

# High number of Canadians head to Metro Vancouver

By Michael Mui, 24 Hours Vancouver

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Another 9,000 people from other provinces are moving to the West Coast. FILE PHOTO

Metro Vancouver's monthly regional planning update suggests the region will be getting an above average boost to its population thanks to residents in other provinces choosing to move to the West Coast.

According to the update, the region can expect about 34,000 new immigrants from out of country, and another 9,000 from other provinces in 2015.

Mustafa Ahmad, a settlement worker with MOSAIC, said on Tuesday it's often poor weather in other parts of Canada — along with job opportunities or family connections — that bring out of province residents to B.C.

"It's all the costs associated with the weather and some people, maybe they don't adapt so well. When it's cold, you need extra clothes, you need extra tires if you're driving," he said.

"They're more willing to pay extra money, here it's not cheap, the rent, just to avoid the other factors."

Often those he sees migrating west are young families with children, typically looking for someplace affordable but close to the Vancouver core.

Michelle Farina, president and managing broker with Advent Vancouver, a residential rental service, said she often sees people

moving in from Alberta and Ontario.

“People move here for school at this time of year, on a few applications — two of them — just said the winters are too damn cold,” Farina said.

“There’s a lot more outdoors, there’s a lot more recreational activities here than other cities I think, people are drawn to the mountains and the skiing and the water.”