

For Immediate Release

Ushering in New Public Policy Strategies for 2023

December 15, 2022 – Given the wave of new municipal and provincial decision-makers, the latest mini-paper series by Northern Policy Institute dives into key considerations about a range of policy issues that can be used to inform the development of policy portfolios moving forward.

Samrul Aahad and Kerem Karabeyoğlu, authors of the *Northern Ontario Insights Series*, spoke with subject-matter experts from across Northern Ontario on food security, immigration, physician recruitment, post-secondary education and homelessness.

“As residents of Northern Ontario know, these policy issues, while incredibly important to building community prosperity, are but a fraction of the overall policy picture that make up Northern Ontario,” says Rachel Rizzuto, Research Manager at Northern Policy Institute. “There is a lot of action being undertaken in Northern Ontario to tackle these issues and getting that information in the hands of decision-makers is critical, especially those new in the municipal and provincial governments.”

Based on the findings, there are several recommendations the series outlines:

- A more collaborative approach with shared electronic records could yield a more effective and encompassing delivery of services for those who are struggling with homelessness, mental health and/or addiction,
- Strengthening population retention through increasing housing quality and affordability,
- Addressing the funding issue for post-secondary institutions, including Indigenous institutions,
- Creation of targeted food security strategies, and
- Increasing incentives for physicians to work in Northern Ontario.

Want to learn more? Read the series here: <https://www.northernpolicy.ca/insight-series>

-30-

Media Interviews: NPI President & CEO Charles Cirtwill and Research Manager Rachel Rizzuto are available for comment. To arrange an interview, please contact:

Lalit Bhojwani
Media and Marketing Officer
807-343-8956 ext. 508
lbhojwani@northernpolicy.ca

About the Authors:

Samrul Aahad

Samrul Aahad graduated with an M.A. in Economics from the University of Saskatchewan where he was the recipient of the prestigious Boving Family Scholarship. During his Masters, he was able to contrast the conventional ways of analysis popular with economists with contemporary techniques such as ones used in machine learning. He has, previously, worked as a business/data analyst for various research organizations and industries locally and internationally.

Kerem Karabeyoğlu

Born and raised in Istanbul, Turkey, Kerem graduated in 2021 from the University of Western Ontario with a B.A. in Political Science. During his studies, Kerem developed a keen interest in the areas of Canadian Arctic Sovereignty and Intergovernmental Cooperation. His academic focus was also directed towards International Peace-building and Transitional Justice studies. Immediately after graduating, kerem returned to Turkey to intern as a Junior Consultant in the Turkish Parliament. Now, back in Canada, he is pursuing his professional interests in promoting long-term sustainable development. An avid trail runner, soccer fan, and skier, kerem is also passionate about producing music in his free time.

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 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.

We believe in partnership, reconciliation, collaboration, communication, and cooperation. Our team seeks to do inclusive research that involves broad engagement and delivers recommendations for specific, measurable action. Our success depends on our partnerships with other entities present in or passionate about Northern Ontario.

Based in Thunder Bay, Sudbury, and Kirkland Lake, NPI is active in every region of Northern Ontario. During the summer months, we have satellite offices in communities across Northern Ontario staffed by teams of Experience North placements. These placements are university and college students working in your community on issues important to you and your neighbours.