



For Immediate Release

Shifting demographic trends will tell the story of Nipissing district's future

April 4, 2017 – The seventh installment of *Northern Projections: Human Capital Series* reveals an aging and declining working-age population will have significant consequences on Nipissing district's future labour market. The new report, a partnership between Northern Policy Institute and the Northern Ontario Workforce Planning Boards, finds that there are several trends – both positive and negative – unfolding that will impact the Nipissing district's economy and the standard of living of residents within the area.

Nipissing district's population has remained relatively steady from 1991 to 2011. Looking ahead, authors Bakhtiar Moazzami and James Cuddy project the district is one of the few areas in Northern Ontario that is expected to experience population growth.

Key demographic trends in the district paint a more telling picture, however, in terms of planning for future labour markets. The population share of seniors is expected to rise from 18 percent in 2013 to 30 percent in 2041, while the share of working-age people (ages 20 to 64) is projected to decline from 61 percent to 51 percent within the same period.

In terms of labour trends in the district, the report shows total employment grew by over 7 percent from 2001 to 2011, largely as a result of growth in the services-producing sector more than offsetting declines in the manufacturing sector. Growth in wholesale trade and health care and social assistance have all been instrumental in supporting job gains.

All of these factors combined will have important implications on what opportunities to pursue in the district.

"The economy in the Nipissing district has undergone some significant transformations and will continue to do so in the years ahead," stated Stacie Fiddler, Executive Director, The Labour Market Group. "Given proximity to larger centres with similar aging trends, serving the needs of an aging population could become a niche market for the district, allowing it to draw new population to both deliver, and receive, programs and services."

More findings of the report show the Nipissing district has experienced positive net intraprovincial migration for the last decade, meaning that more individuals from Ontario have been moving into the district than out of the district. Additionally, the human capital indexes for the Indigenous labour force in the district, while below the rest of the population, are higher than in Ontario and Canada.

Based on these findings, the authors make several recommendations to promote the long-term sustainability of the district:

1. *Market the district of Nipissing as a desirable destination for secondary migration in Ontario*



The district of Nipissing has experienced positive net intra-provincial migration in recent years, as more individuals from Ontario have moved into the area than out of it. Meanwhile, the human capital indexes for immigrants in the Nipissing district are higher than in Ontario and Canada, and notably higher than the total working-age population across all jurisdictions. With significant numbers of unemployed and underemployed new Canadians in the Greater Toronto Area there is a real opportunity for this district to address its population challenges by playing to its demonstrated strength in supporting immigrant success.

2. Continue to build on Indigenous partnerships

The human capital indexes for the Indigenous labour force in the district of Nipissing, while below the rest of the population, are higher than in Ontario and Canada. As with new Canadians, there is a real opportunity for the district to be marketed as a destination for Indigenous migration within Canada. The district has a track record of delivering better social and education outcomes to its Indigenous population and, given the growth trends among this population across Northern Ontario, this is an opportunity that should continue to be aggressively pursued.

3. Eldercare may be the new Growth Sector

The population share of seniors in the Nipissing district is expected to rise from 18 percent in 2013 to 30 percent in 2041. The aging population and declining working-age population has important implications for the region's future labour market, allowing it to draw new population to both deliver, and receive, programs and services designed to deliver a high quality of life for an aging population.

The full report, *Northern Projections: Human Capital Series – Nipissing District*, is available on our websites:

Northern Policy Institute www.northernpolicy.ca

Algoma Workforce Investment Corporation www.awic.ca

Far Northeast Training Board www.fnetb.com

The Labour Market Group – Nipissing Parry Sound www.thelabourmarketgroup.ca

Northwest Training and Adjustment Board www.ntab.on.ca

North Superior Workforce Planning Board www.nswpb.ca

Sudbury and Manitoulin Workforce Planning Board www.planningourworkforce.ca

Northern Projections: Human Capital Series highlights all of the 11 districts in Northern Ontario, and is part of an ongoing, collaborative effort between the *Northern Policy Institute* and *Northern Ontario Workforce Planning Board* to provide evidenced based analysis for effective decision making in the region.

Reports will examine past and present characteristics and trends in each district's economy in order to forecast future challenges and opportunities.

Media Interviews: Northern Policy Institute President & CEO, Charles Cirtwill and Stacie Fiddler, Executive Director, The Labour Market Group are both 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.

About Northern Ontario Workforce Planning:

Workforce Planning Ontario is a network of 26 Workforce Planning Boards covering four regions across the province. Workforce Planning Boards gather intelligence about the supply and demand side of the local labour market and work in partnership with employers, employment services, educators, researchers, economic development, government and other stakeholders to identify, understand and address labour market issues. This includes supporting and coordinating local responses to meet current and emerging workforce needs.

Given the unique geography and labour market issues that impact Northern Ontario, all 6 planning boards in the north have collaborated to form Northern Ontario Workforce Planning. They include: Algoma Workforce Investment Corporation (AWIC); Far Northeast Training Board (FNETB); The Labour Market Group (LMG); Northwest Training and Adjustment Board (NTAB); North Superior Workforce Planning Board (NSWPB); and Workforce Planning for Sudbury & Manitoulin (WPSM). FNETB and NSWPB are currently pilot sites for Local Employment Planning Councils (LEPC).