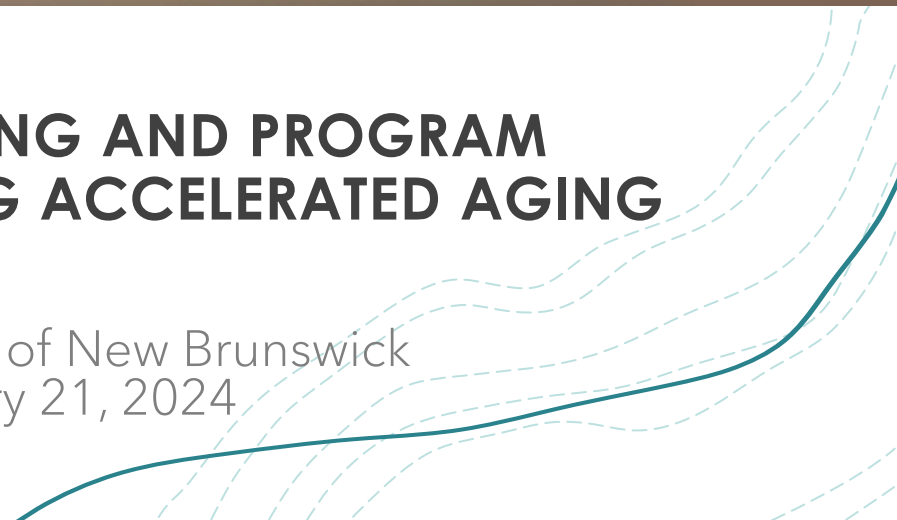# USING GEOGRAPHIC DATA FOR POLICY PLANNING AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IN CANADIAN COMMUNITIES FACING ACCELERATED AGING
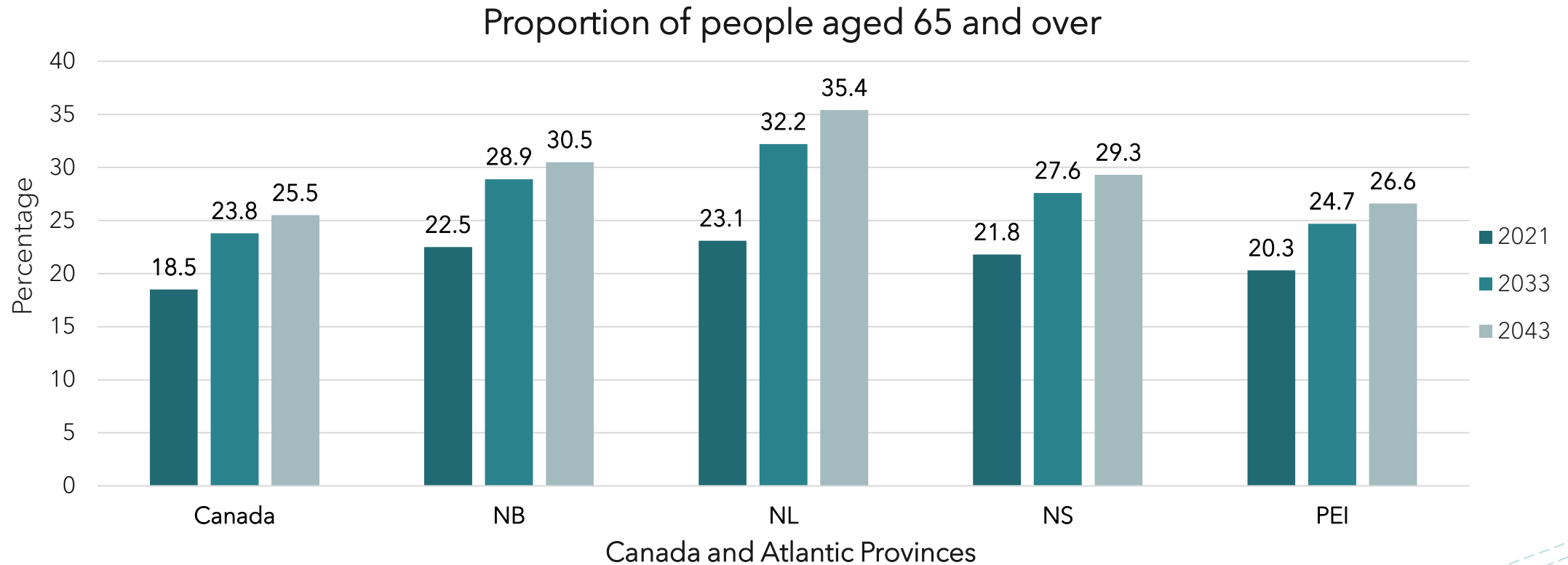
Catherine Bigonnesse, Ph.D.
Canada Research Chair in Healthy Aging, University of New Brunswick
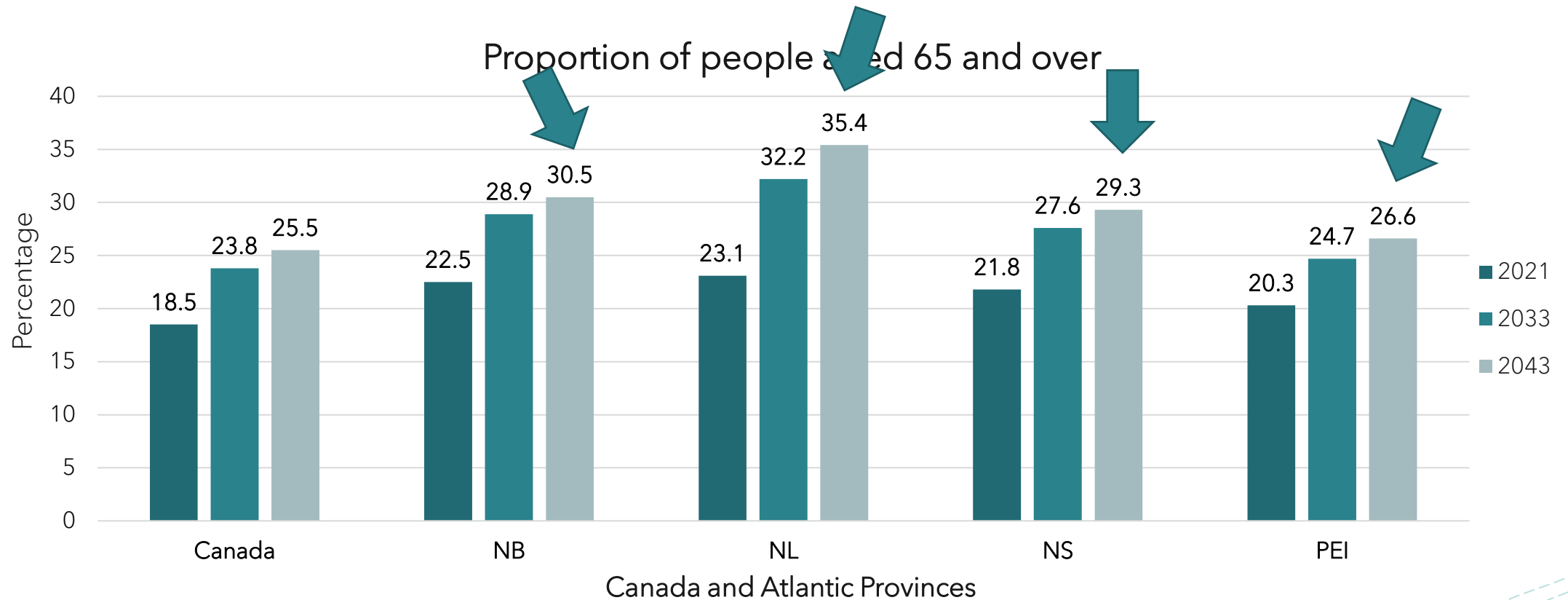AGE-WELL Policy Rounds Webinar – February 21, 2024

ACCELERATED AGING POPULATION
The Atlantic provinces have the fastest aging population in Canada...

Proportion of people aged 65 and over

Canada: 18.5 (2021), 23.8 (2033), 25.5 (2043)
NB: 22.5 (2021), 28.9 (2033), 30.5 (2043)
NL: 23.1 (2021), 32.2 (2033), 35.4 (2043)
NS: 21.8 (2021), 27.6 (2033), 29.3 (2043)
PEI: 20.3 (2021), 24.7 (2033), 26.6 (2043)

X-axis: Canada and Atlantic Provinces
Y-axis: Percentage
Legend: 2021, 2033, 2043

ACCELERATED AGING POPULATION
The Atlantic provinces have the fastest aging population in Canada...

Proportion of people aged 65 and over

Source: Statistics Canada. (2022). *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories: Interactive Dashboard*.

A COMPLEX PHENOMENON

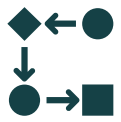Aging population affects many sectors of our society at the same time…

Technology

Transportation

Health Care

Housing

Employment

HOWEVER…

Policies on aging are developed in silos without a coherent vision of interconnecting factors…

WHY? THREE REASONS.

No Framework for Analysis
- Lack of a coherent framework to guide aging policy analysis and reforms

No Data for Policymakers
- Absence of data on aging easily accessible to policymakers

No Older Adults' Engagement
- Low level of older adults' engagement in policy research and design

CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR IN HEALTHY AGING

To explore the impact of social policy on older adults' health in provinces facing the challenges of accelerated aging population

OBJECTIF 1

To develop **policy analysis tools** to help decision-makers better **understand the impact of public policies** on the **aging population**.

OBJECTIF 2

To develop **evidence-based healthy aging policies** in the Atlantic provinces by using **interdisciplinary, intersectoral**, and **participatory** research methods.

CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR IN HEALTHY AGING

To explore the impact of social policy on older adults' health in provinces facing the challenges of accelerated aging population

OBJECTIF 1

To develop **policy analysis tools** to help decision-makers better **understand the impact of public policies** on the **aging population**.

OBJECTIF 2

To develop **evidence-based healthy aging policies** in the Atlantic provinces by using **interdisciplinary, intersectoral**, and **participatory** research methods.

Atlantic Observatory on Aging
Observatoire atlantique du vieillissement

UNB EST. 1785 UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK | Healthy Aging Policy Innovation Lab

OBSERVATORIES?

- Data centres created to "observe" a specific social phenomenon

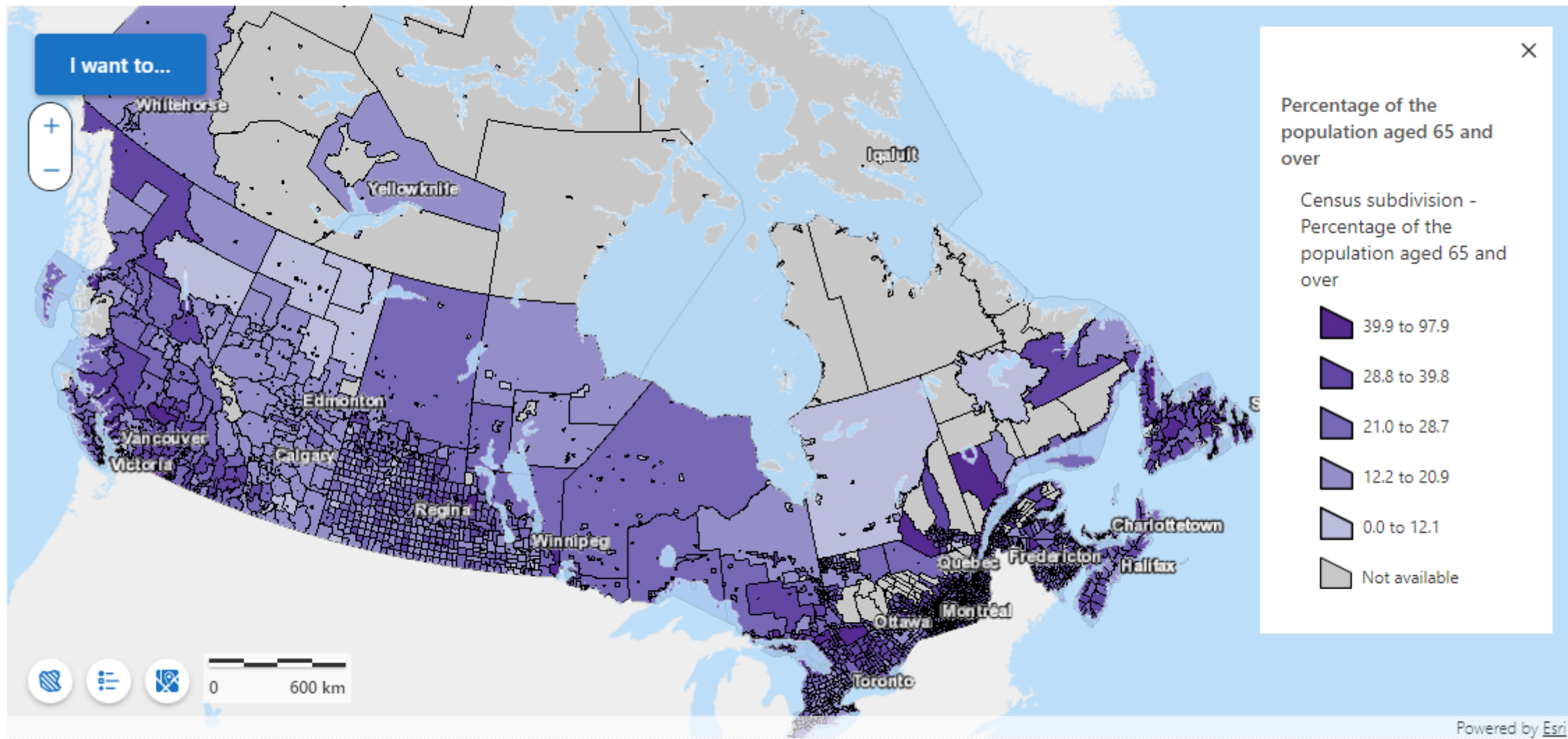- Use indicators to monitor changes and variations over time and across regions

PURPOSE OF AOA

- Tracks indicators to monitor population aging in Atlantic Canada

- Create healthy aging **community profiles** and an **interactive map data visualizations** for NB, NS, PEI, NL
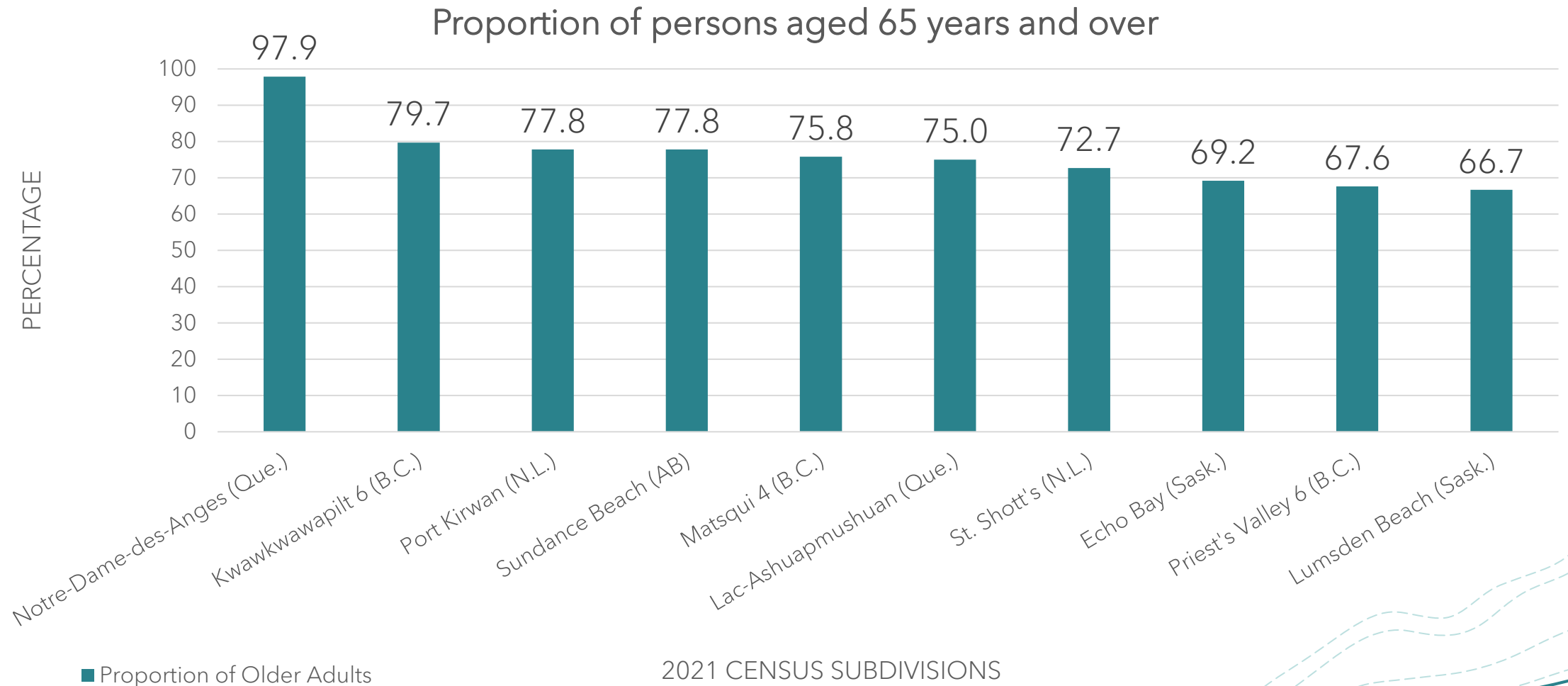
WHERE EXACTLY
ARE OLDER ADULTS?

Census Program Data Viewer

I want to...

Whitehorse
Yellowknife
Iqaluit
Edmonton
Vancouver
Victoria
Calgary
Regina
Winnipeg
Quebec
Fredericton
Charlottetown
Halifax
Ottawa
Montréal
Toronto

Percentage of the population aged 65 and over

Census subdivision - Percentage of the population aged 65 and over

■	39.9 to 97.9
■	28.8 to 39.8
■	21.0 to 28.7
■	12.2 to 20.9
■	0.0 to 12.1
■	Not available

0   600 km

Powered by Esri

Census Year   Indicator   Geographic Level   Find a Place   Reset Map   View related data
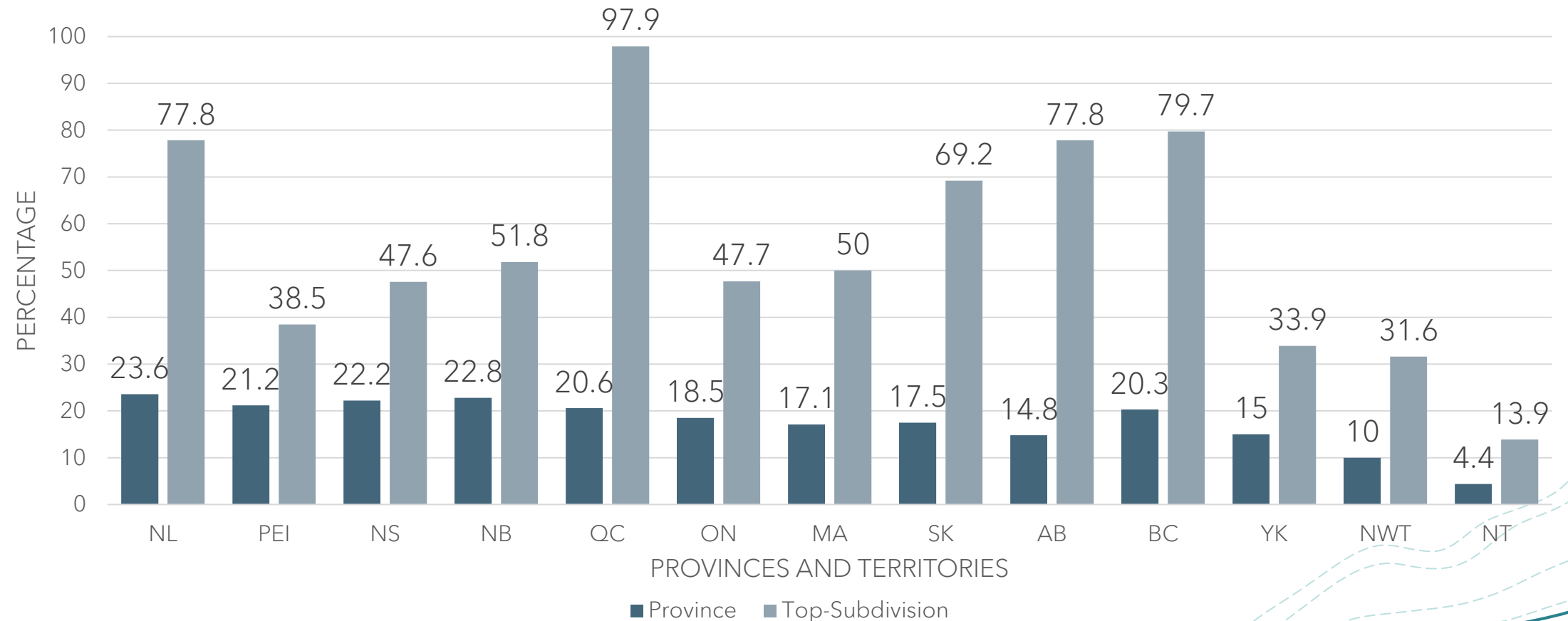
Census year: 2021 **Geographic focus of analysis:** Canada **Indicator:** Percentage of the population aged 65 and over **Geographic level:** Census subdivision

TOP-10 CENSUS SUBDIVISIONS WITH HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF OLDER ADULTS

Proportion of persons aged 65 years and over

PERCENTAGE

Census Subdivision	Percentage
Notre-Dame-des-Anges (Que.)	97.9
Kwawkwawapilt 6 (B.C.)	79.7
Port Kirwan (N.L.)	77.8
Sundance Beach (AB)	77.8
Matsqui 4 (B.C.)	75.8
Lac-Ashuapmushuan (Que.)	75.0
St. Shott's (N.L.)	72.7
Echo Bay (Sask.)	69.2
Priest's Valley 6 (B.C.)	67.6
Lumsden Beach (Sask.)	66.7

■ Proportion of Older Adults

2021 CENSUS SUBDIVISIONS

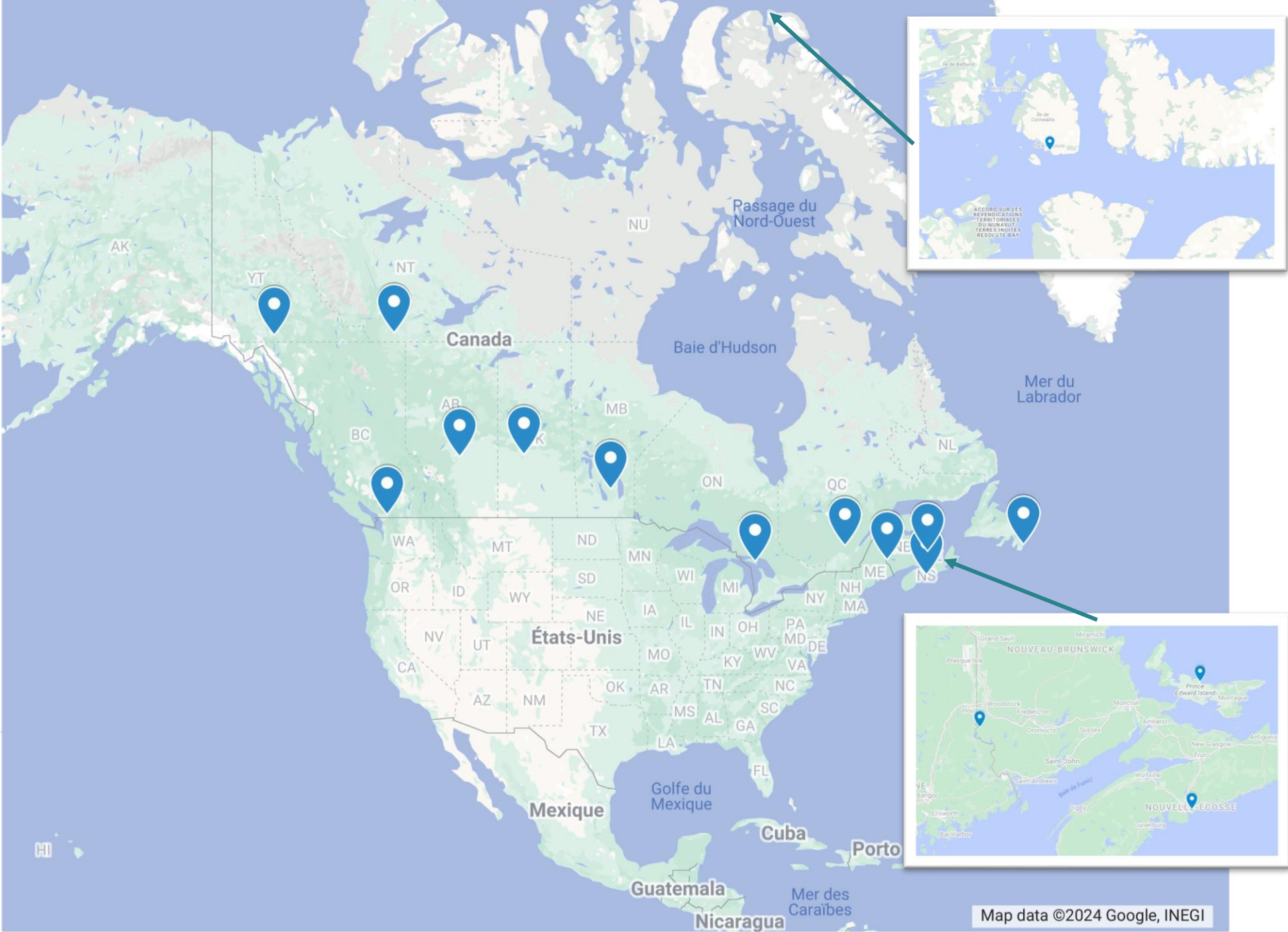# TOP-10 CENSUS SUBDIVISIONS WITH HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF OLDER ADULTS PER PROVINCES

Proportion of persons aged 65 years and over

Locations

- Port Kirwan, NL (77.8%)
- North Rustico, PEI (38.5%)
- Cole Harbour, NS (47.6%)
- North Lake, NB (51.8%)
- Notre-Dame-des-Anges, QC (97.9%)
- Manitoulin, ON (47.7%)
- Division No 18, MA (50.0%)
- Echo Bay, SK (69.2%)
- Sundance Beach, AB (77.8%)
- Kwawkwawapilt No 6, BC (79.7%)
- Tagish, YK (33.9%)
- Sambaa K'e, NWT (31.6%)
- Resolute Bay, NVT (13.9%)

Map data ©2024 Google, INEGI

FACTORS SUPPORTING HEALTHY AGING IN PLACE

HOME ENVIRONMENT

Housing type, neighbourhood poverty index

SUPPORT SERVICES

Home support, health care services, community-based support services

MOBILITY & TRANSPORTATION

Public transportation, ride share services, walkability index

INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS

Health, living alone, immigration status, language, income status

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Extreme weather, terrain, rural vs urban, climate change

FACTORS SUPPORTING HEALTHY AGING IN PLACE FINDING THE DATA

HOME ENVIRONMENT	**SUPPORT SERVICES**	**MOBILITY & TRANSPORTATION**	**INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS**	**NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**
Housing type, neighbourhood poverty index	Home support, health care services, community-based support services	Public transportation, ride share services, walkability index	Health, living alone, immigration status, language, income status	Extreme weather, terrain, rural vs urban, climate change

HOME ENVIRONMENT
- ✓ Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- ✓ Statistics Canada

SUPPORT SERVICES
- ✓ Provincial Health Authorities
- ✓ Not-for-profit organizations
- ✓ Canadian Institute for Health Information

MOBILITY & TRANSPORTATION
- ✓ Municipal Authorities
- ✓ Not-for-profit organizations
- ✓ Tech companies

INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS
- ✓ Provincial Health Authorities
- ✓ Canadian Institute for Health Information
- ✓ Statistics Canada
- ✓ CLSA

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
- ✓ Environment and Climate Change Canada
- ✓ Statistics Canada

16

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Atlantic Observatory on Aging

Observatoire atlantique du vieillissement

PLANNING SERVICES

- Mobile vaccination clinic in areas with older adults living in apartment complexes

- Improving neighbourhood walkability in areas with many assisted living facilities
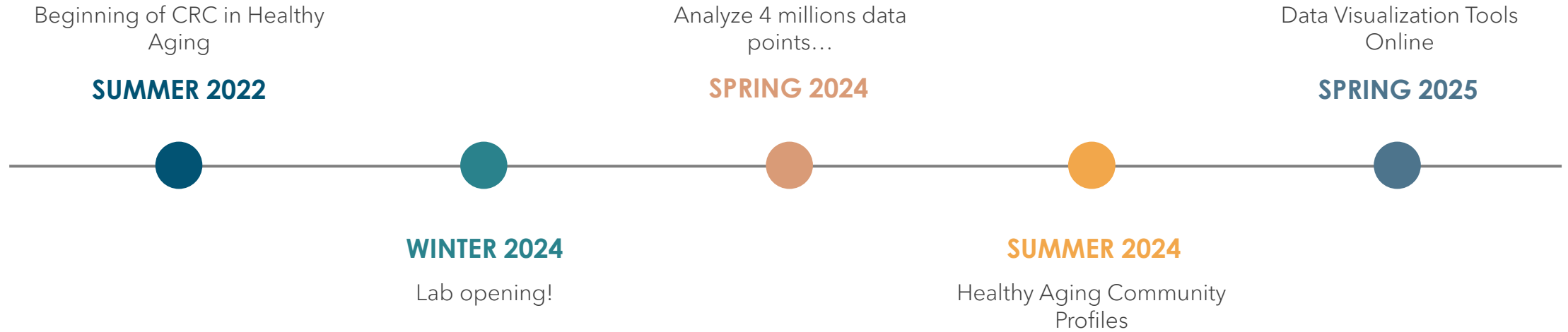
ADAPTING SERVICES

- Translate health care information documents in areas with immigrant older adults

- Hire staff speaking multiple languages and appropriate cultural training

WEATHER EMERGENCY

- Prioritize forest fires evacuation support in areas with older adults living alone

- Prioritize wellness check in rural areas with older adults after an ice storm or hurricane

17

NEXT STEPS

Beginning of CRC in Healthy Aging

Analyze 4 millions data points…

Data Visualization Tools Online

SUMMER 2022

SPRING 2024

SPRING 2025

WINTER 2024

SUMMER 2024

Lab opening!

Healthy Aging Community Profiles

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This research is undertaken, in part, thanks to funding from the Canada Research Chairs Program and with the financial and technical support of the following organizations:

THANK YOU

Catherine Bigonnesse, Ph.D.
Canada Research Chair in Healthy Aging
catherine.bigonnesse@unb.ca
(506) 453-4853

Healthy Aging Policy Innovation Lab
University of New Brunswick
Tilley Hall #221-222
healthyaginglab@unb.ca
(506) 447-3474
https://unb.ca/fredericton/arts/centres/healthyaging