



NEWS LOCAL

Aging, declining population focus of Timmins conference



By [Ron Grech](#), The Daily Press (Timmins)

Wednesday, July 12, 2017 9:27:38 EDT PM



Northern Policy Institute president and CEO Charles Cirtwill.

TIMMINS - The aging and declining population of Northern Ontario and its impact on local industry and on the region's economy will be the focus of a conference being hosted by the Northern Policy Institute.

That conference is being held in Timmins Sept. 27 and 28.

“If you take a look at both the demographic trends and the impact it is having on employment levels, the ability to find workers and the ability to find investors, what we're finding is instead of businesses being purchased and entrepreneurs being replaced by the next generation, they are closing because there is no one there to buy those businesses,” Charles Cirtwill, president and chief executive of the Northern Policy Institute, told The Daily Press. “So as a result, not only does the business disappear, the service for the community disappears and the employment opportunities disappear.”

The theme of the conference is “Responding to Northern Ontario’s Demographic Shift.”

Cirtwill said the two-day conference being held at the Ramada Inn will provide an opportunity to share information and gather input.

He is hoping for a wide range of attendees including elected politicians, political staff, senior and junior public servants, as well as students and interested members of the public.

He is also counting on representatives from grassroots organizations, social services, workforce and planning boards.

“It is intended for the broadest possible audience and the richer the mix, the better the conversation and I think the stronger the conclusions are in the end,” said Cirtwill.

“We will start with a session by myself outlining some of the metrics we have got on growth trends in Northern Ontario, likely broken down by the various 11 census districts” across the North east to west, and then south to Parry Sound. “Then that information will be used to set the table for conversation over the next two days, around responses to it, primarily focused on the demographic shift and potential responses including migration, increased cooperation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, and local governments.”

Online registration for the conference is available at www.stateofthenorth.ca.

Asked to define NPI, Cirtwill said they are an “independent evidence-based research institute” focused on Northern Ontario issues.