

For Immediate Release

The First Step in a Series of Newcomer Workshops

July 26, 2022 – The first of many newcomer workshops hosted by the Sudbury Local Immigration Partnership (SLIP) and Northern Policy Institute (NPI) highlighted that Greater Sudbury to be a great place to raise a family and there are entrepreneurship opportunities.

Over the course of several months, SLIP worked with NPI to host a series of virtual discussion groups with individuals from diverse cultural communities in Sudbury to understand what the priorities and needs are for individuals in relation to Sudbury being a welcoming community. Participants were asked about the advantages and barriers they faced when settling and living in the community.

The report *Making Sudbury a Welcoming Home: Perspectives from Newcomers* found that in addition to Greater Sudbury being a major hub in Northeastern Ontario, the discussion groups identified that it is less crowded compared to other major cities yet is still in close proximity to other hubs such as Toronto, Ottawa, and other Northern Ontario communities. At the same time, there were areas identified as barriers such as instances of microaggressions, connecting in with meaningful employment, and few cultural activities and food.

Several recommendations were provided such as incorporating and/or strengthening education about immigration and different cultures in schools and workplaces; ensuring employers have the appropriate tools and resources to help familiarize themselves with foreign credentials and experiences; and finally, continued support by the City, whether it be funding or space, for cultural events and programs.

“There are many ways to build a welcoming community, and for us, education and relationship-building has been key,” said Bela Ravi, SLIP Chair. “We are looking forward to hosting more workshops with cultural communities so that together can turn what we hear into action items going forward.”

The SLIP plans to continue building meaningful relationships with cultural communities over the next several years and beyond. A special focus in coming years will be to have direct engagement with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples about building a better future together and achieving the fundamental promises included in our treaty relationships.

Want to learn more? Read it here: <https://www.northernpolicy.ca/making-sudbury-a-welcoming>

This work was made possible through NPI's Northern Analyst Collective program.

Media Interviews: SLIP Chair Bela Ravi and NPI Research Manager Rachel Rizzuto, and NPI Lead Policy Analyst Mercedes Labelle 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 Author:

Lindsey Champaigne was born and raised in Sudbury. She graduated with a B.A in Environmental Governance from the University of Guelph in 2012. More recently, she returned to school and received a M.Sc. in Public Administration from Leiden University in the Netherlands. Lindsey has a wide range of research interests including sustainable development and economics. In her free time, she loves to travel to new places and be outdoors.

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.

About Sudbury Local Immigration Partnership

The Sudbury Local Immigration Partnership (SLIP) focuses on the development of different initiatives to ensure that Greater Sudbury continues to be a welcoming community for newcomers of all walks of life. The SLIP fosters an inclusive, engaging and collaborative environment with local stakeholders to identify issues, share solutions, build capacity and preserve collective memory for the purpose of ensuring the attraction, settlement, inclusion and retention of newcomers in the City of Greater Sudbury.

About Northern Analyst Collective

The Northern Analyst Collective is a membership group of organizations, municipalities, charities, chambers, and more. By merging our collective resources, we can ensure that the smallest municipality or local charity can access high-end skills. The expert's salary and benefits are covered in part by NPI/IPN and our sponsors, and in part through the membership fees paid by participating organizations. The end result is members are able to secure the skills they need when needed.