

Labour data 'first step'

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The North Superior Workforce Planning Board and Northern Policy Institute have teamed up to provide communities with greater access to labour market information at the local level.

The two organizations have started a community labour market report series — Know Your Community To Grow Your community.

First up: Greenstone and Aroland.

The community reports by Amandine Martel and José-Karl Noiseux, provide local labour market indicators for communities in the planning board's region and are aimed at helping leaders and organizations make better decisions.

"This information is intended as a starting point for an evidence-based conversation about why certain changes are occurring," Madge Richardson, executive director of the North Superior Workforce Planning Board, said last week.

"(The reports are) just a first step. It is now up to community members to explore and address the challenges and opportunities their community is experiencing."

The goal of the reports is to provide residents with a better understanding of what is happening in their community.

They do not however, attempt to explain the reasons behind the trends, spikes or troughs in the data.

The reports include information on 10 key indicators: employers, employment by industry, employment by occupation, local knowledge, population and demographics, migration, education, literacy, skills and training, labour force participation, wages and income.

Reports from the series will become available throughout the next few months, and will be accessible for download from these websites: nswpb.ca/lepc/reports and www.northernpolicy.ca.

The first two reports on Aroland First Nation and Greenstone are now available. They can be viewed online at the website of the North Superior Workforce Planning Board.

There will be 34 reports in total, covering: Animbiigoo Zaag'igan Anishinaabek (Lake Nipigon Ojibway), Aroland First Nation, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg (Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation), Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek (Rocky Bay First Nation), Conmee, Dorion, Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope), and Fort William First Nation.

Others also to be included are Gillies, Ginoogaming First Nation, Greenstone, Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek (Gull Bay First Nation), Lac des Mille Lac First Nation, Long Lake #58 First Nation, Manitouwadge, Marathon, Marten Falls First Nation, Neebing, Neskantaga First Nation (Landsdownhouse), Nibinamik First Nation (Summer Beaver), Nipigon, O'Connor, Oliver Paipoonge, Pawgwasheeng (Pays Plat First Nation), Pic Mobert First Nation, Red Rock, Red Rock Band, Schreiber, Shuniah, Terrace Bay, Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay Unorganized, Webequie First Nation and Whitesand First Nation.

The North Superior Workforce Planning Board is one of 26 workforce planning zones across Ontario, mandated through the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to identify, assess and prioritize the skills and knowledge needs of community, employers and individual participants/learners in the local labour market.