



For Immediate Release

## **Supervised Injection Facility An Effective Option For Sudbury, Northern Ontario**

**March 8, 2016** – Sudbury and other communities in Northern Ontario should take steps to determine the viability of a supervised injection facility, says a new Northern Policy Institute report.

In “The Merits of Supervised Injection Facilities: A case for Sudbury and Northern Ontario,” author Alex Berryman argues that a supervised injection facility in Sudbury and other northern communities would be effective in carrying out a number of key health care goals, improving community wellness, and reducing the incidence of incurable disease.

Sudbury and other communities across Northern Ontario face major hurdles assisting those afflicted by addictions to injection drugs. A previous study has shown that roughly 13 percent of Sudbury’s injectors tested positive for HIV and 69 percent tested positive for HCV. At the same time, up to 60 percent of these individuals engaged in the practice of needle-sharing which can have significant consequences for the spread of disease.

“From the perspective of disease and disease-risk, few behaviours so rampantly spread terminal illness as injection drug use,” writes Berryman. “The rate of disease among injection drug users and their lack of awareness of whether they are infected with these diseases is thus quite alarming.”

Prohibitionist approaches to this problem often increase the number of health-related complications in a community as opposed to reducing them. One alternative to such approaches is the creation of supervised injection facilities.

The author puts forth nine key community health and wellness benefits of a supervised injection facility in Sudbury, but suggests that several key considerations must first be addressed including how likely it is that individuals will use the facility, the specifications set forth by the government, the level of community support and the cost-effectiveness of a supervised injection facility.

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

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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.*