

**NORTHERN**  
POLICY INSTITUTE

INSTITUT DES POLITIQUES  
**DU NORD**

***TIMMINS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE***

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# What IS Northern Policy Institute?

- We do measurement – what has happened, what is happening
- And forecasting – what is **LIKELY** to happen
- And education - for politicians, public servants and the general public

# NOT a “lobby group”

- “Think tank”
  - Independent – authors are free from interference from everyone, including us
  - Non-partisan – we do not take “sides”
  - Evidence based – we collect, measure and interpret data
  - IN the North – we deal with local, regional, provincial, national and international issues from a northern perspective

# Independent

There is a BIG difference between:

- “working WITH a Policy Institute” and “HIRING a consultant”

Independent means just that –

- Funders, members and stakeholders do not direct the work of Northern Policy Institute
- Board does not “pick” projects or pre-determine results
- Staff and contract authors are independent
- Double blind peer review – just like academic journals
- Northern Policy Institute does NOT take positions – we ask the questions – the authors provide, and defend, the answers

# We try to engage with anyone who asks



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



Northern Policy Institute staff visit QE High, Sioux Lookout, 2014

The NOOOOVAAASSS, Timmins, 2014



NPI Board visits Weyerhaeuser, Kenora, April 2015



# Three ways YOUR issue gets on OUR to-do list

## 1. Research if necessary:

NPI 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 NPI:

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

# 780,000 bosses

We have held over 100 meetings and events in the past twelve months throughout Northern Ontario and beyond.

## Consistent Top Issues:

- Cost of gasoline: too high for no apparent reason.
- Cost of electricity: WAY too high.
- Where does all the money from the North go?
- Our communities are dying; How do we sustain them and keep people in (attract new people to) the North?
- Who decides our fate?
- You can't get there from here; transportation.
- Need for partnership and collaboration among our communities.
- Importance of the issues and challenges facing aboriginal communities.
- Protecting/understanding/reflecting the northern way of life.

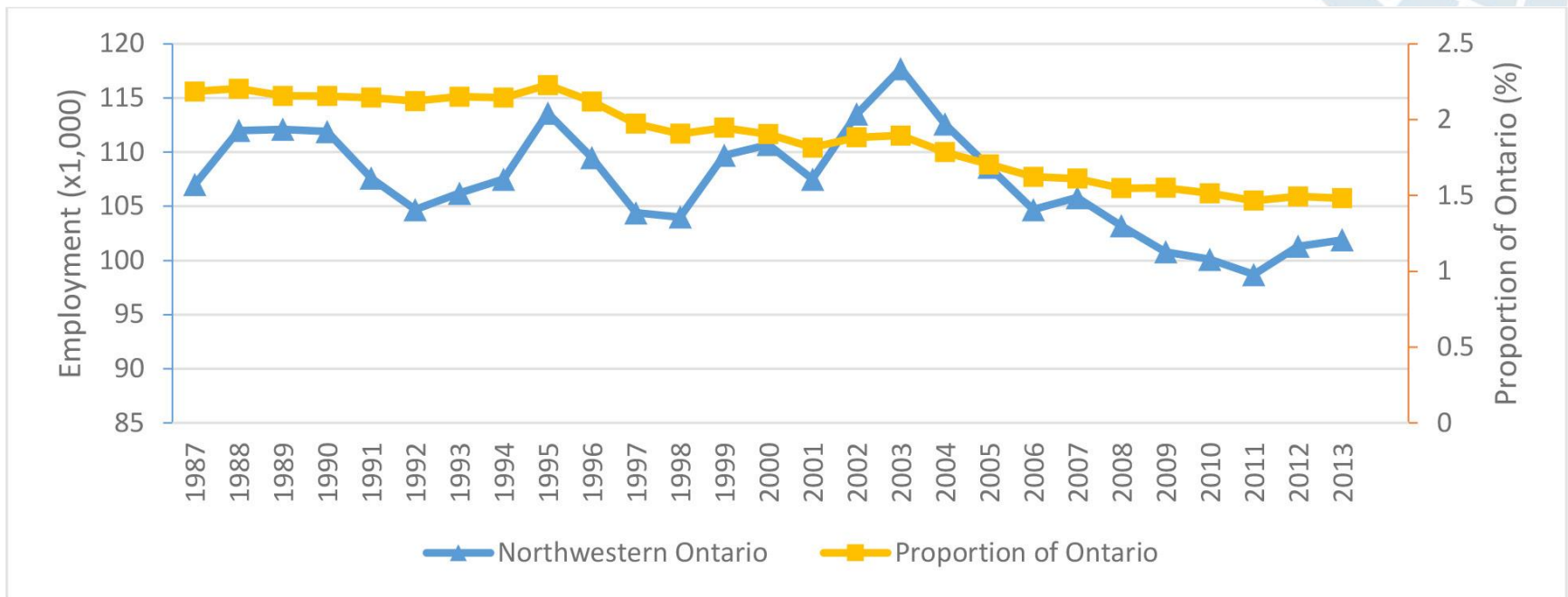
# The North is growing – in places

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

Source: Diversify, Innovate, Invest & Grow NPI 2015

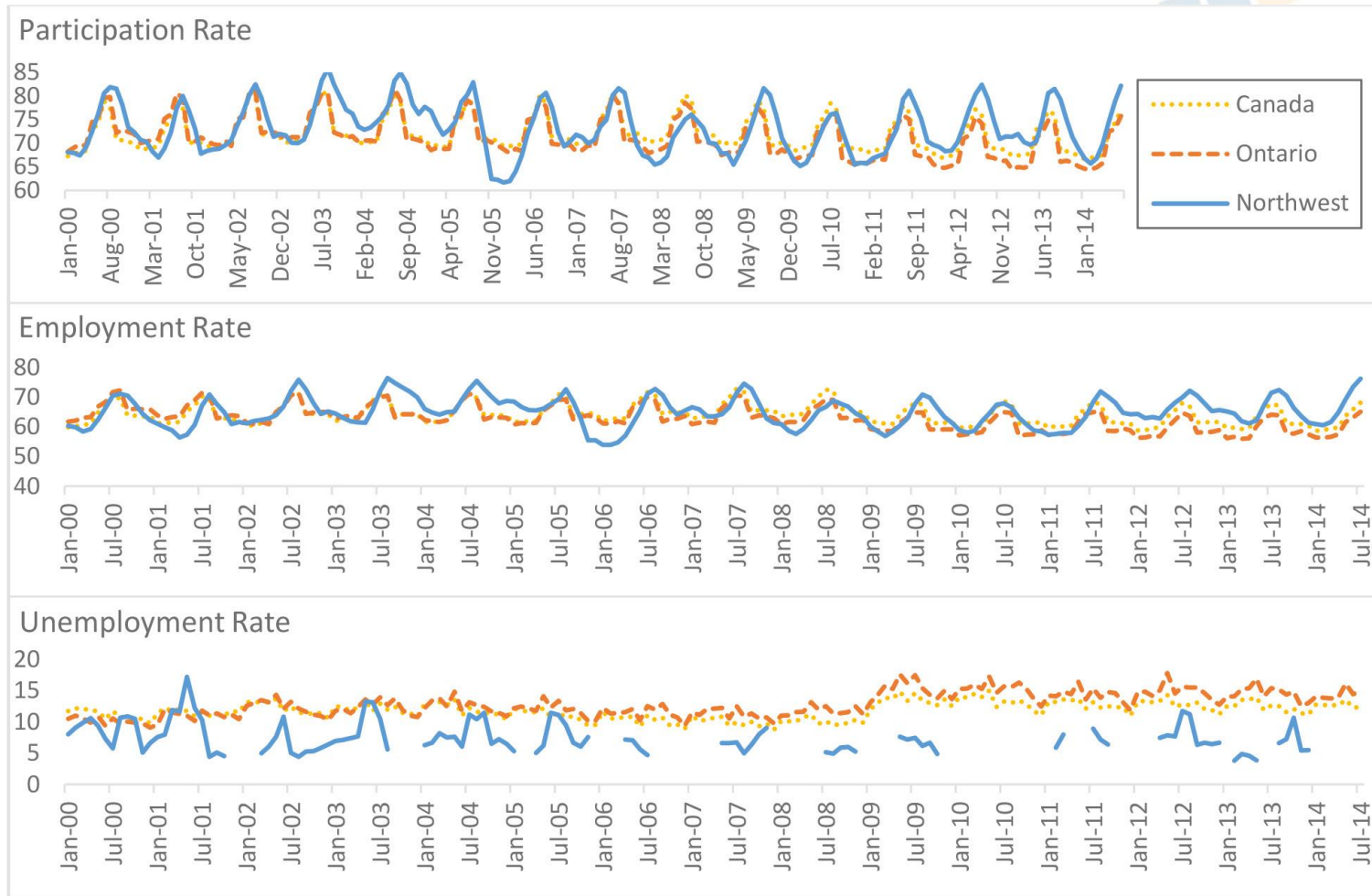


# Good News in the NW – of sorts



Source: *Settling Down in the Northwest*, NPI 2015

# Good News – for young people in the NW

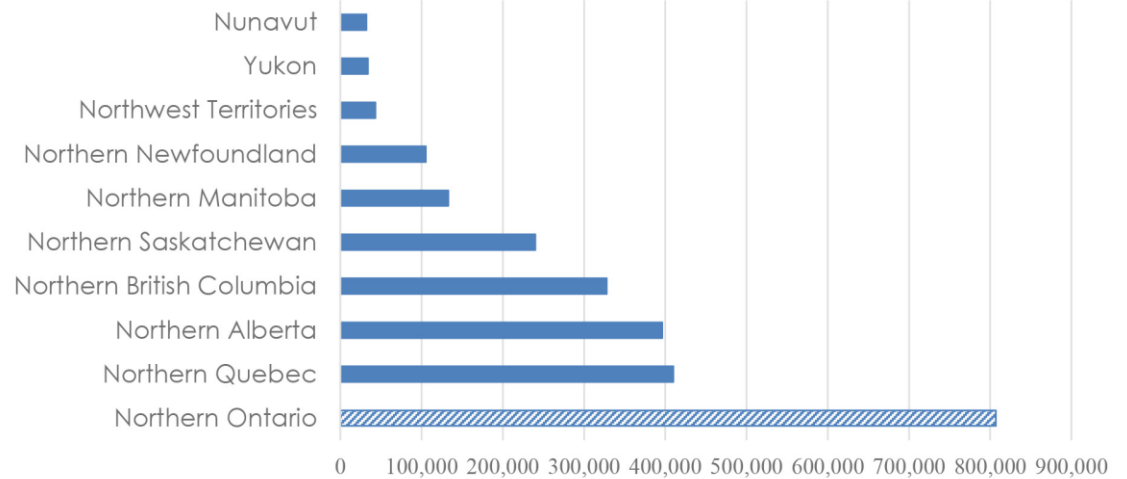
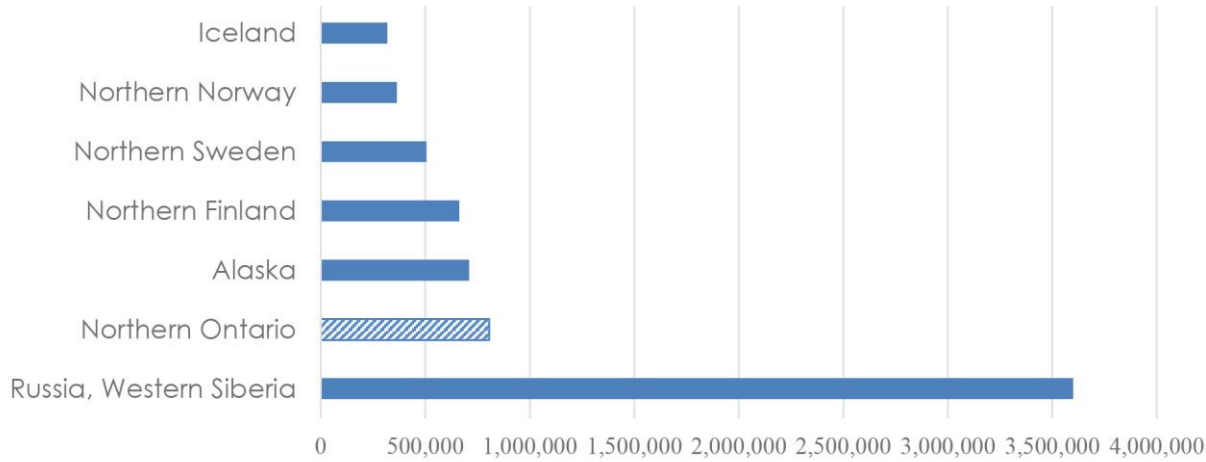


Source: *Settling Down in the Northwest*, NPI 2015

# 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**

# We are a big part of the global “north”



# 10 Steps to northern growth

- 1) Work together and work well with others.
- 2) The future will be shaped by global forces and experiences.
- 3) There is a serious lack of statistical data for Northern Ontario
- 4) Our slow growth isn't just about downturns in forestry and mining, bad policy and uncompetitive approaches hurt too.
- 5) We need to benchmark against other northern regions, not against southern Ontario.
- 6) Our future is a matter of national and global significance; we need more independence to make the most of this role.
- 7) We can't rely on forestry and mining to save us.
- 8) We need better linkages to other northern regions – intellectually and physically.
- 9) We can be even more innovative with the natural resources we do have.
- 10) Mining, production of mining equipment, and mining finance form a cluster of economic activity, but our competitiveness is slipping and this needs to be closely monitored.

*We need a new northern lens through which to see our future. One that is outwardly looking and focused on other northern regions. A lens that is aggressively competitive, innovative and evidence driven. It is time to learn from our own successes and the successes of other northern communities.*



# Coming soon

Northeastern Labour force (demand side)

Federal Economic Agenda – for Ontario, 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 at risk aboriginal students

[Northbynumbers.ca](http://Northbynumbers.ca)

First Nations entrepreneurship – the Harvard project in NO

# Get involved!

## Ways to contribute to the work of Northern Policy Institute:

- Stay informed: blog, twitter, website, facebook, 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

# Board of Directors

- Set strategic direction, approve budget and business plan, receive and approve financial reports and audited financial statements. Members of operational standing committees in areas of finance, governance, Director nomination and development. Hold CEO accountable. Principal responsibility to protect and promote the interests, reputation and stature of Northern Policy Institute. Not permitted to advocate for individual or special interests.
- Criteria for membership: Can't hold elected office
- Term: 3 years
- Open call for nominations (you can self-nominate)
- 5 vacancies filled each year (some people do get reappointed for multiple terms)

# Advisory Council

- A group of committed individuals interested in supporting, but not directing, the work of Northern Policy Institute. Leaders in their fields, they provide guidance and input on strategic direction, communication, potential researchers or points of contact in the wider community
- Criteria for membership: 15 members, one from each district (two from Sudbury and Thunder Bay), three from outside Northern Ontario
- Term: 3 years
- Open call for nominations (you can self-nominate)
- 5 vacancies filled each year (some people do get reappointed for multiple terms)
- Currently vacancies for: Sudbury District, Timiskaming, Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Rainy River

# Research Advisory Board

- A group of academic researchers who provide guidance and input on potential research directions, potential authors, and draft studies and commentaries. They are Northern Policy Institute's formal link to the academic community.
- Criteria for membership: 12 members, four from northern universities, four from northern colleges, four from outside the north
- Term: 3 years
- Open call for nominations (you can self-nominate)
- 4 vacancies filled each year (some people do get reappointed for multiple terms)
- Currently vacancies for: one for a professor from a northern college and one for a professor from outside Northern Ontario



Thank you. Merci. Miigwetch.

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