

**For Immediate Release****Measuring Sustainable Economic Growth through Immigration**

September 2022 – Are migrants and newcomers offsetting other changes in the population of Northern Ontario? It depends.

As of 2016, in some census districts immigration is up, in others it is down. The only constant is that every district must do better in the coming years to offset overall population trends characterized by high levels of youth out-migration and low fertility rates. Additionally, a significant portion of the population is about to reach retirement age, meaning labour shortages will emerge or grow larger.

The *All Roads Lead Home* series is a set of commentaries focused on providing a baseline understanding of current and future immigration trends in Ontario's northern, western, and central regions. The purpose of this series is to establish a baseline assessment of immigration trends in each of the 11 Census Districts in Northern Ontario – Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sudbury, Greater Sudbury, Manitoulin, Temiskaming, Cochrane, Algoma, Thunder Bay, Rainy River, and Kenora.

This assessment builds off previous analysis conducted for the five largest cities in Northern Ontario—North Bay, Greater Sudbury, Timmins, Sault Ste. Marie, and Thunder Bay. The baseline trends can be used to evaluate immigration programs, such as the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP). RNIP and other new programs and resources must drive significant upticks in these overall immigration trends. The additional reports for Census Districts provide further comparators when doing analysis which can be used to inform policy changes and further program investments.

Without an influx of immigrants and continued improvement in the job prospects of those who are already here and want to work, businesses will falter, and communities will suffer. Using the available data, actors—such as the province of Ontario, the government of Canada, local First Nations and Métis leadership, local chambers of commerce, municipalities, employers, and immigration partners—can strategically plan for, and fill, labour shortages. The collection of data related to each community's immigration trends will allow for “evidence-based decision making that positively impacts Northern Ontario communities.”

To view the series, please visit: <https://www.northernpolicy.ca/welcome-home>

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Media Interviews. To arrange an interview, please contact Charles Cirtwill, President and CEO, at ccirtwill@northernpolicy.ca

**About the Authors:**

Karly Mabee is a former Policy Analyst at Northern Policy Institute. She graduated with her Master of Applied Politics after completing an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Leadership at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, ON. Karly's professional interests are primarily in data analysis, research, and preparing communications materials. In her free time Karly enjoys camping, hiking, and other outdoor activities.

Mercedes Labelle graduated from McGill University in 2020 with an Honours Bachelor of Political Science and Urban Systems. During her studies, she focused on Canadian politics and public policy processes, specifically researching the uneven distribution of benefits and services between urban and rural communities. At McGill, Mercedes provided analysis on Canadian Politics for the McGill Journal of Political Studies (MJPS). Through her involvement with MJPS, Mercedes developed a deeper understanding of the diverse interests and needs of the Canadian population. Mercedes has recently returned to Law School. In her free time, Mercedes enjoys listening to podcasts, cooking, and reading.

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 offices are located in Thunder Bay, Sudbury, and Kirkland Lake. 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.