

Unama'ki-Cape Breton Immigrant Survey 2026:

WHAT WE HEARD

Every two to three years, the **Cape Breton Local Immigration Partnership (CBLIP)** conducts a survey of people living in Unama'ki - Cape Breton who were born outside of Canada. In 2026, the Immigrant Survey was open from March 4th until March 25th. Presented below are a selection of highlights from the preliminary data analysis, including comparisons to what we heard in our previous survey from 202 respondents in 2023.

IN 2026,
WE HEARD
FROM

291 PEOPLE

78% had been in Canada for 5 years or less



Immigration Categories of Participants:

	2023	2026
Economic category	20%	27%
Family category	11%	14%
Current international students	50%	20%
Temporary work visas	12%	32%
Other	6%	6%

SELECTED COMPARISONS OF Survey Participant Groups

Compared to permanent immigrants, temporary residents were much less likely to know where to find help if they were having housing challenges

33%
VS
57%

Compared to permanent immigrants, international students were much less likely to say their community is quite welcoming toward immigrants

38%
VS
58%

Respondents who had experienced discrimination in the past year were less likely to plan to stay permanently in Unama'ki - Cape Breton

45%
VS
63%

Respondents that lived in the CBRM were much less likely to be satisfied with available health care options compared to those in other parts of the Island

15%
VS
56%

Recent immigrants who used settlement services were more likely to have a positive settling experience than those who did not

76%
VS
59%

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Feel 'very' or 'extremely' safe in Unama'ki - Cape Breton

2023: **72%** • 2026: **72%**

Felt isolated or alone 'quite a bit' or 'a great deal' in the past 12 months

2023: **34%** • 2026: **31%**

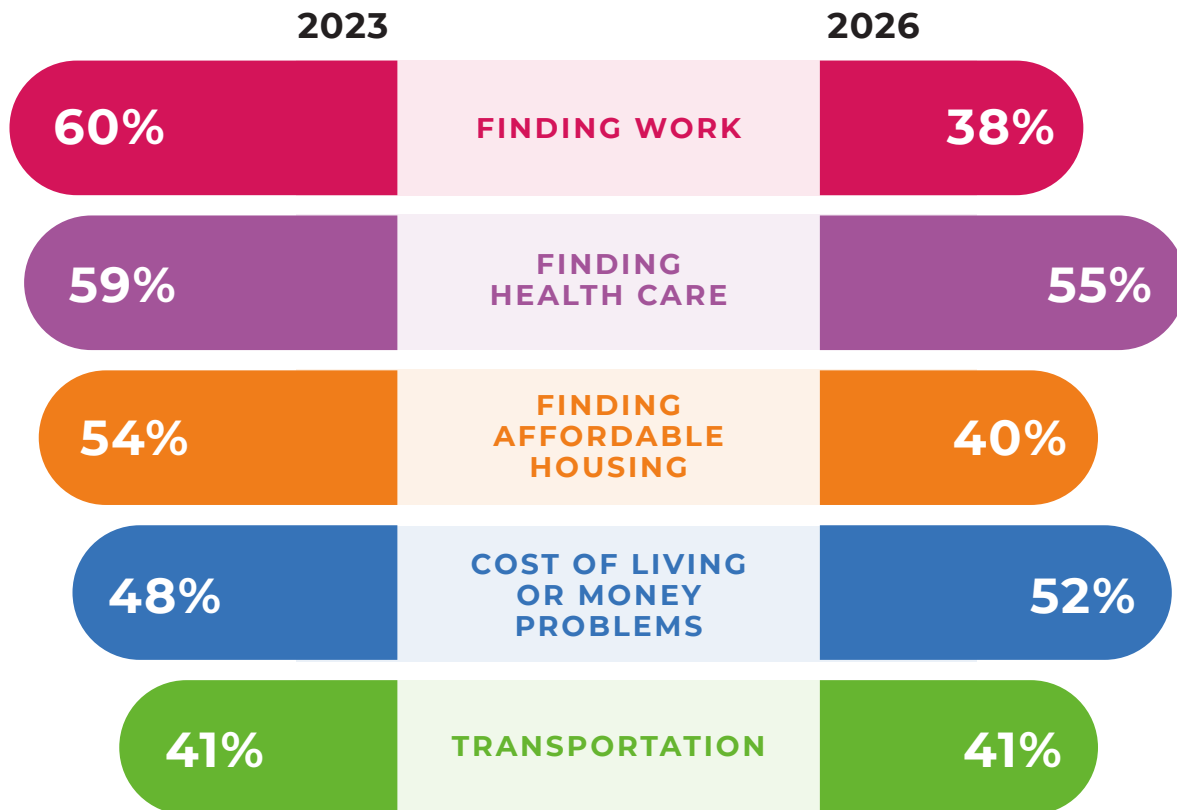
Had experienced discrimination or been treated unfairly by others in the past 12 months

2023: **33%** • 2026: **39%**

Reported a 'somewhat' or 'very strong' sense of belonging in Unama'ki - Cape Breton

2023: **75%** • 2026: **72%**

Top 5 Challenges



We asked how likely participants were to stay permanently in Unama'ki – Cape Breton:

2023: 34% definitely plan on staying permanently

2026: 55% definitely plan on staying permanently

2023



2026



Note: The percentages included in this report reflect the experiences of survey participants and may not in all cases be the same as the broader population. While the findings should be interpreted with care, particularly when making comparisons between survey years with slightly different ways of reaching survey participants, this data can be a valuable starting point for community conversations about how we can most effectively build welcoming and inclusive communities across Unama'ki-Cape Breton.

For more information and to find other CBLIP survey reports, please visit: welcometocapebreton.ca/immigrant-survey