

Northern Policy Institute will host the the State of the North Conference in Timmins on Sept. 27 and 28.

State of the North is an annual conference that brings together members of the general public, decision-makers, community leaders, experts, and innovators to explore the state of Northern Ontario from an economic, social, and environmental perspective.

"Each year, Northern Policy Institute will provide an annual update on the state of the North by offering reporting on a set of environmental, social and economic indicators that we will define and select in partnership with our communities," Charles Cirtwill, president and CEO of the Northern Policy Institute, said in a press release. "It's time to take what we have learned and step forward into solution based discussions."

This year's theme is Responding to Northern Ontario's Demographic Shift.

"Northern Ontario is facing a combination of a declining and aging population," the institute said in a release. "At the same time, the Indigenous population is young and growing, representing important opportunities for the Northern regions of the province. These demographic shifts will have significant implications on Northern Ontario's economy and society, impacting the long term sustainability of all 11 districts in the region."

Held at the Ramada Inn, the conference will address these challenges by exploring evidence-based solutions focusing on the roles that migration, cross-cultural engagement with Indigenous communities and local governance can have on improving the sustainability of Northern Ontario.

The non-partisan event will feature multidisciplinary researchers and authors recognized in their fields of study. The conference will also include opportunities for networking, and interactive tools to facilitate conversation across Northern Ontario and beyond.

To join the conversation on social media, use the hashtag #StateOfTheNorth

Registration is open at www.stateofthenorth.ca.

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