

For Immediate Release

How fast are Northern Ontario, Ontario, and Canada in adopting e-vehicles? Not fast enough.

October 19, 2022 – With a commitment by the federal government to 100 per cent of car and passenger truck sales to be zero-emission by 2035, findings show that it'll be a tall order for Northern Ontario and Ontario, where sales are less than 5 percent.

In the latest paper by Northern Policy Institute, *Slow to Charge? How Canada's E-Vehicles Experience Measures Up Globally*, author Amelia Spacek analyzes how Canada, Ontario, and Northern Ontario compare in the adoption of ZEVs compared to other markets, as well as what global lessons could be implemented.

In 2021, the regions of Northern Ontario registered only around 6 zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) for every 10,000 residents compared to 15 vehicles province-wide for every 10,000 people. The bar set by the province of Ontario is not high. In 2021, Ontario's ZEV registrations were below the national average, accounting for only 3.2 per cent of total vehicle registrations. Canada is also behind some of its international peers, such as the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, but ahead of New Zealand and the United States.

The cause of faster electric vehicle uptake in certain countries appears to be a result of rebates and money-saving incentives. Many countries have been able to keep electricity demands at similar levels through improving efficiencies elsewhere, such as charging vehicles at off-peak times and better insulating electrically heated buildings.

"Electric vehicles are changing very quickly, and so are peoples' perceptions of them," stated author Amelia Spacek. "Additionally, the e-vehicle industry could be an opportunity for Northern Ontario to capitalize on given the large mineral deposits that are key to battery construction for e-vehicles."

To tackle these issues, this paper recommends having the infrastructure in place to serve those wishing to buy electric vehicles, such as charging stations and developing strategies to avoid future electricity demand peaks. The province of Ontario is well placed to take advantage of the transition to electric vehicles since most of the energy that would feed batteries is already low in emissions.

Want to learn more, read the report here: <https://www.northernpolicy.ca/e-vehicles>

Media Interviews: NPI President & CEO Charles Cirtwill and author Amelia Spacek are available for comment. To arrange an interview, please contact:

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About the Author:

Amelia was born and raised just North of Sault Ste. Marie in Aweres Township. She is currently studying Computer Engineering at the University of Ottawa where she is also building a high efficiency electric vehicle with the uOttawa Supermileage team. As a member of the Electrical team, Amelia is working with her peers to implement a custom-built brushless electric motor controller and to design a data collection system to monitor the energy consumption of the vehicle remotely. Amelia is excited to research the impacts of government policies surrounding e-vehicles in the North with NPI. She loves exploring Northern Ontario and particularly enjoys backcountry camping in Lake Superior and Killarney Provincial Parks.

About Northern Policy Institute:

Northern Policy Institute is Northern Ontario's independent, evidence-driven think tank. We perform research, analyze data, and disseminate ideas. Our permanent offices are in Thunder Bay, Sudbury, and Kirkland Lake. Our mission is to enhance Northern Ontario's capacity to take the lead position on socio-economic policy that impacts our communities, our province, our country, and our world.

About Experience North:

Every summer, Northern Policy Institute makes available up to ten four-month placements across Northern Ontario. Usually housed with a partner organization in one of Ontario's Central, Western or Northern Regions, the placements learn first-hand about the cut and thrust of public policy debate, building human capital and experience in the North.

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This report was written as a part of Amelia's summer internship in 2022.