



For Immediate Release

Parry Sound District...a destination for secondary migrants?

March 30, 2017 – Northern Policy Institute, in partnership with the Northern Ontario Workforce Planning Boards, has released the sixth report of their joint effort; *Northern Projections: Human Capital Series*. The report, authored by James Cuddy and Bakhtiar Moazzami, focuses on the Parry Sound District, proposing secondary migration from the Greater Toronto Area as a solution to slow-growth population numbers.

The population in Parry Sound is growing, but very slowly. According to the most recent 2016 Statistics Canada census numbers, the district grew from 33,828 to 42,824 – a 26.6 percent increase from 1986 to 2016. Authors of the report project that the district's total population is expected to slightly increase by only 0.6 percent from 2013 to 2041.

At the same time, the Parry Sound district has experienced positive intraprovincial migration for the past decade as individuals from Ontario have moved into the region from other parts of the province. So, while the projected numbers may look dim, opportunities to increase the population can be found in marketing the district of Parry Sound as a desirable destination for secondary migrants who are looking to move north. Even more promising is the fact that the human capital indexes, level of knowledge and skills that affect productivity, for immigrants in the district are higher than the total working-age population across all jurisdictions.

“With significant numbers of unemployed and underemployed new Canadians in the Greater Toronto Area, and Parry Sound district's relative proximity to this part of the province, there is a real opportunity for the Parry Sound district to address its population challenges by playing to its demonstrated strength in supporting newcomer success,” stated Stacie Fiddler, Executive Director, The Labour Market Group.

On another positive note, authors found the human capital indexes of the francophone population in the district are higher than in Ontario and Canada, and notably higher than the total working-age population across all jurisdictions.

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

1. Work to build Parry Sound District as a centre for Francophone success in Northern Ontario

Ontario wants to see its Francophone population grow and prosper. Parry Sound district has a strong Francophone population from which to build and an enviable track record of educational achievement and employment success for Francophones compared to other districts in the North. Indeed, Francophones in the Parry Sound district have higher levels of education and educational achievement than Francophones in other districts and across Ontario. The district could expand its role as a leader in this effort to attract and support northern Francophones.

2. Market the district of Parry Sound as a desirable destination for secondary migration in Ontario



The Parry Sound district has experienced positive intraprovincial migration for the past decade as more individuals from Ontario have moved into the region from other parts of the province. Meanwhile, the human capital indexes for immigrants in the district are higher than the total working-age population across all jurisdictions.

3. Continue to build on Indigenous partnerships

The human capital indexes for the Indigenous labour force in the district of Parry Sound, while below the rest of the population, are higher than in Canada as a whole. Given that the Indigenous share of the population is increasing, and given that their human capital composition is lower than total working-age population in the Parry Sound district, future labour productivity will decrease if education levels do not rise among this segment of the population. There is strong evidence showing that higher skill levels increase the likelihood of participation in the workforce and reduce unemployment rates in the Parry Sound district and addressing these issues for the Indigenous population will have positive benefits for the entire region.

The full report, *Northern Projections: Human Capital Series – Parry Sound 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, Sudbury, and Kenora. 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).