



For Immediate Release

Northern Policy Institute report analyzes decision making in the Northern Ontario Health Care System

February 21, 2019 – Northern Ontario continues to face troubling social, health, and economic problems. Why do these problems persist? A growing body of policy and academic literature points to the need for new governance solutions that address the unique circumstances of Northern Ontario.

Northern Policy Institute explores these issues, specifically through the lens of the health care system, and provides potential solutions in their most recent research report, "*A Case Study in Northern Governance: Local Decision Making in the Northern Ontario Health Care System*" by author Eric Everett.

Through interviews and research, the author explores the relationships between Ontario's two Northern Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) and hospitals, with the goal to determine whether these bodies are meeting their original mandate to local decision-making.

Participants in the study acknowledged that provincial health care reform is not yet finished and that while the situation has improved, more work needs to be done to improve local decision making and control in Northern Ontario health care governance.

Everett provides a summary of key themes, observations and recommendations in his research that can be used to improve decision making in Northern Ontario's health care system, some of which include:

1. Greater integration and more local and regional control of Northern Ontario's health care system
2. There are challenges in recruiting, developing and retaining skilled board members for health service providers.
3. Health reform is too fragmented and incremental, partly due to differing views and inconsistent focus on what the central vision of health care delivery actually is.

The report also suggests that in order to solve these themes, the Ontario government should convene a broad public policy discussion, with inclusive representation from all government levels, Indigenous peoples and key players from health care and Northern Ontario as whole.

To read the full report, visit: www.northernpolicy.ca/northerngovernance



Media Interviews: Author Eric Everett, and NPI's President and CEO, Charles Cirtwill, 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 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 the author:

Eric Everett is a policy professional who has been inspired to dig deeper into systemic challenges and new opportunities facing the North(s). Field studies have taken him to different Norths, including Saskatchewan, Labrador, Iceland, and Norway, and at least one South – South Korea. He is particularly interested in Northern governance and comparing how different regions around the world approach similar issues.

For the past 11 years, Eric has worked in progressively responsible positions in multiple Ontario government ministries, predominantly related to building partnerships in Northern Ontario, across the province, and across Canada. Previously, Eric supported technology transfer and research development in the Innovation Management Office at Lakehead University.