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For Immediate Release

## 50 Years of Progress: Confederation College

**November 26, 2019** – Confederation College partnered with Northern Policy Institute (NPI), to see how Confederation College campuses located in Northwestern Ontario contribute to social progress of the communities in which they are located.

“This project as conceived was fairly straightforward: let’s measure the impact that Confederation College has on social progress in Northwestern Ontario”, said author of *50 Years of Progress*, Anthony Noga.

The author identified 26 commonly used indicators of social progress under four main dimensions: Human Capital, Economy, Individual Prosperity, Community Vitality. The indicators assessed time-series data over a twenty-year period across the eight communities in the region that host a campus, as well as three counterfactual communities – one from each census division – that could have hosted a campus. These results were tested against two more locations in Northwestern Ontario that do not host a campus, as well as a pair of test cases in the Northeast.

The report demonstrates that “those communities that have a stronger relationship to the college tend to have more human capital, as evidenced through their better education and employment statistics, they have more diverse and resilient economies, they enjoy more individual prosperity as evidenced by better income, poverty and housing affordability statistics, and the communities have greater vitality through more stable population sizes, better voter turnout in federal elections, and crime statistics.”

The college can draw upon these results “to build on its strengths and achieve its vision under the Strategic Mandate Agreement. At the same time, this report contributes to the burgeoning literature on social progress and grants a better sense of how people in Northwestern Ontario are truly doing.”

*50 Years of Progress: Measuring Confederation College's Impact on Social Progress in Northwestern Ontario*, was delivered to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. To read, click here :

<https://www.northernpolicy.ca/confederation-college>



**Media Interviews:** Confederation College 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:**

*Anthony Noga is a Policy Analyst for Northern Policy Institute. He was born in Thunder Bay and grew up in the city's rural outskirts. After graduating from Lakehead University with an HBA in History and Political Science, he spent time volunteering with an economic development agency in Israel before getting his Master of Arts in Political Science from the University of Waterloo. A political economy geek, Anthony was drawn to NPI by the opportunity to put his extensive research and analytical skills to work in his hometown.*

**About Confederation College:**

*Confederation College has been serving the citizens of Northwestern Ontario since 1967 meeting the educational needs of students in a catchment area of some 550,000 square kilometres. Along with its main campus in Thunder Bay, Confederation College has eight regional sites located in Dryden, Fort Frances, Geraldton, Kenora, Marathon, Sioux Lookout, Red Lake and Wawa.*

*Confederation College delivers exceptional education and training to an average of 7,200 combined full- and part-time students per year and currently has a total of 850 full- and part-time employees. Confederation's regional economic impact and contribution is valued at \$643.4 million annually.*