

A “Co-ordinated Response” to the State of the North(west)

Charles Cirtwill, President & CEO

25 May, 2017

MNDM, Thunder Bay





The State of the North(west)

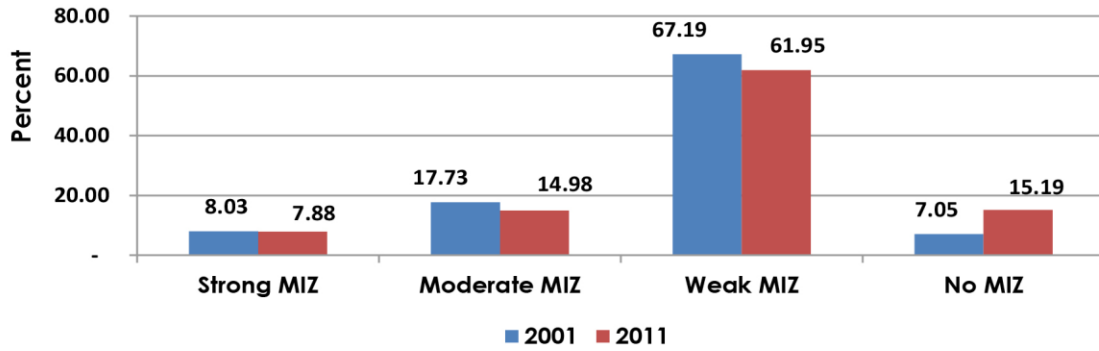
Northeast outperforms the Northwest

- Educational attainment for the Indigenous population is much higher in the NE than the NW.
- Average income 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.

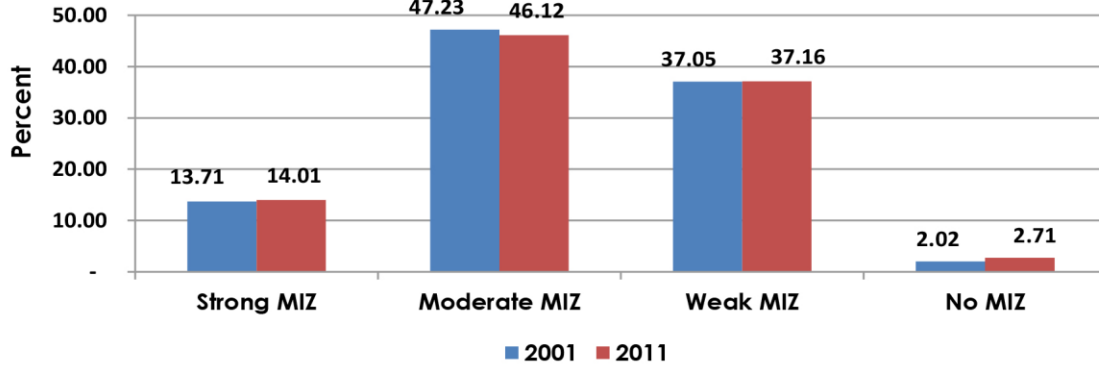


Connectivity – Northeast grid versus Northwest spines

Northwestern Ontario



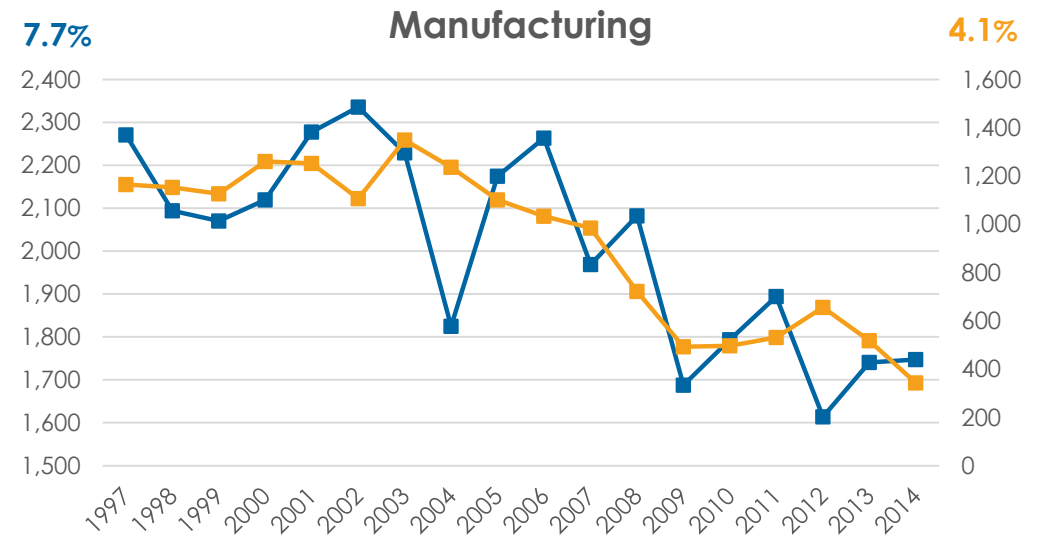
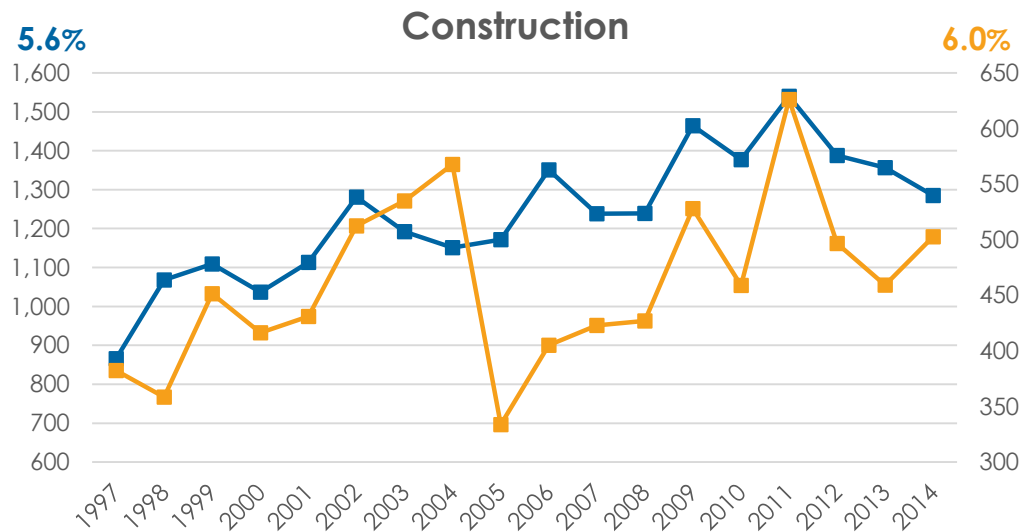
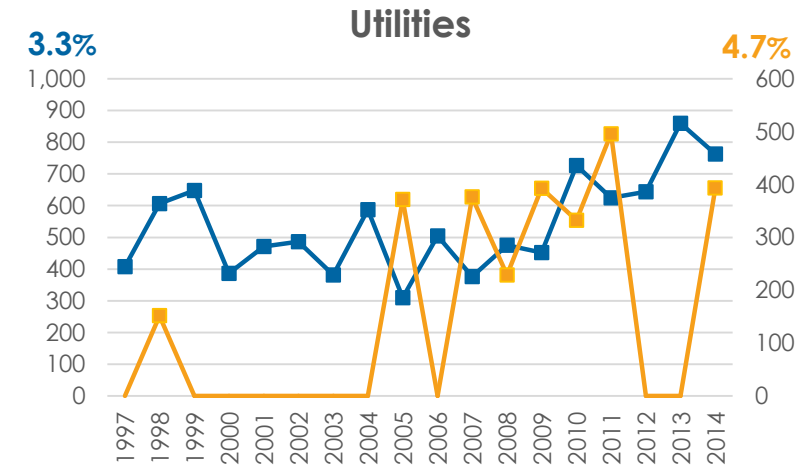
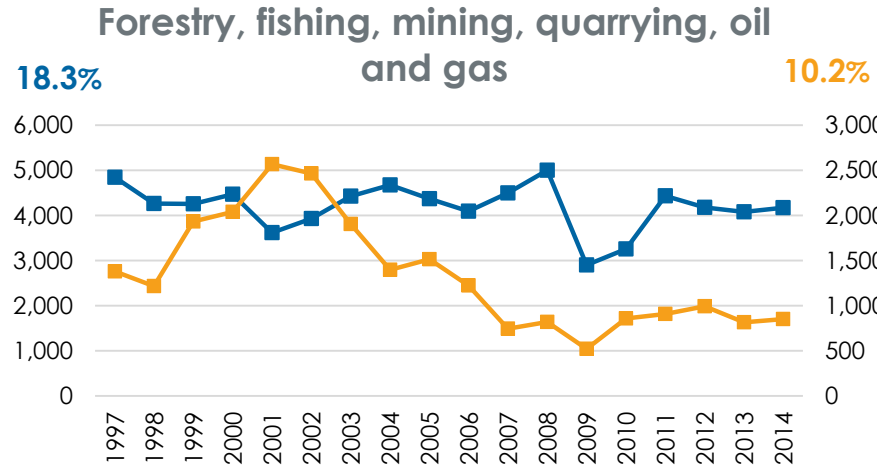
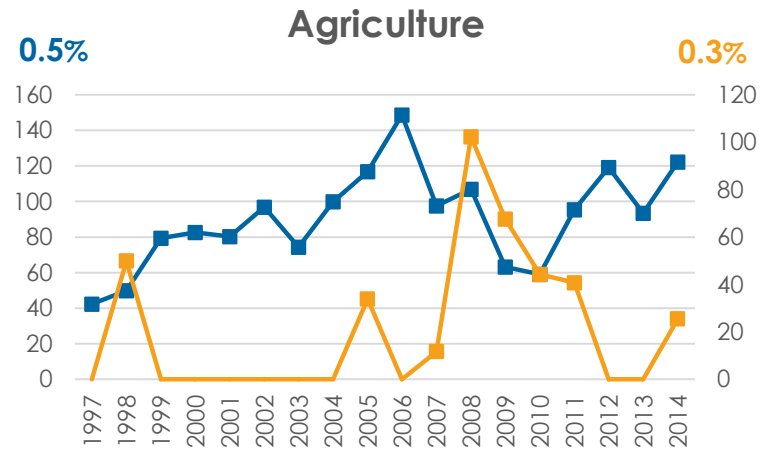
Northeastern Ontario





GDP by goods-producing industry (chained 2007 dollars x1,000,000)

■ Northeast Ontario ■ Northwest Ontario

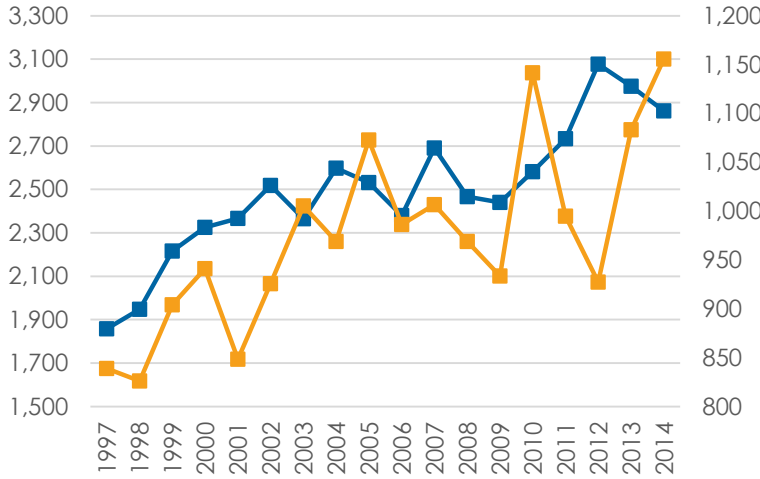


Source: Author's calculations based on Statistics Canada, CANSIM database, tables 282-0125 and 379-0030.

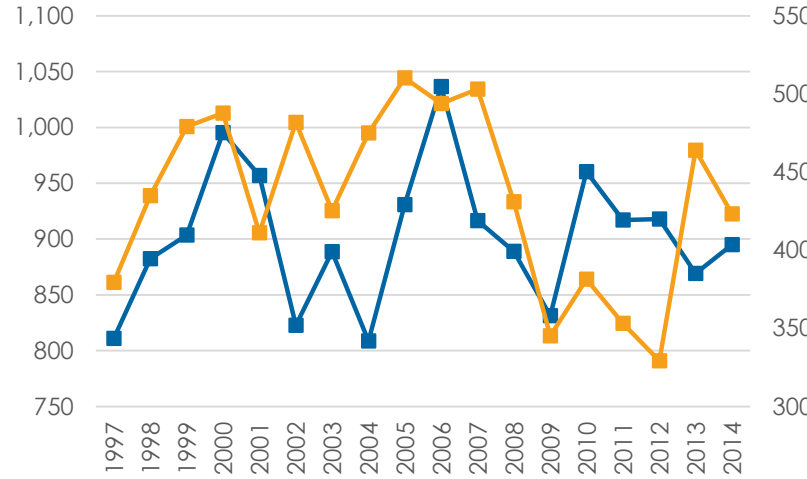


GDP by services-producing industry

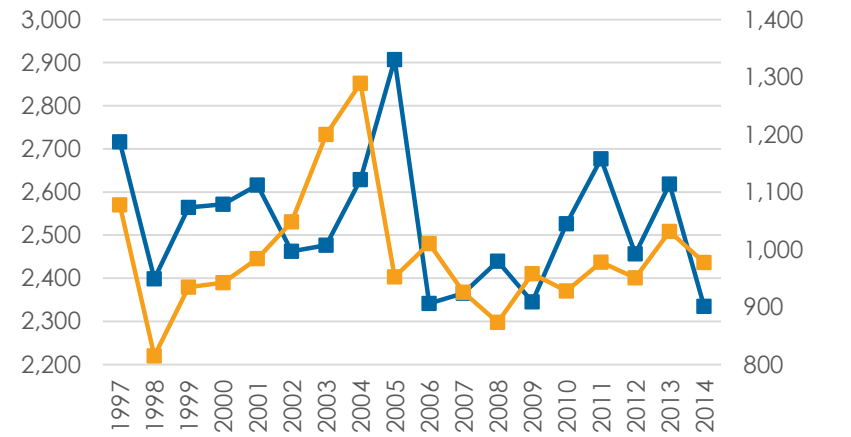
12.5% Trade (Wholesale and Retail) **13.9%**



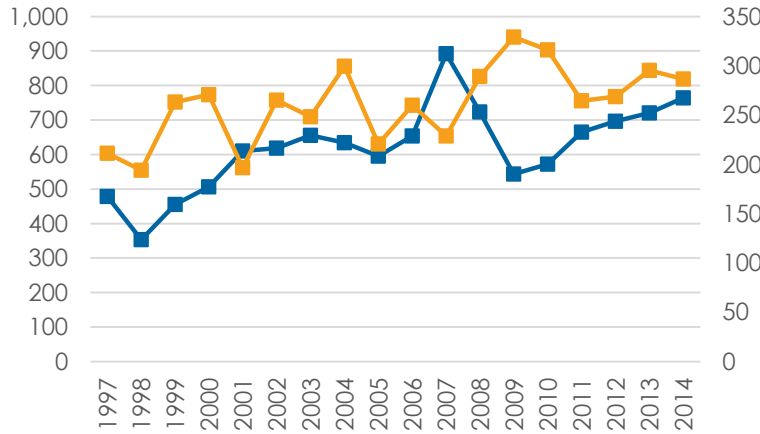
3.9% Transportation and Warehousing **5.1%**



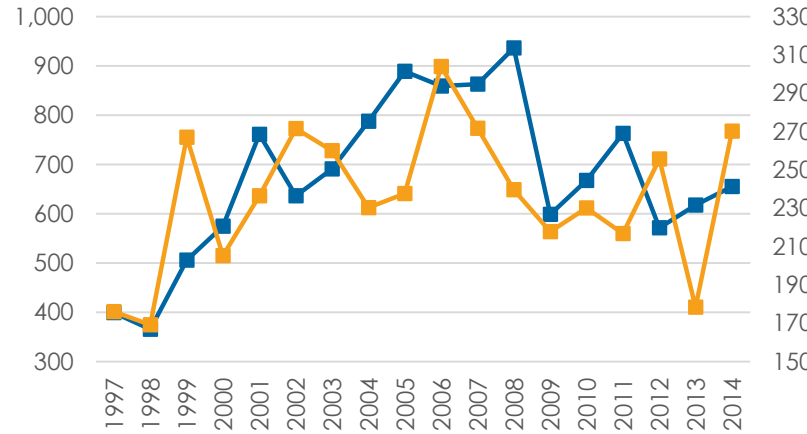
10.2% Finance, insurance, real estate & leasing **11.7%**



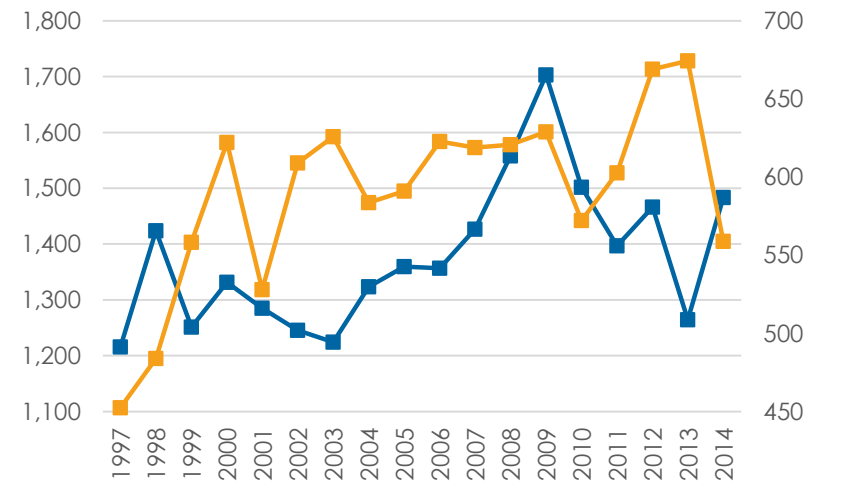
3.3% Professional, scientific & technical services **3.4%**



2.9% Business, building & other support services **3.2%**



6.5% Educational services **6.7%**

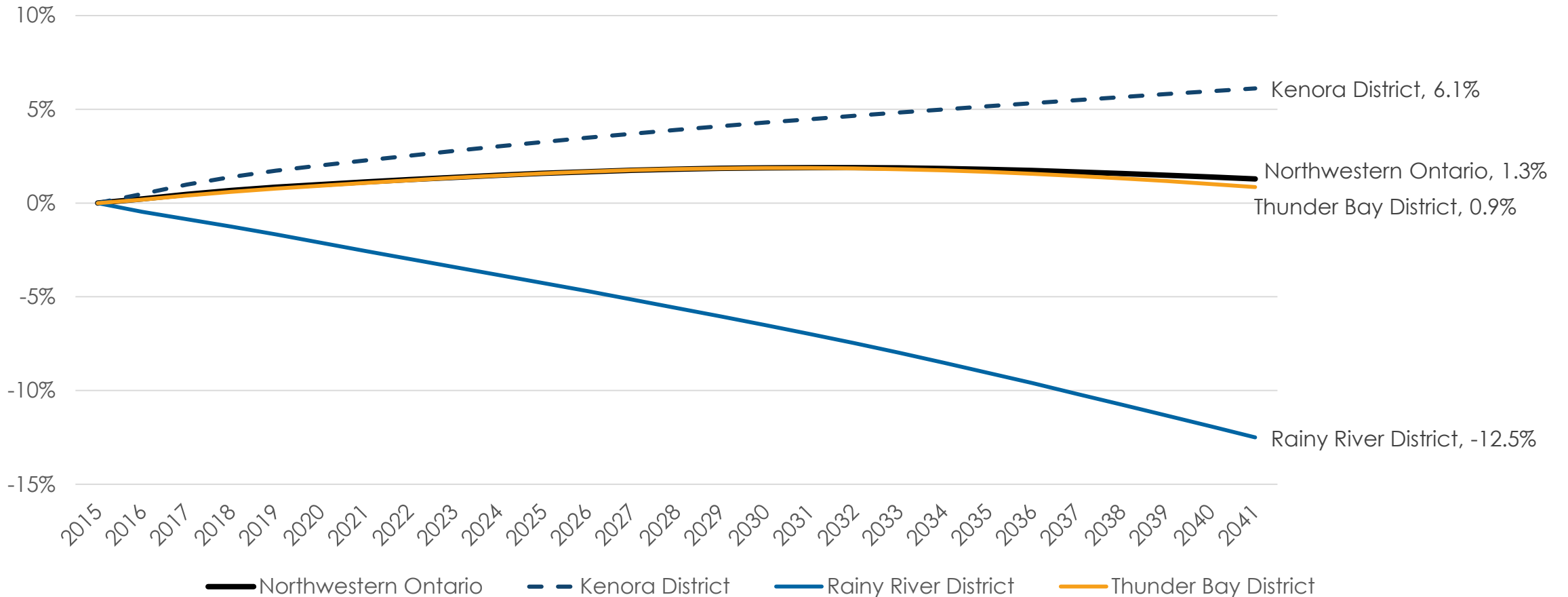


Source: Author's calculations based on Statistics Canada, CANSIM database, tables 282-0125 and 379-0030.



Population is stable or in decline

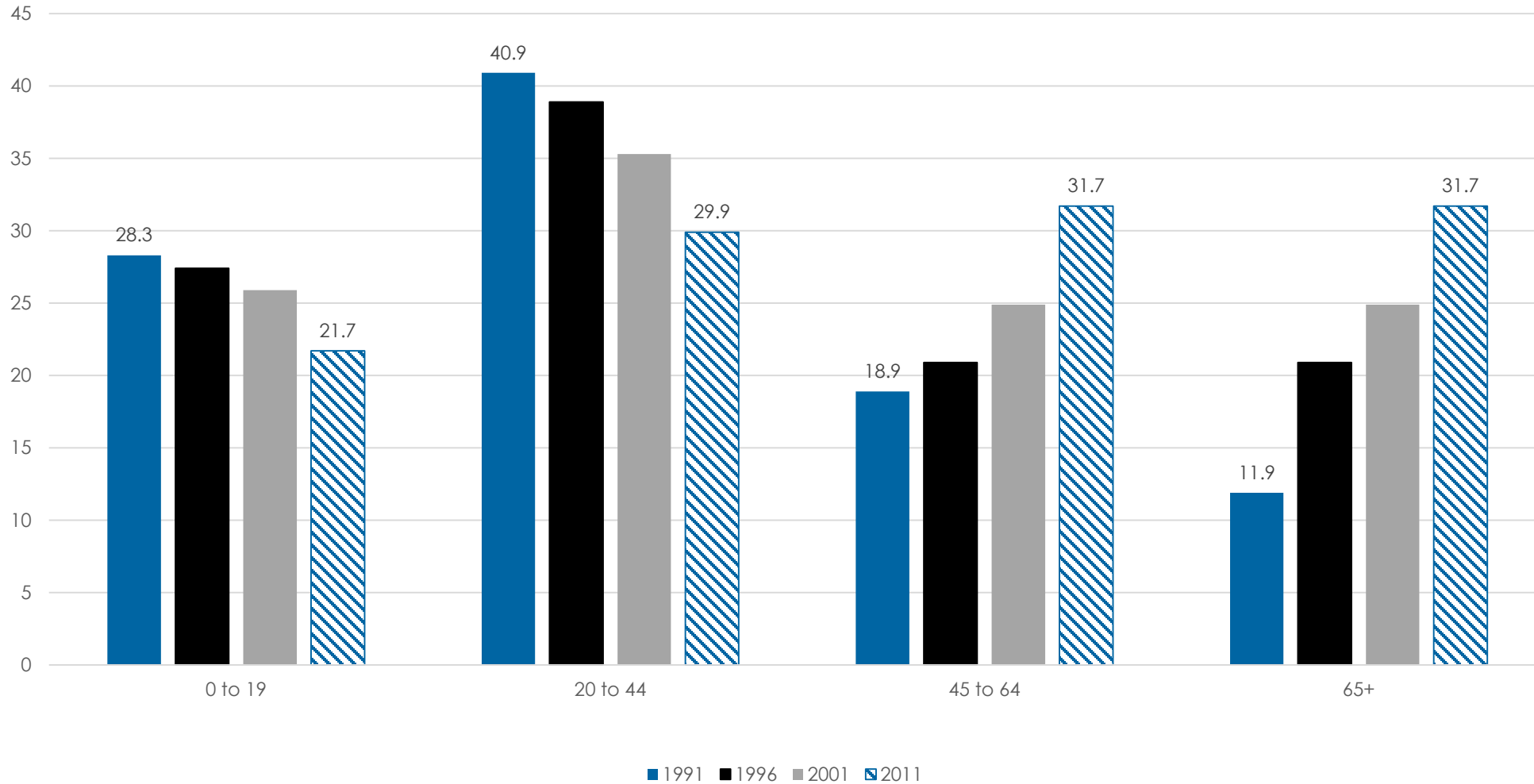
Population Projects - Northwestern Ontario - Cumulative pop. growth





Population is aging too

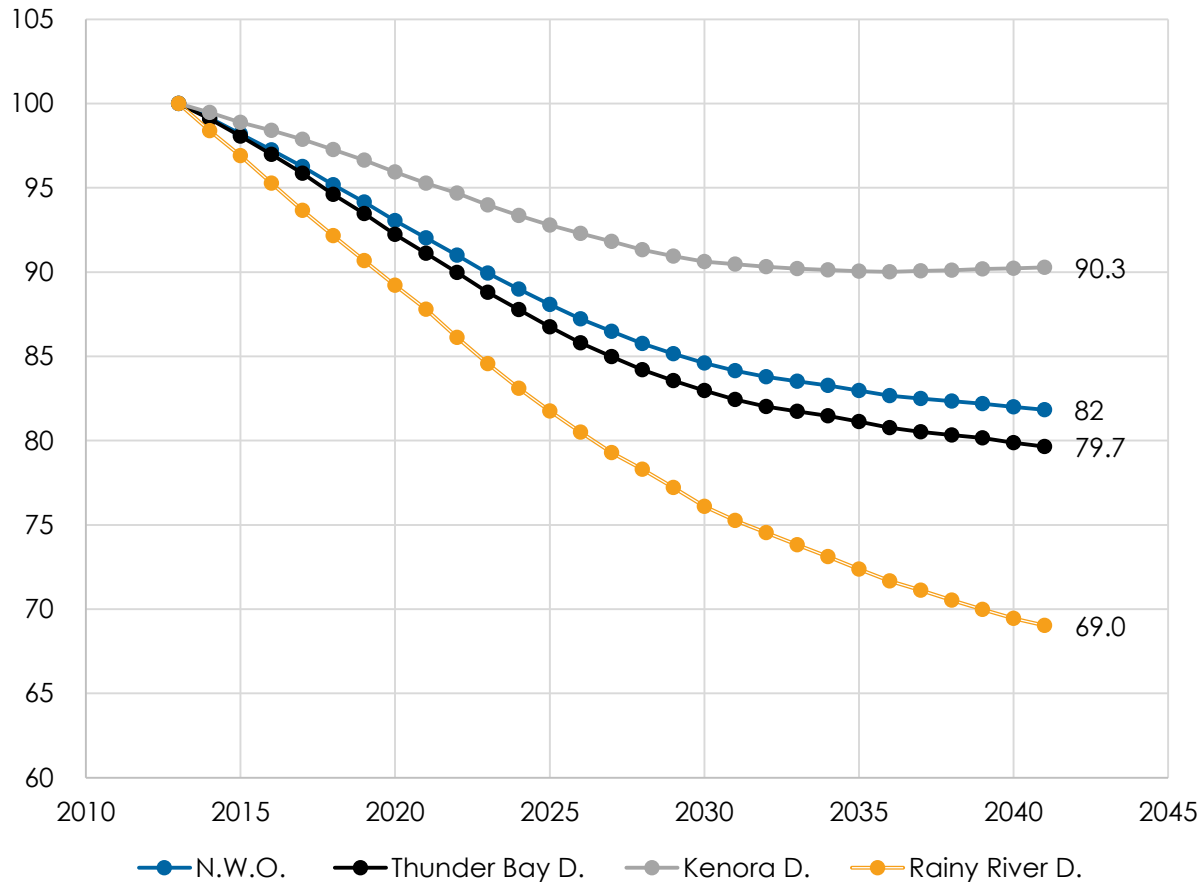
Age Distribution of Population, Thunder Bay District, 1991–2011



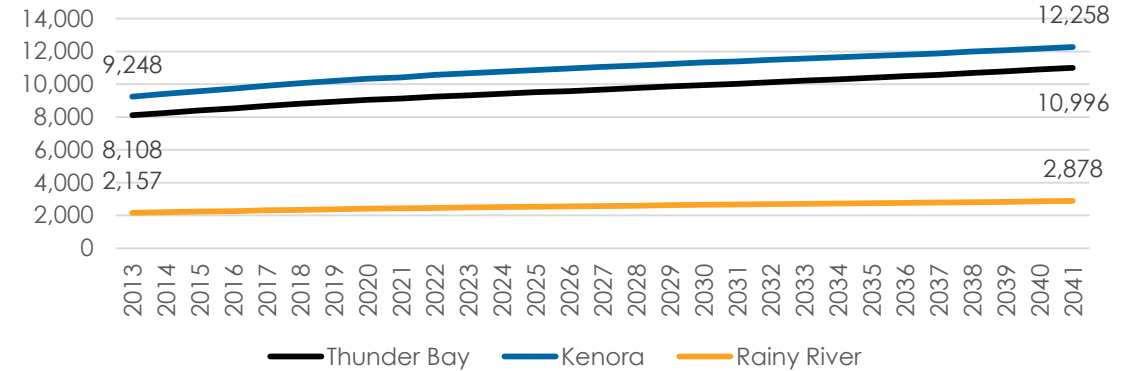


That will put a crimp in our labour supply

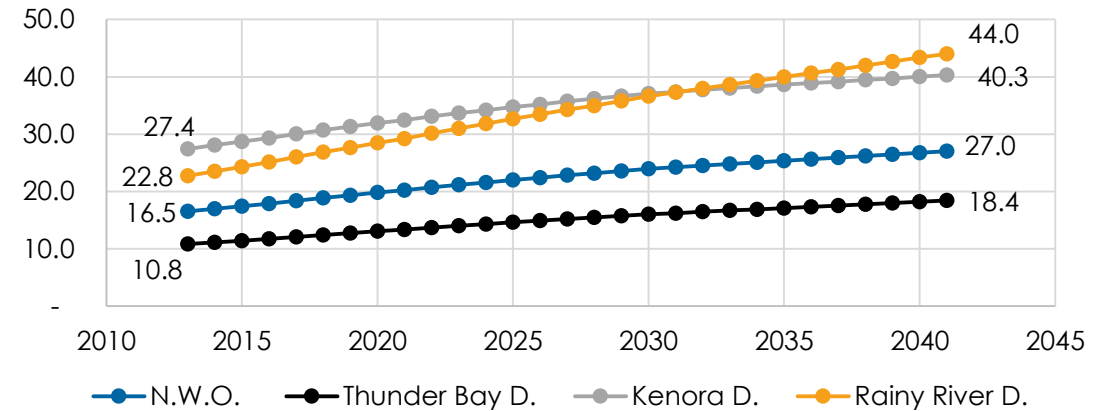
Projected Labour Supply (2013=100)



Projected Indigenous Labour Force, 2013-41



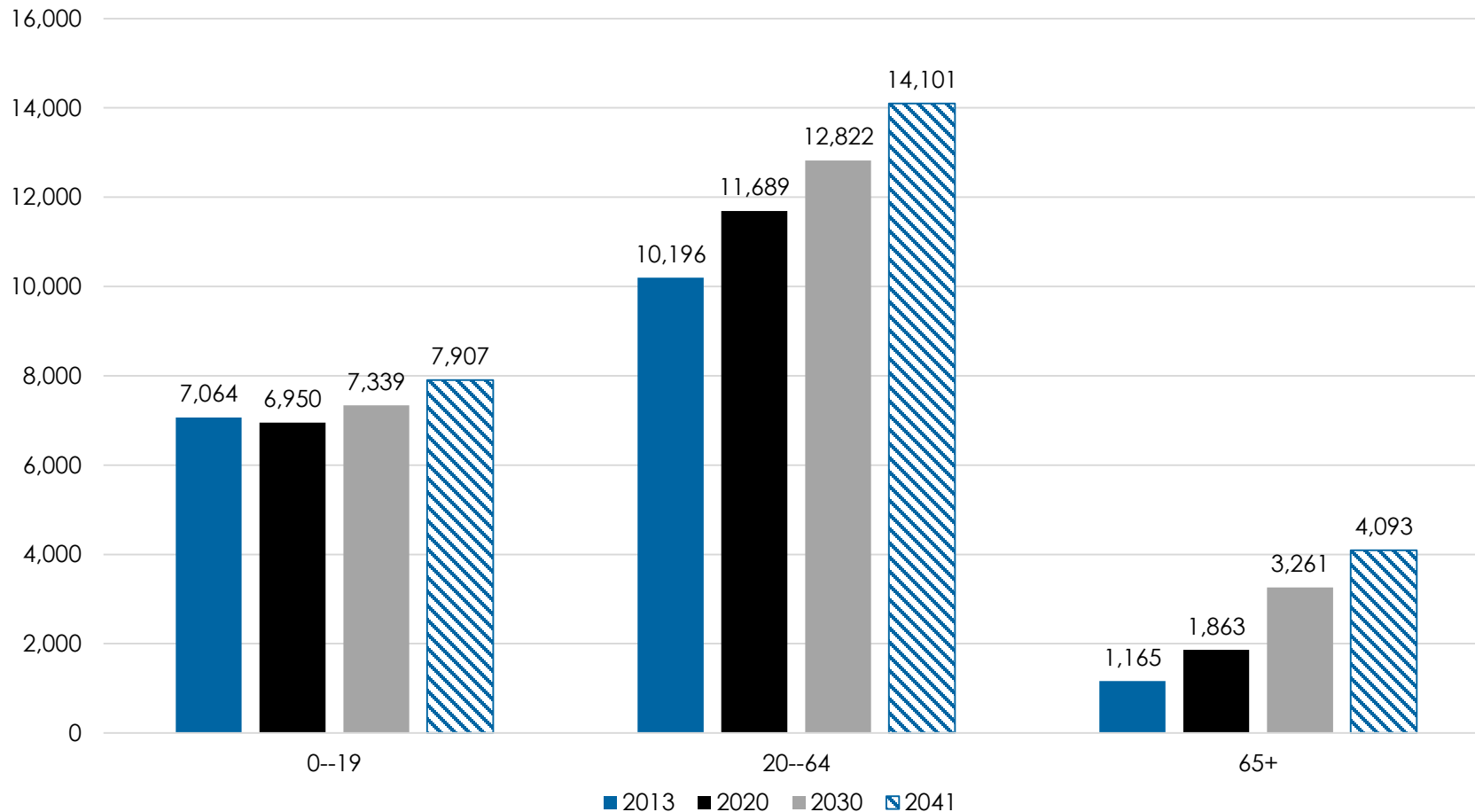
Indigenous Share of the Labour Force (%)





There is an increase in Indigenous Population

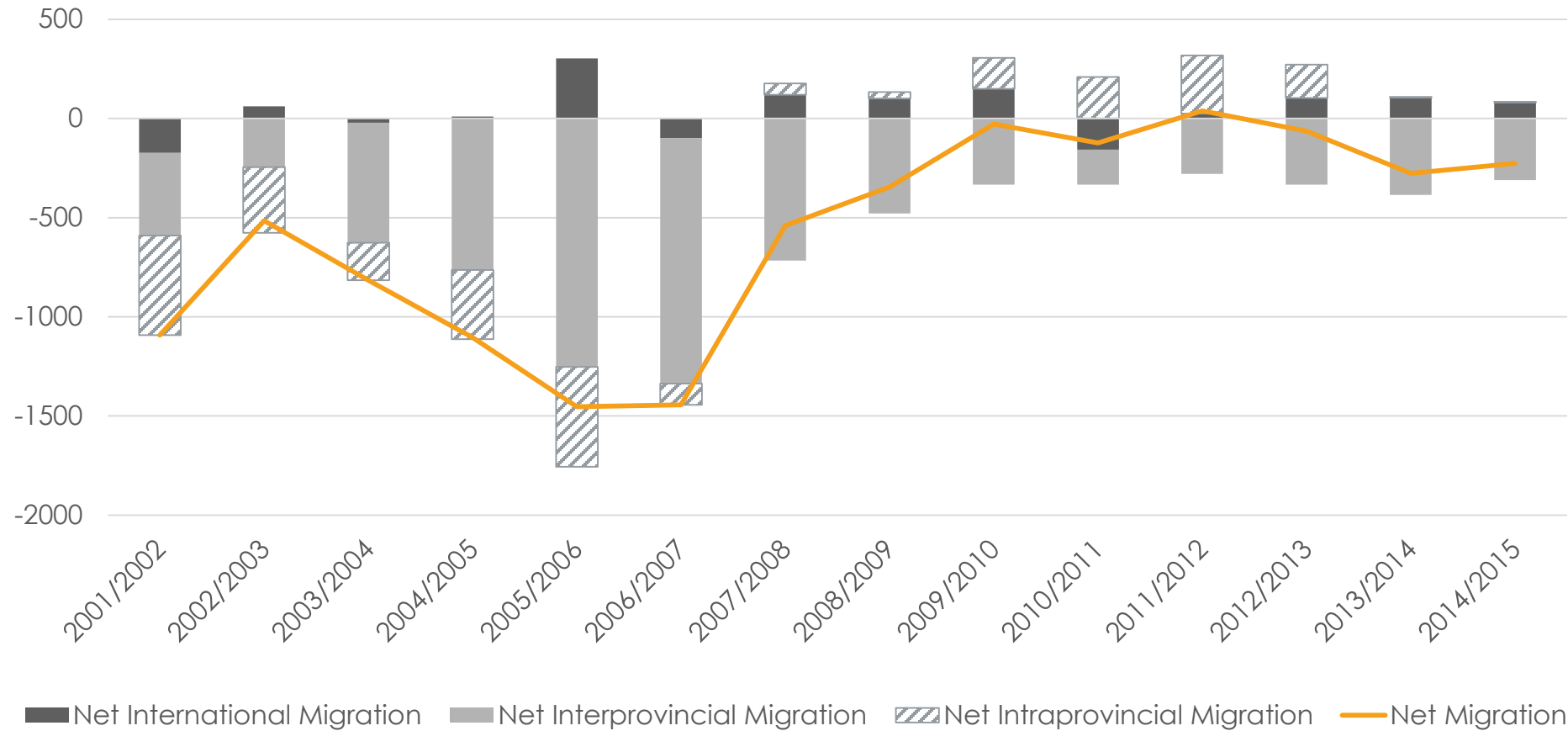
Indigenous Population Projections by Age Group, Thunder Bay District, 2013–2041





We are not attracting newcomers

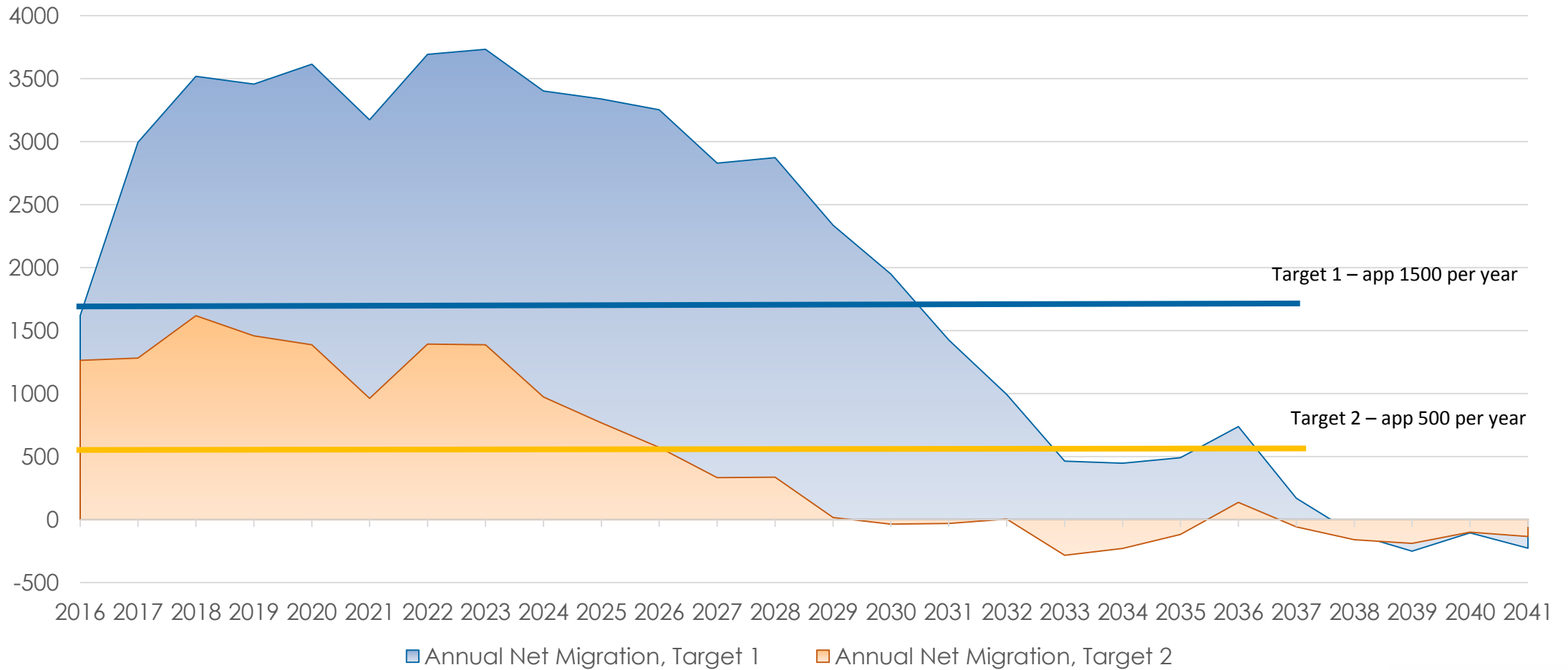
Historical Migration, Thunder Bay District





In Summary – Domestic Growth is NOT Enough

Even with EVERYONE working who wants to work, we will NOT be able to maintain our prosperity

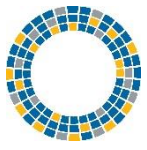




A “Co-ordinated” response

“Proportional response” to a multi-faceted challenge

- Chicken-egg
 - Which comes first? Jobs or people – answer is both
- The elephant in the room – global competitiveness
 - How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time:
 - Jobs that ARE here, small business growth, service sector, migration, participation, training & education, infrastructure, land usage rules, income security, tax incentives, transportation and housing subsidies, coordinated (or at least complementary) action and **consistent messaging**

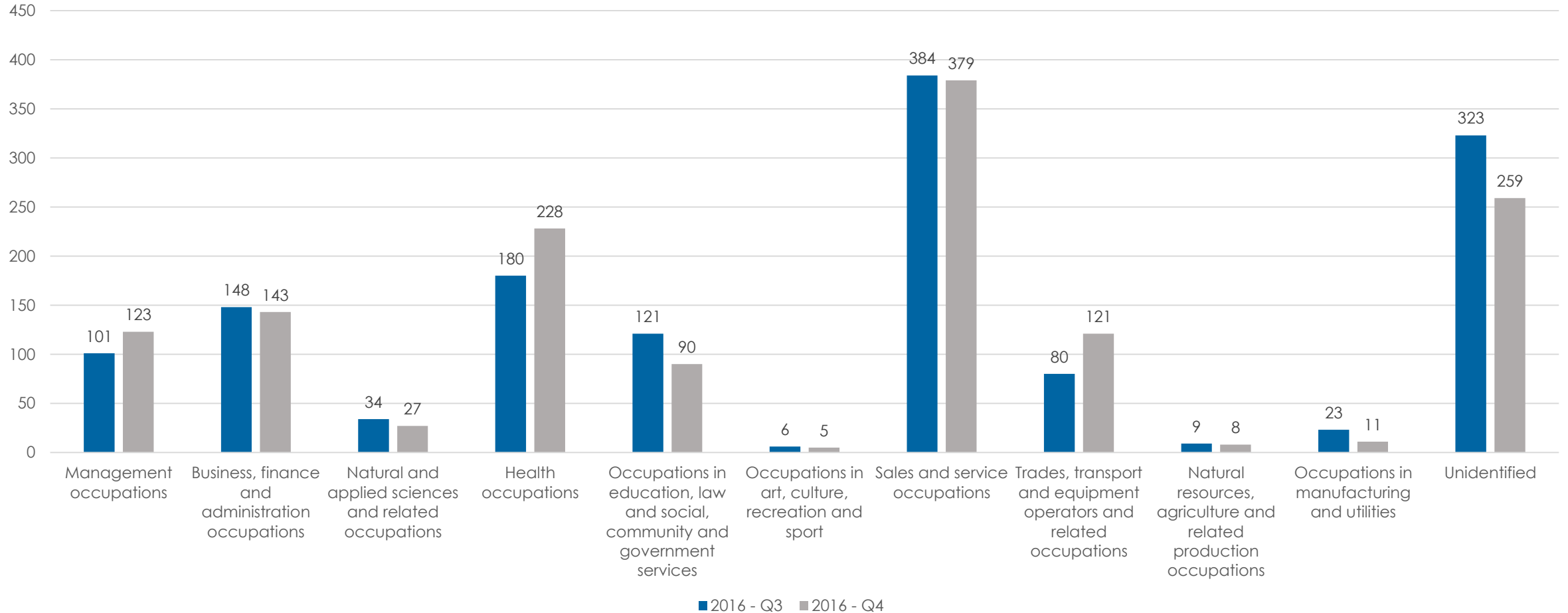


There ARE jobs here:

1,409 Job Postings in Thunder Bay in the Third Quarter of 2016

1,394 Job Postings in Thunder Bay in the Fourth Quarter of 2016

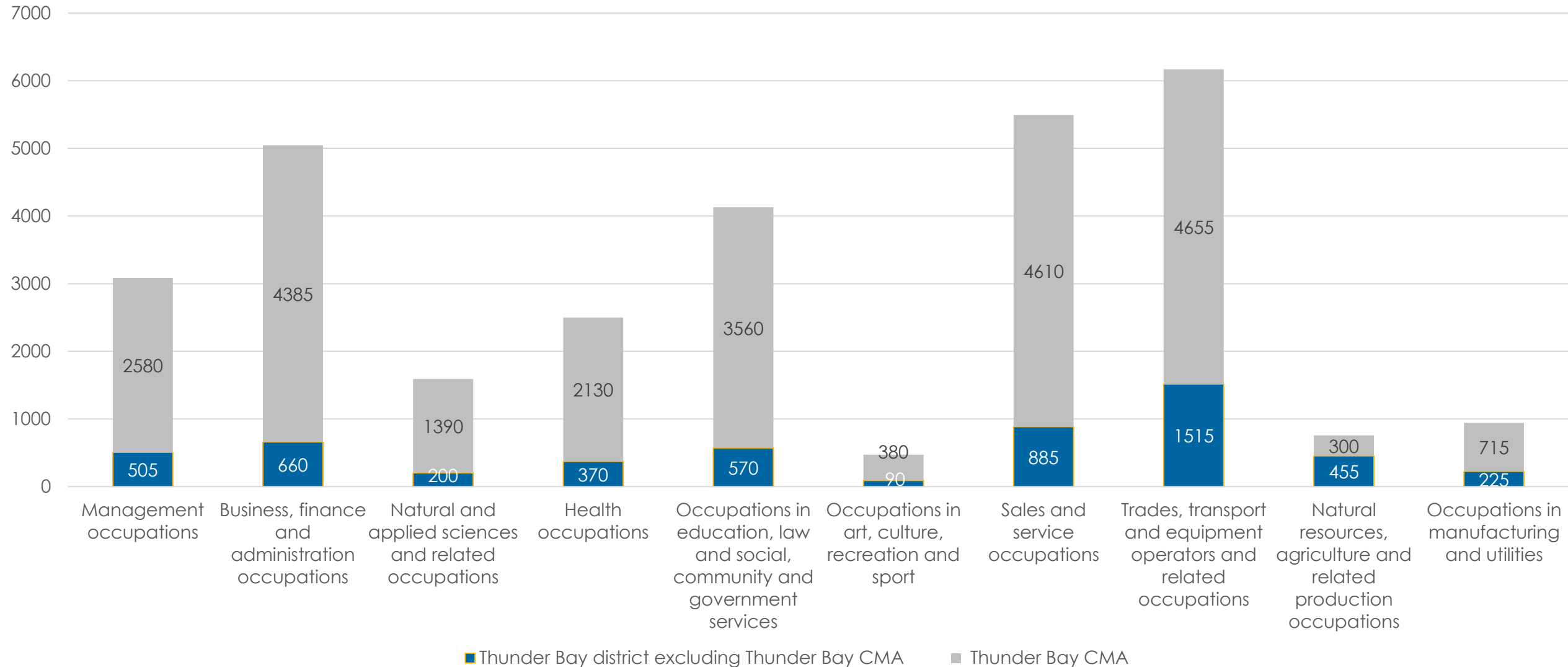
Job Postings by Occupation, Thunder Bay CMA





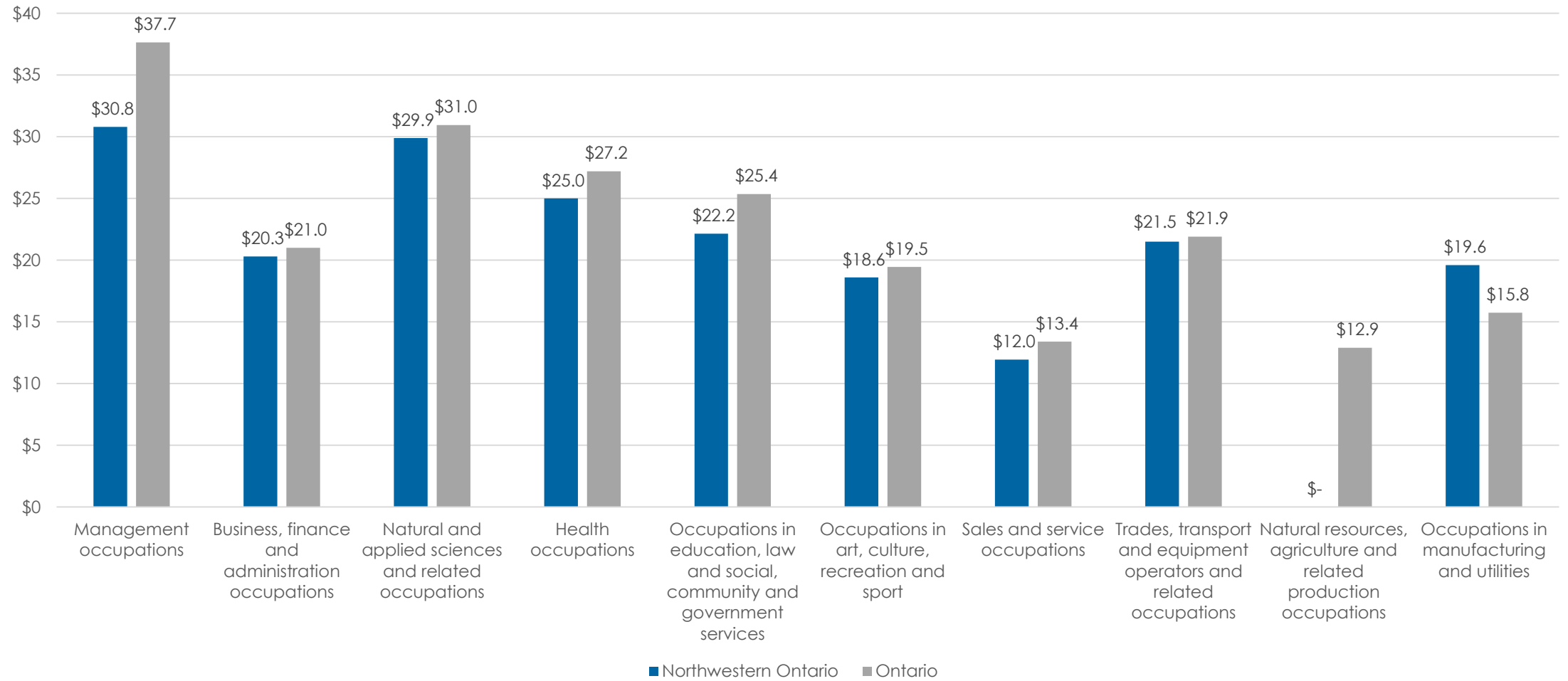
MORE will be available in coming years: **24,725** Retirements in Thunder Bay CMA, and **5,460** in the Region by 2031

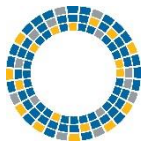
Total number of workers reaching 65 years old by 2031, by occupation and location





The Pay IS Competitive: Wages by Occupation, 2016 Q3





Occupations Offering Higher Wages in Northwestern Ontario than in Ontario

Offered Wages by Occupation, 2016 Q3	Northwestern Ontario	Ontario	Difference Between NW and Ontario
Maintenance and equipment operation trades	\$26.30	\$23.10	\$3.20
Office support occupations	\$19.40	\$16.80	\$2.60
Assisting occupations in support of health services	\$19.70	\$17.60	\$2.10
Care providers and educational, legal and public protection support occupations	\$19.25	\$17.50	\$1.75
Professional occupations in nursing	\$33.55	\$31.85	\$1.70
Service supervisors and specialized service occupations	\$14.05	\$13.50	\$0.55



What is NPI doing about all of this?

Northern Policy Institute is a **think tank** that conducts **independent** policy work, to be used as **evidence-based** analysis for **effective** decision making to sustain and grow Northern Ontario.

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

MNDM, Similar Broad Mandate

Strong Regional Ministry

- Not just a political pork barrel
- Blend of policy and management
- Horizontal management – draw on the resources and knowledge government wide
- Broader purview for action – economic, social, environmental, regulatory
- Bridge between region and broader public service
- Greater operational autonomy
- Specific mandate to understand and explain the region “holistically”



Our three priorities: measurement, capacity, self-sufficiency

- Chief and Council
- Municipal Council
- Economic Developers
- Other Service Providers
- Not For Profits
- Community at Large



MNDM, Similar Operational Autonomy (excerpts to follow from Ministerial Mandate Letter)

- Work together, in co-operation with our Indigenous partners, **to help achieve real and measurable** change for Indigenous communities
- Continuing to **actively engage the federal government**

SIDE NOTE: Ensure that Northern interests and priorities are represented – the Northern Committee of the Legislature is a real opportunity, but it must be connected to local staff on the ground to achieve the stated goal



Idea Generation

GROW
THE NORTH



ESSOR
NORD

A Series of Policy Partnerships:

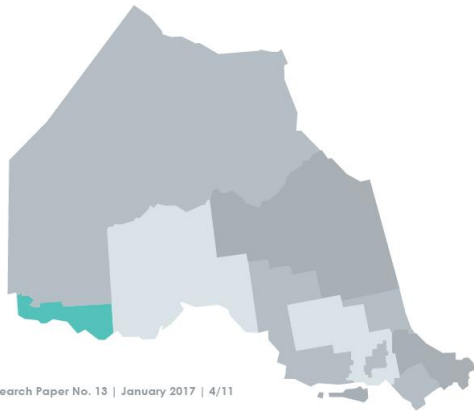
- Temiskaming Shores DSSAB – regional hub conference
- Town of Cochrane – small community growth plan
- Common Voice Northwest – priority setting event
- Ontario's North Economic Development Corporation – Northern Newcomer Strategy
- Economic Developers – institutional memory, networking and cooperation

MNDM: A Focus on Growth

- To ensure **continued growth in the North**
- Drive **sectoral innovation**, promote **environmental sustainability, health and safety**, and the training of a **highly skilled workforce**
- Promoting Northern Ontario's **key export and investment potential** to the global marketplace
- Continuing to **encourage and enhance capacity for Indigenous communities** to participate in — and take advantage of — mineral resource development and other economic opportunities, including sharing in the benefits of the mining sector



Evidence – collect AND release



Research Paper No. 13 | January 2017 | 4/11

Northern Projections
Human Capital Series - RAINY RIVER DISTRICT

By James Cuddy & Dr. Bakhtiar Moazzami

northernpolicy.ca

#KNOWTHENORTH #CONNAISSEZLENORD

Northern Projections: Human Capital Series,

In partnership with all six Northern Workforce Planning Boards. Not “Ontario”, not “Northern Ontario”, not even Northwestern or Northeastern Ontario – all 11 Census Districts

MNDM Mandate: Holistic Approach and a Focus on Measurement

- Work **collaboratively across every sector of government** to support evidence-based decision-making to ensure programs and services are effective, efficient and sustainable
- Working with colleague ministers, municipalities, Indigenous partners and key stakeholders, complete the **five year progress update**
- Ensure the Ontario government is **delivering on the priorities of Northerners**



Creating Tools for our Communities



BAAKAAKONAANAN ISHKWAANDEMONAN

Opening Doors For You
Portes ouvertes pour vous

- Celebrates workplaces that are welcoming to Indigenous peoples and newcomers to the north
- “Positive reinforcement” for companies that use existing supports to prepare themselves for new hires and to make their organization a “preferred” employer and supplier
- A partnership with NSWPB through their LEPC pilot project
- NPI ran the “applied research project” to test the concept
- Good response from business, indigenous community and young Indigenous social entrepreneurs
- The concept has potential for expansion as a best practice to the region and beyond

MNDM Mandate: Practical, Applied, Achievable Focus

- Supporting the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development in the delivery of the recommendations of the Premier's Highly Skilled Workforce Expert Panel to **ensure that Northern interests and priorities are represented**
- Launching an updated **Northern Industrial Electricity Rate program** that provides ongoing support for large industrial facilities in the North in spring 2017
- Seeking **federal support, and working with colleague ministers and Indigenous partners** on a modern broadband network across Northern Ontario
- Making **better use of public properties**, encouraging multi-use spaces and helping communities create financially sustainable hub models



Multi Ministry Approach

- **Ministry of Transportation** – Multi-modal transportation study, NPI gap analysis and infrastructure maps
- **Ministry of Economic Development & Growth** – Analysis of natural northern Economic Regions
- **Ministry of Advanced Education & Skills Development** – Local Employment Planning Council pilots in Hearst (NE) and Thunder Bay (NW)
- **Ministry of Infrastructure, Hub Secretariat**, Resource Reference Group and Hub concepts/connections/conferences
- **Ministry of Northern Development & Mines**, Measuring growth in Northern Ontario
- **Ministry of Health & Long Term Care**, Rural and Northern health priorities, local health governance
- **Ministry of Community & Social Services**, BIG Pilot, structure and measurement
- **Ministry of Finance**, fiscal flows

MNDM, Horizontal Mandate

- Continuing to work with the **Minister of the Environment and Climate Change** and the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Continuing to support the **Minister of Transportation** in developing a Northern Ontario Multi-Modal Transportation Strategy
- Continue to work in partnership with the **Minister of Energy** and remote Indigenous communities to reduce reliance on fossil fuels for energy generation
- Working with the **Minister of Economic Development and Growth** to build on the Ontario mining cluster's competitive advantage



Making an **Impact** on Policy

ANISHINABEK EDUCATION AUTHORITY

A September 2014, NPI paper entitled '**Picking Up the Pieces A Community-School- Based Approach to First Nations Education Renewal**' spoke about the need to enable autonomous First Nations community school authorities, governed entirely by First Nations peoples themselves. These concepts are reflected in the newly created Anishinabek Education Authority.

SPRING BEAR HUNT

In August 2015, NPI published '**Does the Spring Bear Hunt Make 'Cents?'**', which recommended Ontario implement a spring bear hunt with a non-resident component. The Ontario government soon after announced the spring bear hunt would be expanded to all 88 wildlife management areas until 2020.

MID-CANADA CORRIDOR

The provincial and federal governments recently partnered on a transportation corridor assessment to several communities affected by the Ring of Fire. The need for this type of next generational thinking about the development and management of northern infrastructure is reflected in a February 2016 report, '**Mid Canada Boreal Corridor: Planning for Canada's Future**'. Even TVO has taken note of these ideas.

BASIC INCOME GUARANTEE

In the fall of 2016, NPI brought together national experts with local activists to have a northern dialogue about the potential local impacts of a Basic Income Guarantee (BIG). This effort attracted the attention of all three parties at Queen's Park and will see the release of a series of six summary reports in the coming months. In 2017, Thunder Bay was selected as one of the test sites for a three year BIG pilot.

MNDM, Improving Policy & Management

- Integrate and co-ordinate Northern **policy and planning activities**, informed by the Growth Plan
- **Better support innovation, commercialization, and technological adoption** in Ontario's mining sector
- **Maximize economic and social opportunities** for Ontario, First Nations and Canada.

○○○ Coming Soon from NPI

- **Basic Income** – series of papers on delivering a basic income in Northern Ontario, conference presentations already available online www.northernpolicy.ca
- **Education Options** – our people need them: college, university and on the job
- **Migration** – we are the future of the people trapped in the GTA
- **State of the North** – report card on growth
- **Growth Plan(s)**– are we on the same page, is it the right one?
- **Northern Directions** – comparative advantages and disadvantages in the sectors identified in the Growth Plan and those that have developed since



Some go forward suggestions

- **Evidence** – Collect it from your clients, build it into your contracts, including post-grant reporting, make it publicly available, help people learn how to use it
- **Migration** – Take up the cause within the Ministry and within the OPS and support local efforts to promote, improve, attract and retain (not JUST immigration either)
- **Shared economy** – “Regional” opportunities – The North is NOT one region - does MNDM have priority or points for cooperative projects
- **Indigenous equity ownership** - Does MNDM have priority or points for shared equity Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners?
- **Multi-year grants** – Internships, programs, contrast stability of those to one year terms
- **Put your knowledge to work** – for others, share leads, encourage partnerships



A Model to Follow?

Australian Regional Development:

1. DATA – at the very local level, some 500 statistical series
2. Identify TRUE regions – 94 in all, 75 hinterlands, 24 urban regions (cities were not treated as single units)
3. Focus on growth, not reducing diversity
4. LOCAL action, not state (provincial) or national
5. Tie full employment to regional development – jobs that ARE here

Stay Informed. Join the Conversation.



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Thank you. Merci. Miigwetch.

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