



Centre for Discovery and Innovation Media Backgrounder – Monday, October 26, 2020

Centre for Discovery and Innovation

- An \$80 million shovel ready infrastructure project that has the power to ensure CBU's sustainability and impact into the future.
- A modern research and instructional facility featuring cutting-edge design and clean technology.
- Home to CBU's long-standing, highly-recognized science, engineering and technology programs and support the growth of public health, emergency management and nursing programs.
- Features include:
 - a collaborative research laboratory;
 - applied learning laboratories for public health
 - a nursing simulation centre
 - a learning studio
 - the Marshall Institute
 - cooperative rapid manufacturing and robotic laboratories and a makerspace; and
 - a community innovation hub.
- Help to further attract domestic and international students to study at Cape Breton University.
- Train future public health and nursing practitioners, ready to address post-COVID and future world pandemic challenges.
- Will facilitate partnership between community and CBU researchers
- Strengthen CBU's commitment to indigenize the L'nu way.

Economic Impact

- As of January 2020, international students contribute \$165 million/year to the Cape Breton Island economy.¹
- CBU creates more than \$85 million in household income²
- CBU generates more than \$11.2 million in revenue for the Nova Scotia³

Population Growth

- Nova Scotia has had an 18.2% population growth in the past 43 year. This is the lowest in the country:⁴
 - British Columbia – 107%
 - Alberta – 147%
 - Ontario – 74%
 - Quebec – 33.9%
 - PEI – 29.8%
- Nova Scotia senior population is growing. In 2013, 17% of our population was over 65 years of age. By 2038, that number will be 30.9%.⁵
- In 2019, Cape Breton saw its first population increase in twenty plus years as a result of international student growth.⁶

¹ 2018 Economic Impact of International Students in Atlantic Canada, Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training

² 2018 Economic Impact Analysis, Department of Finance, Government of Nova Scotia (includes CBU core and other entities)

³ 2018 Economic Impact Analysis, Department of Finance, Government of Nova Scotia (includes CBU core and other entities)

⁴ Richard Saillant. (2016) A Tale of Two Countries – How the Great Demographic Imbalance is Pulling Canada Apart.

⁵ Richard Saillant. (2016) A Tale of Two Countries – How the Great Demographic Imbalance is Pulling Canada Apart.

⁶ Statistics Canada (<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710013701>, accessed September 30, 2020)

- The latest Statistics Canada numbers show the university students have a significant impact, most notably in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM). In 2019, there was an increase of 2249 in net non-permanent residents in CBRM and, just to put that into context, the increase in Halifax was 1481, so it is a very large jump. That's how much this means to the overall population in Cape Breton, that it is actually pushing the population up.⁷

Richard Saillant. (2016) A Tale of Two Countries – How the Great Demographic Imbalance is Pulling Canada Apart.

Thomas Starring, Director of Economics and Statistics. NS Department of Finance, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/cape-breton-population-grows-after-more-than-20-years-of-decline-1.5480357>, accessed 2 March 2020

⁷ Statistics Canada (<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710013701>, accessed September 30, 2020)