



For Immediate Release

## **Local Data is helping Communities in Northwestern Ontario tell their own Stories at the very Local Level**

**May 17, 2017** – The *Community Labour Market Report Series* – a partnership between Northern Policy Institute and the North Superior Workforce Planning Board – Your Local Employment Planning Council, has now contributed to evidence-based conversations in 20 communities across Northwestern Ontario, by providing collected data in a model that allows for – and encourages - local knowledge and perspectives.

Access to current, baseline information has been identified as one of the key barriers for Northern Ontario communities and decision makers. Data on indicators such as employment by industry, labour force participation and population levels, play an important role as starting points for effective decision making. *But it is only one piece of the puzzle.*

Data can tell different stories from different perspectives. It is now up to communities to take this information, and use it in addition to local experiences, when tackling challenges and exploring unique opportunities from their own assessment of needs on the ground.

These reports are just the first step. To date, the following 20 communities have been profiled:

Aroland First Nation	Gull Bay First Nation
Biigtigong Nishnaabeg / Pic River First Nation	Neebing
Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek / Rocky Bay First Nation	O'Connor
Conmee	Oliver Paipoonge
Dorion	Red Rock Indian Band
Eabametoong / Fort Hope First Nation	Schreiber
Fort William First Nation	Shuniah
Gillies	Terrace Bay
Ginoogaming First Nation	City of Thunder Bay
Greenstone	Webequie First Nation

In order to get a better sense of how effective these reports are at supporting communities, we're looking for your feedback and comments, including additional measures to add. People are encouraged to take a short survey by visiting [www.northernpolicy.ca/clmrseries](http://www.northernpolicy.ca/clmrseries)

Once this series is complete later this year, communities across the entire Northern Ontario region will be able to access local data on an ongoing basis through a new online portal, Community Accounts. The portal, led by Northern Policy Institute with the support of community partners, will provide reliable information on key economic and social indicators broken down to



the community, regional, provincial and national levels over census years 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016.

“Community Accounts will provide users with a single, comprehensive source of community, regional, and provincial data that would normally be too expensive to obtain, not readily available, or too time consuming to retrieve and compile.” said NPI President & CEO, Charles Cirtwill. “In addition to the *Community Labour Market Report Series*, this information will be extremely useful for trending, forecasting and analysis, when planning for the growth of Northern Ontario.”

Reports are available for download at [www.northernpolicy.ca](http://www.northernpolicy.ca) or [www.nswpb.ca/lepc](http://www.nswpb.ca/lepc). For the complete list of communities being profiled within the NSWB catchment area, please visit: [www.nswpb.ca/about/communities](http://www.nswpb.ca/about/communities)

**Media Interviews:** NPI President & CEO, Charles Cirtwill is available for comment.

To arrange an interview, please contact:

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**About Northern Policy Institute:**

*Northern Policy Institute is Northern Ontario's independent think tank. We perform research, collect and disseminate evidence, and identify policy opportunities to support the growth of sustainable Northern communities. Our operations are located in Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury. We seek to enhance Northern Ontario's capacity to take the lead position on socio-economic policy that impacts Northern Ontario, Ontario, and Canada as a whole.*