



For Immediate Release

Time to Reorganize Northern Ontario's Unincorporated Areas

February 18, 2021 – In Northern Ontario living outside city limits has drawbacks other than your road being the last to be plowed. Unincorporated areas have a slew of problems ranging from who pays for local services to who decides what services locals get. Northern Policy Institute has released a new report about the challenges of unincorporated areas and possible solutions for local governance.

Time to Reorganize: Why Northern Ontario Should Follow BC's Lead in Local Governance by Anthony Noga examines unincorporated areas in Ontario's North and how they interact with municipalities and First Nations communities. The author was asked to explore how to enhance local government accountability, fairness, and sustainability in Northern Ontario. The author also conducted a specific case study of Terrace Bay, Schrieber, and Rosspport (Pays Plat) in Northwestern Ontario as part of his analysis.

Noga looks at evidence from across Canada, including the experience with similar rural and remote challenges in British Columbia and New Brunswick. Noga recommends that Ontario look at British Columbia's Regional Districts (RD's) as the optimal solution. RD's are a form of regional governance that was designed to address the same issues this study looked at. RDs have operated successfully for over 50 years, are flexible to local needs, appear to lower costs and raise service levels, and foster collaboration among municipal, unincorporated, and First Nations communities.

The report has 12 recommendations on how to best implement Regional Districts in Ontario to ensure that the system is flexible and adaptable to the unique circumstances of each region.

"Ninety-three per cent of Northern Ontario's landmass falls into unincorporated areas," said Charles Cirtwill, President and CEO of NPI, "BC has delivered significant improvements through their Regional Districts. This shouldn't be ignored. Ontario should be looking at a solution that improves governance, enhances investment and population attraction, controls costs over time, and delivers sustainable services."

Want to learn more, read the report here:

<https://www.northernpolicy.ca/unincorporated-areas>



Media Interviews: NPI President & CEO Charles Cirtwill and NPI Research Manager Rachel Rizzuto are available for comment. To arrange an interview, please contact:

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About the Author:

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Anthony Noga is a former Policy Analyst for Northern Policy Institute. He was born in Thunder Bay and grew up in the city's rural outskirts. After graduating from Lakehead University with an HBA in History and Political Science, he spent time volunteering with an economic development agency in Israel before getting his Master of Arts in Political Science from the University of Waterloo. This paper was completed prior to Anthony joining the public service. Any views expressed in the paper are his own and are not reflective of his current employer

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 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.