



For Immediate Release

## **Getting the Small Things Right: How data suppression and provincial reporting distort Northern realities**

**June 2, 2016** – The return of the mandatory long-form census means good news for Northern Ontario, a region that experienced a dose of data deprivation under five years of the voluntary National Household Survey (NHS).

A briefing note released by Northern Policy Institute, *Getting the Small Things Right: How data suppression and provincial reporting distort Northern realities*, contends that high non-response rates for the NHS created a disproportionately larger gap in data availability in Northern Ontario as compared to the rest of the province.

Author James Cuddy argues that the return of the mandatory long-form census is significant for the region's researchers, analysts, and planners who rely on its data to make informed decisions. While he applauds its return, he notes that Northern Ontario still has a gap when it comes to information, namely, that it lacks a set of regional economic accounts.

Each province in Canada, including the three territories, have a set of 'Economic Accounts' which are produced by Statistics Canada. According to Cuddy, "Creating a set of regional economic accounts [for the North] is equally as important for understanding economic growth, particularly since Northern Ontario is fundamentally different from the rest of the province in a myriad of ways."

The briefing note provides an overview of the impact that the NHS had on the state of data in the region and also makes a strong case that Northern Ontario should begin plans to build a set of Regional Economic Accounts.

"It is imperative that Northern Ontario removes the blindfold and begins to have a conversation about creating a set of 'Northern Economic Accounts' that will allow the region to formally and quantitatively monitor key regional economic indicators that are necessary for implementing informed public policy", asserts Cuddy.

Click here to read the [full report](#).

**Media Interviews:** James Cuddy is available for comment. To arrange an interview, please contact:

Katie Elliott  
Communications Coordinator  
705-542-4456  
kelliott@northernpolicy.ca

### **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.*