NEWCOMER HOUSING ON UNAMA'KI - CAPE BRETON

TRENDS AND INSIGHTS FROM 2023-2026

CAPE BRETON LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

New Dawn Newcomer Centre





This report was prepared for the Cape Breton Local Immigration Partnership Housing Working Group by Cape Breton University (CBU) student Andrea Salisbury under the Cape Breton Community Student Research Connection Program.

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CLARIFICATION OF TERMS

- **CBLIP:** Cape Breton Local Immigration Partnership
- **CBRM:** Cape Breton Regional Municipality
- **CMHC:** Canada Mortgage And Housing Corporation
- **HWG:** Housing Working Group
- **IRCC:** Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- **PGWP:** Post-Graduate Work Permit
- **UCB:** Unama'ki - Cape Breton



For the purpose of this document, the terms "newcomer" and "immigrant" may be used interchangeably when referring to individuals born outside of Canada, unless otherwise stated.

Newcomer: Refers to all residents of UCB who arrived recently, whether they arrived from another country or another part of Canada. The CBLIP has not applied a specific timeline to this definition and recognizes that the feelings of individuals about the term 'newcomer' can vary widely.

Immigrant: The CBLIP uses the term immigrant broadly, including anyone who was born outside Canada who is now living, working or studying on the Island (permanent residents, Canadian citizens, refugees, temporary residents, refugee claimants, and international students).

INTRODUCTION



The intention of this report is to provide analysis and insights into housing-related data collected by local organizations from 2023-2026 to identify trends, challenges and opportunities in immigrant housing. New Dawn Newcomer Centre and the Cape Breton Local Immigration Partnership (CBLIP) have partnered to present this report in recognition that collaborative research efforts can provide richer and more complete pictures of immigrant experiences, and can lead to increased understanding among decision makers and community organizations.

The CBLIP is a collaborative initiative designed to foster welcoming communities that support the full participation of immigrants in the social, economic, political and cultural life of Unama'ki - Cape Breton (UCB). The CBLIP was formed in 2017, under the administration of the Cape Breton Partnership, a private sector-led economic development organization that has a mission to support the growth of UCB's economy through the sustainable attraction and retention of investment, population, and innovation.

The CBLIP is comprised of a central council that includes municipalities, settlement agencies, post-secondary institutions, community service providers, and more.

The CBLIP is guided by its Theory of Change (2025-2030) which lays out its intended impact: *By 2030, CBLIP partner organizations will report stronger connection to other organizations, more robust referral pathways and clearer understanding of newcomer needs, better equipping them to help newcomers thrive in UCB.*

The New Dawn Newcomer Centre (formerly the Cape Breton Island Centre for Immigration) is a settlement service provider located in downtown Sydney, UCB, dedicated to welcoming and supporting all newcomers to the region. Its core mission is to help orient, connect, and advocate for newcomers to ensure their successful settlement and integration into the community.

PURPOSE

Housing has been a key issue impacting the immigrant population in UCB, which led to the development of the CBLIP Housing Working Group (HWG). The HWG has a mandate to contribute to research, resource development, and information sharing regarding the housing needs of immigrants. The intended impact of the HWG's work is a strong local understanding of housing-related challenges faced by immigrants; ready access to information for immigrant renters and buyers; broad consideration of immigrant experiences and perspectives on housing; and a coordinated approach to addressing immigrant housing challenges.



The CBLIP HWG has undertaken a comprehensive analysis of housing-related data from the 2023 & 2026 CBLIP Immigrant Surveys, and the 2023-2026 New Dawn Newcomer Centre's 2023-2026 International Student and Graduate Surveys to provide context on the newcomer & immigrant experience of housing for Island municipalities, non-profits who provide housing or support client access to housing, private-sector housing groups, and CBLIP member organizations, with the hope of encouraging innovative approaches to local policy and program development to ameliorate the challenges currently faced by the immigrant population on UCB.

The intention of this report is to provide key insights into the issue of housing in UCB from 2023-2026 for newcomers & immigrants with a focus on barriers of access to housing, employment prospects, financial instability, potential discrimination, and more. Immigrants experience housing differently from the total population in a number of ways, and their experiences deserve the attention of local decision-makers when attempting to understand the larger housing crisis.

BACKGROUND

UCB is no exception to the multi-year housing crisis that is occurring across Nova Scotia and the rest of Canada. It is important to recognize and acknowledge that housing challenges do not exist in a vacuum, and there is interplay between a multitude of factors that result in complex challenges, with no singular cause or solution.

The following section provides background on current structural factors, immigration trends and policies, and public opinion on immigration to help contextualize the data.

According to the Canada Mortgage And Housing Cooporation (CMHC), the overall rental vacancy rate for 2023-2025 in the CBRM was 0.8%, 2.7%, and 2.7% respectively; among the lowest in the country[1].

CMHC data is unavailable for other counties of UCB, but the following data from the Nova Scotia Department of Infrastructure and Housing's January 2023 report on provincial housing needs emphasizes the overall lack of housing supply across the Island:

	Cape Breton Regional Municipality	Victoria County	Inverness County	Richmond County	Town of Port Hawkesbury
Housing Gap 2022	**1000**	**420**	**615**	**370**	**370**
Units required by 2027	**1810**	**505**	**835**	**515**	**515**
Units Completed Annually	**125**	**45**	**105**	**50**	**50**
Projected Gap, 2027	**1185**	**280**	**310**	**265**	**265**

Nova Scotia's Provincial Housing Needs Assessment Report, 2023.[2]

HOUSING POLICY

One factor contributing to strained housing affordability and suitability in UCB is Nova Scotia's controversial fixed term lease option, which can act as a loophole for landlords to circumvent the provincial 5% rental cap[3]. This has inflated rental market prices and has likely led to overcrowded living conditions for those just trying to make ends meet.

In recent years in the CBRM, New Dawn Newcomer Centre survey participants have raised concerns of inappropriate rental housing, including overcrowded apartments and houses and in various states of disrepair. A house fire that tragically claimed the life of an international student from India due to overcrowding and a lack of appropriate fire safety infrastructure brought the issue of appropriate housing to the foreground in the CBRM[4]. In an attempt to address these issues, in 2024 a new licensing bylaw was enacted and is applicable to shared dwellings that requires annual inspections and a licensing fee. Noncompliance is subject to fines and/or jail time.[5]

According to a Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) request to the CBRM dated August 20, 2026, since the bylaw was enacted, 7 shared dwellings have been licensed, 7 inspections have been conducted, 2 violations have been reported, and 1 fine has been issued. Further investigation into the bylaw's effects would be beneficial to gather some additional information. For instance, are these licences complaint-driven? Is there a general inspection process? Further research is required to assess whether efforts to improve shared dwelling conditions among vulnerable populations are having an impact.



HOUSING AVAILABILITY AND SUITABILITY

Seasonal and short term rentals contribute to housing challenges by reducing the supply of year-round housing in certain communities (i.e. along the Cabot Trail), resulting in increased competition for available units. The impact of seasonal rentals is most pronounced in high-tourism areas, where even a small number of converted properties can substantially affect local housing availability.

Transportation does not directly affect the housing shortage in UCB, but it does influence accessibility and affordability. Limited public transportation infrastructure on UCB reduces viable housing options and puts pressure on constrained housing markets.[6]

The cost-of-living crisis has intensified the housing challenges experienced by immigrants and newcomers on UCB by reducing overall housing affordability and increasing financial vulnerability.[7] Rising costs for food, transportation, childcare, utilities and other essentials leave less income available for housing.

Permanent residents are technically eligible to apply for public housing in UCB, provided they meet the Nova Scotia Provincial Housing Agency's income and other eligibility requirements.[8] However, overall demand for public housing continues to exceed available units, and therefore this sphere is likely not providing much support to newcomers in need of housing.



IMMIGRATION AND FEDERAL POLICY

UCB has experienced population growth in recent years after decades of decline, largely due to increased immigration and the arrival of international students. This upswing in immigration has contributed to increased housing demand on UCB. However, immigration should not be viewed as the primary cause of the housing crisis. The housing shortage reflects a mismatch between rapid population growth, and an insufficient housing supply. For immigrants, additional barriers including a limited Canadian credit history, unfamiliarity with the housing system, language barriers, vulnerability to scams, and discrimination can make securing stable housing difficult.

According to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) surveys, public perception of immigration has shifted considerably in recent years, with support for current immigration levels declining to its lowest point in approximately three decades during 2023 and 2024.[9] This change coincides with growing concerns about housing affordability and availability, which have been the most frequently cited issues associated with immigration.

While most Canadians continue to support immigrants settling outside of the country's largest cities, confidence in this approach has weakened, particularly in smaller communities like UCB.

Many Canadians believe that immigration places additional pressure on housing supply and prices, and public discussions increasingly frame immigration through its perceived impacts on housing and infrastructure, rather than an understanding of different immigration pathways. These perceptions underscore the importance of ensuring that housing supply and community infrastructure keep pace with population growth to support integration and public confidence in immigration.

Recent changes to IRCC policies are expected to reduce the number of new international students and temporary residents entering UCB. These changes include a national cap on study permits, stricter eligibility requirements for Post Graduate Work Permits (PGWPs), and an overall reduction in temporary resident admissions.[10] The federal government has cited housing availability as one of the primary reasons for these policy changes, with the goal of easing pressures on rental markets. Particularly in CBRM, these changes may modestly reduce demand for housing in the coming years, but when considering the survey data presented in this report, the overall impact on housing affordability is likely to be gradual and limited.

KEY INSIGHTS

- Despite a decline from the 2025 peak prices, housing continues to present a financial strain among newcomers
- The majority of survey respondents are interested in staying on UCB
- Housing and meaningful employment challenges reinforce each other
- The increasing cost of living makes it challenging to realize any recent easing on housing costs





SURVEY DATA AND LIMITS

The survey data presented in this report is drawn from surveys conducted by the CBLIP (2023 & 2026) and New Dawn Newcomer Centre (2023-2026). These surveys are regular, community-based research initiatives. The chart on the following page summarizes the number of respondents for each survey, and their target populations.

While both organizations received a large and meaningful response, it is important to recognize and acknowledge that immigrants are not a monolith. A variety of factors have shaped individual experiences in a shifting landscape, and the data presented is not necessarily reflective of immigrant populations as a whole.

	2023	2024	2025	2026
New Dawn Newcomer Centre respondents (International students and graduates)	442	378	393	256
CBLIP Respondents (people born outside of Canada, living on the island)	202	-	-	291

HOUSING MARKET OVERVIEW

Despite a slight decline in rental prices from their 2025 peak, housing continues to be a significant financial strain on immigrants in UCB. The majority of survey respondents reported spending **more than 30%** of their income on housing, exceeding the standard measure of housing affordability. This suggests that, although market conditions may be starting to improve, housing costs remain disproportionately high relative to income, and they continue to be a barrier to financial stability and long-term settlement. The high prevalence of respondents indicating that they lived in a shared apartment or shared room could be indicative of a strained housing supply coupled with an overall lack of affordability.

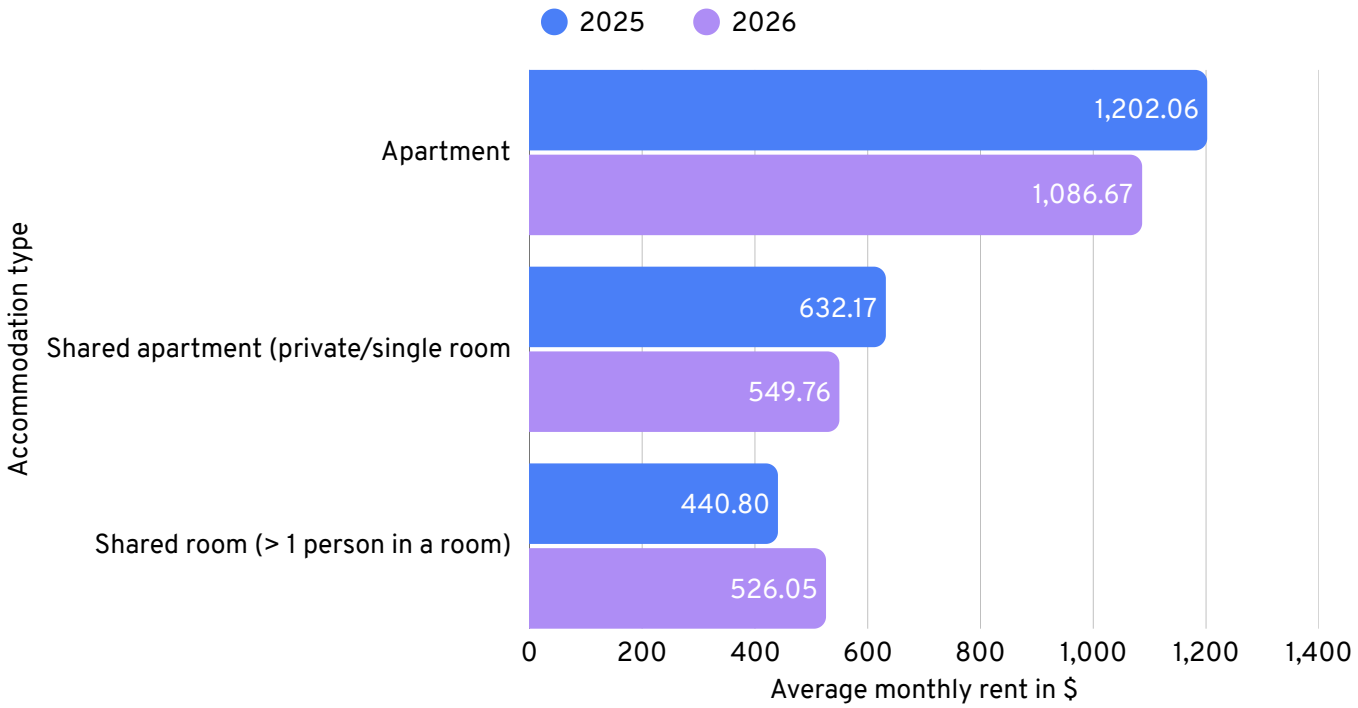
AFFORDABILITY

New Dawn Newcomer data shows that the overall peak of rental prices was 2025. In 2026, the average price decrease across accommodation types was -7.67%. Shared room rental prices are a notable in 2026, the only accommodation category to increase.

Where are you currently living?	2023	2024	2025	2026	% increase/decrease
Apartment	$1004.22	$1192.44	$1202.06	$1086.67	-9.60%
Shared apartment (private/single room)	$551.63	$667.17	$632.17	$549.76	-13.04%
Shared room (more than one person in a room)	$417.56	$447.19	$440.80	$526.05	19.34%
Entire House			$1622.73	$1178.57	-27.37%

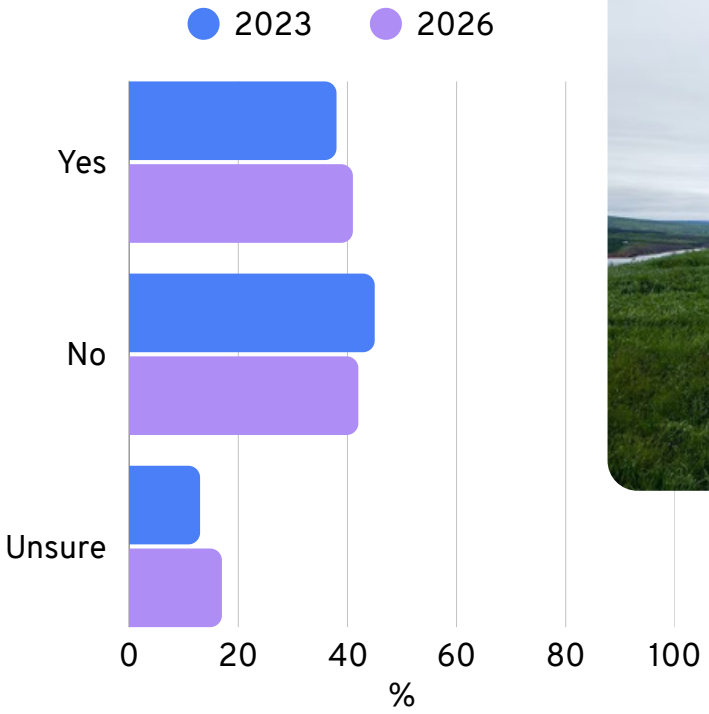
New Dawn Newcomer Centre International Student Survey Comparison

Average monthly rent paid by student respondents, 2025/2026 comparison



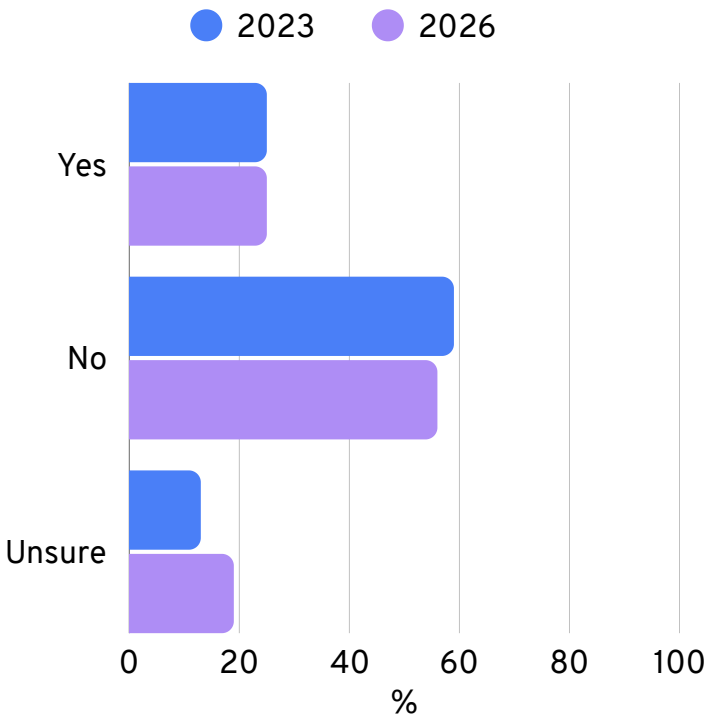
New Dawn Newcomer Centre International Student Surveys, 2025/2026

“Is your housing affordable?”



CBLIP Immigrant Survey Data, All Respondents

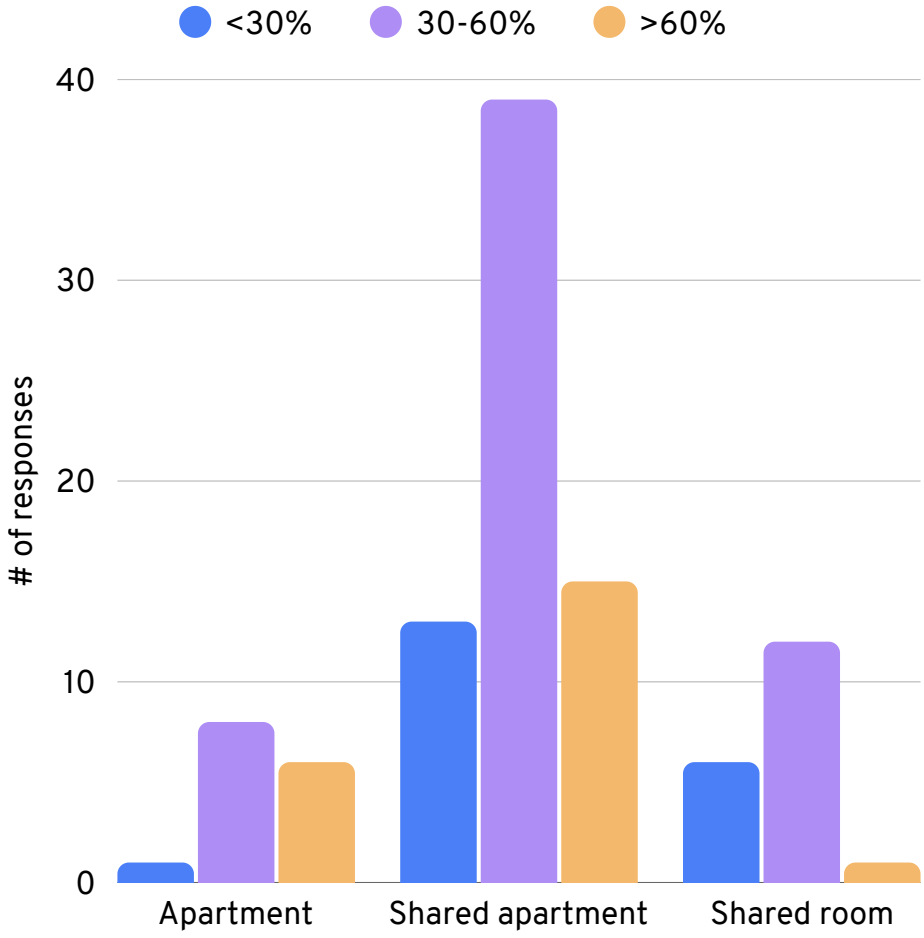




CBLIP Immigrant Survey Data (Current International Students at Survey Time)

According to the CMHC, in Canada, housing is considered “affordable” if it costs less than 30% of a household’s before-tax income. It also includes all forms of housing tenure: rental, ownership and co-operative ownership, as well as temporary and permanent housing.[11]

“How much of your before tax income do you pay in rent?”



New Dawn Newcomer Centre International Student Survey, 2026

Both CBLIP and New Dawn Newcomer Centre data consistently show year after year that a **large majority** of respondents are paying **greater than 30%** of their income on housing.

A significant number of respondents reported paying **up to 60%** of their income on housing.

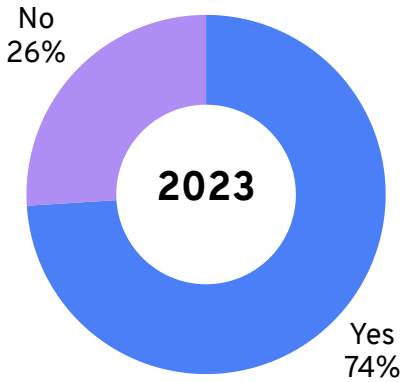


SUITABILITY

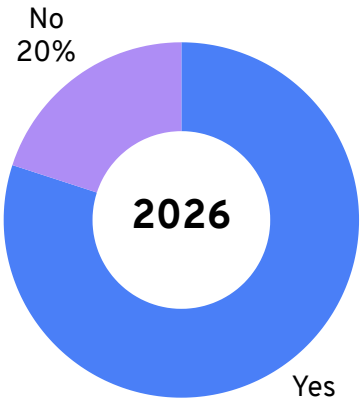
According to 2023 & 2026 CBLIP data, the overall suitability of housing is marginally improving, especially among international student respondents, however, significant issues remain.

For those with unsuitable housing, respondents shared examples including insufficient size, need for repairs and renovation (roofing, plumbing, windows, etc.), cost of utilities, health and safety concerns (e.g. mold, pest issues), overcrowding, living a good distance from services, and inadequate transportation. Despite their dissatisfaction with their current housing, several survey respondents described their feelings of being without other options. They also described scenarios where they could not find housing that would suit their family situation, where they needed to move regularly, and where they were limited to overcrowded shared accommodation.

"Does your housing suit your needs? (Are there enough bedrooms and is it in good repair?)



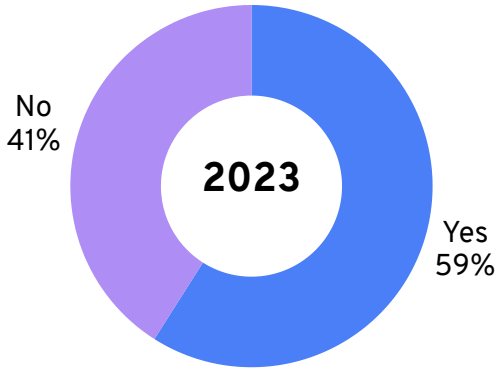
CBLIP Survey, 2023



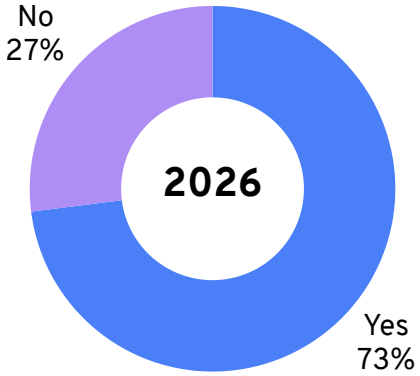
CBLIP Survey, 2026

"Rent is too much, plus it floods in our street. We tried applying in other houses, but competition is tight and there's a shortage of houses in Sydney"
New Dawn Newcomer Centre 2024 student survey respondent.

Same question, International students only:



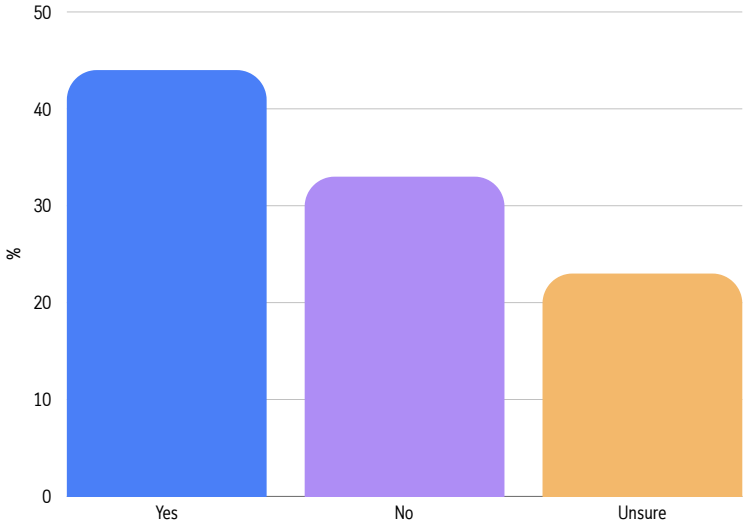
CBLIP Survey, 2023



CBLIP Survey, 2026

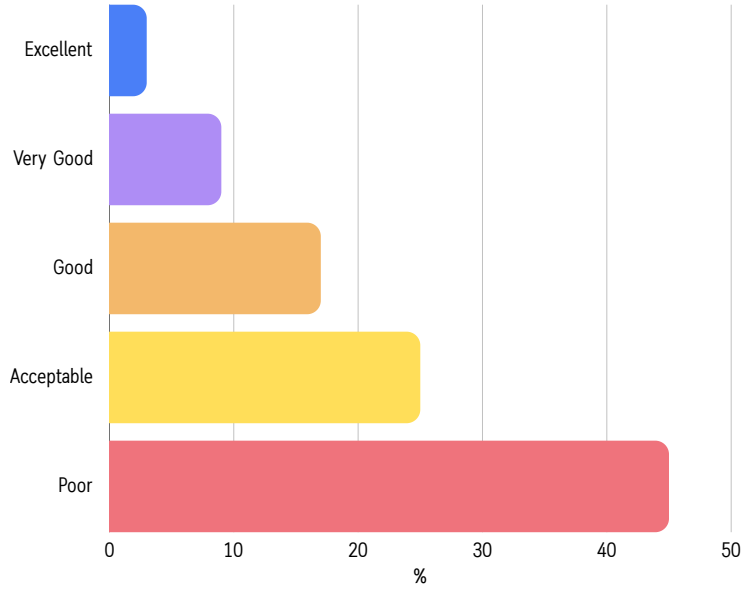
“If you have housing challenges, do you know where to find help?”

(Challenges could be things like finding housing, fixing something that is broken, or problems with neighbours or your landlord)



CBLIP Survey, 2026

“Please rate your experience with housing services in the last 12 months in UCB”



** CBLIP Survey, 2023*

Approximately 56% of CBLIP survey respondents reported that they were unsure on where to find help when encountering housing related issues.

Strengthening access to tenant education, housing navigation and settlement support services through organizations like the CBLIP and New Dawn Newcomer Centre could help immigrants better understand their rights and help them successfully navigate UCB housing systems.

The CBLIP’s Housing Working Group has been developing and sharing resources to support awareness of tenant rights, including a recent social media campaign geared toward tenants and a forthcoming Nova Scotia Residential Tenancies handbook.

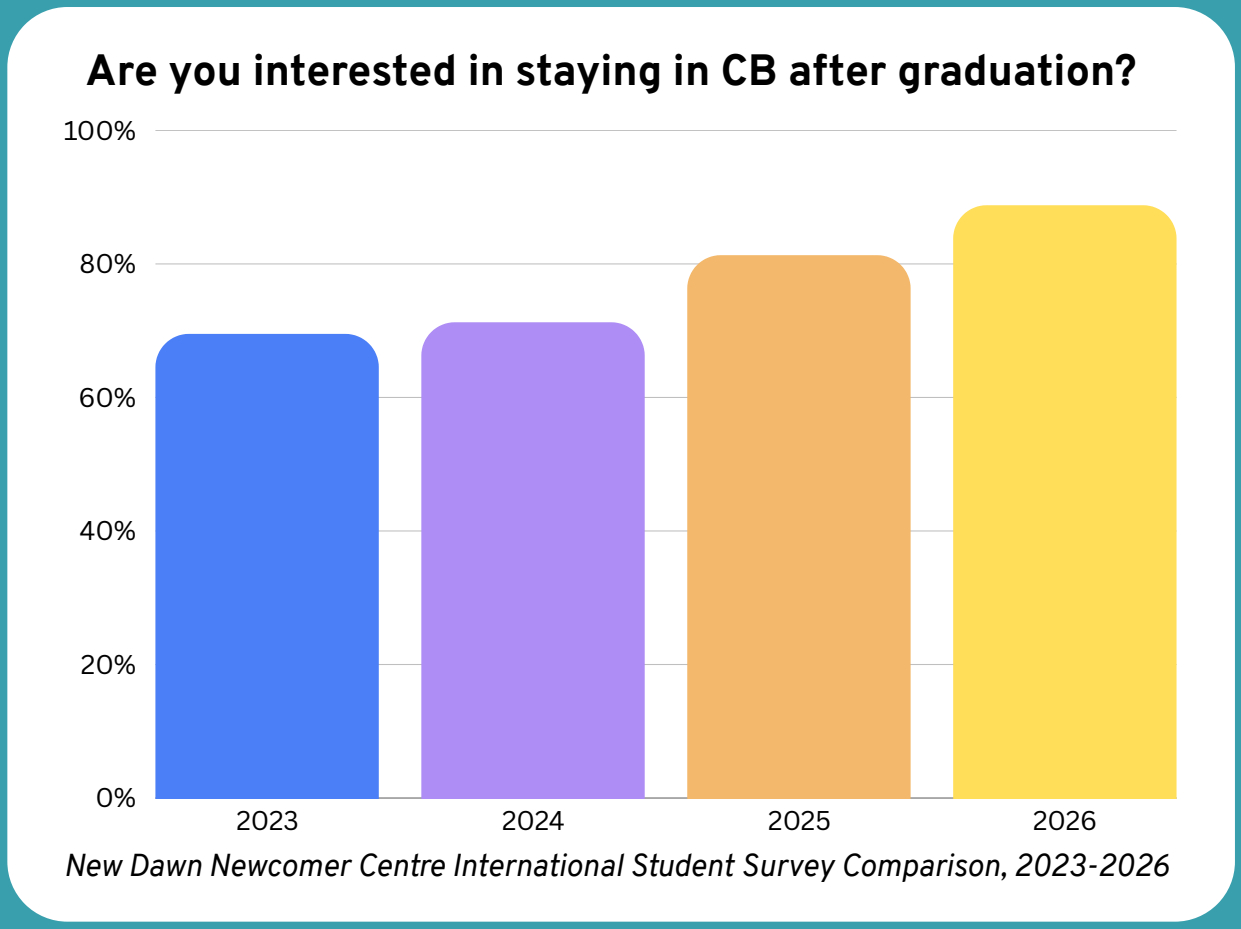
**This question was asked in 2023 and not in 2026, but the responses demonstrate a lack of resources to address housing issues for newcomers on UCB.*

“Initially, it’s always difficult to start from scratch in a new country. Finding housing was really difficult during that time, and the rent was too high for bare minimum.” - New Dawn Newcomer Centre Grad survey, 2026.

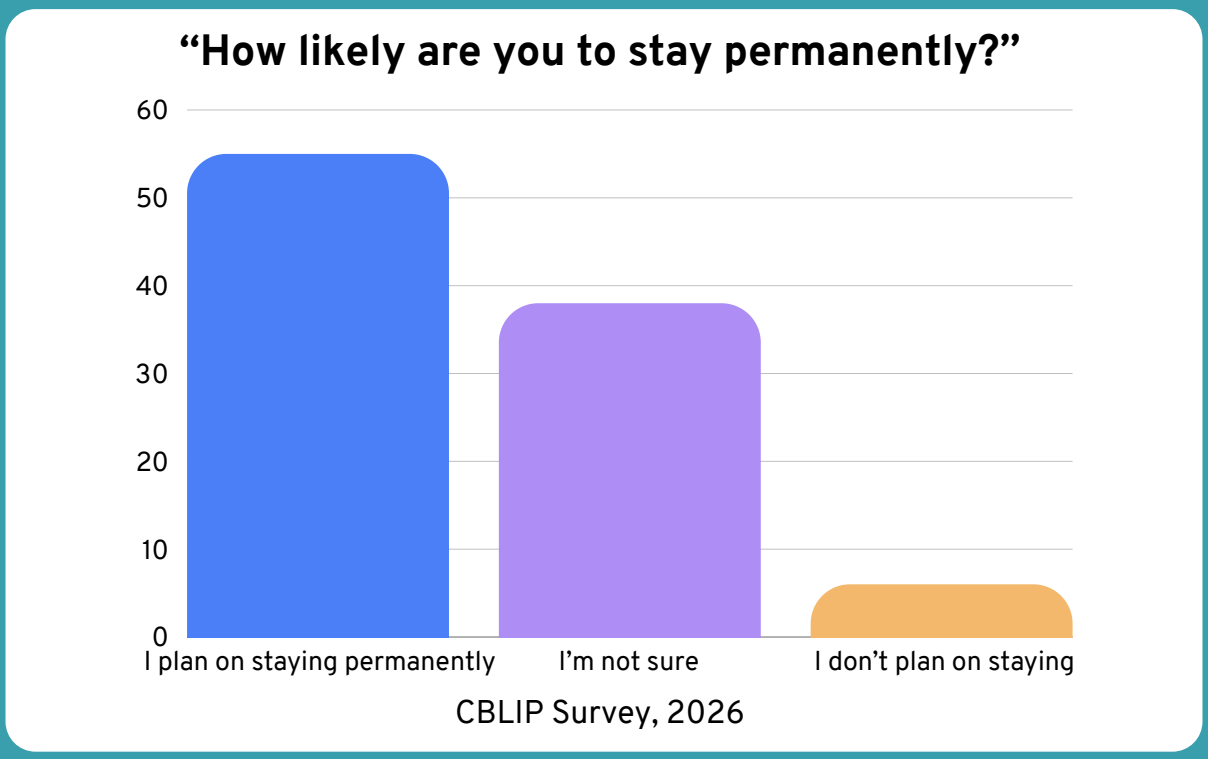
HOUSING CHALLENGES & RETENTION

Survey findings from both CBLIP & New Dawn Newcomer Centre identify housing as one of the primary concerns among immigrants, second only to employment. In some cases, immigrants have declined job offers or left the region altogether because they were unable to secure suitable housing. This reflects a broader cycle in which immigration supports economic growth and helps address labour shortages, but increased population growth places more pressure on a constrained housing market. While UCB has actively pursued immigration as a strategy for economic development and population retention, housing supply has not kept pace with demand. As a result, many immigrants experience housing insecurity despite being employed or enrolled in educational institutions, ultimately weakening UCB's ability to attract, retain and integrate immigrants over the long term. CBLIP & New Dawn Newcomer Centre data **consistently** shows that most respondents would like to stay in UCB, but these intersecting factors make it difficult to stay and build a life here.

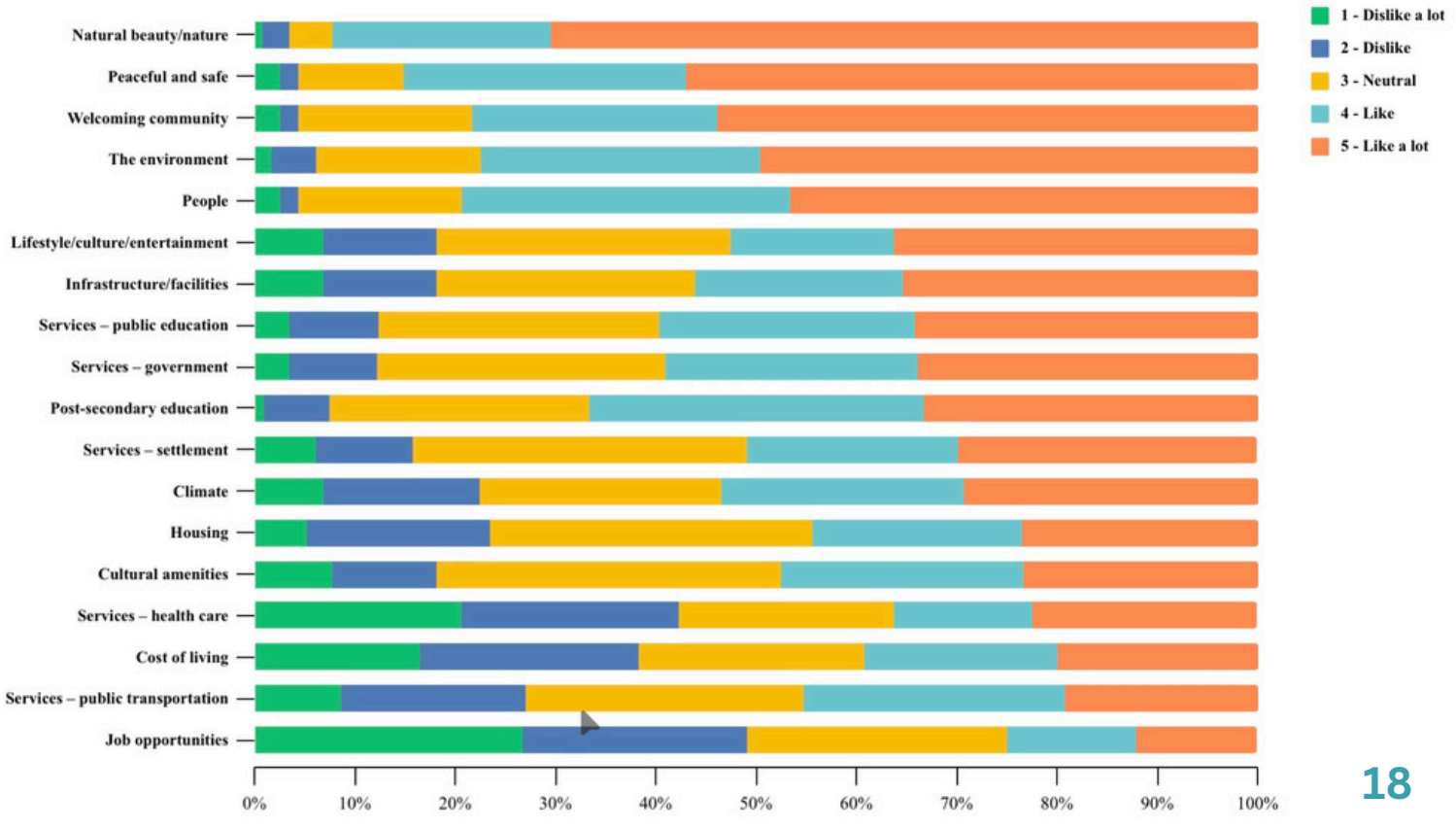
INTEREST IN STAYING



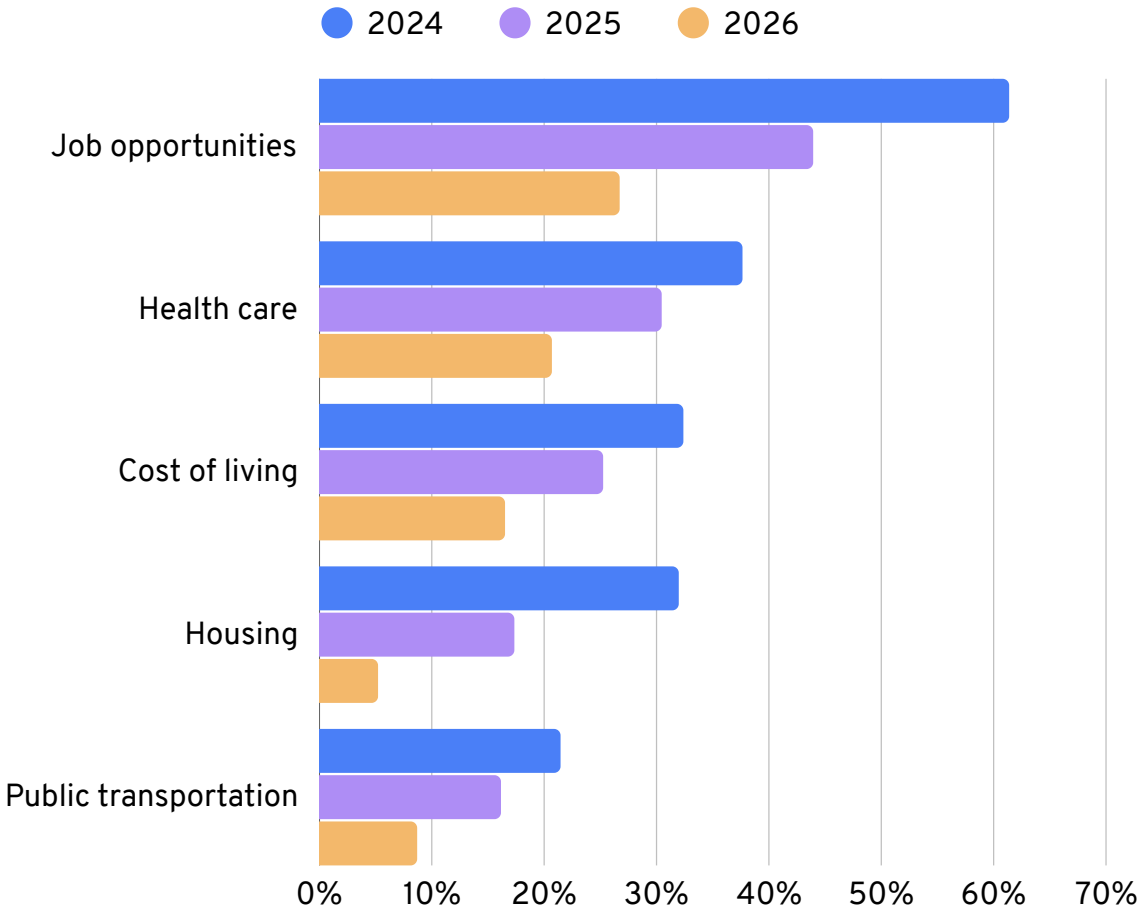
New Dawn Newcomer Centre International Student Survey Comparison, 2023-2026



The graph below from the 2026 New Dawn Newcomer Centre international student survey highlights that students are interested in staying in UCB due to its natural beauty and welcoming community, among other factors. It also shows some significant challenges that affect retention. New Dawn Newcomer Centre data shows that housing consistently remains a top 5 issue for immigrants living in UCB.



LEAST LIKED ASPECT OF LIVING IN UCB (2024-2026)



New Dawn Newcomer Centre International Student survey, 2024-2026

SURVEY RESPONDENT-IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES TO STAYING ON UCB

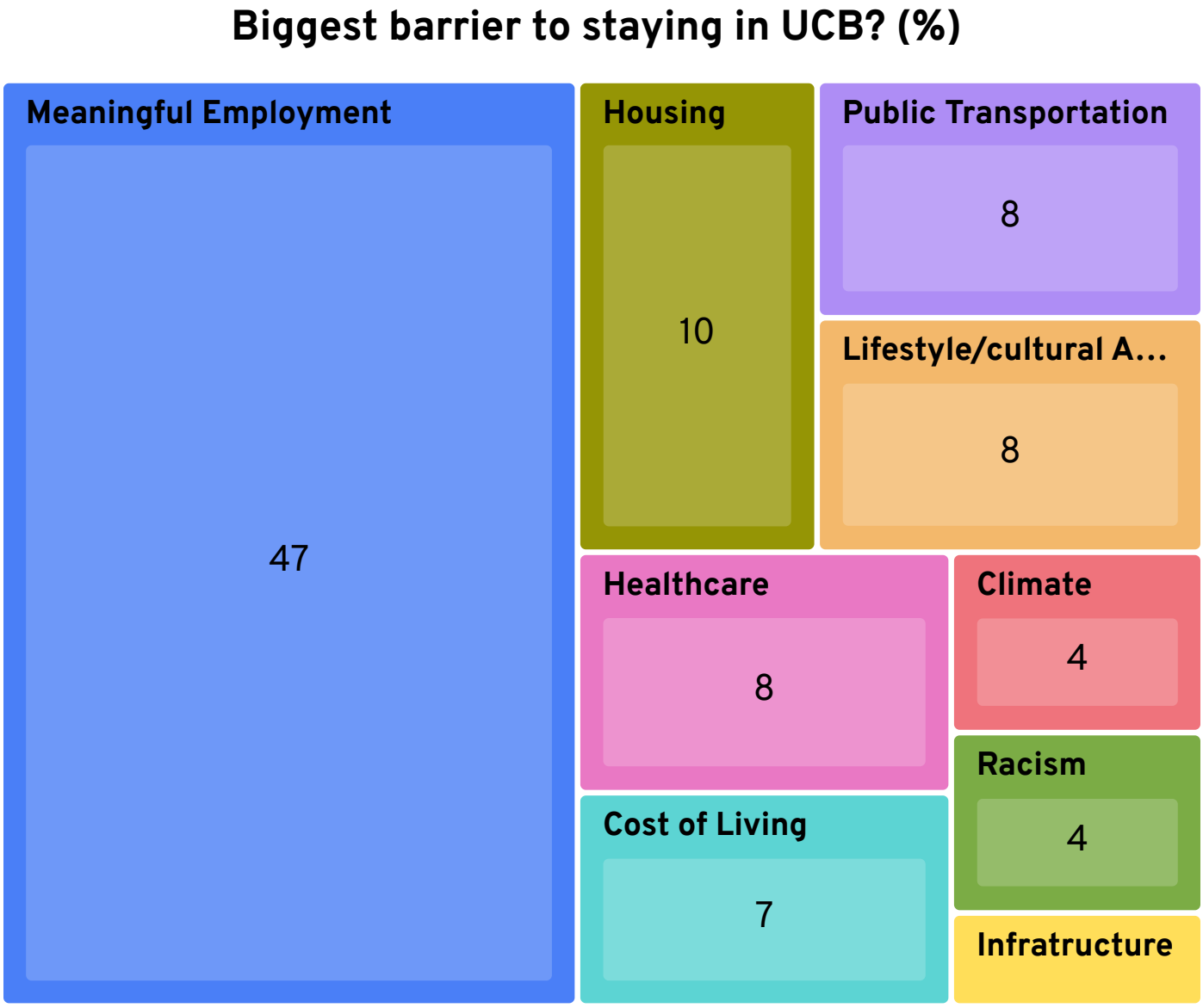
"In general, I think it's the housing crisis and less job opportunity." New Dawn Newcomer Centre Graduate Survey, 2023.

"The biggest barrier has been limited meaningful employment opportunities that match extensive experience. Public transportation challenges and housing cost relative to available options have also been concerns." New Dawn Newcomer Centre Graduate Survey, 2026.

"The cost of living has tripled since I moved, which [does] not match the average pay here, and there is not enough room for employment growth. Long wait for the health care. Still don't have a family doctor." New Dawn Newcomer Centre Graduate Survey, 2026.

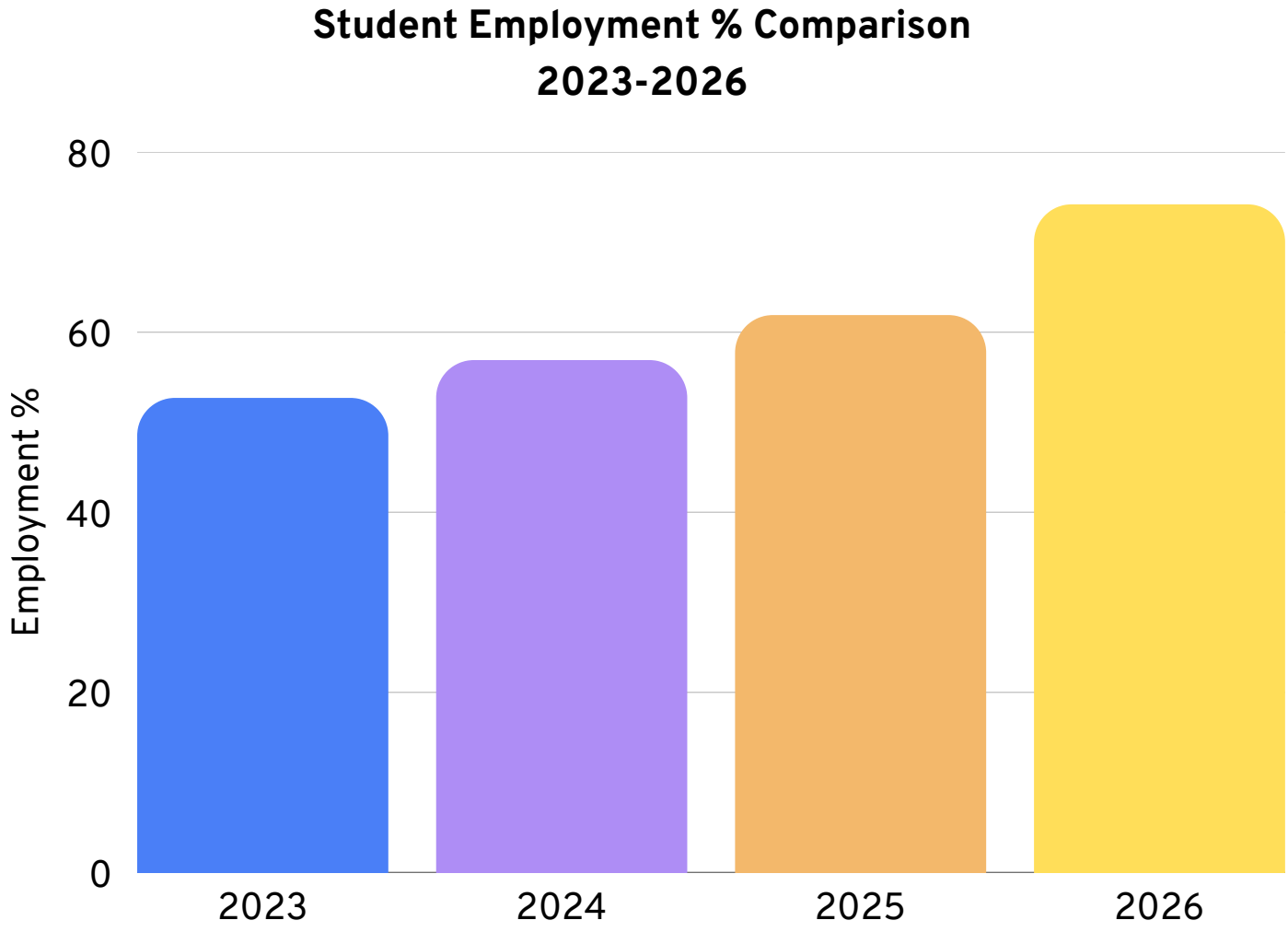
BARRIERS TO RETENTION

CBLIP & New Dawn Newcomer Centre data show that housing and employment challenges reinforce one another. Underemployment and unemployment reduce immigrants' ability to secure affordable housing, while housing instability can make it more difficult to establish long term employment and remain in UCB. Addressing both issues concurrently would help to improve retention.



New Dawn Newcomer Centre International Graduate Survey, 2026

According to New Dawn Newcomer Centre data, the student employment rate has increased over the years, but working in a related field declined sharply in 2026. This is also reflected in CBLIP's 2026 data, which found that more than half of respondents were either unemployed or not working in their field.

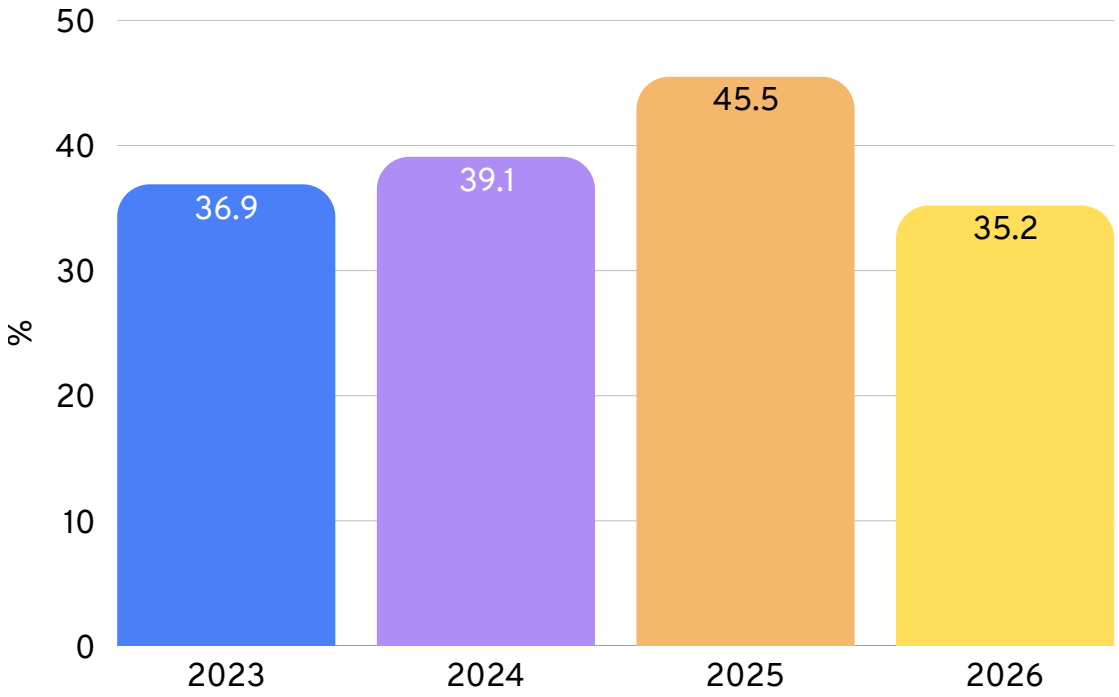


New Dawn Newcomer Centre International Student Survey, 2023-2026

"…I did not find job for 8 months which was also a great disadvantage for me because all my [Guaranteed Investment Certificate] Gic I brought to pay my fees was used in living and daily expenses. No job opportunities even when trying really [hard] to find one everyday." New Dawn Newcomer Centre International Student Survey, 2026.

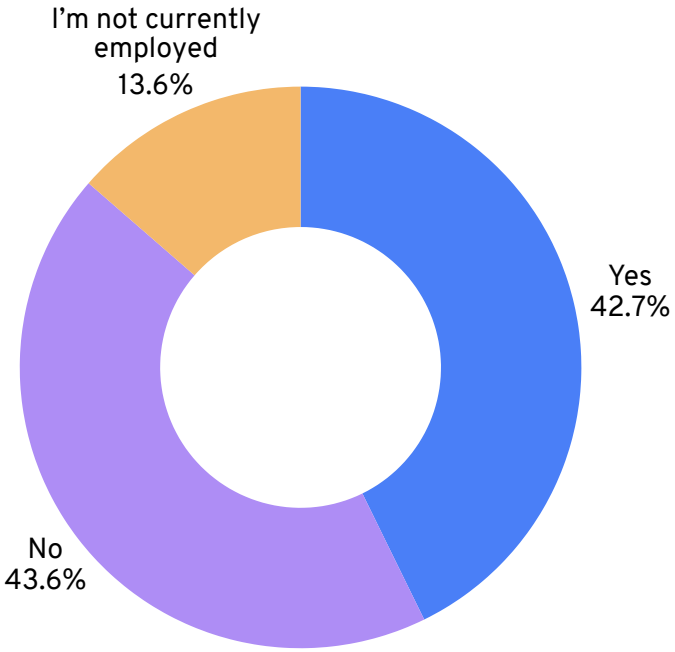
***Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC):** A financial product commonly used by international students to demonstrate financial support for their studies and living expenses in Canada.*

Students Working in Related Fields % Comparison 2023-2026



New Dawn Newcomer Centre International Student Survey, 2023-2026

Are you in a job that is at the same level as your skills and experience?



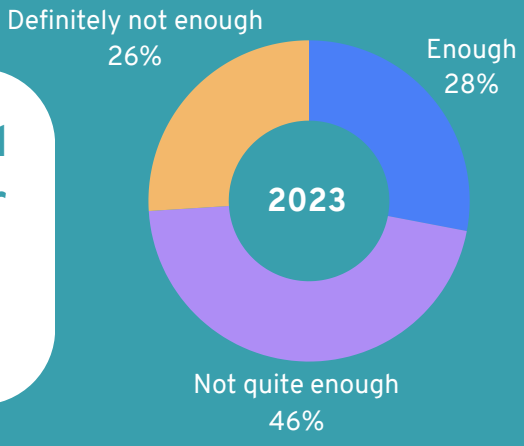
CBLIP Survey, 2026

In 2026, according to CBLIP and New Dawn Newcomer Centre survey data, meaningful employment is the **number one reason** why respondents may not choose to settle long term on UCB.

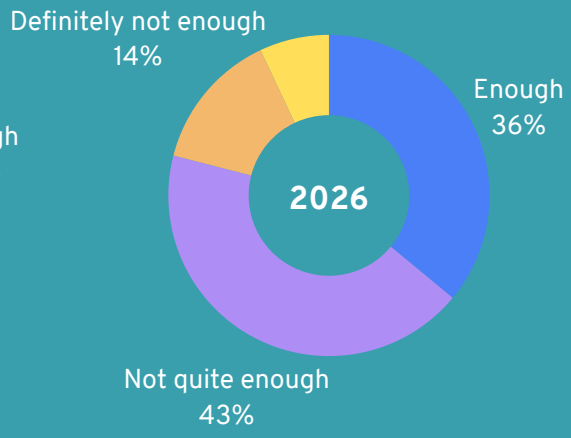
COST OF LIVING

Any recent easing in rental prices may be offset by the broader cost of living crisis, as the rising costs of goods and services place serious financial pressure on all community members, but in particular newcomers. As a result, small recent improvements in rental rates may not translate into enough household income to meet their needs. CBLIP data shows that a majority of household incomes are not quite enough or definitely not enough for their needs.

"Is your household income enough for the needs of you and your family?"

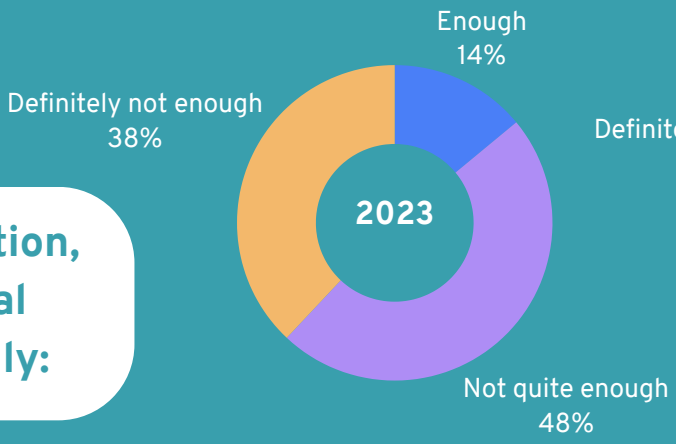


CBLIP Immigrant Survey, 2023

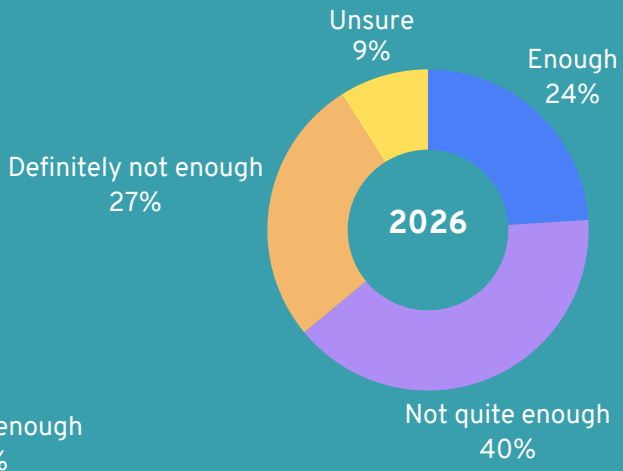


CBLIP Immigrant Survey, 2026

Same Question, international students only:



CBLIP Immigrant Survey, 2023



CBLIP Immigrant Survey, 2026

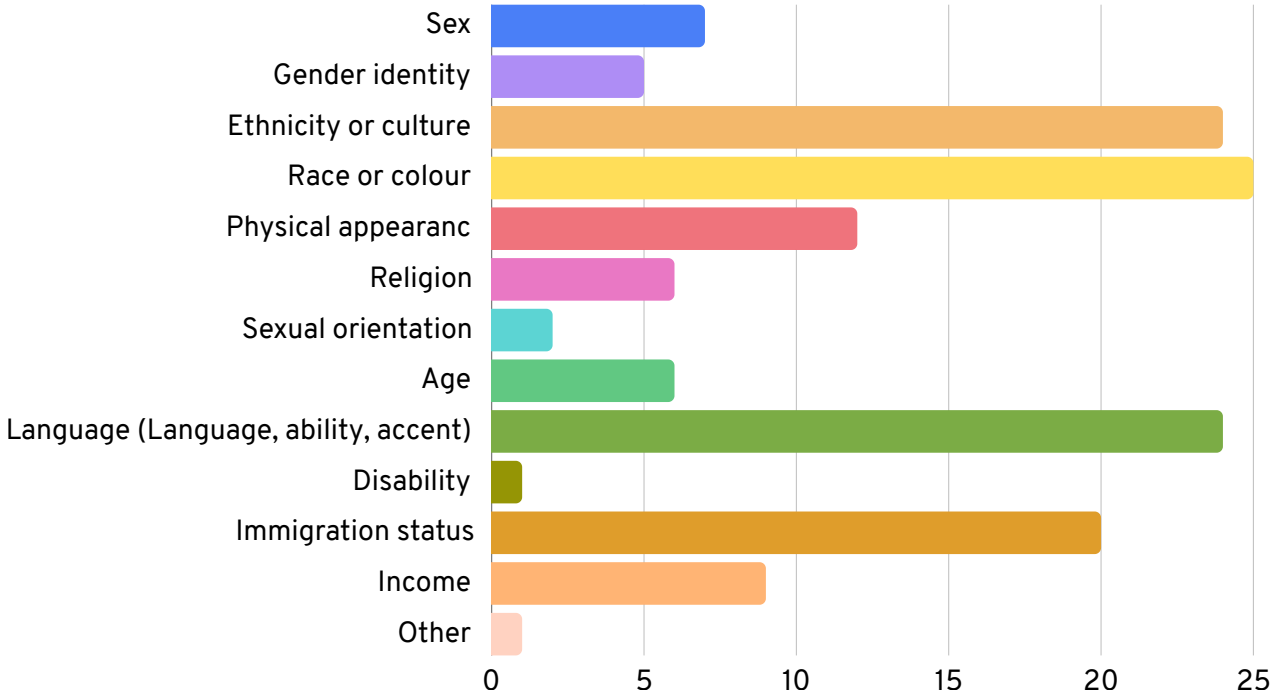
"Cost of living has tripled since I moved, which is not match the average pay here, and there is not enough room for employment growth..." New Dawn Newcomer Centre Grad survey, 2026.

DISCRIMINATION

Though not directly tied to housing, immigration is increasingly becoming politicized, and the resulting scapegoating and discrimination is a growing concern.

A majority of Canadians continue to say there is too much immigration, but opinions have stabilized since 2024 following a sharp increase over the two previous years.[11] Those who express this view increasingly point to poor government management as the problem.

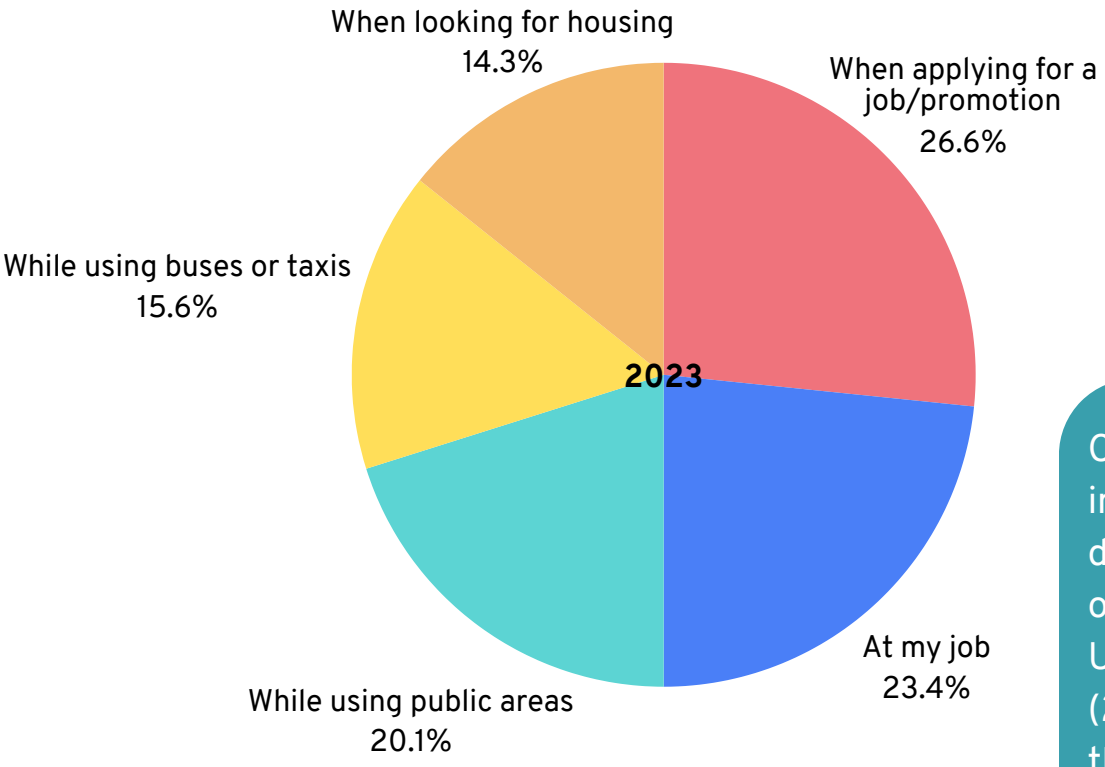
"In the past year, have you experienced discrimination or been treated unfairly by others in your community because of:"



CBLIP Immigrant Survey, 2026

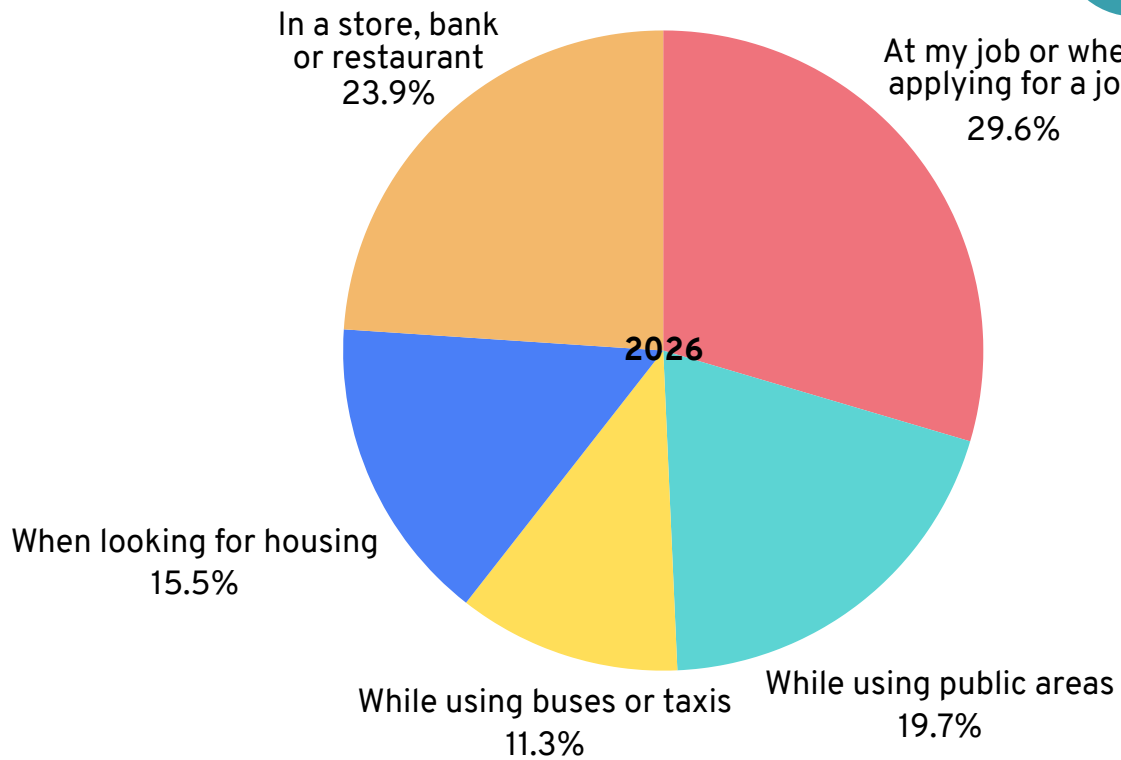
"Stop the racism towards Indians... We are being discriminated and radicalized without doing anything wrong. We are working really hard please stop the racism towards Indians" CBLIP Survey, 2026.

"If you did experience discrimination, in what types of situations did you experience that?" (Select all that apply)

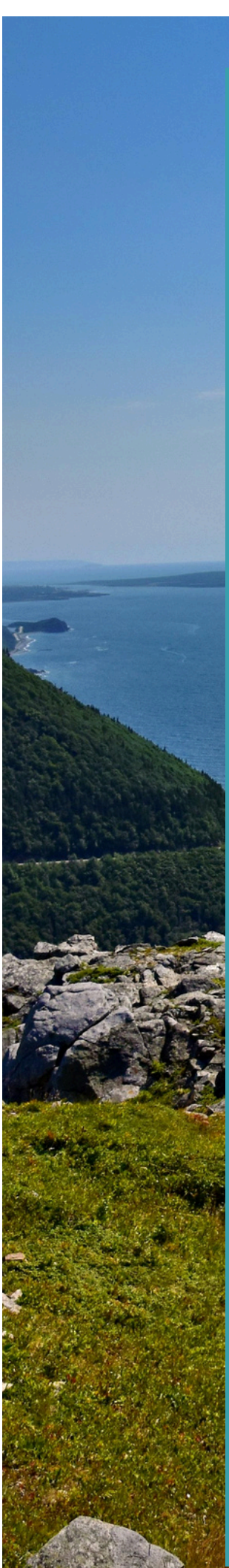


CBLIP Immigrant Survey, 2023

CBLIP data shows that immigrants experience discrimination in a variety of scenarios navigating UCB. 22% (2023) and 11% (2026) of respondents felt this discrimination was present in their search for housing.



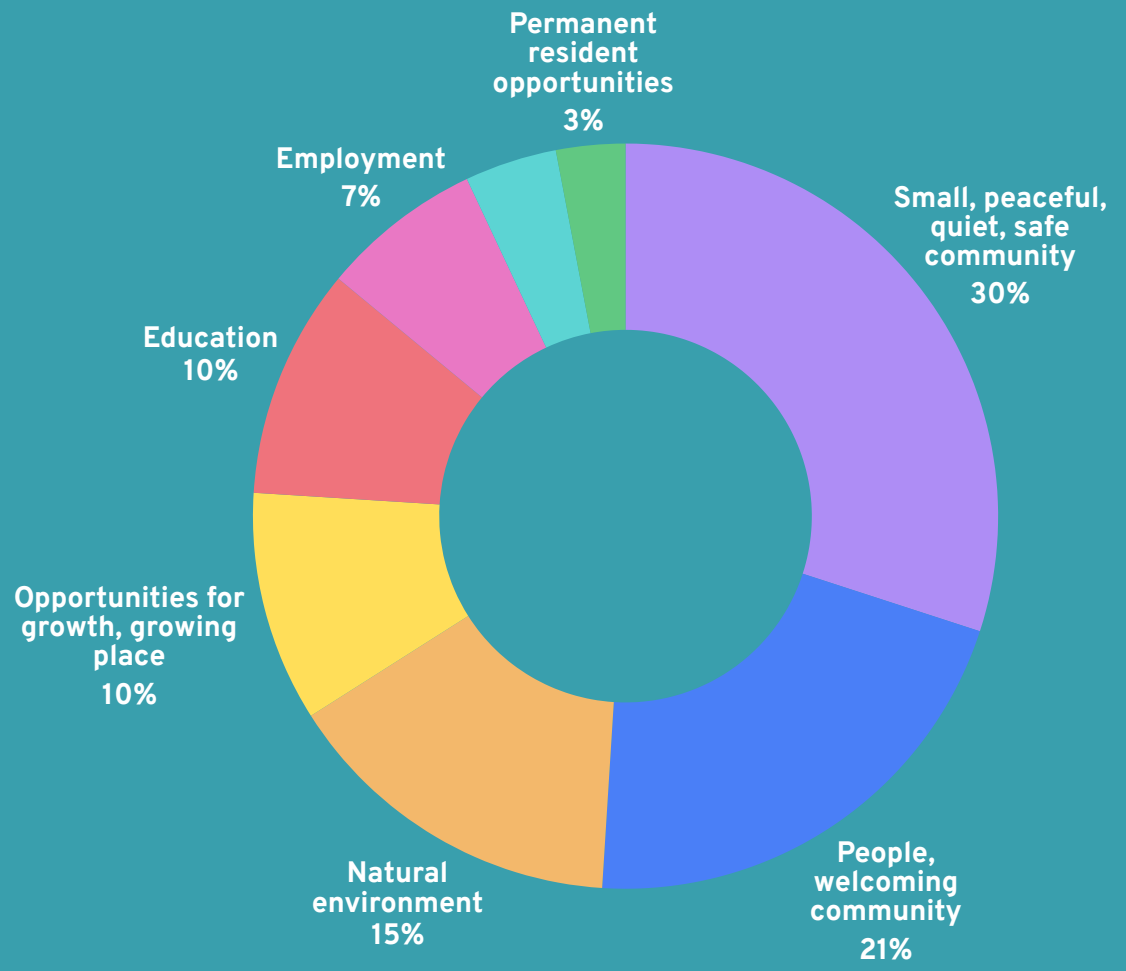
CBLIP Immigrant Survey, 2026



REASONS TO STAY

Survey data shows that respondents overall feel quite safe in UCB, enjoy the natural beauty the island has to offer, the peace and quiet, and the welcoming community, among other reasons.

"Reasons to stay in Cape Breton?"



New Dawn Newcomer Centre International Student Survey, 2026

"I chose to stay in Cape Breton for its strong sense of community, safety, and welcoming people. My son loves his scho[o]l, and the island is a wonderful place to raise children. The scenic beauty and lower cost of living compared to bigger cities are some other reason to stay in the island." *New Dawn Newcomer Centre Grad Survey, 2026.*

"I love the culture and people here, they are helpful and safe for women." *New Dawn Newcomer Centre International Student Survey, 2026.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

According to the CBLIP survey, **60%** of respondents felt that more affordable housing would help newcomers reach their full potential in UCB. Other popular top 3 choices were: improvements to healthcare, improvements to public transportation, and better services to help newcomers find work.

Many respondents from the surveys indicated that they didn't feel protected as renters and were vulnerable to rental scams, and landlords who may unfairly raise rental prices. Several responses suggested that a housing portal be implemented and monitored to ensure legitimate, fair rental advertising to immigrants.

Based on quantitative and qualitative data analyzed, the HWG recommends:



Increased access to affordable housing through collaboration across sectors such as municipalities, housing providers, post-secondary institutions, employers, and community organizations.



Enhance settlement and orientation services, as early and coordinated settlement support can help newcomers navigate the challenges of establishing themselves in UCB.



Include newcomer voices in policy and program development. Newcomers offer valuable perspectives that can inform more effective housing, employment and settlement policies.



Recognize that housing challenges are interconnected with employment, transportation, and affordability, and require coordinated solutions.

SUGGESTED CHANGES

"Helping students who have just arrived get settled with housing and employment options." *CBLIP Survey, 2026.*

"Helping them [newcomers] to belong to the community by hearing them more, providing them chances to stay and get job, supporting them to get their permanent residency or keep them updated so they feel safe and peace to work and contribute" *CBLIP Survey, 2026.*

"I have needed more support with affordable housing, access to part-time job opportunities, and clearer guidance on immigration and work permit processes. A better orientation for international students would also have been helpful, especially when adjusting to a new environment." *New Dawn Newcomer Centre international Student Survey, 2026.*

"Listen to what they [newcomers] have to say. They have the outside look on many of the structural problems and may help with the solution." *CBLIP Survey, 2026.*

CONCLUSION

This report demonstrates that housing remains one of the most significant barriers affecting the successful settlement and long-term retention of newcomers in UCB. It highlights that housing challenges extend beyond the availability of rental units. Affordability, employment opportunities, transportation, cost of living concerns, and access to settlement services all influence the ability to establish their lives and fully integrate into UCB communities.

The findings reinforce that housing cannot be addressed in isolation. Meaningful progress will require coordinated action among municipalities, housing providers, employers, educational institutions, settlement organizations, and all levels of government. The CBLIP already provides a platform for this type of cross-sectoral collaboration and can be instrumental in approaches such as expanding affordable housing options, strengthening settlement and orientation services, improving access to employment, and ensuring newcomers are included in policy and program development, all of which will contribute to more effective and sustainable solutions. Continued and expanded research and data sharing is recommended in order to continue to track changes and trends over time.

As UCB continues to welcome newcomers, creating communities where they can secure safe, affordable housing and build a sense of belonging is essential. By listening to newcomer experiences and working collaboratively across sectors, the region can strengthen its capacity to attract, support, and retain immigrants, benefiting both newcomers and the broader community for years to come.



ABOUT THE DATA

The survey data presented in this report is drawn from surveys conducted by the New Dawn Newcomer Centre (2023, 2024, 2025, 2026) and the Cape Breton Local Immigration Partnership (2023, 2026). These surveys are regular, community-based research initiatives.

The New Dawn Newcomer Centre (NDNC) is dedicated to welcoming newcomers to Cape Breton Island. NDNC staff work to orient, support, connect, advocate on behalf of, and otherwise meet the needs of newcomers in service of their successful settlement in Cape Breton. For more information, visit https://newdawn.ca/immigration/newcomer-centre/.

The Cape Breton Local Immigration Partnership (CBLIP) is a collaborative initiative designed to foster welcoming communities that support the full participation of newcomers in the social, economic, political and cultural life of Unama'ki – Cape Breton. Every two to three years, the CBLIP conducts a survey of people living in Unama'ki - Cape Breton who were born outside of Canada. The survey covers a range of topics related to the experiences of immigrants as they settle in to life on the island. The surveys were in English and were conducted online, with participants being advised that support would be made available to complete the survey in other languages or in a different format. Nevertheless, it is recognized that the survey language and format likely presented a barrier to some potential respondents. When compared to the population of Unama'ki - Cape Breton, the sample size of the surveys are reasonably robust. However, care was taken when interpreting the data, particularly with any small numbers.

For more information about the CBLIP, visit www.capebretonpartnership.com/cblip and for further details on the CBLIP Immigrant Survey, visit www.welcometocapebreton.ca/immigrant-survey.

NDNC and the CBLIP have partnered to present this report in recognition that collaborative research efforts can provide richer and more complete pictures of newcomer experiences and lead to increased understanding among decision makers and community organizations.

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ADDITONAL RESOURCES

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