



For Immediate Release

Five years of working toward a stronger Northern Ontario

Northern Policy Institute releases 2017-2018 Annual Report

January 15, 2019 – 2018 marked five years of operation for Northern Policy Institute (NPI). The fifth annual report released by the Institute puts the spotlight on the importance of partnerships and collaboration, as NPI builds on their work to inspire new ideas and identify opportunities that will lead to stronger, more sustainable communities across Ontario's northern regions.

"This past year, we witnessed the impact of our work in several different policy areas," said NPI President & CEO Charles Cirtwill. "We saw the launch of a multi-year multi-modal northern transportation strategy, contributed to concrete discussions on programming between Northern Ontario educational institutions, and demonstrated that to grow, Northern Ontario needs both newcomers and Indigenous peoples to succeed."

In the 2017-2018 year, NPI developed 39 new partnerships with local and regional organizations. Through these partnerships, NPI was able to provide the public with access to current baseline information and data via the Northern Projections Human Capital Series, Community Labour Market Report Series and the Northern Ontario Infrastructure map. Also launched this year was the new Community Accounts database – an innovative information system providing Northern Ontarians with a reliable source of community, regional, and provincial data on key economic and social indicators.

In September 2017, NPI held their first annual State of the North Conference in Timmins, ON. The conference brought together over 150 decision makers and community leaders from across Northern Ontario who explored evidence-based solutions to address the challenges facing communities in Northern Ontario, attracting significant local and regional media attention.

In addition, the Institute opened up the dialogue for bold conversations, publishing 29 Policy Bytes blogs and giving over 20 presentations throughout the province – speaking on issues such as shifting demographics, labour markets, and other regional and district economic measures.

Highlights of research reports and commentaries released this year for NPI include:

- [Implementing a Basic Income Guarantee Through the Personal Income Tax System, by Dr. Lindsay Tedds](#)
- [Rural Ontario Foresight Papers by Charles Cirtwill and Emma Helfand-Green](#)
- [A University for Timmins? Possibilities and Realities by Dr. Ken Coates](#)
- [Taking Off: Factors Impacting Thunder Bay's Air Traffic by Curtis McKnight](#)

To view NPI's fifth Annual Report, visit www.northernpolicy.ca/publicreporting

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Media Interviews: NPI President & CEO Charles Cirtwill is available for comment.

To arrange an interview, please contact:

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About Northern Policy Institute:

Northern Policy Institute is Northern Ontario's independent think tank. We perform research, collect and disseminate evidence, and identify policy opportunities to support the growth of sustainable Northern communities. Our operations are located in Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, and Sudbury. We seek to enhance Northern Ontario's capacity to take the lead position on socio-economic policy that impacts Northern Ontario, Ontario, and Canada as a whole.