



For Immediate Release

A French-Speaking Future?

November 7, 2019 – Northern Policy Institute (NPI) partnered with Reseau du Nord to perform an analysis estimating how many future French-speaking migrants should be targeted for Greater Sudbury, in order to maintain the current proportion of French-speakers in the city.

It is known that Northern Ontario will be experiencing an increase in the number of seniors in the coming years, at a higher proportion than provincial levels. This will mean future labour market shortages, and a greater need for youth retention and migration to the North.

"In Greater Sudbury, French speakers make up more than one third of the population. Therefore, the composition of future migrants should be just as important as retention in order to prevent a faster decline of specific subgroups of the population that are following the overall aging population trend" said Thomas Mercier, Director of Reseau du Nord.

For this commentary, the authors Li and Ross focused on future projections of the Frenchspeaking, core working-age population, those between 25 and 64 years of age. The authors used a methodology to calculate an estimated range of in-migrants required by 2026 in order to maintain the current proportion of French speakers in Greater Sudbury.

Multiple findings were made, including the following:

By using the Ontario Ministry of Finance's population projections, the authors estimate that, in order to maintain Greater Sudbury's current proportion of core working-age French speakers at 38.7 per cent in the year 2026, between 32.5 and 35.6 per cent of future in-migrants would need to be French-speaking. In-migrants include both those from other regions in Canada or from other countries.

Further, the authors used the same approach to examine the Francophone population in Greater Sudbury, which is older than the French-speaking population. The authors estimate that between 46 and 64 per cent of future in-migrants would need to be Francophone in order to maintain the current proportion of Francophones in Greater Sudbury at 28 per cent.

"As Northern Ontario's Francophone Immigration Support Network, we need to have this kind of data available to us to ensure proper strategic planning to increase the number of French-speaking immigrants" said Mercier "and the research shows that we need to act now."

This research is another result of the Northern Analyst Cooperative program which allows members to "time share" a professional policy analyst. By merging our collective resources, we can ensure that the smallest municipality or local charity can access high-end skills at an affordable price.

To read French-Speaking Migrants to Greater Sudbury: 2017-2026 click here: https://www.northernpolicy.ca/french-speaking-migrants

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Media Interviews: Author Alex Ross 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 authors:

Alex Ross was born and raised in Sudbury, Ontario. After graduating from Laurentian University with a B.A. (Hons) in Economics in 2010, he completed a Masters Degree in Economic Policy from McMaster University. Alex joined NPI after working as a trust officer in the wealth management industry, and he has past non-profit experience as well as international work and travel experience in Thailand. Alex's areas of interest include labour market analysis, community and economic development, cost-benefit analysis, and environmental sustainability.

Fenfang Li moved to Thunder Bay from China in 2015, and graduated from Lakehead University with a Master's degree in Economics in 2017. Her educational background and work experience have inspired her to apply economic theories to real life problems through her role at NPI. Her experience living and studying in Thunder Bay provides her with a solid base of knowledge regarding Northern Ontario policy issues, and she is excited to apply her knowledge to help the local community.

About the Northern Analyst Cooperative:

The Northern Analyst Cooperative, a project of Northern Policy Institute, allows members to "time share" a professional policy analyst. By merging our collective resources, we can ensure that the smallest municipality or local charity can access high-end skills at an affordable price.

Project Partners:

Northern Ontario Francophone Immigration Support Network

Northern Ontario Francophone Immigration Support Network creates links between organizations from all regions of Northern Ontario, such as: Sudbury, Timmins, North Bay, Sault-Ste-Marie and Thunder Bay, to put in place a system to facilitate the reception and integration of newcomers. The northern network follows the objectives of the strategic plan developed by the Steering Committee:

- 1.Increase the number of French-speaking immigrants as to increase the demographic weight of the francophone communities in a minority situation.
- 2.Improve the capacity of French-speaking communities in a minority situation and strengthen welcoming and settlement structures for French-speaking newcomers.
- 3.Ensure the economic integration of French-speaking immigrants within Canadian society and francophone communities in minority situations in particular.
- 4.Ensure the social and cultural integration of French-speaking immigrants within Canadian society and francophone communities in minority situations.
- 5.Foster regionalization of francophone immigration outside of Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver.



Locations: Sudbury, ON • Thunder Bay, ON