



For Immediate Release

**Human Capital Series part 2/3: Hey you in the Northeast!**

25 July, 2019 – The next four reports from the UPDATED *Northern Projections: Human Capital Series* have been released. These reports explore demographic and labour market trends as well as projections into the future of Northeastern Ontario, specifically in the districts of Cochrane, Timiskaming, Nipissing, and Parry Sound.

Below are some key recommendations found in the reports:

**1. Leverage industrial clusters while identifying new opportunities**

From 2001-2016 the mining, oil and gas extraction industries grew by 46 per cent in the Cochrane district. This district should continue to build on the natural resource clusters in their area but also recognize the importance of diversification. Developing other industries that show growth into long-term and self-sufficient industries could aid in smoothing out the cyclical nature of natural resource industries.

The Timiskaming District has 1,210 more mining sector jobs in 2016 than in 2001. Timiskaming has a comparative advantage due to its easy access to natural resources and it should harness this advantage. Along with Cochrane, the Timiskaming district should also establish supporting industries that could diversify the economy and benefit the mining sector.

**2. Engage the Indigenous population**

Indigenous people are projected to have a larger share of the working age population over the next 10 years. Improving access to education for the Indigenous population should be a key objective as those with a university degree in the Timiskaming district perform extremely well in Timiskaming District’s labour market.

“Improving access to education for the Indigenous populations can encourage more workforce participation which is needed to lower the unemployment rate and to combat the projected demographic shift facing our districts in the coming years,” said Julie Joncas, the Executive Director for the Far Northeast Training Board.

In the Nipissing district, the Indigenous population has achieved better social and education opportunities than other areas of the province. This creates an opportunity for strong partnerships with the Indigenous population that can promote regional growth and reconciliation.

**3. Recruit youth to care for the elderly**

Healthcare cost/demand in the Parry Sound district is expected to increase 52 per cent by 2041, which is the largest increase in the Northeastern districts. The Nipissing district’s population that are over the age of 65 is expected to grow, causing an increased demand of healthcare providers. Overall, Northeastern Ontario is projected to show a demand for over 13,000 new healthcare providers by 2030.

“The aging population in our district will have far-reaching impacts on our local communities. Each and every industry sector in our region will be impacted and affected by this increase in some form or another”, said Stacie Fiddler, Executive Director of the Labour Market Group.

Both the Nipissing and Parry Sound districts can harness these trends and build upon the growing healthcare and social assistance sectors. They can also recruit more youth to service the aging demographic in the coming years.

To read the four reports in full visit <https://www.northernpolicy.ca/district-reports>





**Media Interviews:** Author Dr. Moazzami and NPI President & CEO Charles Cirtwill are 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:**

Dr. Moazzami has taught Economics and Econometrics at Lakehead University since 1988. He is well known for his research activities particularly related to Northern Ontario. He has written many reports on Northern Ontario's economic development challenges and opportunities. He was commissioned by the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to undertake a comprehensive study of Northern Ontario's economy as a part of the research conducted for the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario. Included in the study were the identification of growing, declining and emerging industrial clusters in the region. Professor Moazzami has also written extensively on Northern Ontario's Aboriginal people and Northern Aboriginal economy. Dr. Moazzami's expertise and influence reaches beyond Lakehead University and Northern Ontario. He has been a regular guest speaker at the University of Waterloo's Economic Development Program.

**About the series:**

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 Boards 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.

**Project Partners:**



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