



For Immediate Release

## **Northern Policy Institute announces State of the North Conference** ***Conference to explore Northern Ontario's Demographic Shift***

**July 11, 2017** – Northern Policy Institute is pleased to announce the *State of the North Conference* taking place September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> in Timmins, ON.

State of the North is an annual conference that brings together members of the general public, decision makers, community leaders, experts, and innovators to explore the state of Northern Ontario from an economic, social, and environmental perspective.

“Each year, Northern Policy Institute will provide an annual update on the state of the north by offering reporting on a set of environmental, social and economic indicators that we will define and select in partnership with our communities,” said Charles Cirtwill, President & CEO of Northern Policy Institute. “It’s time to take what we have learned and step forward into solution based discussions.”

This year's theme is '*Responding to Northern Ontario's Demographic Shift*'. Northern Ontario is facing a combination of a declining and aging population. At the same time, the Indigenous population is young and growing, representing important opportunities for the northern regions of the province. These demographic shifts will have significant implications on Northern Ontario's economy and society, impacting the long term sustainability of all 11 districts in the region.

This conference will explore evidence-based solutions to address these challenges by exploring the roles that migration, cross-cultural engagement with Indigenous communities, and local governance can have on improving the sustainability of Northern Ontario.

This non-partisan day and a half event will feature multidisciplinary researchers, and authors recognized in their fields of study. The conference will also include opportunities for networking, and interactive tools to facilitate conversation across Northern Ontario and beyond. To join the conversation on social media, use the hashtag #StateOfTheNorth

Registration is now open for the conference, which will be held September 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> at the Ramada Inn in Timmins, Ontario. To register, visit [www.stateofthenorth.ca](http://www.stateofthenorth.ca). Participants are also encouraged to attend the [Northern Ontario Business Awards](#) on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Anyone attending the NOBA's will receive a discounted ticket price for the conference.



**Media Interviews:** Northern Policy Institute President, Charles Cirtwill is available for comment. To arrange an interview, please contact:

Katie Elliott  
Communications Coordinator  
705-542-4456  
kelliott@northernpolicy.ca

**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.*