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Institu dPolitik di Nor
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For Immediate Release

Working towards a Greater Sudbury Local Immigration Partnership

June 2023 – Collaborative efforts between the Sudbury Local Immigration Partnership (SLIP) and Northern Policy Institute (NPI) have been underway to identify strategic actions to help make newcomer attraction and retention a more seamless process.

Over the course of several months, SLIP and NPI worked with service-providers and newcomers in Greater Sudbury to gather information about service availability, adequacy, and accessibility in the City. What resulted is a report that offers strategic recommendations and concrete actions to inform new and existing initiatives in the region within SLIP's capacity and mandate.

Discoveries from the activities highlighted service gaps in the City, such as those related to translation, certified immigration services, formal advice/instruction on immigration streams and application, and language, educational, and/or credential assessments. Additionally, certain groups like prospective immigrants, dependents, and youth were the *least* serviced in the City.

To learn more about these gaps, eight focus groups were established to help identify common services issues that affect newcomers. The focus groups were formed around the following service areas: housing, employment, post-secondary, health care, education, youth, and public services. Each group was asked about capacity, challenges, opportunities, and best practices for service delivery in the region. There was an additional focus group hosted with newcomers themselves to hear first-hand about their experiences.

Based on the feedback from survey respondents and focus group participants, some recommendations include:

- Host information sessions on cultural competency, settlement information for newcomers, and immigration streams for employers. Supporting networking sessions for newcomers, knowledge exchange gatherings with community partners, cultural festivals in the community were also noted;
- 2. Create a welcome package or webpage for newcomers with information on local offerings;
- 3. Encourage welcoming community initiatives wherever possible in addition to the specific recommendations included in the report; and
- 4. Conduct further research on available resources in the community.

These recommendations and strategic actions are ongoing. By combining the information gathered through the asset map survey and the focus groups, greater meaning can be drawn to inform the next steps for the Sudbury Local Immigration Partnership.

Want to learn more? Read the report: https://www.northernpolicy.ca/slip-action-plan





Media Interview: Co-author and Senior Policy Analyst Mercedes Labelle and Meredith Armstrong, Director of Economic Development for the City of Greater Sudbury, are available for comment. To arrange an interview, please contact:

Charles Cirtwill
President & CEO
807-343-8956 ext. 501
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 was born in Bilbao, Spain, and lived in the United States before moving to North Bay, Ontario. Mercedes attended McGill University, earning her B.A. in Political Science and Urban Systems and graduating in 2020. Through her role at NPI, Mercedes has worked on various projects related to population growth, demographics, and migration. Mercedes is a Senior Policy Analyst at NPI and is located in Sudbury, Ontario.

About Northern Policy Institute:

Northern Policy Institute is Northern Ontario's independent, evidence-driven think tank. We perform research, analyze data, and disseminate ideas. Our mission is to enhance Northern Ontario's capacity to take the lead position on socio-economic policy that impacts our communities, our province, our country, and our world.

We believe in partnership, reconciliation, collaboration, communication, and cooperation. Our team seeks to do inclusive research that involves broad engagement and delivers recommendations for specific, measurable action. Our success depends on our partnerships with other entities present in or passionate about Northern Ontario.

Based in Thunder Bay, Sudbury, and Kirkland Lake, NPI is active in every region of Northern Ontario. During the summer months, we have satellite offices in communities across Northern Ontario staffed by teams of Experience North placements. These placements are university and college students working in your community on issues important to you and your neighbours.

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.









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About Northern Analyst Collective:

The Northern Analyst Collective, a project of Northern Policy Institute, will allow members to "time share" a professional policy analyst. By merging our collective resources we can ensure that the smallest municipality or local charity can access highend skills at an affordable price.

