

For Immediate Release

Northern Policy Institute continues to grow

October 15, 2015, Thunder Bay, ON – In its second year, Northern Policy Institute has built upon the momentum of its first year and continues to grow. The Second Annual Report (2014-2015) released by Northern Policy Institute outlines how Northern Ontario’s think tank has already cemented itself as a leader in policy research in the region.

Year two saw Northern Policy Institute expand, adding several new staff members to the team, building capacity in the north by providing opportunities to five students through the introduction of an internship program, expanding the Research Advisory Board and Advisory Council with influential members from across the region and country, and engaging with key stakeholders throughout the region.

In addition to internal developments, Northern Policy Institute also began publishing research commissioned the year before. Some publications released this year include:

- **The Airport/Port Transportation Authority Model: Is it Applicable for Ontario’s Ring of Fire Mineral Development?** by Nick Mulder, published June 13, 2014
- **Minimum Wages: Good Politics, Bad Economics?** by Morley Gunderson, published July 29, 2014
- **Picking up the Pieces: A Community School Based Approach to First Nations Education**, by Paul Bennett and Jonathan Anuik, published on September 10, 2014
- **Diversify, Innovate, Invest . . . and Grow** by Julien Bonin, published on March 25, 2015
- **Settling Down in the Northwest: Stability and Opportunity in the Northwestern Ontario Labour Market** by James Cuddy, published March 20, 2015
- **A New Northern Lens: Looking Out it as Important as Looking in** by David MacKinnon, published on April 16, 2015

“Our research this past year has included an examination into a dramatic reform of the First Nations education system in Ontario in Paul Bennett’s and Jonathan Anuik’s report, ‘Picking up the Pieces: A Community-School-Based Approach to First Nations Education Renewal,’” Northern Policy Institute President and CEO, Charles Cirtwill, writes in his Message from the President. “Another major issue that we often hear about is youth out-migration. Through a series of commentaries and research reports, Northern Policy Institute delved into the issues of employment, demographics, and youth out-migration in the region. The results, while not ideal, do not paint as grim a picture as some might expect.”

In addition to research publications, Northern Policy Institute also published 45 blogs, gave over 25 presentations throughout Northern Ontario, and received extensive media coverage across the province and country.

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Going forward, Northern Policy Institute has already commissioned several new research projects and continues to work with the people of Northern Ontario to help grow the region.

“As we move into our third year, Northern Policy Institute will be looking at a number of pressing issues still facing Northern Ontario,” Cirtwill writes. “We will be exploring the organizational structure of FedNor, health priorities in Northern Ontario, First Nations education, safe injection sites, and many other important issues. We are also excited about the launch of our new website, northbynumbers.ca, and an interactive infrastructure map, which are all slated to be released this coming year. We are also in the midst of developing an extensive project, Know the North.”

The Second Annual Report is available on Northern Policy Institute’s website www.northernpolicy.ca.

Media Interviews: Northern Policy Institute president and CEO, Charles Cirtwill, is 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.

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