

# STATE OF THE NORTH

RESPONDING TO NORTHERN ONTARIO'S DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFT

AMBASSADORS NORTHWEST  
11 OCTOBER 2017, THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO.



# NORTHERN DIRECTIONS

Ambassadors Northwest

NORTHERN  
POLICY INSTITUTE | INSTITUT DES POLITIQUES  
DU NORD

The number one issue  
facing EVERY industry in Thunder Bay is  
**people.**

There are five key observations that lead to this conclusion:

one

All industries in the Northwest have largely stabilized post-recession and in some cases they are **beginning to grow.**

two

Population decline has not stabilized, and in fact, is **expected to accelerate** in most areas of the Northwest (except Kenora).

three

Population aging **continues to accelerate**, even in areas where population is stabilizing.

four

Only in the Indigenous population are we at or around the replacement rate for domestic births and even there the birth rate is **slowing.**

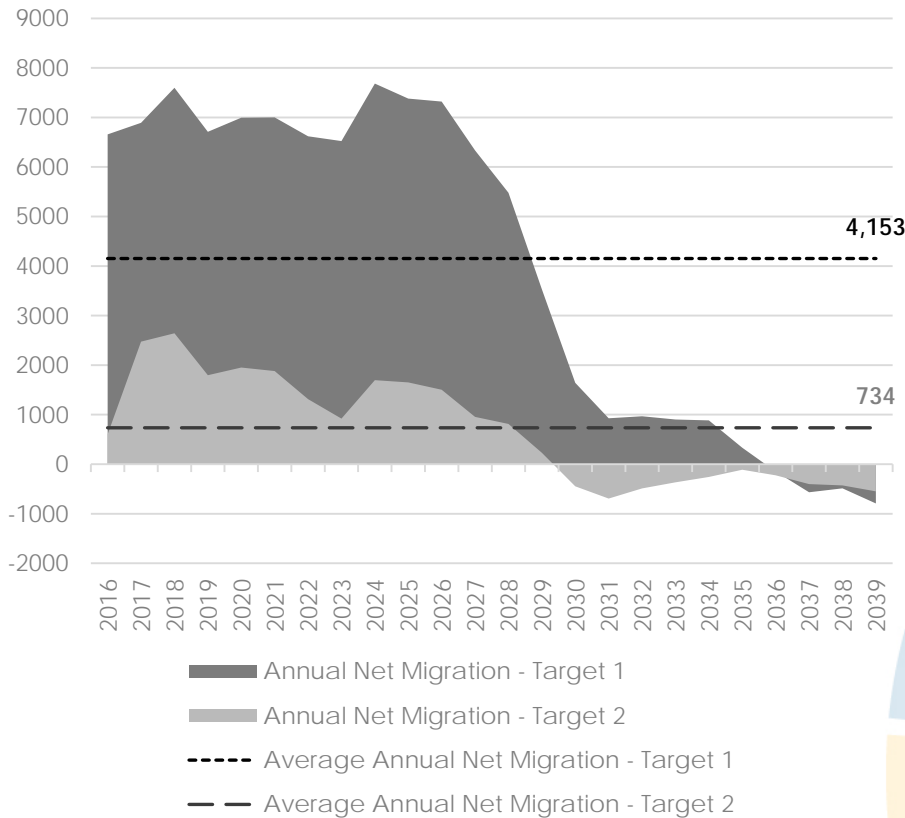
five

Even assuming full employment of our growing Indigenous population we will still be **unable** to maintain our current level of prosperity without significant immigration.

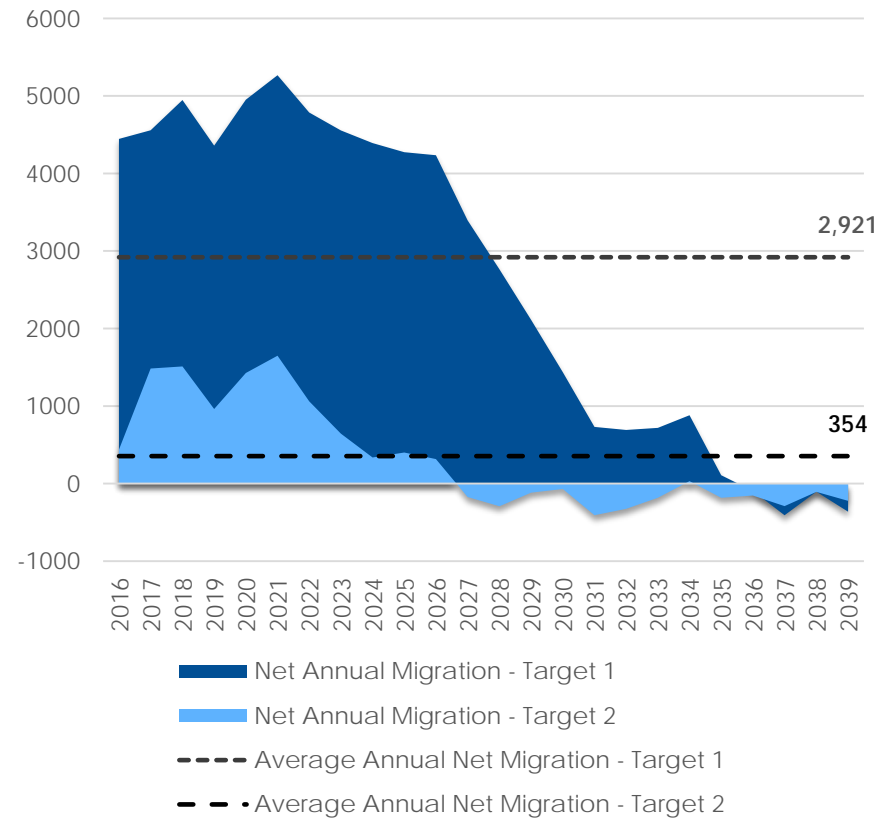
# Demographic Trends in Northern Ontario

## Newcomers needed by Economic Region

Required Annual Net Migration - **Northeast**



Required Annual Net Migration - **Northwest**

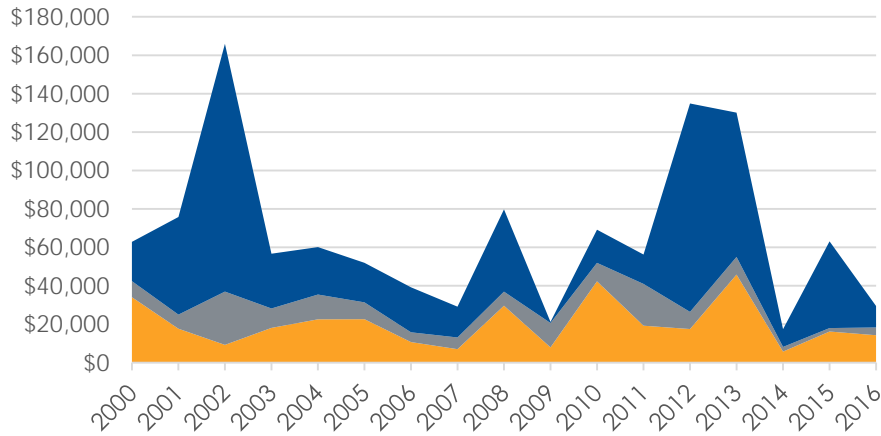


Source: Author's calculations based on Statistics Canada estimates for 2015, and Ontario Ministry of Finance population projections – Spring 2016

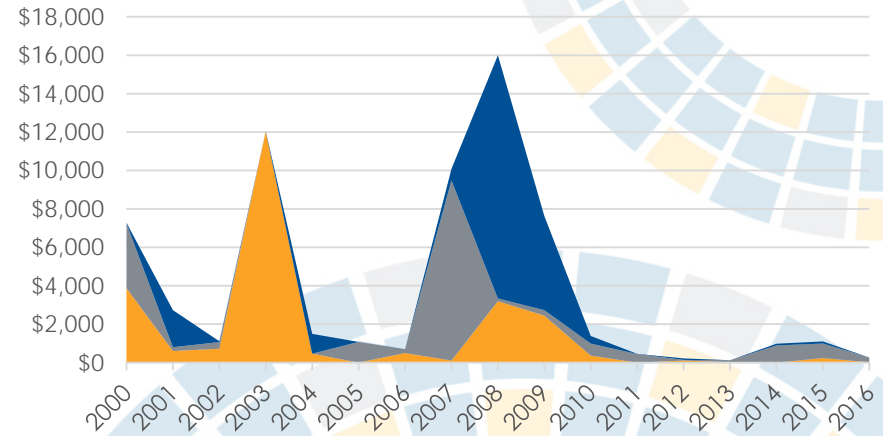
# Value of Non-Residential Building Permits (In 2016 Dollars x1,000)

- Commercial
- Industrial
- Institutional

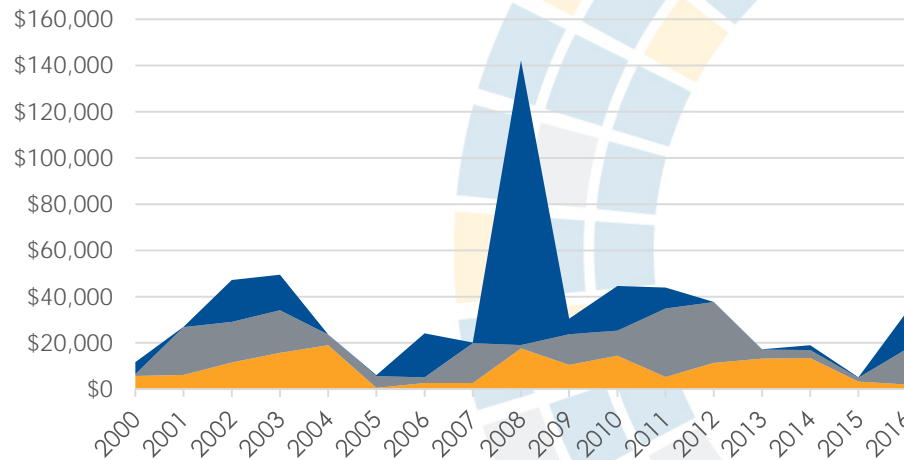
THUNDER BAY DISTRICT



RAINY RIVER DISTRICT



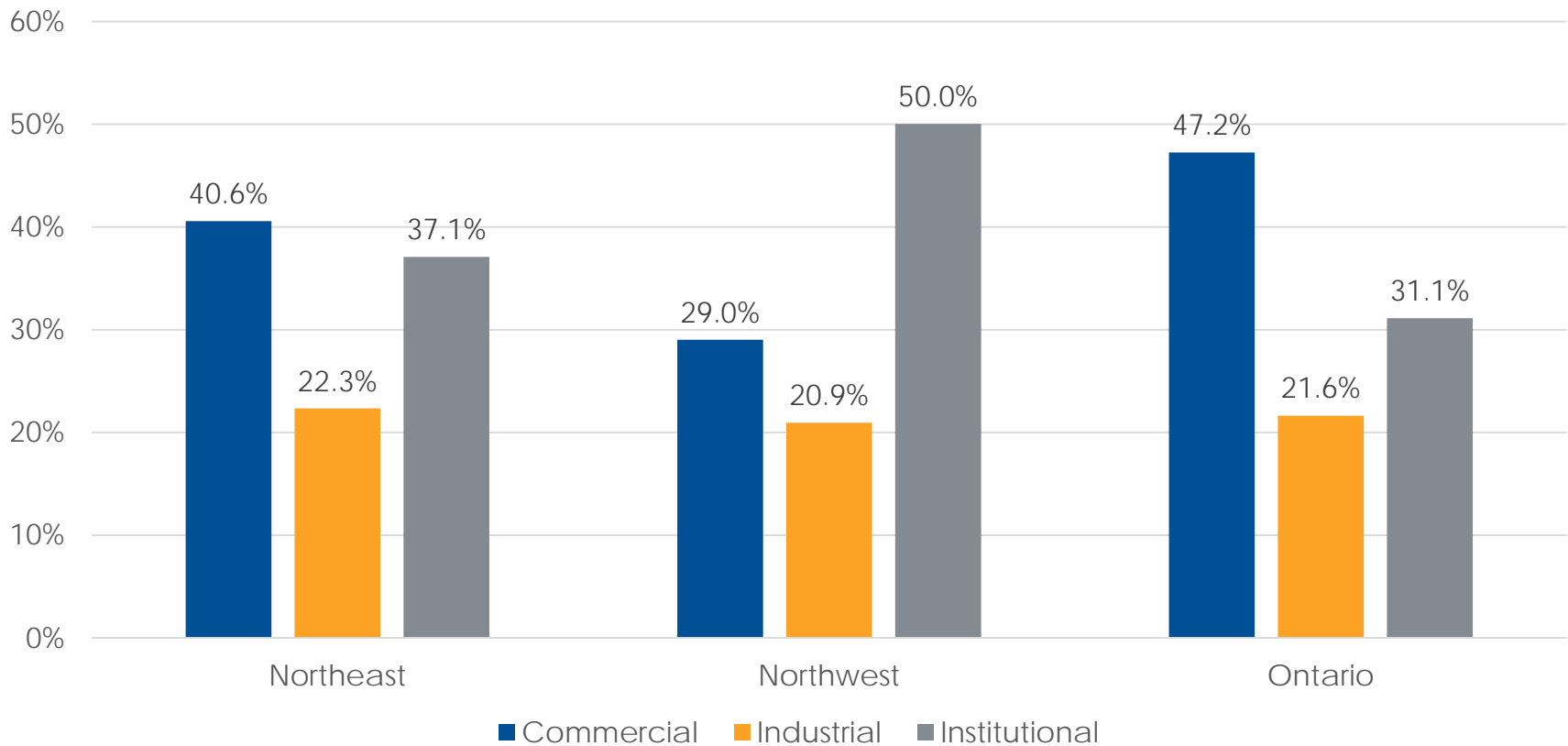
KENORA DISTRICT



# Investment and Business Attraction

More Investment in Institutional Buildings, less in Commercial than Ontario

DISTRIBUTION BY TYPES OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS (VALUE),  
AVERAGE OVER THE 2000-2016 PERIOD

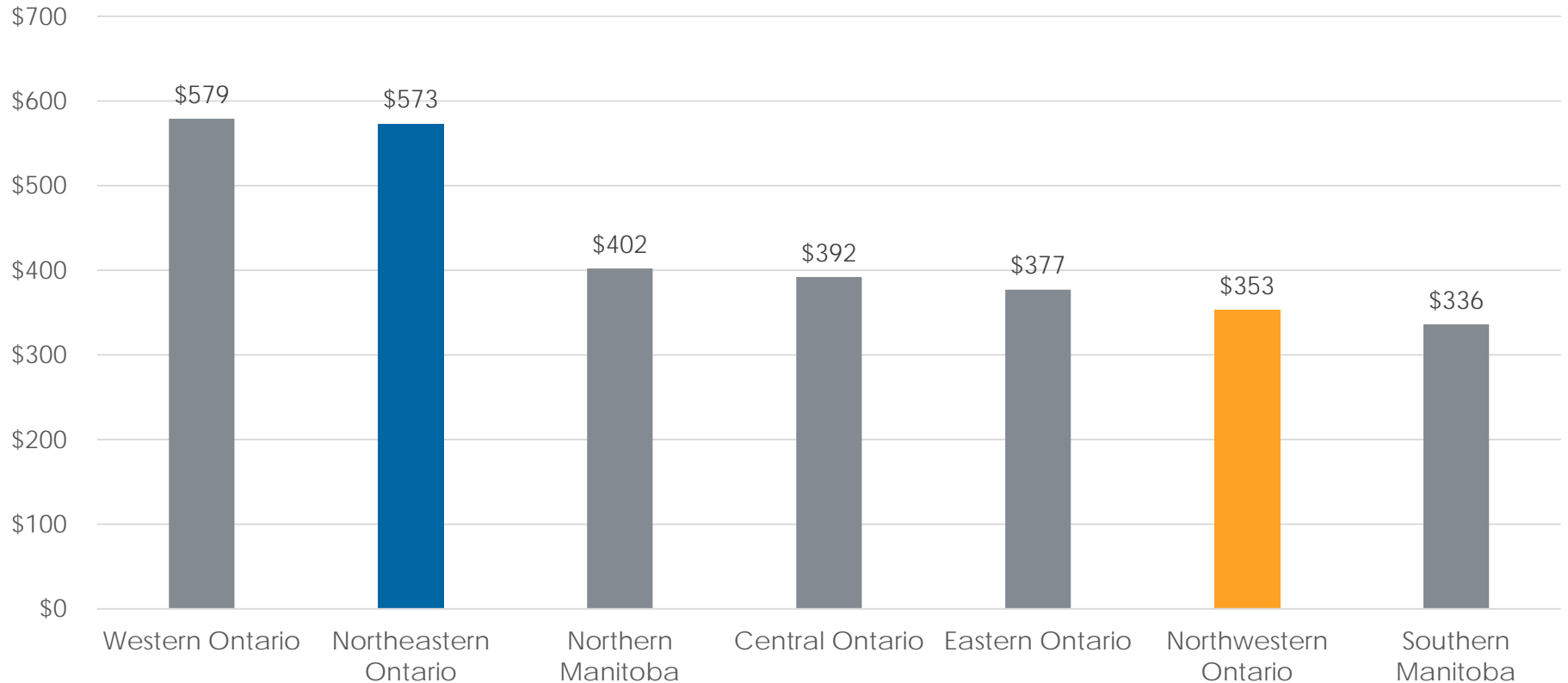


Source: Author's calculations based on Statistics Canada, Investment and Capital Stock Division, and Bank of Canada, Consumer Price Index

# Infrastructure

In Ontario, Average Cost of Highways is the Lowest in the Northwest

AVERAGE COST OF HIGHWAY PER KM (IN THOUSANDS), 2016

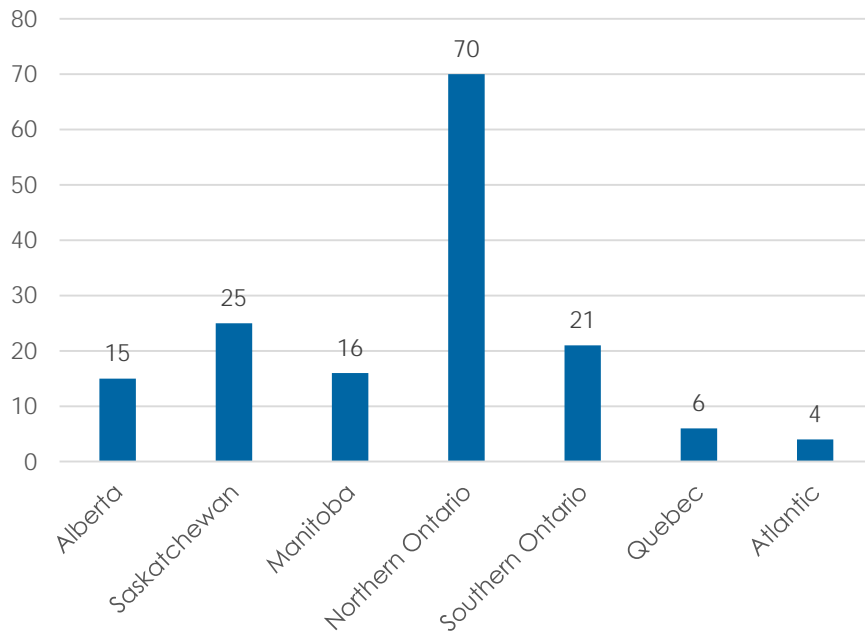


Source: Winter Lipscombe, Unpublished manuscript, Northern Policy Institute

# Infrastructure

More Long-Term Drinking Water Advisories in Northern Ontario than in Canada

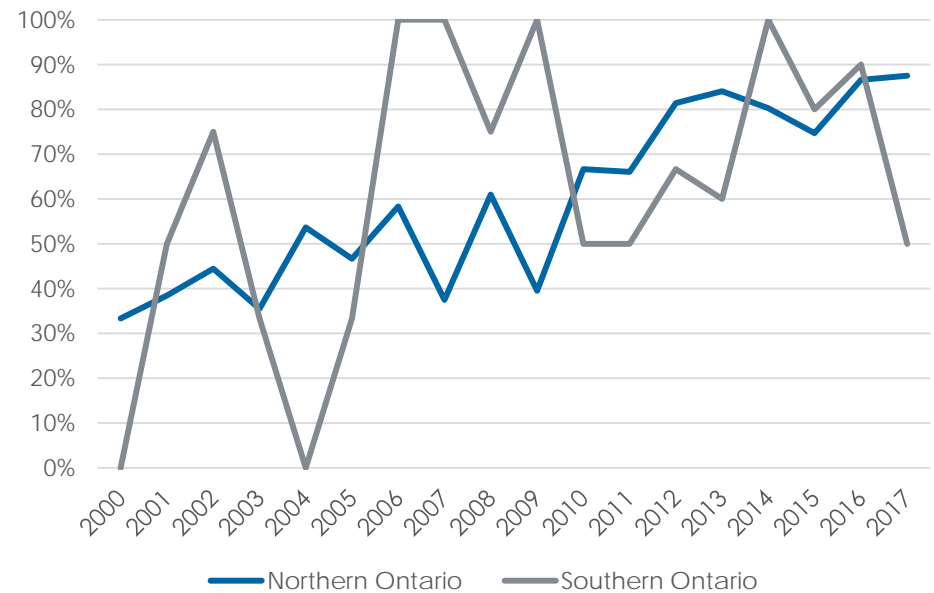
NUMBER OF LONG TERM\* DRINKING WATER ADVISORIES IN FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES, 2017



\*Long term = more than a year

Source: Government of Canada. 2017. Drinking Water Advisories: First Nations South of 60°

PERCENTAGE OF BOILED WATER ADVISORIES DECLARED FOR **EQUIPMENT AND PROCESS CAUSES**, IN FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES

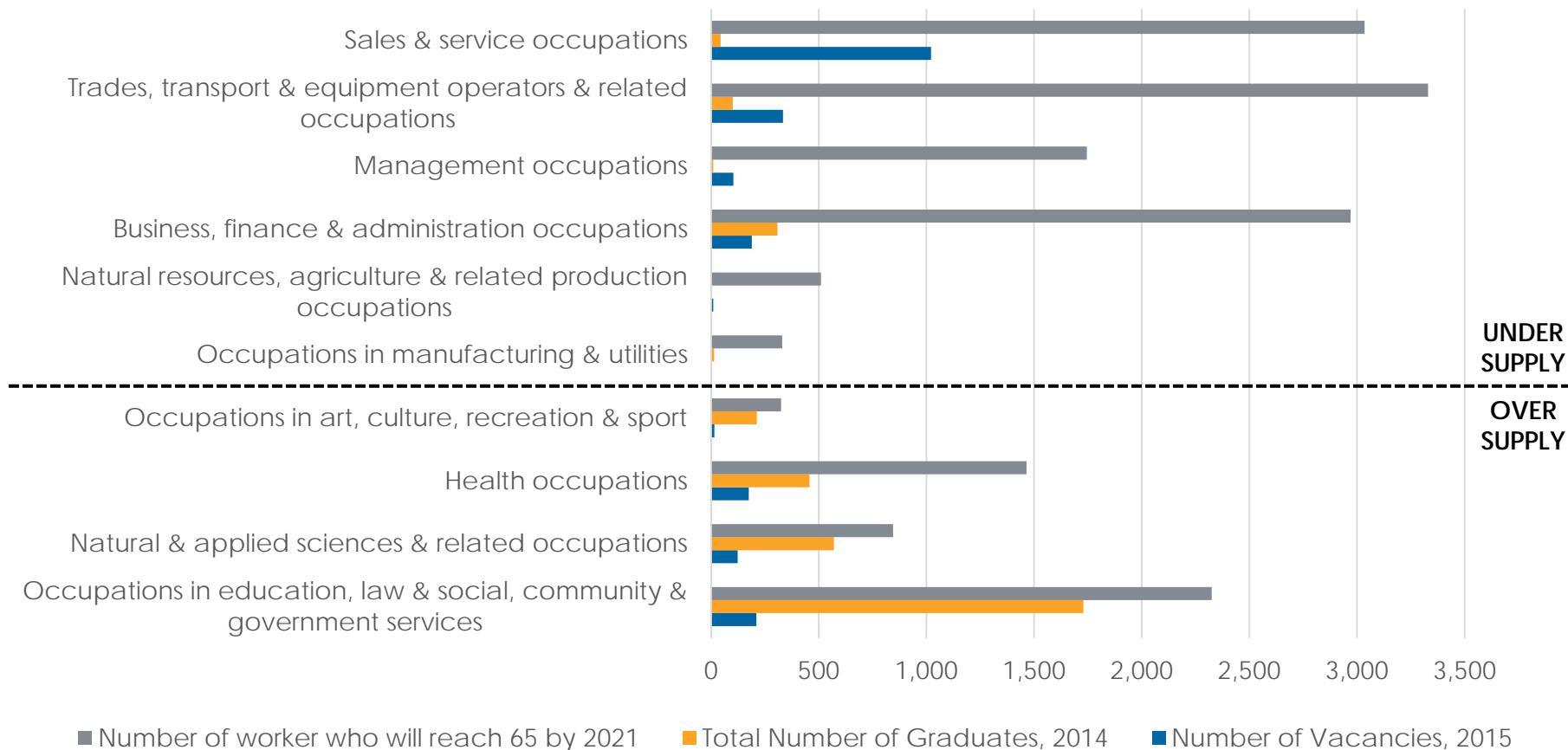


Source: Author's Calculations based on Health Canada, Drinking Water Advisories in First Nations Data

# Education and Skills

## Not Enough Workers to Replace Those Who Will Retire

JOB VACANCIES IN **NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO**, NUMBER OF WORKERS REACHING RETIREMENT AGE BY 2021 AND GRADUATES BY OCCUPATION

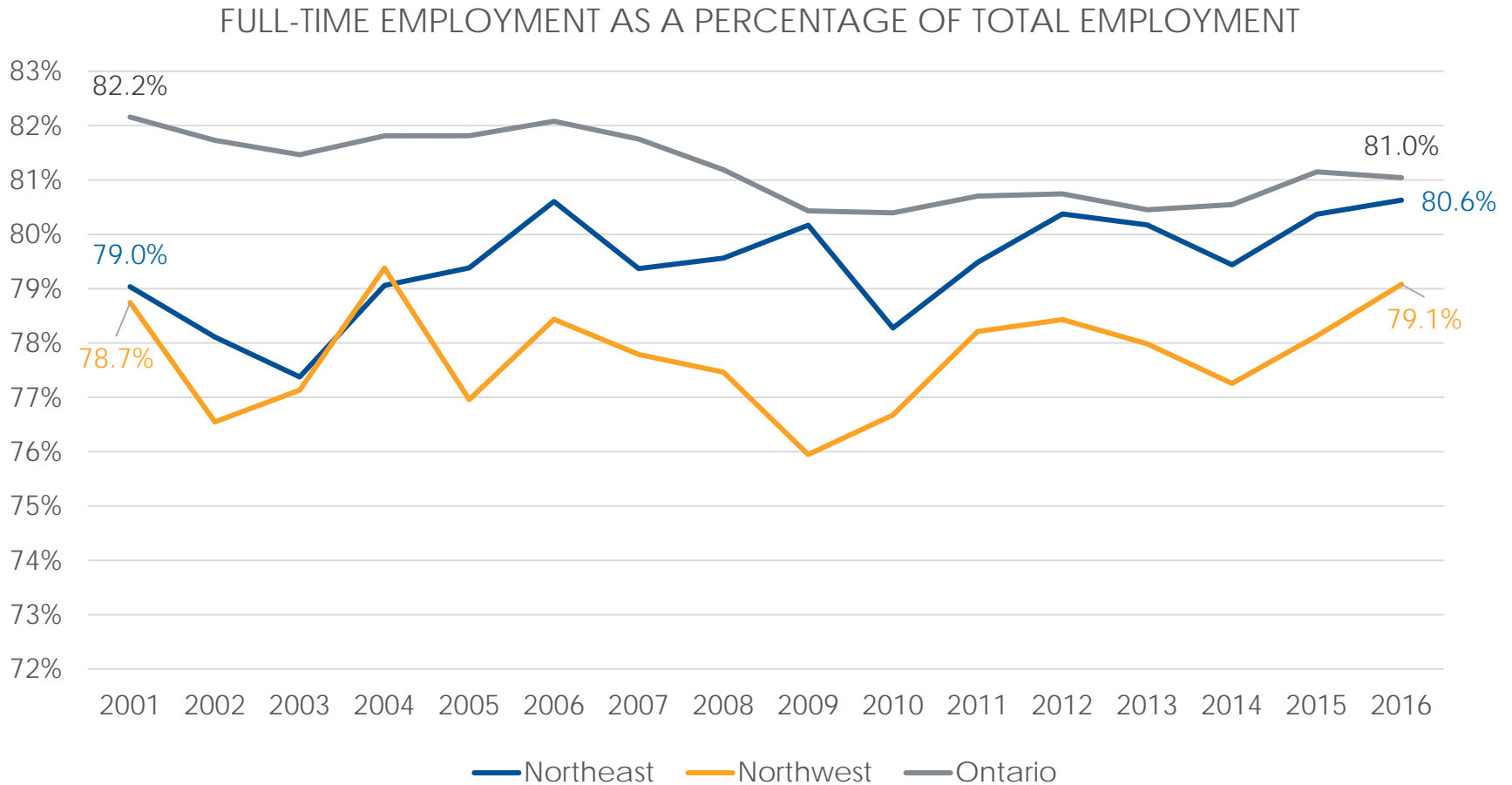


Sources: Jarrod Sundmark, "Labour Market Alignment: Education in the North" Northern Policy Institute, based on Statistics Canada Job Vacancies and Wages Survey, and CUDO/data provided by Colleges; Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011. 8



# Integration in the Labour Market

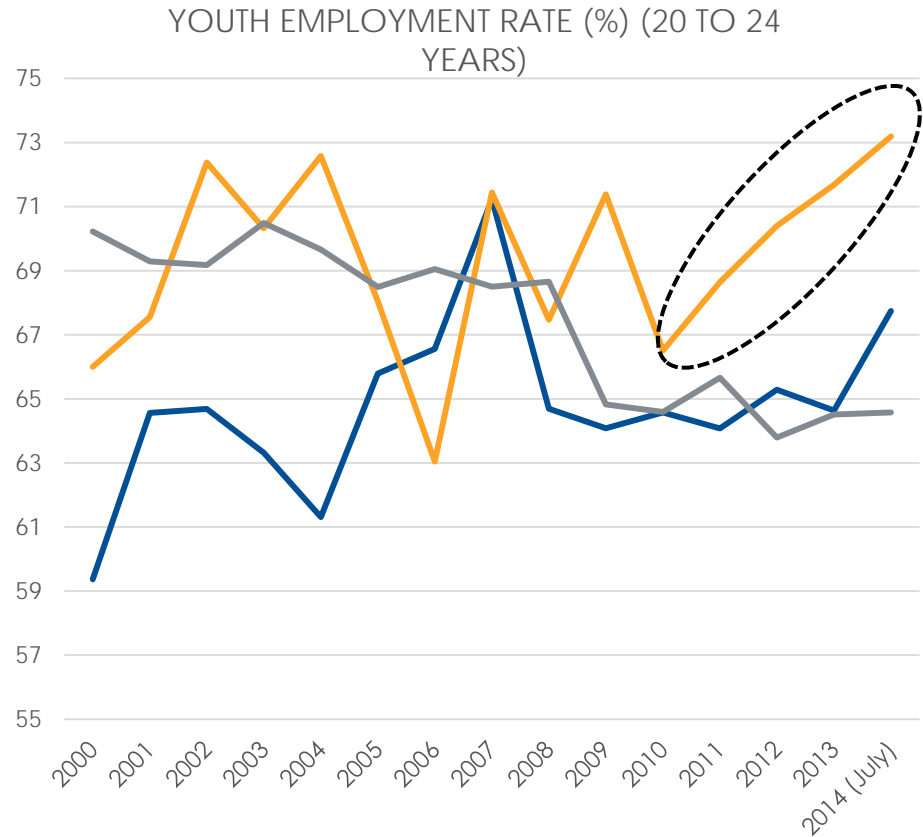
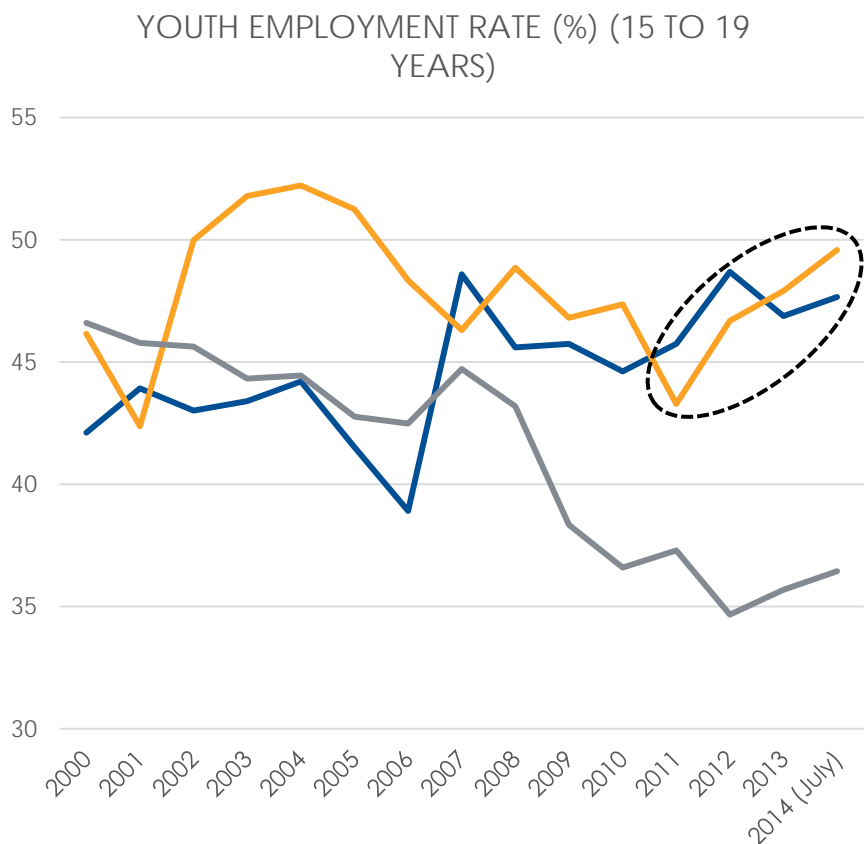
The proportion of full-time jobs increased in Northern Ontario



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 282-0123 - Labour force survey estimates (LFS), annual

# Integration in the Labour Market

## A Bright Spot: Youth Employment Rates



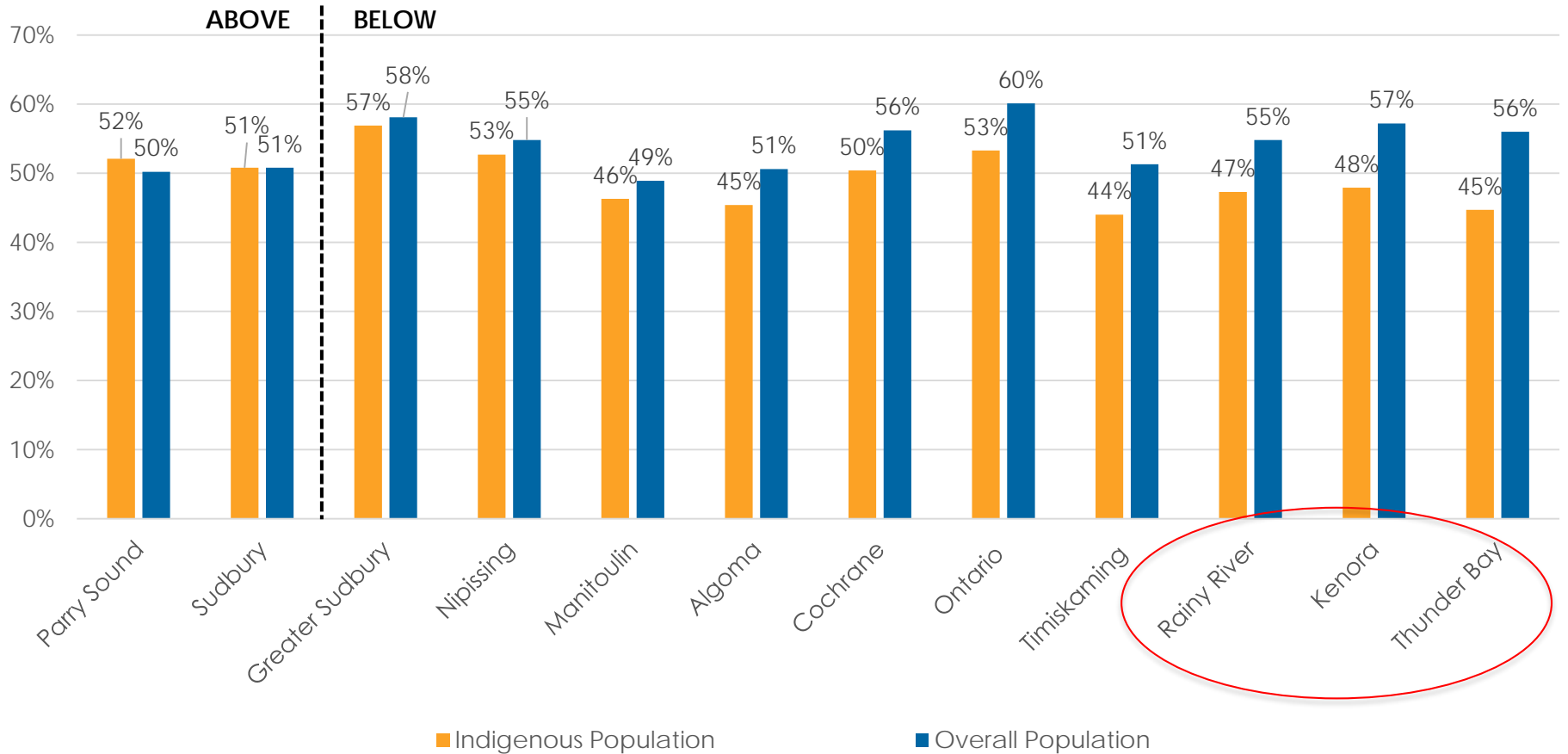
■ Northeast    
 ■ Northwest    
 ■ Ontario

Source: Author's calculations based on Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation

# Integration in the Labour Market

## Indigenous Population

EMPLOYMENT RATE OF THE INDIGENOUS POPULATION COMPARED TO THAT OF THE OVERALL POPULATION, 2011

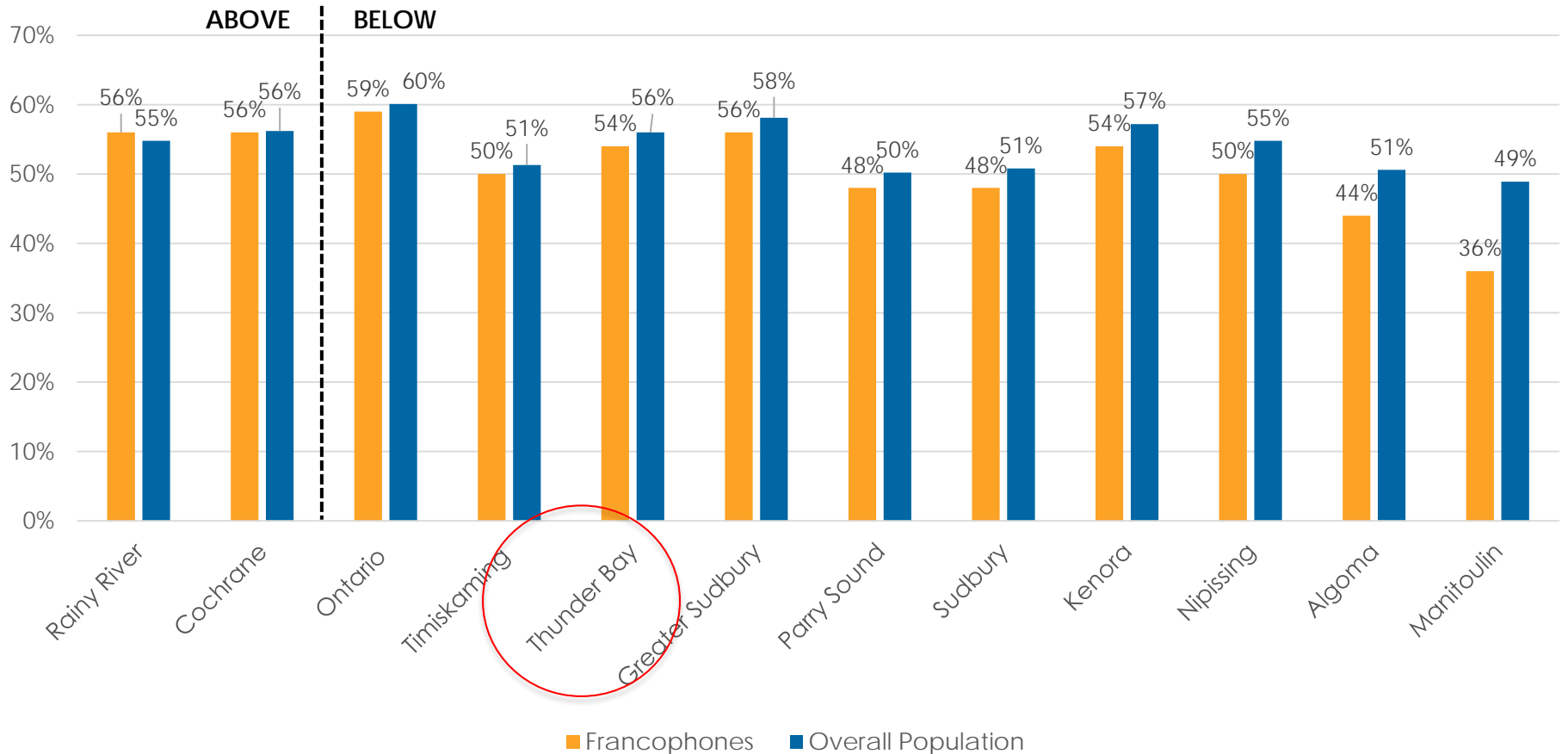


Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011, custom tabulation

# Integration in the Labour Market

## Francophone Population

EMPLOYMENT RATE OF FRANCOPHONES COMPARED TO THAT OF THE OVERALL POPULATION, 2011

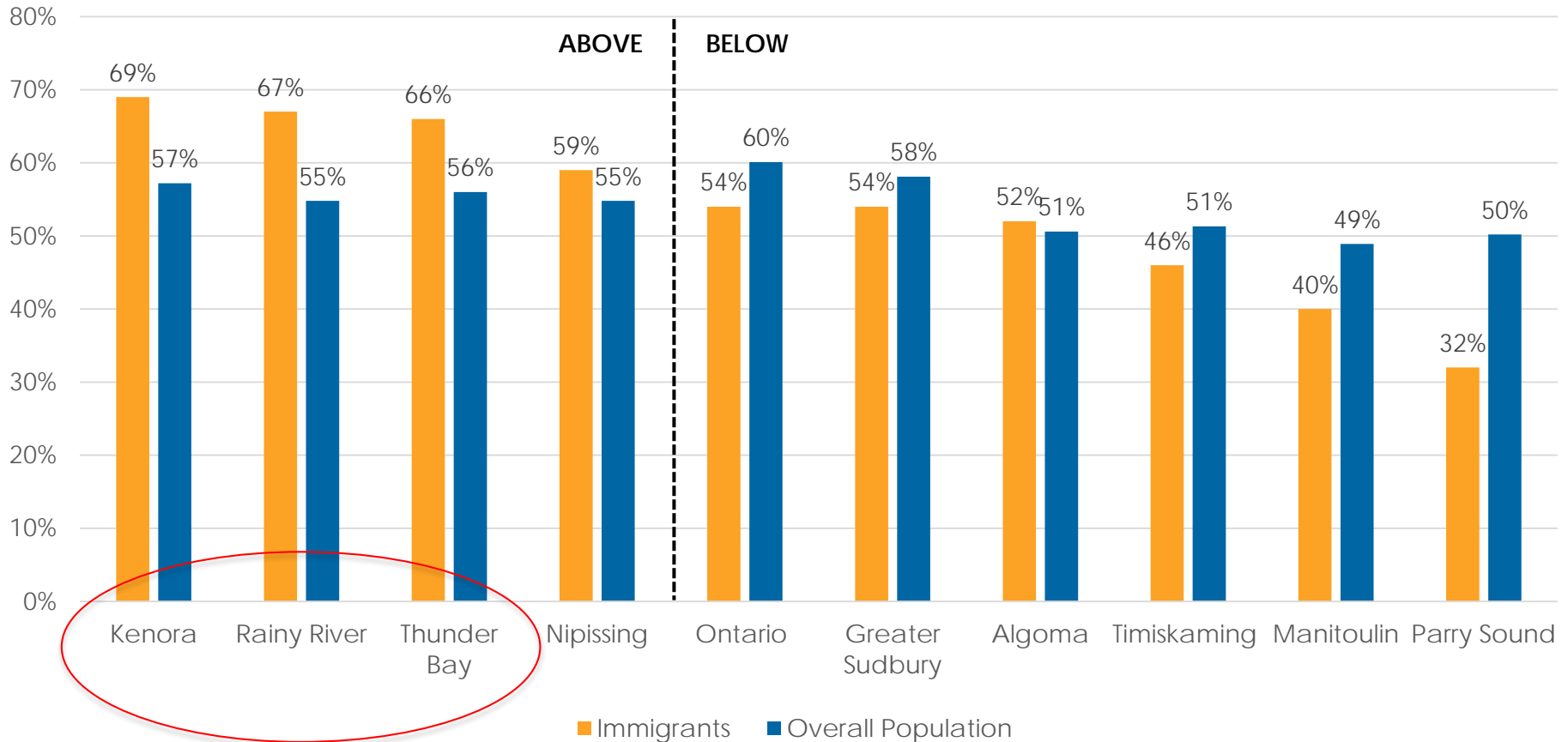


Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011, custom tabulation

# Integration in the Labour Market

## Immigrant Population

EMPLOYMENT RATE OF IMMIGRANTS COMPARED TO THAT OF THE OVERALL POPULATION, 2011



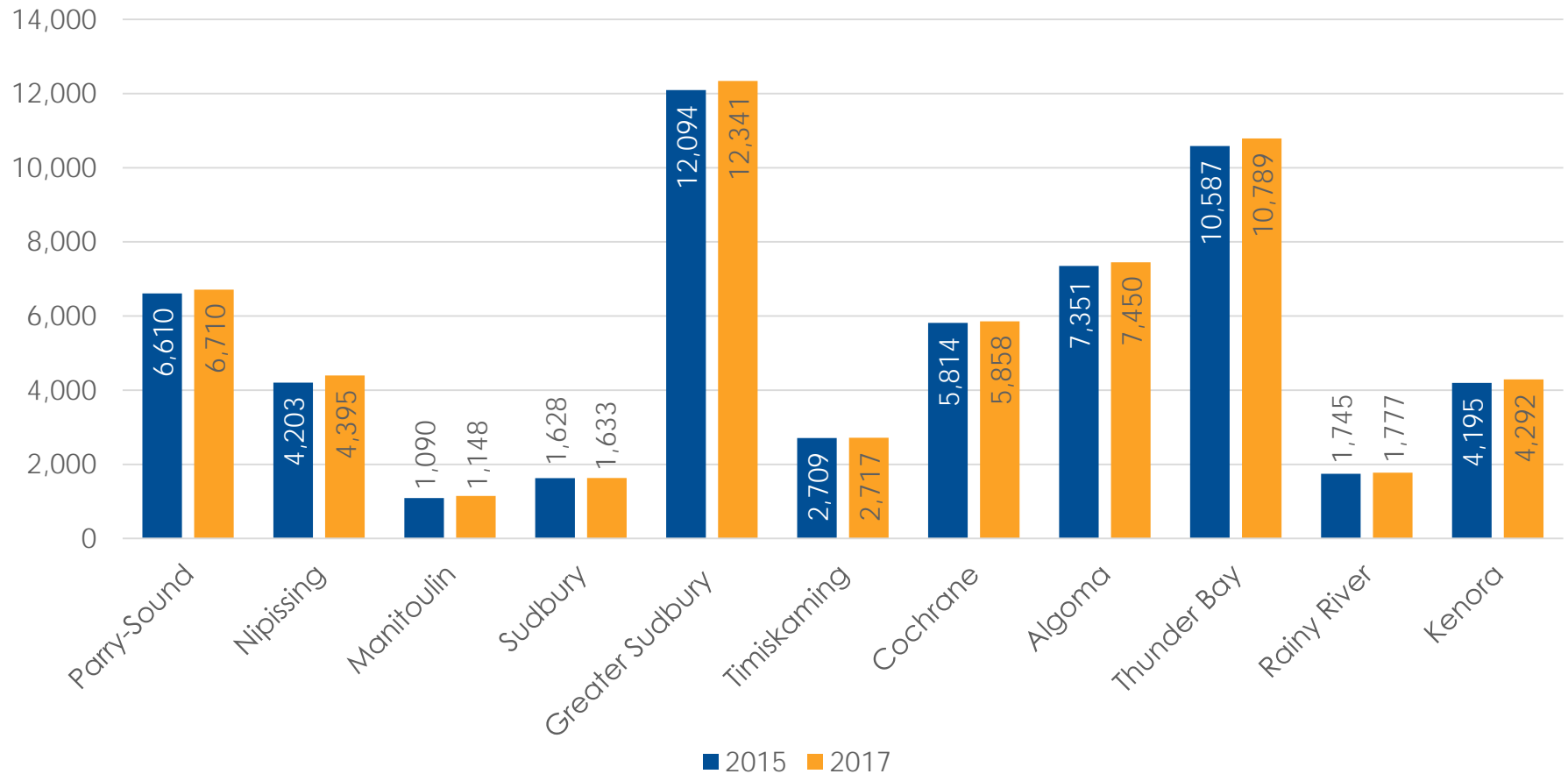
\*Data for Sudbury District was not available

Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011, custom tabulation

# Investment and Business Attraction

Growth in Every District in the Total Number of Businesses

NUMBER OF BUSINESSES BY DISTRICT (JUNE OF EACH YEAR)



Source: Author's calculations based on Statistics Canada, Business Counts.

# The Way Forward?

1. TELL our story
  - Not just ads: people, events, travel and attraction subsidies - there AND here – CEDC, Smooth Rock Falls, Morden MB
2. Indigenous Participation
  - Invest together: shared risk, shared reward
  - Employ each other: and TALK about it
3. Immigration
  - Regional Nominee program – minimum of 1000 per year for Northwest (NOMA, NOAC, CEDC, political parties?)
  - Students – either change WHO they are/WHAT they study, OR start treating them as an export product
4. Reduce cost of government
  - EMS – if that will save city money, get on board – HELP them shift that cost to province
  - Operational review – if incremental is all they offer – TRACK it, applaud if it works

