

NORTHERN
POLICY INSTITUTE

INSTITUT DES POLITIQUES
DU NORD

**ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CONTINUING
EDUCATION SCHOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATORS**

PRESIDENT & CEO, CHARLES CIRTWILL

20 APRIL 2015, RAMADA HOTEL, TORONTO



What IS Northern Policy Institute

Independent -

There are a couple of **BIG** differences between “working **WITH** a Policy Institute” and “**HIRING** a consultant”: we don’t work for you and we can’t guarantee an answer you will like.

Independent means just that –

- Funders, members and stakeholders do not direct the work of Northern Policy Institute.
- Board, funders, members and stakeholders do not “pick” projects or pre-determine results.
- Staff and contract authors follow the evidence
 - Northern Policy Institute does NOT take positions – we ask the questions – the authors provide, and defend, the answers.
 - Their analysis is tested before publication: Double blind peer review – just like academic journals.

780,000 bosses

We work for and take direction from the people of Northern Ontario.

Over 100 meetings and events in the past twelve months throughout Northern Ontario and beyond. Top ten issues:

1. Cost of electricity: WAY too high.
2. Need for partnership and collaboration among our communities.
3. Importance of the issues and challenges facing aboriginal communities.
4. Who decides our fate?
5. Our communities are dying; How do we sustain them and keep people in (attract new people to) the North?
6. Infrastructure: transportation and communication.
7. Protecting/understanding/reflecting the northern way of life.
8. Training – access and relevance to local opportunities.
9. Do we really know ourselves? Data and measurement.
10. Where does all the money from the North go?

Engaging with our communities



“Doug” - Egli’s Sheep Farm, April 2015



Northern Policy Institute staff visit Queen Elizabeth High, Sioux Lookout, 2014



James Cuddy, Transportation Roundtable with Parliamentary Secretary, Sudbury 2014

Northern Policy Institute Board visits Weyerhaeuser, Kenora, 2015



Three ways YOUR issue gets on OUR to-do list



1. Research if necessary:

Northern Policy Institute standing consultation tools will be used to inform, test and reset our internal research agenda and priorities. If your issue is shared by your friends and neighbours, it will likely get onto our to-do list.

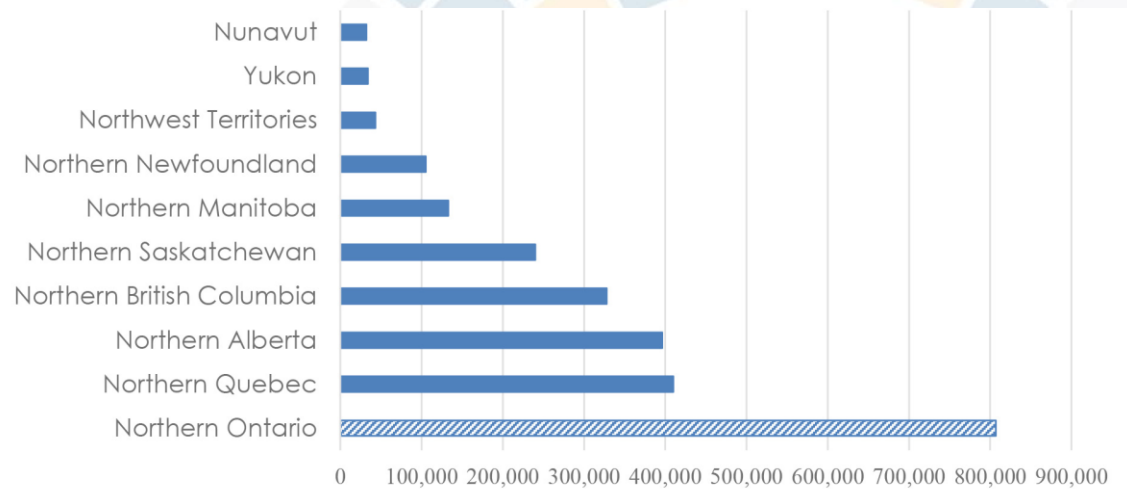
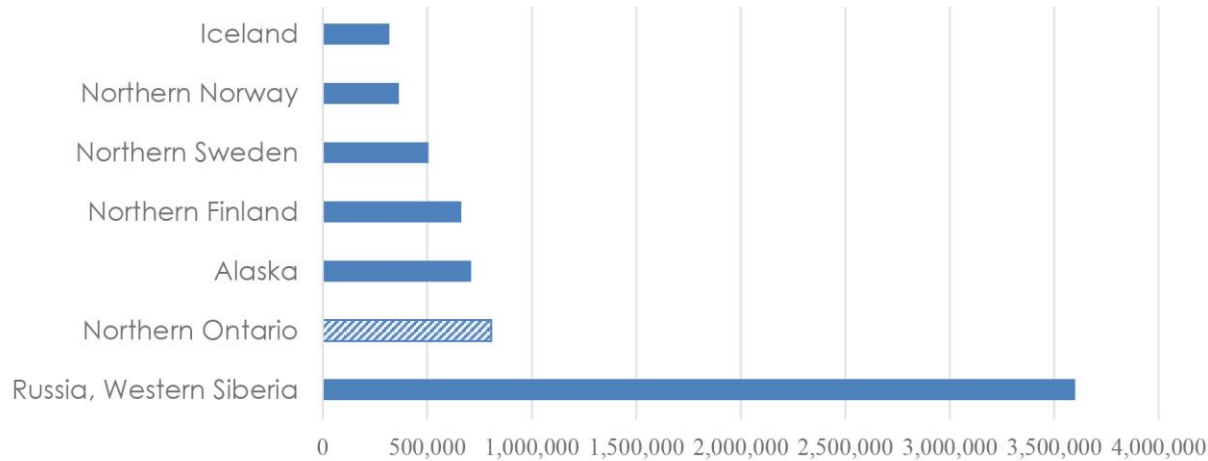
2. But not necessarily research:

YOU do the work, commission the study, and you send it to us for re-publication or dissemination. Big parts of our job involve avoiding wasteful duplication of effort and getting the word out about what has already been done.

3. Working WITH Northern Policy Institute:

NOT a consulting service, but will partner – in cash, or in kind – to expedite needed work.

NO - a big part of the global “north”



Northern Ontario is growing – in places

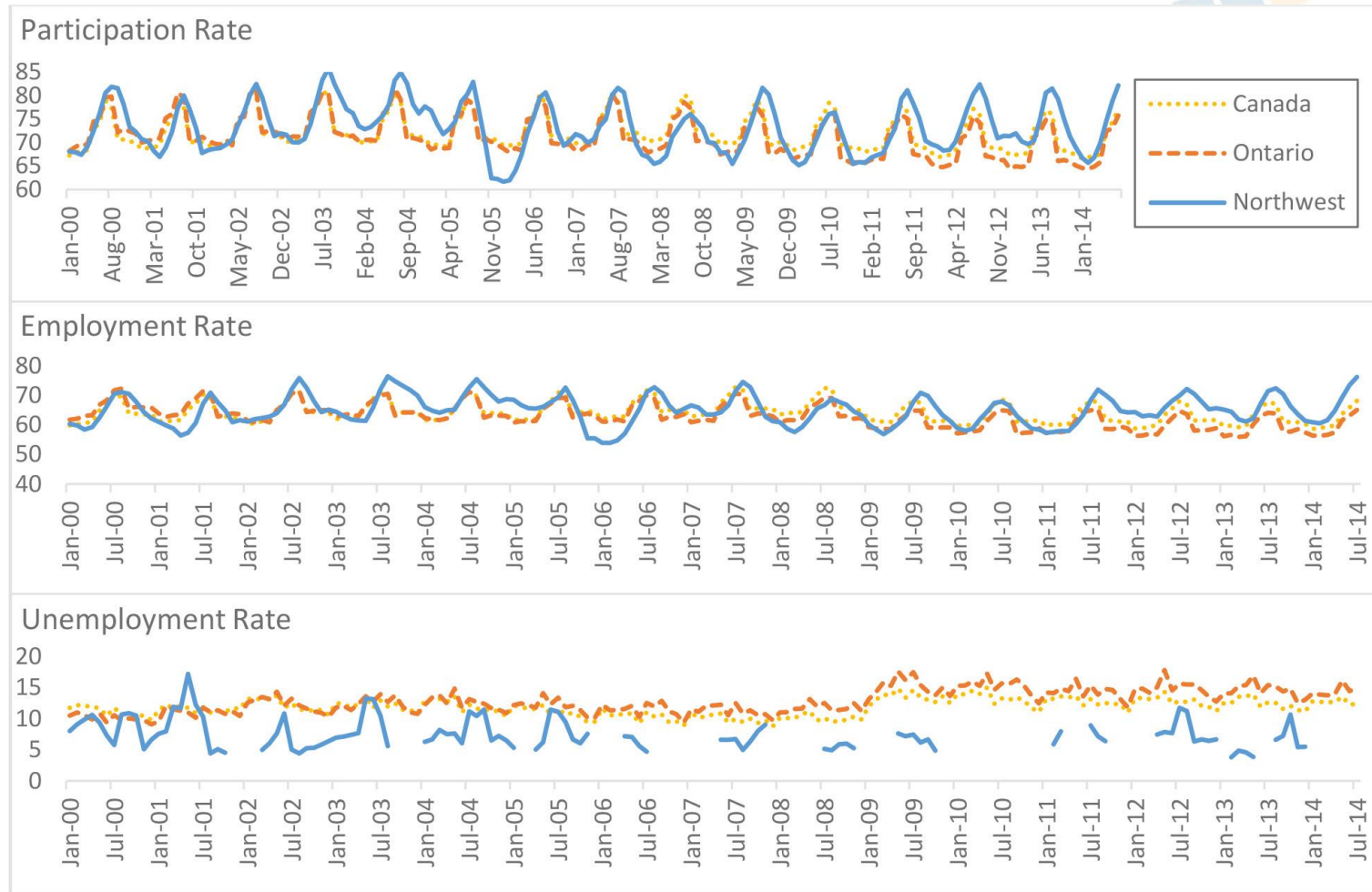
	Population		Population Change	
	2001	2013	Difference	Percent
Manitoulin	12,713	13,538	825	6.5
Kenora	66,526	70,002	3,476	5.2
Parry Sound	41,201	43,077	1,876	4.6
Greater Sudbury	161,146	165,087	3,941	2.4
Nipissing	86,313	87,362	1,049	1.2
Thunder Bay	157,034	149,604	-7,430	-4.7
Algoma	123,763	117,600	-6,163	-5.0
Timiskaming	35,700	33,509	-2,191	-6.1
Cochrane	89,509	82,289	-7,220	-8.1
Rainy River	22,943	20,166	-2,777	-12.1
Sudbury	24,202	21,086	-3,116	-12.9
Northern Ontario	823,051	805,333	-17,718	-2.2

Northeast outperforms Northwest

- Educational attainment for the Aboriginal population is much higher in the NE than the NW.
- Average income for everyone is higher in the NE than the NW.
- Dependency on government transfers is lower in the rural NE than in the rural NW.
- Participation rates are higher and unemployment rates lower in the very rural and remote parts of the NE than in the NW.
- There is a higher percentage of rural income earners in the NE than the NW (more people have jobs).
- There is greater economic activity in strongly rural areas in the NE than the NW.

Why? Think CONNECTIVITY

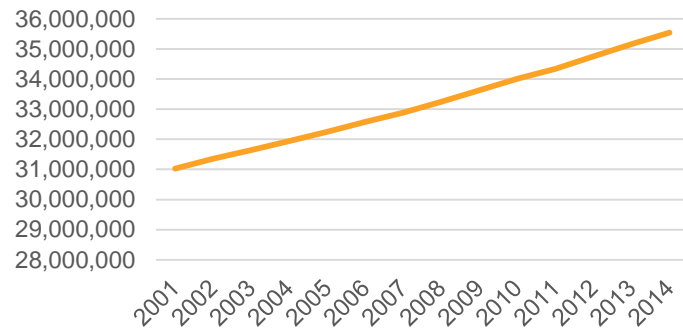
Good news – for young people in the NW



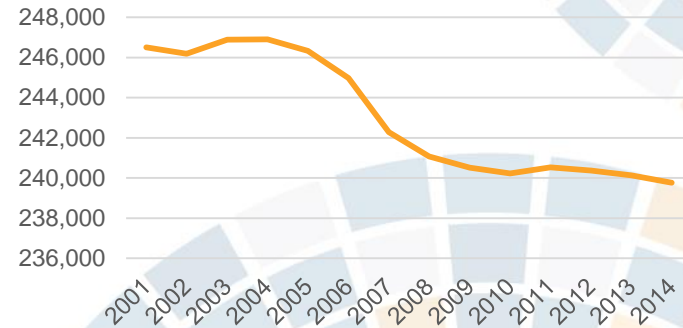
Source: *Settling Down in the Northwest*, Northern Policy Institute 2015

Population estimates, 2001 to 2014

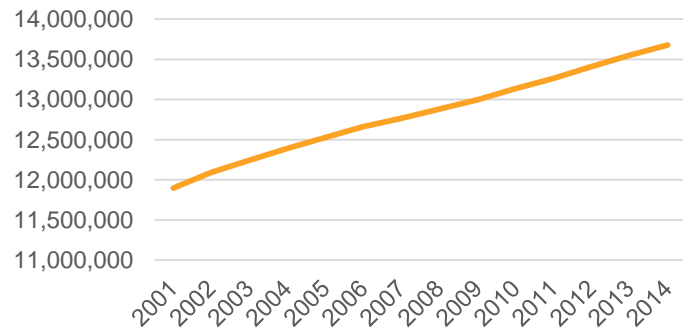
Canada



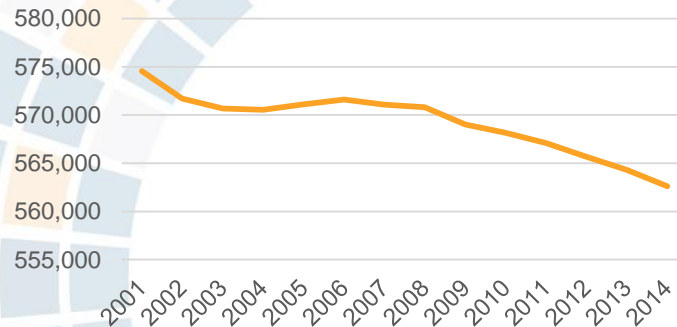
Northwest Ontario



Ontario

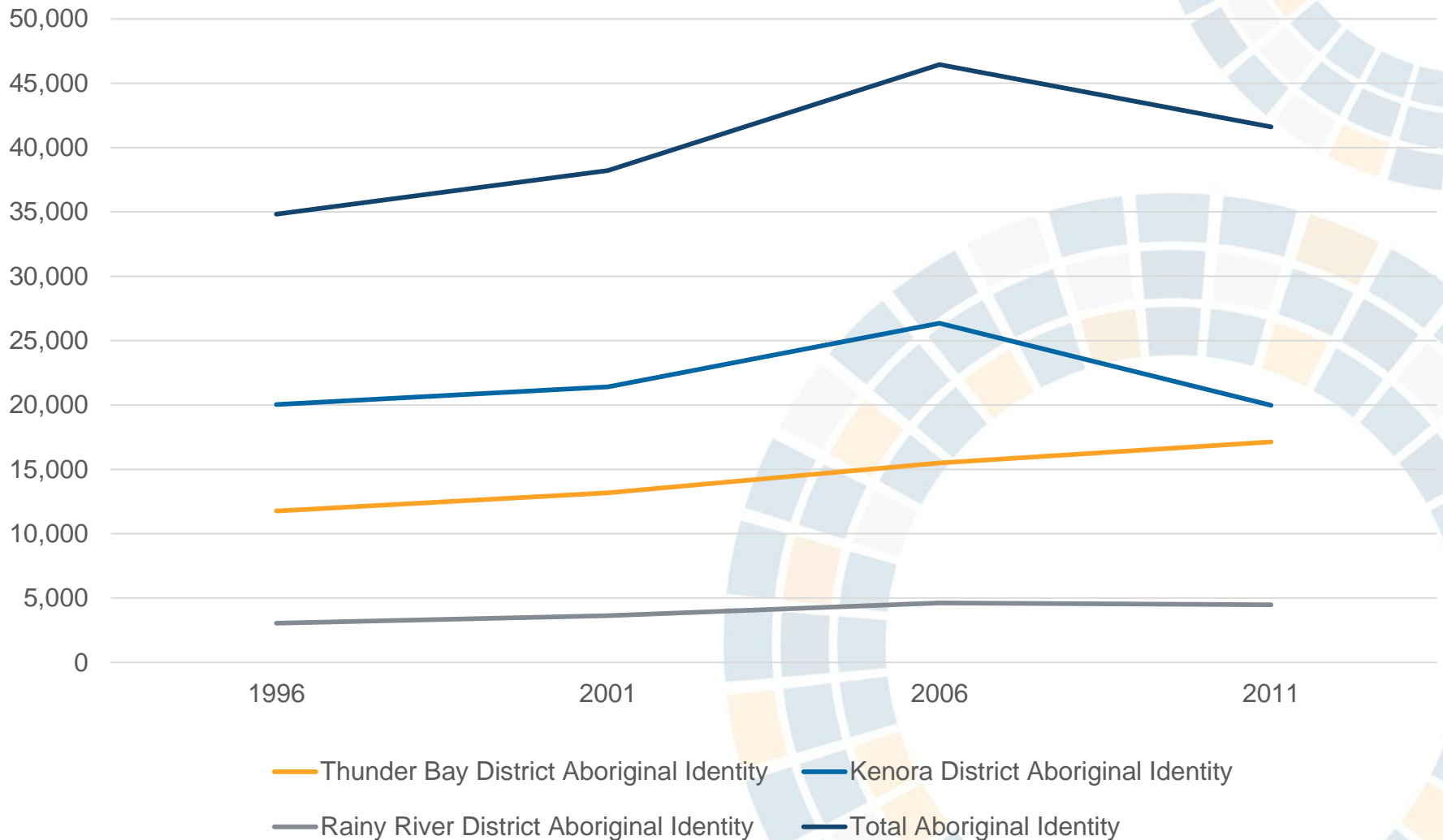


Northeast Ontario



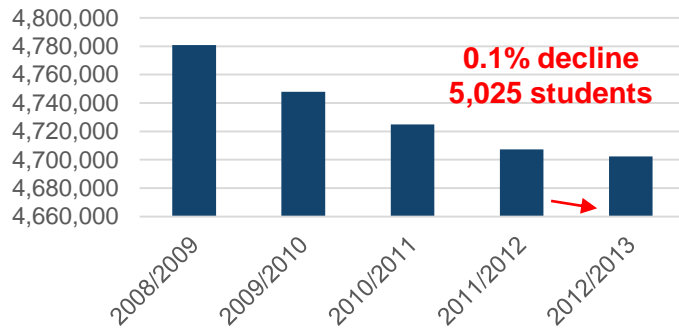
Aboriginal population stabilizing in NW?

Aboriginal Population by District



Elementary and secondary school enrolment is falling

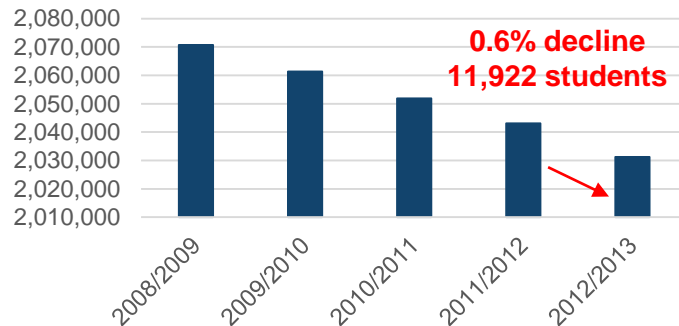
Canada



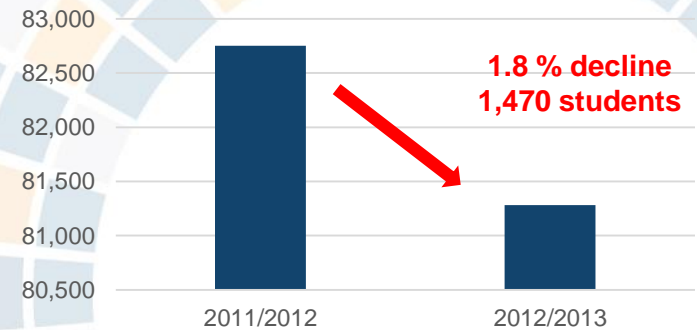
Northwest Ontario



Ontario

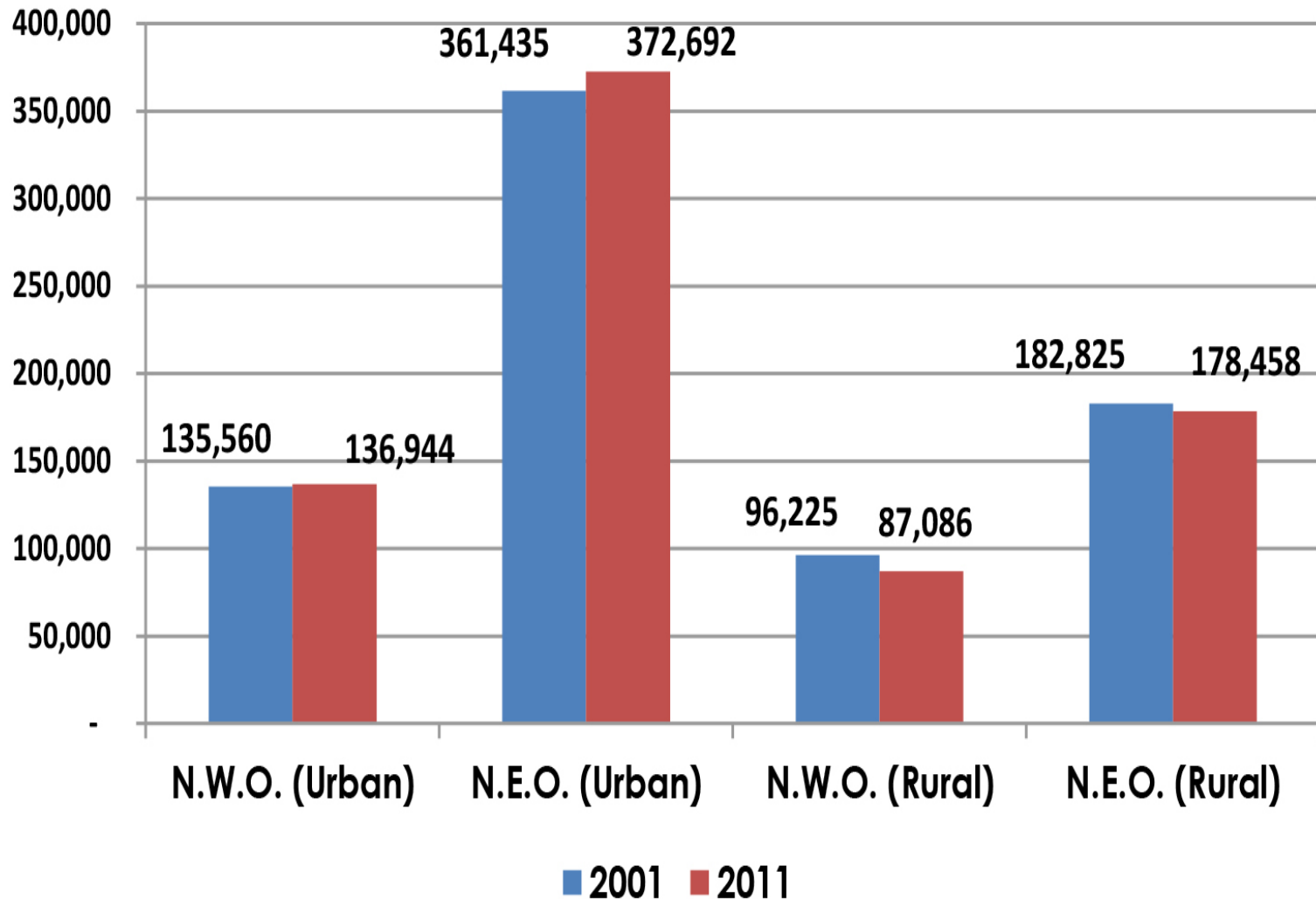


Northeast Ontario



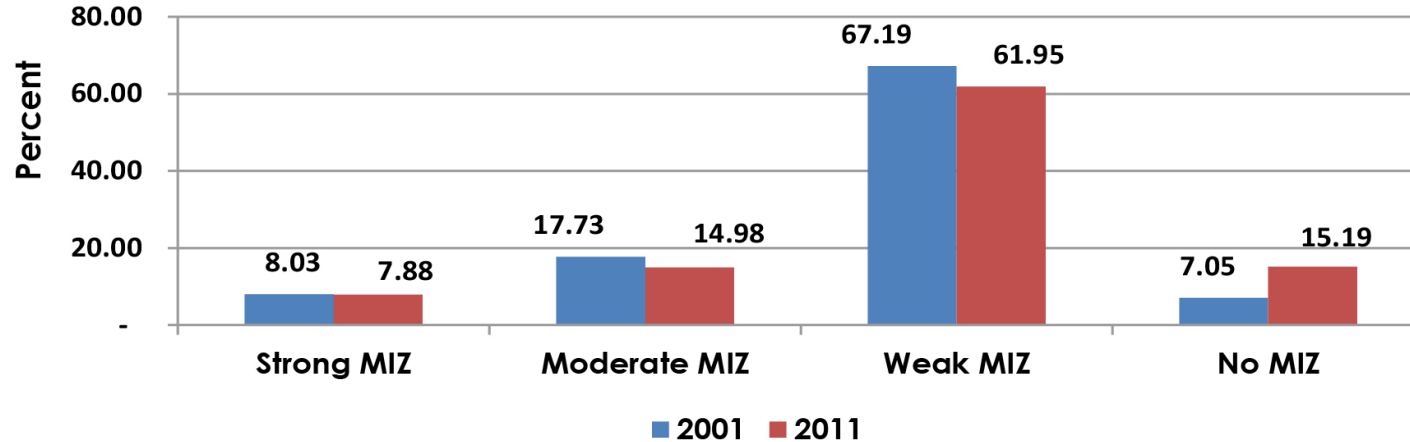
Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 477-0037; Ontario Ministry of Education

The north is urbanizing too

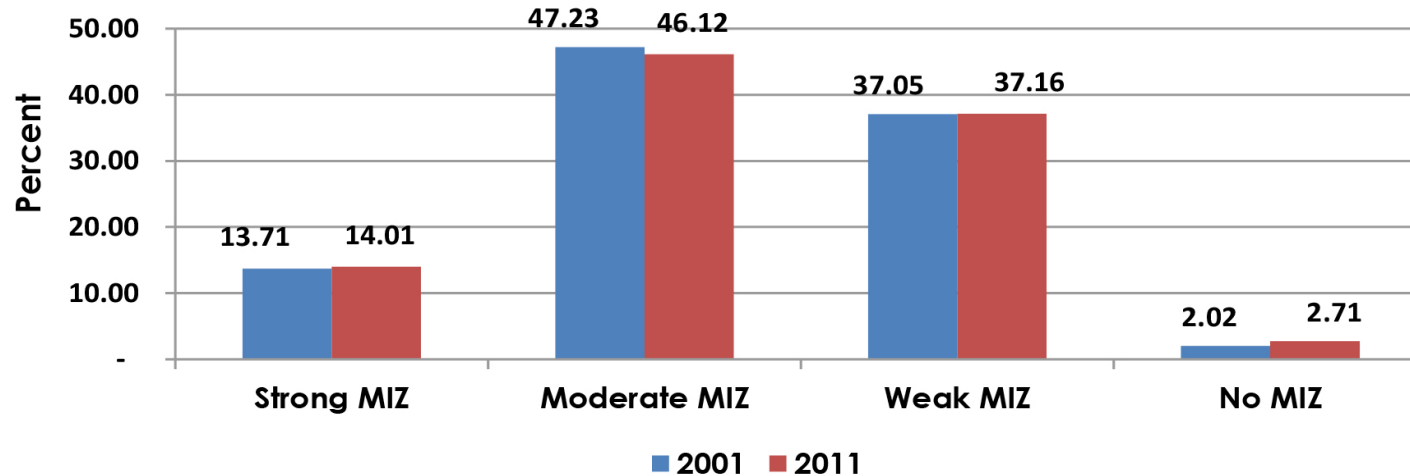


Rural is more remote – esp. in NW

Northwestern Ontario



Northeastern Ontario

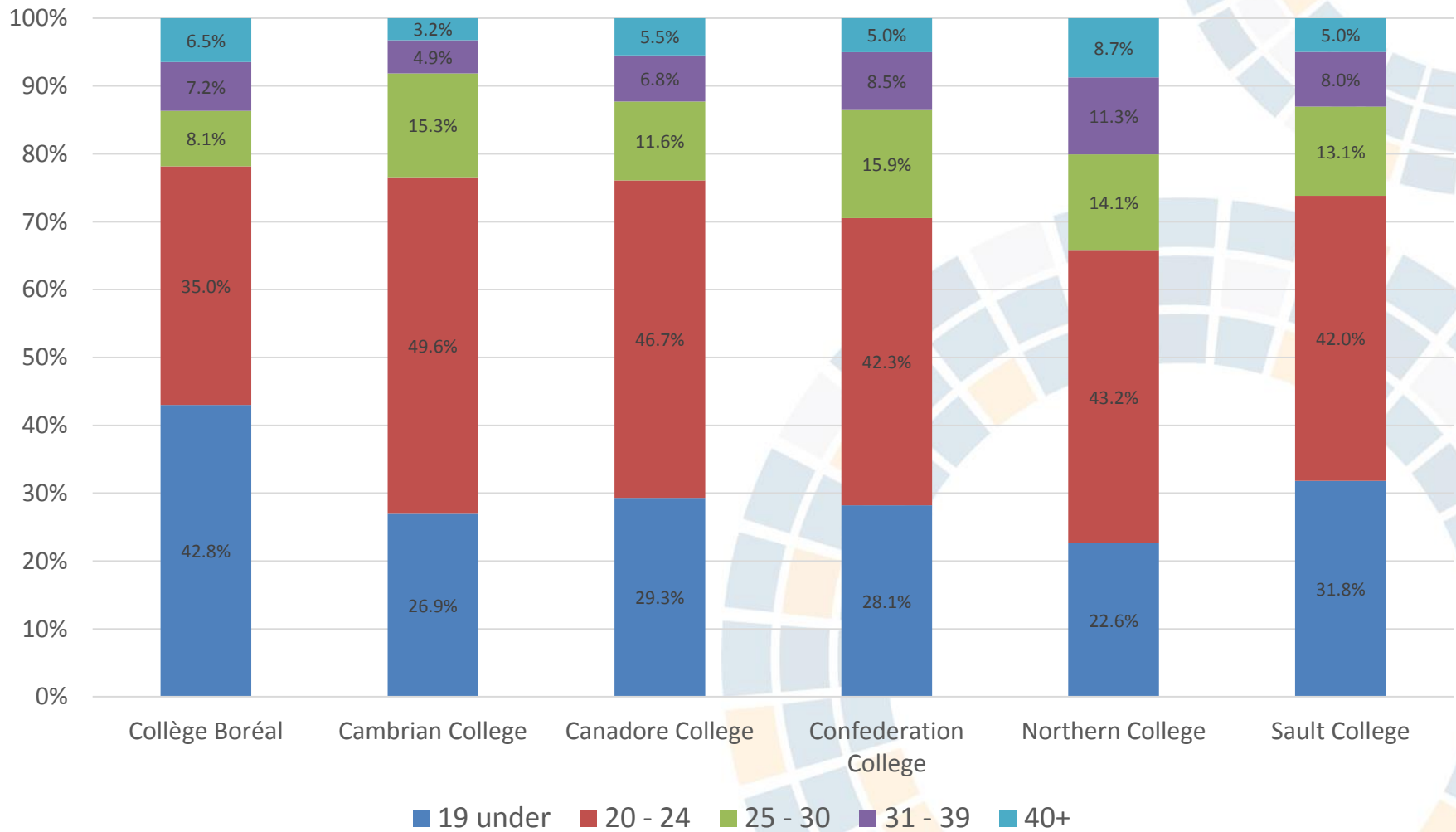


Distance matters

Using nation-wide data, Frenette (2002) used econometric analysis to show that, after controlling for family income, parental education, and other factors associated with university participation, students living “out-of-commuting distance” are far less likely to attend than students living “within commuting distance” are. Students beyond 40 km from a university (35% of the student population) are only 63% as likely to attend university shortly after high school as students living within 40 km from a university. Students living beyond 80 km from a university are only 58% as likely to attend as students living within 40km.

Frenette (2003) finds that students living near a college only are more likely to attend college than those living near both a university and a college.

The Northern Colleges are getting “greyer”



Still – our education levels are rising

Census 2006	Less than highschool %	Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma %	College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma %	University certificate, diploma or degree
Northwestern Ontario	30.1%	11.2%	18.6%	12.1%
Northeastern Ontario	28.8%	11.4%	21.0%	11.1%
Ontario	22.2%	8.0%	18.4%	20.5%
NHS 2011	Less than highschool %	Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma %	College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma %	University certificate, diploma or degree (at or above bachelor level)
Northwestern Ontario	25.2%	11.3%	21.3%	14.4%
Northeastern Ontario	23.8%	11.3%	23.7%	13.1%
Ontario	18.7%	7.4%	19.8%	23.4%

A word of warning – supply side risk

Working Age Population (20-64)	1996	2015	2025	2035	Difference from 2015-2025
Canada (x1000)	17458.5	22229.2	22667.5	23391.6	1162.4
Ontario (x1000)	6507.2	8545.3	8762	8898.6	353.3
Northwestern Ontario	142775	145480	134110	124770	-20710
Northeastern Ontario	246605	335310	303110	279330	-55980
Thunder Bay	94,365	93190	84120	77720	-15470

Sources:

1996 Census.

CANSIM Table 052-0005.

Statistics Canada/Ministry of Finance- *Ontario Population Projections Update, 2012-2036.*

Coming soon

- Northeastern labour force (demand side)
- Federal Economic Agenda – for Ontario and for Northern Ontario
- Northeastern, Northwestern and Northern Ontario GDP
- FedNor organizational design
- How to empower Northern Ontario
- Culturally safe instruction for public educators – building on Thunder Bay's success with aboriginal students
- Northbynumbers.ca
- First Nations entrepreneurship – the Harvard project in NO

Know the North

Statscan knows a little:

- 2 summer interns
- Drill down (to postal codes) then build up (to community level)

Collectively, we know a lot:

- 6 summer interns – **will be calling YOU**
- Municipalities, First Nations Communities, Aboriginal Groups, Economic Development Agencies, Research Institutes, Unions, Chambers and other Community/ Grassroots Organizations
 - What do you know? – your data
 - How do you know it? – your tools, your timing (one time or cyclical?)
 - Common tools - provincial surveys, common questions, common measures
 - Examples: chamber and municipal satisfaction surveys, Sioux Lookout mining permit survey, Kenora growth project, Thunder Bay index, everything you ask or know about your community

The KEY – open honest sharing of information

Get involved!

Many ways to contribute to the work of
Northern Policy Institute:

- **Stay informed:** blog, twitter, Facebook, website, e-newsletter
- **Participate:** stakeholder discussions (like this one), on-line consultation, direct meetings, speaker invitations
- **Volunteer:** Board of Directors, Advisory Council, Research Advisory Board
- **Paid:** author, reader, researcher, senior fellow

Thank you. Merci. Miigwetch.

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