



## Responding to Urgency with Impact

Addressing Refugee Claimants' Needs in NL

Khalid Al Hariri  
&  
Margo Sobolieva



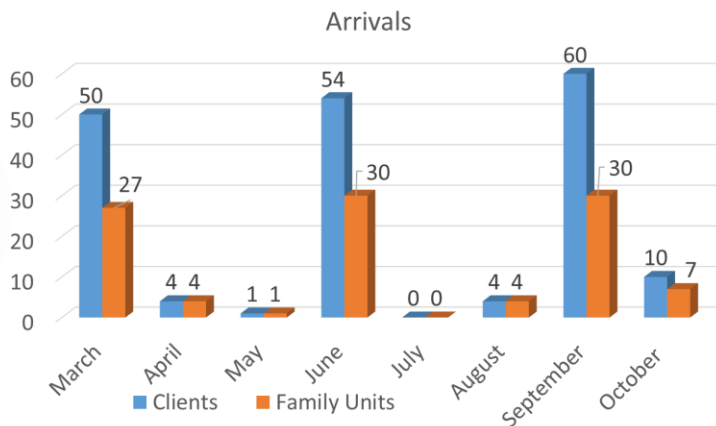
# Land Acknowledgment

With deep respect and gratitude, we acknowledge that ANC offices are located on traditional Beothuk, Mi'kmaq, Innu, and Inuit territories. As newcomers to Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland) & Labrador, we commit to collective healing, true reconciliation, and land-honoring.



# Overview of Humanitarian Migrants Project

From 27 March 2025 until Present



Arrivals Summary		
	Clients	Family Units
Temporary Accommodation	52	28
Move Outs	131	75
Total	183	103



## Summary of the Temporary Accommodation Model:

- Provides essential settlement support to newcomers in temporary accommodations (up to 45 days)
- Each family is assigned a Case Manager for guidance on housing, employment, and local services
- Connects clients to ANC programs, government, and community resources
- Services are free and focus on helping clients secure housing and employment
- Emphasizes respect, confidentiality, and active client participation

# From Essential Information Needs to Independence

## General Information Sessions:

- Welcome to Newfoundland and Labrador
- 🏠 Public Health
- 🚗 Driving in NL
- 🛒 Food, Shopping & Transportation
- 🏠 Housing
- ❓ Q&A / Settlement Support
- 💰 Financial Literacy
- 🚫 Anti-exploitation
- 🏠 Mental Health
- 🧑 Volunteering Opportunities
- Legal Aid and CRA Information Sessions

### Financial Literacy: Personal Budgeting Workshop



### Financial Literacy: Credit Cards Information Session

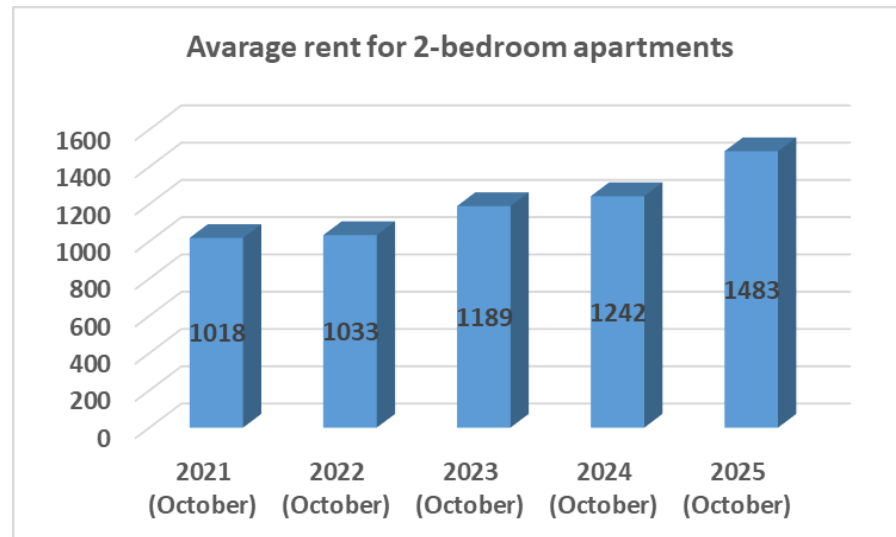
### "Scam Alert" Information Session



# What's Happening in the NL Rental Housing?

## Rental-price increases in Newfoundland and Labrador

- Statistics Canada's daily release shows that the 12-month change in rent prices for Newfoundland and Labrador was **4.0% in August 2025** and **5.1% in September 2025**.
- The federal Department of Finance Canada briefing binder shows that in 2023 the province's year-over-year rent increase (for CPI rent) was roughly **7.6%**.



Sources:

[Statistics Canada](#)

[Government of Canada "Increases in the Cost of Buying or Renting a Home in Canada"](#)

# What's Happening in the NL Labour Market?

## Aging Population in Newfoundland & Labrador

- **NL is the first province in Canada where over 25% of residents are aged 65+.**
- **As of July 1, 2025, 25.2% of NL's population is 65+, compared to 19.5% nationally.**
- **NL now holds the oldest median age in Canada at 47.8 years.**

### Sources:

Statistics Canada (Q2 2025 population data)

VOCM News, "Over 25 Per Cent of NL's Population Aged 65+", Sept 25, 2025

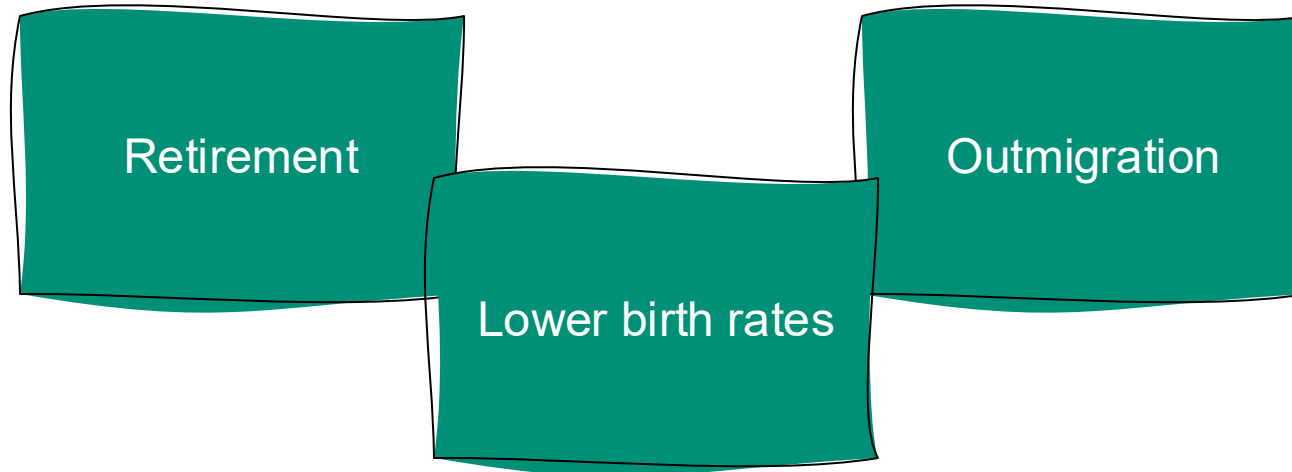
<https://vocm.com/2025/09/25/over-25-per-cent-of-nl/>



# Labour Shortage

In 2018, there were 2,400 unfilled jobs in NL

(Canadian Federation of Independent Business, 2018)





# A Joint Approach: Settlement + Employment

- Address urgent needs and build a realistic employment pathway
- Connect clients with permanent housing upon starting to work





# Working with Employers in Key Sectors

- Pre-screened candidates matched to labour shortages
- Provided necessary training as soon as clients arrived
- Introducing RCs to employers



# The Employment Pathway

- **Short-term goals:** Safe income, quick entry into the labour market
- **Longer-term goals:** Language improvement, credential recognition, mobility, etc.



# Retention in Rural NL



- Regular job maintenance check-ins
- On the job support: Language, cultural orientation, problem-solving
- Virtual sessions: Mortgage, etc.
- Building communities and sense of belonging

# Employment Challenges

- Language proficiency
- Credential recognition
- Childcare

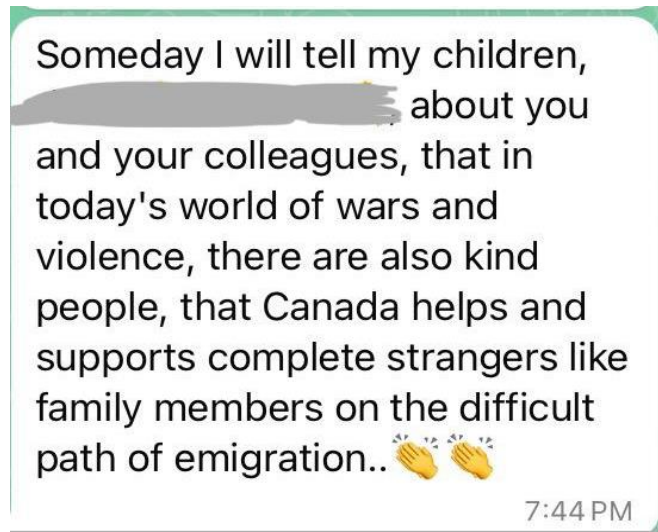


# Lessons Learned



- Employment must be integrated with settlement supports
- Educating employers and clients about expectations and realistic opportunities

# The Impact





# Thank You!

[kalhariri@ancnl.ca](mailto:kalhariri@ancnl.ca)

[msobolieva@ancnl.ca](mailto:msobolieva@ancnl.ca)

[hmservices@ancnl.ca](mailto:hmservices@ancnl.ca)