

Panelist Biographies:

Gerry Morrissey

Manager, Communities and Inclusive Growth at ACOA HO - Moncton.

Gerry, a professional engineer who started his career in manufacturing in Ontario, returned to Atlantic Canada to article for his CA (now CPA) with Deloitte. Gerry's role at ACOA includes responsibility for official language minority communities, youth and women's entrepreneurship and as team lead for the Immigration Champion file.

Shelley Bent James

Executive Director – Nova Scotia Office of immigration

Shelley has been with the Office of Immigration since July 2014. She started as the Director of Programs where she was responsible for the delivery of all provincial immigration programs in Nova Scotia including the provincial nominee program, settlement funding program and the Atlantic Immigration Pilot. She moved into the Executive Director position in August 2019. She attended Saint Mary's University in Halifax and has been a public servant for more than 20 years. She has held various positions within both the federal and provincial governments and has an extensive background in program delivery.

Jamie Aiken

CEO – Finance PEI and Executive Director Island Development Inc.

Jamie Aiken is the CEO of Finance PEI and the Ex. Director with Island Investment Development Inc.

Finance PEI is a crown corporation with the Department of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture which is the lending division for the Province of PEI. Finance PEI provide loan financing and strategic investment, in support of businesses that create, maintain, or expand priority sectors. Island Investment Development Inc. is a separate crown agency that administrates the Provincial Nominee Programs.

IIDI mission is to deliver adaptive programs and services that facilitate the economic and social growth of PEI by attracting and retaining newcomers to the Province and to attract immigration applications that are best suited to positively contribute to the Provinces unique economy and culture.

Hélène Bouchard

Assistant Deputy Minister - Population Growth Division - Government of New Brunswick

Hélène Bouchard has been with the civil service of New Brunswick for over 25 years in varying departments and capacity. Through her current and past positions, she has been involved in provincial, national and international intergovernmental relationship building and negotiations; she has led regional offices in capacity building, human resource development, and regional economic development.

She believes in fostering growth through the leveraging of resources and partnership development. Hélène is a proponent of mentoring and has implemented and participated in several mentoring programs.

Hélène is a graduate of the University of New Brunswick with a degree in Business Administration.