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5. The demographic structure has changed markedly:
   - More retirees than labour market entrants

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Dimensions of rurality:

• Density and distance-to-density
  • Not much of the former and a lot of the latter
The Two Dimensions of Rurality:
Density and Distance to Density

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index of rurality in the DISTANCE dimension (from lower rurality (i.e. shorter distance) to higher rurality (i.e. longer distance))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small town near to metro centre; “very” metro re: labour markets “very” rural re: population density</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big town far from metro centre; Only “town” jobs – no metro jobs here But quite urban in population density</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index of rurality in the DENSITY dimension (from lower rurality (i.e. higher density) to higher rurality (i.e. lower density))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Really rural</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net
The larger the size of the community in 1981, the greater the rate of population growth from 1981 to 2016, Canada

Percent change in total population from 1981 to 2016

The national population grew 46% from 1981 to 2016

1981 Population size of community (census consolidated subdivision)

Note: Data are tabulated within constant 1996 boundaries.

Chart by RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net
Communities that were larger in 1981 had more intercensal periods of population growth, 1981 to 2016, Canada

1981 Population size of community (census consolidated subdivision)

Note: Data are tabulated within constant 1996 boundaries.
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   - Are rural<>urban migrants always “in-between” rural and urban?

3. Dimensions of rurality: density & distance-to-density
   - Density /size of settlement matters
     - For community development options
     - For our understanding of “Finding a place in the world”
   - Distance-to-density matters
     - For community development options
     - For our understanding of “Finding a place in the world”
The greater the distance from a metro centre, the lower the rate of population growth from 1981 to 2016, except regional service centres 200+ km. away from a metro centre, Canada.

Distance to the nearest Census Metropolitan Centre (CMA) (i.e. centre with 100,000+ population)

- Less than 25 km.
- 25-49 km.
- 50-74 km.
- 75-99 km.
- 100-149 km.
- 150-199 km.
- 200-299 km.
- 300 km. or more

Percent change in total population from 1981 to 2016

The national population grew 46% from 1981 to 2016

Note: Data are tabulated within constant 1996 boundaries.
For communities within 25 km. of a metro centre, 48% grew in 7 of the 7 intercensal periods from 1981 to 2016, Canada

Percent distribution of communities (census consolidated subdivisions) by number of intercensal periods with population growth

Note: Data are tabulated within constant 1996 boundaries.
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     - For our understanding of “Finding a place in the world”
   - Distance-to-density matters
     - For community development options
     - For our understanding of “Finding a place in the world”
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   - Supports to stay
   - Supports to return
Growth in rural and small town population in every period (except 1996 to 2001), Canada

1 Each 5-year change is tabulated within the boundaries applicable to the census at the end of the 5-year period.
Note: Siince, 2006, CMAs have a total population of 100,000 or more (with a built-up core of 50,000 or more) and they include neighbouring towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the built-up core. CAs have an urban core of 10,000 or more persons plus neighbouring towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the built-up core.
RST areas are outside the commuting zones of CMAs and CAs.

Chart by RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net

RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net 19
Share of population in rural and small town areas declined to 17% in 2016, Canada

Note: Rural and small town refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and Census Agglomerations (CAs). Data are tabulated within the boundaries applicable at the time of the given census.

Chart by RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net
Rural and Small Town Population
(showing impact of reclassification to "urban" in each census period)
Canada, 1966 to 2011

Rural and small town refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and outside Census Agglomerations (CAs).

Chart by RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net
Decline in rural and small town population since 1991, Nova Scotia

Percent change in population within constant boundaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)</th>
<th>Census Agglomerations (CAs)</th>
<th>Rural and Small Town (RST) areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1966 to 1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>1971 to 1976</td>
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<td>1976 to 1981</td>
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<td>1981 to 1986</td>
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<td>1986 to 1991</td>
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<td>2006 to 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011 to 2016</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Each 5-year change is tabulated within the boundaries applicable to the census at the end of the 5-year period.

Note: Since 2006, CMAs have a total population of 100,000 or more (with a built-up core of 50,000 or more) and they include neighbouring towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the built-up core. CAs have an urban core of 10,000 or more persons plus neighbouring towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the built-up core. RST areas are outside the commuting zones of CMAs and CAs.

The term “metro” in these slides refers to the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) of Halifax (where a CMA is a centre of 100,000 or more).

Thus, non-metro refers to non-CMA areas.
Nova Scotia's non-metro population has declined in each year since 1996.

*Data for 1996 to 2000 are classified according to the 2006 grid for CMA boundaries and data since 2001 are classified according to the 2011 grid for CMA boundaries.

Source: Statistics Canada. Annual Demographic Statistics. CANSIM Table 051-0001 and 051-0056.
Number of census periods with population growth: 1981 to 2016

Census Consolidated Subdivisions (CCSs)
- Orange: Population growth in 0 of 7 inter-censal periods
- Gold: Population growth in 1 or 2 of 7 inter-censal periods
- Yellow: Population growth in 3 or 4 of 7 inter-censal periods
- Brown: Population growth in 5 or 6 of 7 inter-censal periods
- Green: Population growth in 7 of 7 inter-censal periods

Data are shown within the geographic boundaries used in the 1996 Census of Population.
Map prepared by Mark Sorbelo, March, 2017.
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3. Dimensions of rurality: density & distance-to-density
   - Both density & distance-to-density matter

4. Rural Canada is growing – but not everywhere
   - Rural Canada is growing
   - Rural share of total population is declining
     - Slower growth in rural
     - Reclassification to urban
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6. Why rural youth leave / return?

7. Some numbers re:
   - Supports to leave
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   - Supports to return
Potential labour market shortage (regardless of projection scenario) up to 2029 due to less than 100 (potential) labour market entrants per 100 (potential) labour market retirees, Canada

Potential entrants to the labour force (10 to 19 years of age) as a percent of potential exiters from the labour force (55 to 64 years of age)

Source: Statistics Canada, Demographic Estimates and Projections, CANSIM Tables 051-0001 and 052-0005.
Demographic replacement of the working age population fell below 100% in 2008 in non-metro Canada

Number of potential labour market entrants (10 to 19 years of age) as a percent of number of potential labour market retirees (55 to 64 years of age)

* Data for 1996 to 2000 are classified according to the 2006 grid for CMA boundaries and data since 2001 are classified according to the 2011 grid for CMA boundaries.

Source: Statistics Canada. Annual Demographic Statistics. CANSIM Table 051-0001 and 051-0056.

Chart by RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net
Demographic replacement of working age population fell below 100% in 2006, non-metro Nova Scotia

Number of potential labour market entrants (10 to 19 years of age) as a percent of number of potential labour market retirees (55 to 64 years of age)

*Data for 1996 to 2000 are classified according to the 2006 grid for CMA boundaries and data since 2001 are classified according to the 2011 grid for CMA boundaries.

Source: Statistics Canada. Annual Demographic Statistics. CANSIM Table 051-0001 and 051-0056.

Chart by RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net
Demographic pressure on the labour market, Canada, 2015

Number of potential labour market entrants (population 10 - 19 years) as a percent of the potential labour market retirees (population 55 - 64 years)

Potential labour market shortage:
- Less than 50%
- 50 to 74%
- 75 to 99%

Demand for new job creation (or potential out-migration if no jobs are created):
- 100% and over

Sparsely populated

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 551-0052
Map prepared by Mark Sorbellio, July, 2016
Rural Canada 2013: An Update

A statement of the current structure and trends in Rural Canada

Prepared for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

by Ray D. Bollman RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net January 7, 2014

The new rural challenge: Create people, not jobs

Labour market shortage (regardless of projection scenario) from 2010 to 2025 due to less than 100 (potential) labour market entrants per 100 (potential) labour market retirees, Canada

Source: Statistics Canada, Demographic Estimates and Projections, Censuses Tables 051-0001 and 052-0005.
IT'S TRUE, HOBBES, IGNORANCE IS BLISS!
Once you know things, you start seeing problems everywhere...

...and once you see problems, you feel like you ought to try to fix them...

...and fixing problems always seems to require personal change...

...and change means doing things that aren't fun! I say phooey to that!
But if you're willfully stupid, you don't know any better, so you can keep doing whatever you like.
THE SECRET TO HAPPINESS IS SHORT-TERM, STUPID SELF-INTEREST!
WE'RE HEADING FOR THAT CLIFF!

I DON'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT.
I'm not sure I can stand so much bliss. CAREFUL! WE DON'T WANT TO LEARN ANYTHING FROM THIS.
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Youth leave rural communities because of jobs (#1), education (#2) and fun (#3)

- Employment opportunities
- Education (in general)
- Social opportunities
- More entertainment / recreation in city / things to do
- Post-secondary education (in particular)
- To travel / see or do something new

Percent of rural youth identifying specific reason why youth / young adults would choose to LEAVE a rural community

Totals sum to more than 100 percent as multiple responses were recorded.
Youth would live in rural communities because of family and community

- Less crime / sense of personal security / safety
- Family base
- Simpler lifestyle / slower pace / down to earth / quiet
- Caring community atmosphere / close-knit
- Good place to raise a family
- Cleaner environment
- Friend base
- Familiarity / integration / comfort with town
- Want / have a job related to rural life

Percent of rural youth identifying specific reason why youth / young adults would choose to LIVE IN a rural community

Totals sum to more than 100 percent as multiple responses were recorded.
Rural youth say more jobs (#1) and more fun (#2) would attract youth to rural communities

Source: Malatest and Associates. (2002) TECHNICAL REPORT: RESEARCH INTO RURAL YOUTH MIGRATION (Ottawa: Rural Secretariat). Totals sum to more than 100 percent as multiple responses were recorded.
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2. Key points:

1. “youth outmigration is not the problem for policy intervention” (p. 9)

4. “. . . the objective has to be creating and sustaining communities with the characteristics that make distinctly rural life attractive to return migrants and new in-migrants, and inclusive and respectful of the young people who already call a rural place ‘home’. “ (p. 10)
Population
Non-metro Census Divisions, N.S.; Individuals 18 to 24 years of age

Population
Non-metro Census Divisions, N.S.; Individuals 18 to 24 years of age


Chart by RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net
Non-Metro Census Divisions, N.S.: For residents age 18-24, we show:
a) population in \( t=1 \);
b) population in \( t=7 \) (i.e. number age 25-31); and
c) number of net migrants\(^1\) from \( t=1 \) to \( t=7 \)

1. "Migrants" include migrants within Canada plus international migrants.

Source: Statistics Canada. Annual Demographic Statistics, CANSIM Table 051-0062.
Non-Metro Census Divisions, N.S.: For residents age 18-24, we show:

a) population in t=1;
b) population in t=7 (i.e. number age 25-31); and
c) number of net migrants\(^1\) from t=1 to t=7

---

1. "Migrants" include migrants within Canada plus international migrants.

Source: Statistics Canada. Annual Demographic Statistics, CANSIM Table 051-0062.

RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net
Non-Metro Census Divisions, N.S.: For residents age 18-24, we show:

a) population in $t=1$;

b) population in $t=7$ (i.e. number age 25-31); and

c) number of net migrants\(^1\) from $t=1$ to $t=7$

**45,000 young adults (18-24 yr.) in 2010**

7 years later, 43,000 young adults in 2017 (25-31 yr.) (i.e. same age cohort) (i.e. stayed, returned, new in-migrants)

7 years net loss = 2,000
7 year stay / return / new = 43,000

**Q: demand for support to leave? ?**

**Q: demand for support to stay / return / new in-migrants? ?**
Number of "migrants"
All Non-metro Census Divisions, N.S.; Individuals 18 to 24 years of age

Note: The number of migrants is for the period of July 1st of a given year to June 30th of the following year. Source: Statistics Canada. Annual Demographic Statistics (Catalogue no 91-215), special tabulation.

Q: Demand for support to leave? ?
Q: Demand for support to return or in-migrate? ?

1,000 in-migrants from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016
2,300 out-migrants from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Chart by RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net
Number of "migrants"
All Non-metro Census Divisions, N.S.; Individuals 18 to 24 years of age

Migrants within Canada: Number of individuals who moved to / from this census division from / to another census division in Canada

Note: The number of migrants is for the period of July 1st of a given year to June 30th of the following year.
Percent "migrants"

All Non-metro Census Divisions, N.S.; Individuals 18 to 24 years of age

Note: The number of migrants is for the period of July 1st of a given year to June 30th of the following year. Source: Statistics Canada. Annual Demographic Statistics (Catalogue no 91-215), special tabulation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent IN migration</th>
<th>Percent NET migration</th>
<th>Percent OUT migration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000-2001</td>
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<td>2001-2002</td>
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<td>2015-2016</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Migrants within Canada: Percent of population who moved to / from this census division from / to another census division in Canada

Note: 2% in-migrants, 5% out-migrants, 9x% do not migrate. Q: 9x% = demand for supports to stay??
Oh no! Everything has suddenly turned neo-cubist!
It all started when Calvin engaged his dad in a minor debate! Soon Calvin could see both sides of the issue! Then poor Calvin began to see both sides of everything!
The traditional single viewpoint has been abandoned! Perspective has been fractured!

The multiple views provide too much information! It's impossible to move! Calvin quickly tries to eliminate all but one perspective!
IT WORKS! THE WORLD FALLS INTO A RECOGNIZABLE ORDER!

YOU'RE STILL WRONG, DAD.
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from Shrinking Rural Communities

April 30, 2018, Halifax

Questions / Discussion

Ray D. Bollman
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Research Affiliate, Rural Development Institute,
Brandon University
Professional Associate, Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development,
Memorial University
In an average year from 2011 to 2016, the number of migrants\(^1\) 18 to 24 years of age, from one census division to another census division within Canada, Nova Scotia census divisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of census division</th>
<th>CD ID</th>
<th>Number of migrants(^1), 18-24 yr.</th>
<th>Migrants(^1) as percent of population, 18-24 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Migrants(^1) INTO census division</td>
<td>Migrants(^1) OUT of census division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Guysborough, Nova Scotia</td>
<td>1213</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victoria, Nova Scotia</td>
<td>1218</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>-65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queens, Nova Scotia</td>
<td>1204</td>
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<td>-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shelburne, Nova Scotia</td>
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<td>-103</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richmond, Nova Scotia</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>-63</td>
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<td>Inverness, Nova Scotia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yarmouth, Nova Scotia</td>
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<td>-170</td>
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<td>Cumberland, Nova Scotia</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hants, Nova Scotia</td>
<td>1208</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>-353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pictou, Nova Scotia</td>
<td>1212</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>-273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunenburg, Nova Scotia</td>
<td>1206</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>-285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colchester, Nova Scotia</td>
<td>1210</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>-383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Breton, Nova Scotia</td>
<td>1217</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>-527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antigonish, Nova Scotia</td>
<td>1214</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>-170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kings, Nova Scotia</td>
<td>1207</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>-492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halifax, Nova Scotia</td>
<td>1209</td>
<td>2,723</td>
<td>-1,805</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. "Migrants" refer to inter-provincial migrants plus intra-provincial migrants (i.e. migrants TO and FROM each census division in Canada and excludes international migration).

2. Rank of census division among 293 census divisions in Canada.

Note: The number of migrants is for the period of July 1st of a given year to June 30th of the following year. Source: Statistics Canada. Annual Demographic Statistics (Catalogue no 91-215), special tabulation.
Note: The number of migrants is for the period of July 1st of a given year to June 30th of the following year. Source: Statistics Canada. Annual Demographic Statistics (Catalogue no 91-215), special tabulation.
Percent "migrants"
All Non-metro Census Divisions, N.S.; Individuals 18 to 24 years of age

Note: The number of migrants is for the period of July 1st of a given year to June 30th of the following year.

Chart by RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net
Percent "migrants"
All Non-metro Census Divisions, N.S.; Individuals 25 to 44 years of age

Migrants within Canada: Percent of population who moved to / from this census division from / to another census division in Canada

Chart by RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net

Note: The number of migrants is for the period of July 1st of a given year to June 30th of the following year.
Percent "migrants"
All Non-metro Census Division, N.S.; Individuals 45 to 64 years of age

Migrants within Canada: Percent of population who moved to / from this census division from / to another census division in Canada

Chart by RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net

Note: The number of migrants is for the period of July 1st of a given year to June 30th of the following year. Source: Statistics Canada. Annual Demographic Statistics (Catalogue no 91-215), special tabulation.
Percent "migrants"
All Non-metro Census Divisions, N.S.; Individuals 65+ years of age

Migrants within Canada: Percent of population who moved to / from this census division from / to another census division in Canada

Note: The number of migrants is for the period of July 1st of a given year to June 30th of the following year.

Chart by RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net
Number of "migrants"
Guysborough Census Division, N.S.; Individuals 18 to 24 years of age

Migrants within Canada: Number of individuals who moved to / from this census division from / to another census division in Canada

Note: The number of migrants is for the period of July 1st of a given year to June 30th of the following year. Source: Statistics Canada. Annual Demographic Statistics (Catalogue no 91-215), special tabulation.

Chart by RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net
Migrants within Canada: Percent of population who moved to / from this census division from / to another census division in Canada

Note: The number of migrants is for the period of July 1st of a given year to June 30th of the following year. Source: Statistics Canada. Annual Demographic Statistics (Catalogue no 91-215), special tabulation.
Number of "migrants"
Victoria Census Division, N.S.; Individuals 18 to 24 years of age

Migrants within Canada: Number of individuals who moved to / from this census division from / to another census division in Canada

Note: The number of migrants is for the period of July 1st of a given year to June 30th of the following year.
Percent "migrants"
Victoria Census Division, N.S.; Individuals 18 to 24 years of age

Migrants within Canada: Percent of population who moved to/from this census division from/to another census division in Canada

Note: The number of migrants is for the period of July 1st of a given year to June 30th of the following year.