data
101
données

French-Speaking Migrants to Greater Sudbury: 2017-2026

Commentary No. 35 | November 2019
By: Fenfang Li & Alex Ross

NORTHERN POLICY INSTITUTE | INSTITUT DES POLITIQUES DU NORD

Who We Are

Some of the key players in this model, and their roles, are as follows:

Board: The Board of Directors sets strategic direction for Northern Policy Institute. Directors serve on Board committees dealing with audit, fundraising and governance, and collectively the Board holds the CEO accountable for achieving our Business Plan goals. The Board's principal responsibility is to protect and promote the interests, reputation, and stature of Northern Policy Institute.

President & CEO: Recommends strategic direction, develops plans and processes, and secures and allocates resources to achieve it.

Advisory Council: A group of committed individuals interested in supporting, but not directing, the work of Northern Policy Institute. Leaders in their fields, they provide advice on potential researchers or points of contact in the wider community.

Research Advisory Board: A group of academic researchers who provide guidance and input on potential research directions, potential authors, and draft studies and commentaries. They are Northern Policy Institute's formal link to the academic community.

Peer Reviewers: Ensure specific papers are factual, relevant and publishable.

Authors and Fellows: Provide independent expertise on specific policy areas as and when needed

Standing engagement tools (general public, government stakeholders, community stakeholders): Ensure Northern Policy Institute remains responsive to the community and reflects THEIR priorities and concerns in project selection.

President & CEO

Charles Cirtwill

Board of Directors

Pierre Bélanger (Chair)
Dr. Brian Tucker (Treasurer)
Suzanne Bélanger-Fontaine
Dave Canfield
Kevin Eshkawkogan
Florence MacLean (Vice-Chair Northwest)
Corina Moore

Dwayne Nashkawa (Secretary)
Emilio Rigato
Alan Spacek
Asima Vezina (Vice-Chair Northeast)
Charles Cirtwill (President & CEO)

Advisory Council

Michael Atkins
Kim Jo Bliss
Jean-Pierre Chabot
Dr. Michael DeGagné
Don Drummond
Audrey Gilbeau
Peter Goring

Cheryl Kennelly
Winter Dawn Lipscombe
Danielle Perras
Dr. George C. Macey
Ogimaa Duke Peltier
Bill Spinney
David Thompson

Research Advisory Board

Dr. Hugo Asselin
Dr. Gayle Broad
George Burton
Dr. Heather Hall
Dr. Livio Di Matteo
Dr. Barry Prentice

Leata Ann Rigg
Dr. David Robinson
S. Brenda Small
J.D. Snyder
Dr. Lindsay Tedds

About the Northern Analyst Cooperative:

The Northern Analyst Cooperative, 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 high-end skills at an affordable price.

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.

Project Partners:

Northern Ontario Francophone Immigration Support Network

Northern Ontario Francophone Immigration Support Network creates links between organizations from all regions of Northern Ontario, such as: Sudbury, Timmins, North Bay, Sault-Ste-Marie and Thunder Bay, to put in place a system to facilitate the reception and integration of newcomers.

The northern network follows the objectives of the strategic plan developed by the Steering Committee:

- Increase the number of French-speaking immigrants so as to increase the demographic weight of the Francophone communities in a minority situation.
- Improve the capacity of French-speaking communities in a minority situation and strengthen welcoming and settlement structures for French-speaking newcomers.
- Ensure the economic integration of French-speaking immigrants within Canadian society and Francophone communities in minority situations in particular.
- Ensure the social and cultural integration of French-speaking immigrants within Canadian society and Francophone communities in minority situations.
- Foster regionalization of Francophone immigration outside of Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver.

About the Authors

Fenfang Li
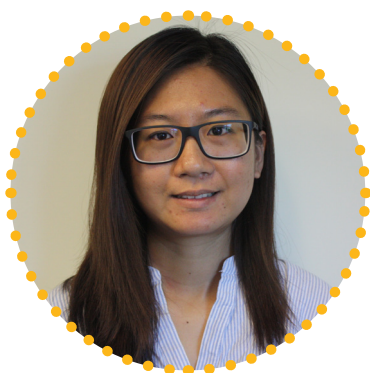
Fenfang Li moved to Thunder Bay from China in 2015, and graduated from Lakehead University with a Master's degree in Economics in 2017. Her educational background and work experience have inspired her to apply economic theories to real life problems through her role at NPI. Her experience living and studying in Thunder Bay provides her with a solid base of knowledge regarding Northern Ontario policy issues, and she is excited to apply her knowledge to help the local community.

Alex Ross

Alex Ross was born and raised in Sudbury, Ontario. After graduating from Laurentian University with a B.A. (Hons) in Economics in 2010, he completed a Masters Degree in Economic Policy from McMaster University. Alex joined NPI after working as a trust officer in the wealth management industry, and he has past non-profit experience as well as international work and travel experience in Thailand. Alex's areas of interest include labour market analysis, community and economic development, cost-benefit analysis, and environmental sustainability.

French-Speaking Migrants to Greater Sudbury: 2017-2026
Northern Policy Institute / Institut des politiques du Nord | November 2019

3

Contents
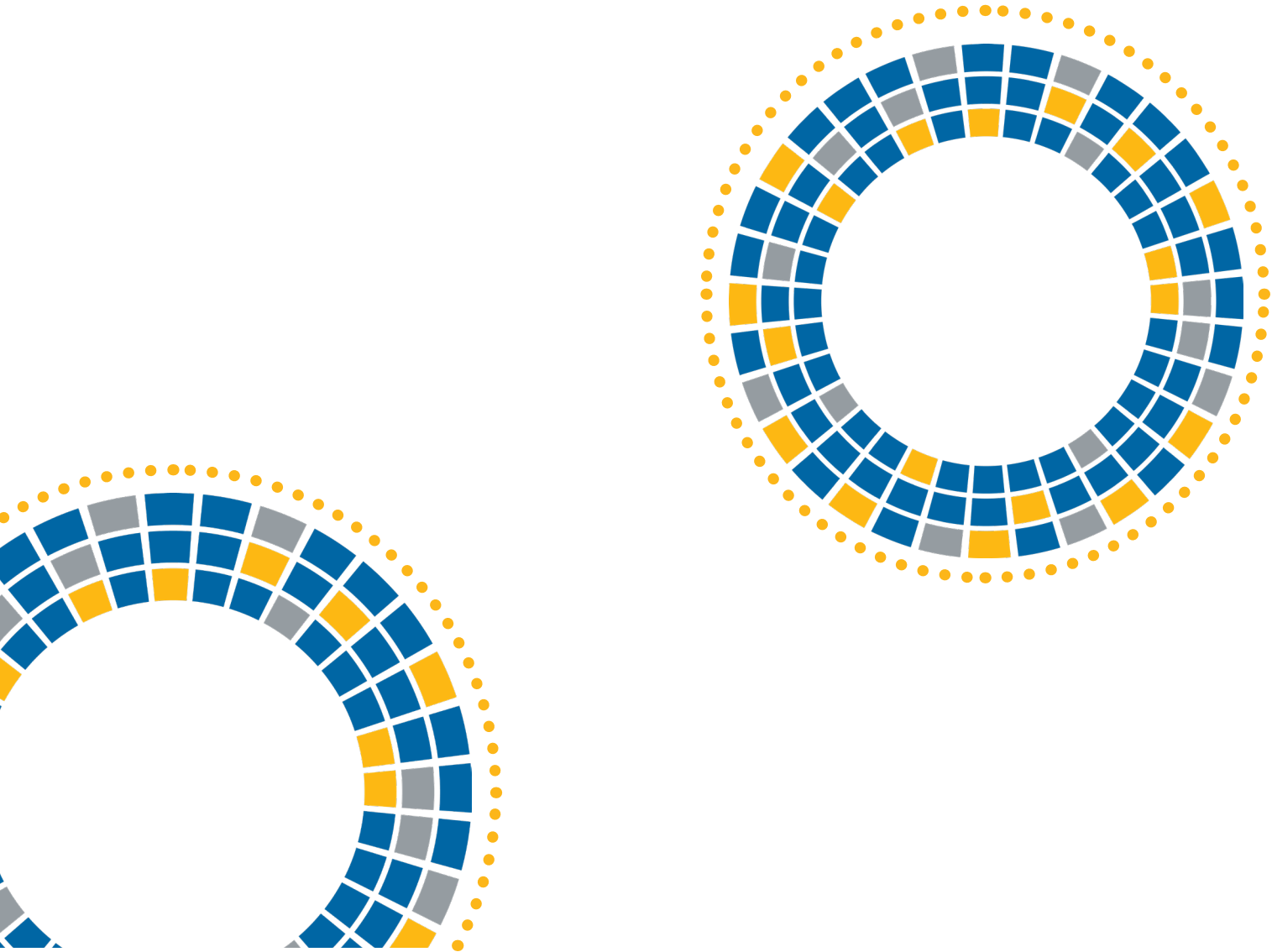
Executive Summary

Northern Ontario will be experiencing an increase in the number of seniors in the coming years, at a higher proportion than provincial levels. This will mean future labour market shortages, and a greater need for youth retention and migration to the North. With a need for more migration in general, the demographic composition of future migrants should also be considered, in order to prevent a faster decline of specific subgroups of the population that are following the overall aging population trend. Specifically in Greater Sudbury, French speakers make up more than one third of the population, and Francophones comprise of over one quarter of the total population. This paper estimates how many future French-speaking migrants should be targeted for Greater Sudbury, as a proportion of total future migrants, in order to maintain the current proportions of French speakers in the City.

The paper finds that in order to maintain the 2016 proportion of French speakers in Greater Sudbury, it is estimated that between 32.5 per cent and 35.6 per cent of future migrants would need to be French speakers. French speakers, in general, are younger than the non-French-speaking population. In contrast, when analyzing the Francophone population, the authors found that this demographic subgroup is older than the non-Francophone population, meaning that a higher proportion of in-migrants would be needed in future years in order to maintain the current proportion of Francophones in Greater Sudbury.

Introduction

The purpose of this analysis is to estimate the number of future French-speaking in-migrants that would be required for the Greater Sudbury District in the coming years, in order to maintain the 2016 proportion of the French-speaking, core working age population in Greater Sudbury at 38.7 per cent. 'French speakers' is derived from the 2016 Census variable, "Knowledge of Official Languages", and "refers to whether [a] person can conduct a conversation in English only, French only, in both, or in neither [official] language. For a child who has not yet learned to speak, this includes languages that the child is learning to speak at home" (Statistics Canada, 2017). Therefore those who reported to have knowledge of French only, or knowledge of English and French, were included in the target demographic. NPI recognizes that the percentage of the core working-age population that has knowledge of French, at 38.7 per cent, is different from the proportion of the population in Greater Sudbury that is considered to be Francophone, at 28.2 per cent (see 'Definitions' section below on how we define Francophone).

Definitions:

1. Core working-age population: those who are 25 years to 64 years old.

2. French-speaking, core working-age population: those who speak French, as per the above criteria in the core working age population.

3. Non-French-speaking core working age population: those who speak English only or other non-official languages in the core working age population.

4. 2026 Base population: this is simply the 2016 population, aged 10 years. The base population does not account for immigrants or emigrants (these variables are accounted for in the 2026 projection, defined below).

5. 2026 projection: This variable uses the Ministry of Finance population projections in order to determine the core working age population in 2026. The authors then take a proportion of the total working age population in 2026 to determine the French-speaking core working-age population in 2026.

6. Geography: Greater Sudbury Census District.

7. Time Frame: 2017 to 2026.

8. Criteria used to define the French-speaking population: Statistic's Canada's Census variable, "knowledge of official languages", as explained in introduction above.

9. Francophone population: this is derived from the variable provided by the Community Data Program. In this definition, 'Francophone' considers an individual's First Official Language Spoken, Language Spoken Most Often at Home, and Mother Tongue (all as defined and gathered by Statistics Canada).

French-Speaking Migrants to Greater Sudbury: 2017-2026
Northern Policy Institute / Institut des politiques du Nord | November 2019

5

"The Francophone community... is one of the founding communities of Sudbury and the perfect place for Francophone immigrants to come make it their new home."

– Marc Serré, MP Nickel Belt 2019

Methodology:

Calculating net migration required from 2017-2026

The 2016 census results demonstrate that there were 86,595 people in the Greater Sudbury core working-age population, 33,480 of whom were French speakers (38.7 percent). If we add 10 years onto the age of this population and include those that will be entering the core working-age population as well as those that will be leaving, we can estimate that by 2026, the base of the core working-age population will be 82,610, with 32,275 of them being French speakers.

However, according to population projections provided by the Ontario Ministry of Finance, 85,372 people are projected to be in the core working-age population in 2026. This is 2,762 higher than the base population mentioned above. This indicates that, there will be an estimated 2,762 net additional people in the core working age population (when accounting for immigration, emigration, and deaths) to Greater Sudbury between 2017 and 2026.

Since the goal is to keep a constant percentage of French speakers in the core working age population, we can apply that same percentage to the Ministry of Finance core working-age population estimate in 2026. This gives us a targeted French-speaking, core working age population of 33,007 in 2026.

Overall, based on the above, the difference between the 32,275 base population in 2026, and the estimated population projection of 33,007 in 2026, is 732 people. As such, in order to keep in line with the estimated projections and maintain the same proportion of core working-age French speakers at 38.7 per cent in 2026, Greater Sudbury would need to attract a total of 732 net migrants, either from other cities in Canada or from other countries.[1] Table 1 below summarizes the 2016 population as well as the projected 2026 population.

Table 1: Current and Future Population Projections of the Core Working-Age Population

	2016 census	2026 Base population	2017-2026 base % change	2026 Ministry of Finance Projection
Core working-age population	86,595	82,610 (Δ2,762)	-3.20 %	85,372
French-speaking, core working age population	33,480	32,275 (Δ732)	-2.20 %	33,007*
Non-French-speaking core working age population	53,115	50,335 (Δ2,030)	-3.90 %	52,365

this would be the number required to maintain the French-speaking proportion of the core working-age population at 38.7 per cent (Note: the "Δ" sign in the table refers to required net migrants – this is the difference between the 2026 base population and the 2026 Ministry of Finance projections).

---

[1] It is assumed that there are no deaths in the core working-age French-speaking group between 2017 to 2026, due to the difficulty to capture the effect of this variable.

However, determining net migration only tells us part of the story. In order to determine the proportion of new migrants that should be targeted in Greater Sudbury, we need to first determine the rate at which the French-speaking, core working age population out-migrates from the region. We use two methods to estimate this rate, and then provide a range of immigration targets based on possible out-migration trends.

Determining the number of gross in-migrants required using the Census mobility rate

The 2016 census shows that around 91.2 percent of the core working-age population hasn't moved in the last five years. By assuming this will continue to happen in the next decade, the number of core working-age people in 2026 who will leave Greater Sudbury will be 7,270, 2,840 among whom are French-speaking, and 4,429 non-French speakers.

Therefore, by 2026, in order to keep the percentage of French speakers in the core working-age population constant, 2,840 people would need to be replaced by new in-migrants.

Further, adding the 732 net in-migrants to the 2,840 out-migrants who would need to be replaced tells us that a total of 3,572 French-speaking in-migrants would be needed, or **35.6 percent** of all in-migrants.

Determining the number of gross in-migrants required using the average in-migration rate

Alternatively, using Statistics Canada's Taxfiler Migration Estimates, the authors found that an average find that an average of 96.95 percent of the core working-age population were neither in-migrants nor out-migrants in the last nine years. By assuming that this remains the same in the next decade, the second estimate shows that the number of core working-age people in the 2026 base population who will leave Greater Sudbury will be 2,519, 984 among them French-speaking, and 1,535 are non-French speakers.

Therefore, by 2026, in order to keep the percentage of French speakers in the core working-age population constant, this method estimates that 984 people would need to be replaced by new in-migrants.

Further, adding the 732 net in-migrants as derived above to the 984 out-migrants who would need to be replaced by new in-migrants, an estimated total of 1,716 French-speaking in-migrants would be needed, which works out to **32.5 percent** of all in-migrants.

When examining both estimates, we conclude that an estimated range of between **32.5 per cent and 35.6 per cent** of all in-migrants could allow Greater Sudbury to maintain its current proportion of French speakers at 38.7 per cent of the core working age population.

Table 2 demonstrates the estimated number of in-migrants required in order to maintain the same proportion of 2016 French speakers in the core working age population.

Table 2: Estimated number and proportion of required French-speaking in-migrants

	Estimated required in-migrants, over ten year period (range)	% of total in-migrants
Total core working-age population	5,282 to 10,032	--
French-speaking, core working age population	1,716 to 3,572	32.5% to 35.6%
Non-French-speaking core working age population	3,565 to 6459	67.5% to 64.4%

Further, this analysis suggests that overall, the French-speaking population in Greater Sudbury is generally younger than the total population, which is why a lower percentage of French-speaking in-migrants is needed in future years in order to maintain the same proportion of French speakers in 2026.

The 2016 Census profile provides solid numbers for this reasoning. For example, Greater Sudbury has a smaller proportion of its French speakers in the age group nearing retirement with 28.1 per cent in the 45-64 age group, compared to Greater Sudbury's population of non-French speakers in the same age group, at 30.8 per cent. Further, 37.6 per cent of Greater Sudbury's French-speaking population is in the young workforce (15-45 years old) compared to 36.7 per cent of Greater Sudbury's non-French-speaking population. In addition, 16.6 per cent of French speakers in Greater Sudbury are over the age of 65 years whereas 18.0 per cent of non-French speakers are over 65 years old. Figure 1 below outlines the age breakdown of French speakers in Greater Sudbury when compared to the age breakdown of the total population.

Figure 1: Age distribution of French speakers and Non-French speakers
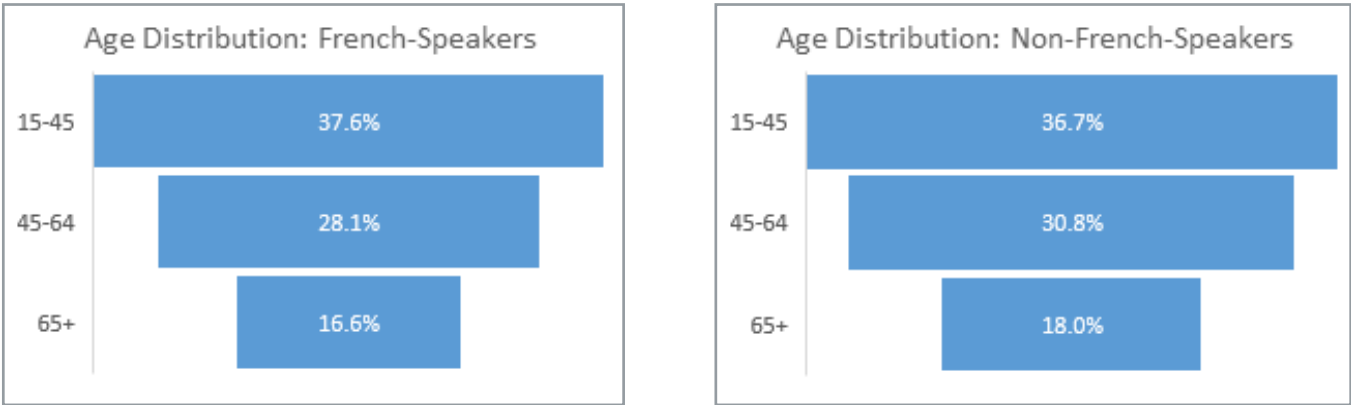
Since the French-speaking population in Greater Sudbury is generally younger than the non-French-speaking population, it is no surprise that within ten years, there will be a slower relative decline of the French-speaking, core working-age population, compared to the non-French-speaking population.

French-Speaking Migrants to Greater Sudbury: 2017-2026
Northern Policy Institute / Institut des politiques du Nord | November 2019

9

Alternate Analysis of Francophones

As mentioned above, this methodology focuses on French speakers as defined by the Census variable "Knowledge of Official Languages". Northern Policy Institute (NPI) has also conducted an alternate analysis to determine what the targeted proportion of future Francophones should be in order to maintain the 2016 proportion of Francophones at 28.2 per cent of Greater Sudbury's population. The methodology and approach was the same as outlined above, however the results estimate that between **46 per cent and 64 per cent** of all new in-migrants should be Francophone.

This 46 per cent to 64 per cent range in order to maintain the core working-age Francophone population is much higher than the estimated range of 32.5 per cent to 35.6 per cent of new in-migrants in order to maintain the French-speaking population. One explanation for such a large difference is due to the significant differences in age breakdown between the Francophone and non-Francophone population in Greater Sudbury. For example, Figure 2 demonstrates that Francophones in Greater Sudbury typically appear to be older than the non-Francophone population.

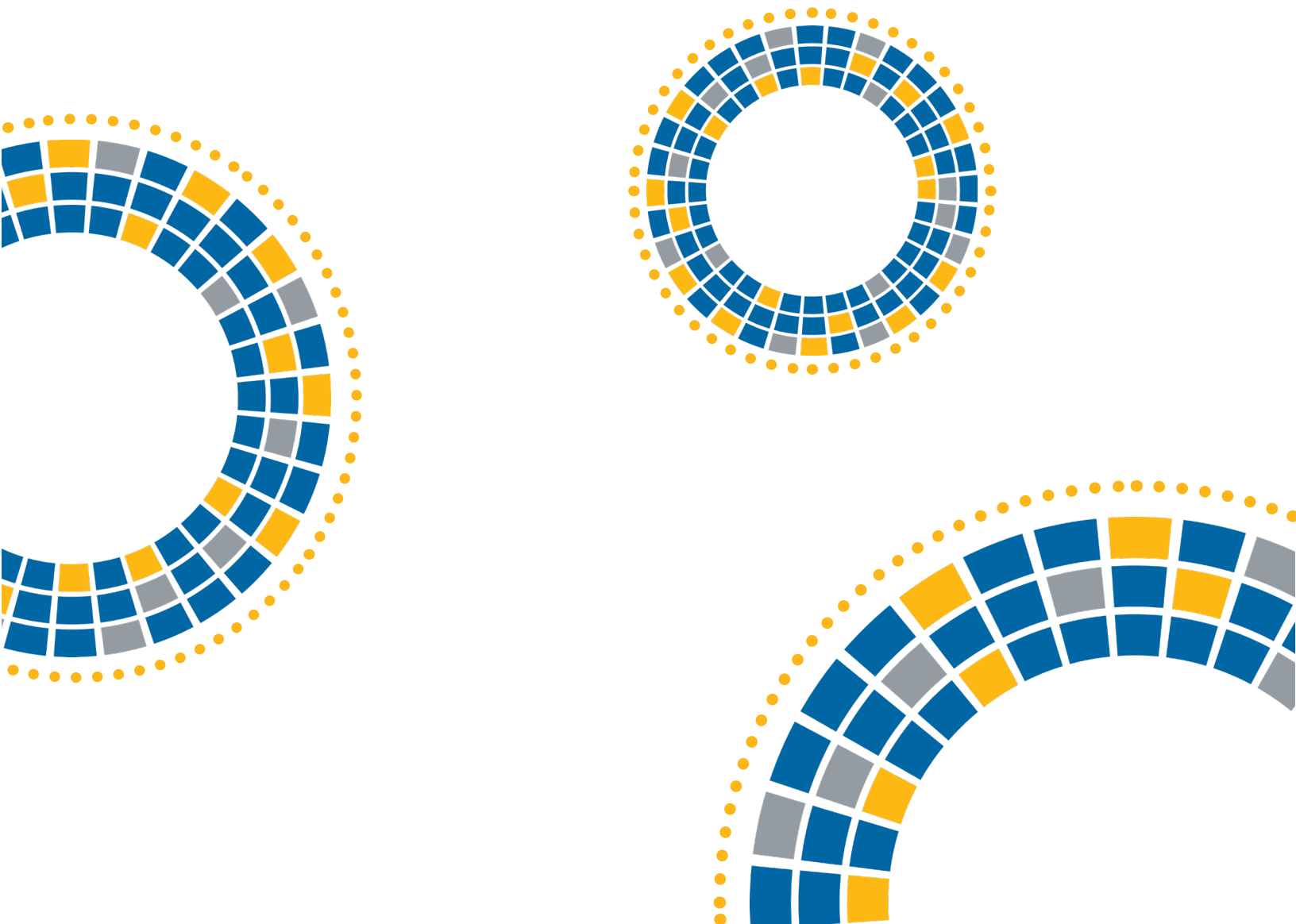Figure 2: Age Distribution of Francophones and Non-Francophones
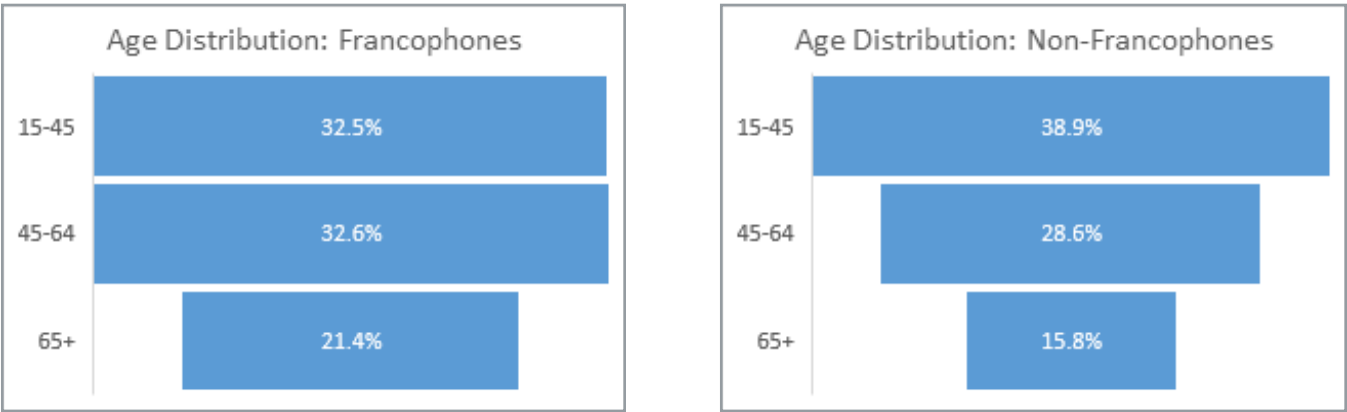
It appears that the age breakdowns would explain the difference in projections of required in-migrants for the two demographics. What's more interesting is the differences in age distribution between French speakers and Francophones. This becomes evident when comparing the first chart from Figure 1 and the first chart from Figure 2. Generally, a higher proportion of Francophones fall under the 45-64 and 65+ ranges than French speakers, and a lower proportion of Francophones fall under the 15-45 age range than French speakers, indicating that the French-speaking population is far younger than the Francophone population.
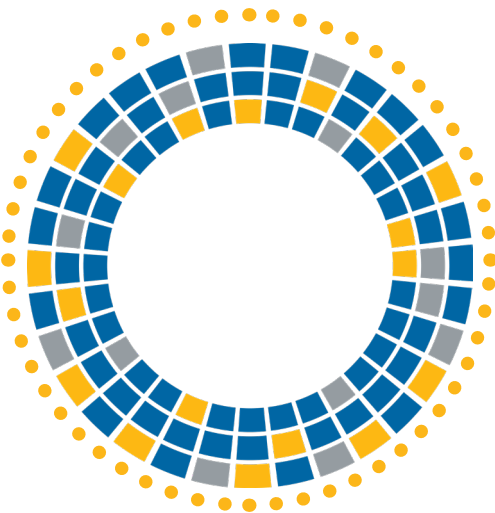
Conclusion

The above analysis provides an estimated range of required in-migrants to Greater Sudbury in order to maintain a constant proportion of French speakers to the total core working-age population. The analysis demonstrates that in order to maintain this percentage, it is estimated that Greater Sudbury would require between 1,716 and 3,572 French-speaking in-migrants from 2017 to 2026. This amounts to between 32.5 per cent and 35.6 per cent of all in-migrants to Greater Sudbury during that period. The reason that the estimate is lower than the 2016 core working age proportion of French speakers (at 38.7 per cent) is because French speakers in Greater Sudbury appear to be younger than non-French speakers. For the Francophone population, on the other hand, the opposite appears to be true. The required proportion of Francophone in-migrants to Greater Sudbury from 2017 to 2026 is estimated to be between 46 per cent and 64 per cent of all new in-migrants, in order to maintain Greater Sudbury's same Francophone proportion as in 2016, at 28.2 per cent. The reason for such a large targeted share of Francophone in-migrants is due to the fact that Francophones are generally older than the non-Francophone population in Greater Sudbury, and therefore require a higher proportion in order to maintain their current share of the workforce. Finally, the analysis also shows that Francophones are also generally older than the French-speaking population in Greater Sudbury.

French-Speaking Migrants to Greater Sudbury: 2017-2026
Northern Policy Institute / Institut des politiques du Nord | November 2019

11

Works Cited

Government of Canada. "Sudbury selected as a Welcoming Francophone Community." Date modified May 24, 2019. Available online at https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2019/05/sudbury-selected-as-a-welcoming-francophone-community.html.

Ontario Ministry of Finance. "Ontario Population Projections, 2018-2046 Table 14." Last modified October 1, 2019. Available online at https://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/projections/table14.html.

Statistics Canada. 2016. Census. Target Group Profile of the Francophone Population. Custom Tabulations. Community Data Program (CDP). Available online at https://communitydata.ca/content/target-group-profile-francophone-population-census-2016.

Statistics Canada. 2016. Census. Target Group Profile of the Population by Age Groups. Custom Tabulations. Community Data Program (CDP). Available online at https://communitydata.ca/content/target-group-profile-population-age-groups-census-2016 .

Statistics Canada. "Dictionary, Census of Population, 2016. Knowledge of official languages." Updated on August 2, 2017. Available online at https:// www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/pop055-eng.cfm.

Statistics Canada. Taxfiler (T1FF) Migration Estimates. Custom Tabulation. Community Data Program (CDP). Available online at https://communitydata.ca/content/ mig-migration-estimates-tables-d-2015-2016.
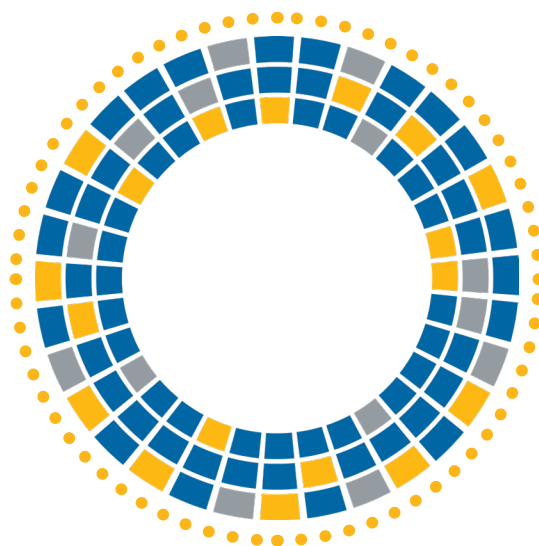
About Northern Policy Institute

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.

Related Research

Look to the East: Acadian Offers Cultural Wayfinding Tactics for Francophone Tourism
Myfannwy Pope

The Northern Attraction Series - No. 1: Exploring the Need for a Northern Newcomer Strategy
Christina Zefi

The Northern Attraction Series - No. 2: Identifying Northern Ontario's Strengths and Weaknesses in the Attraction and Retention of Newcomers
Christina Zefi

The Northern Attraction Series - No. 3: Evaluating the Suitability of Provincial and Federal Immigration Programs for Northern Ontario
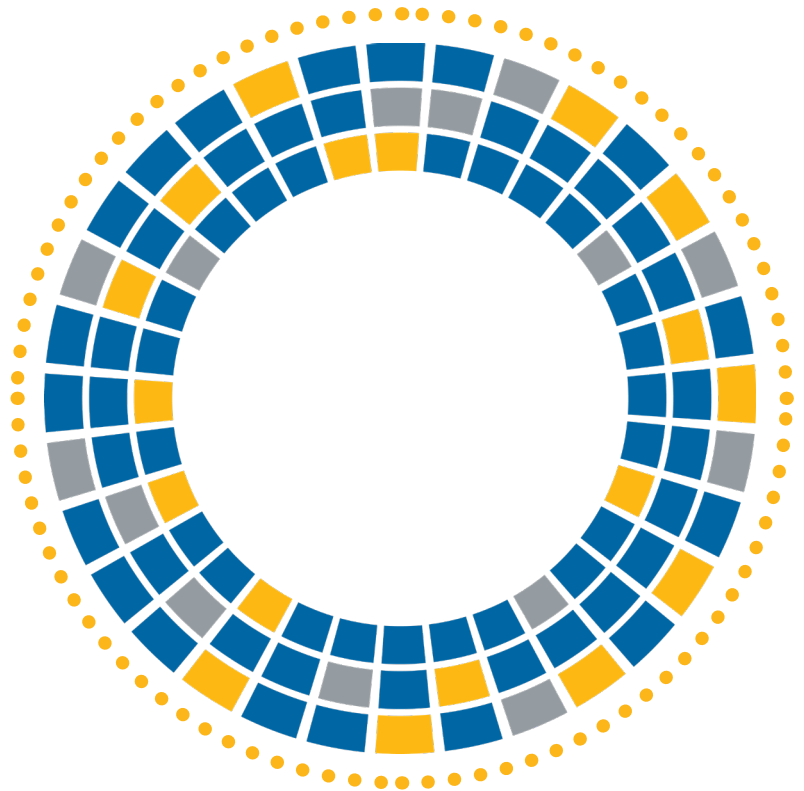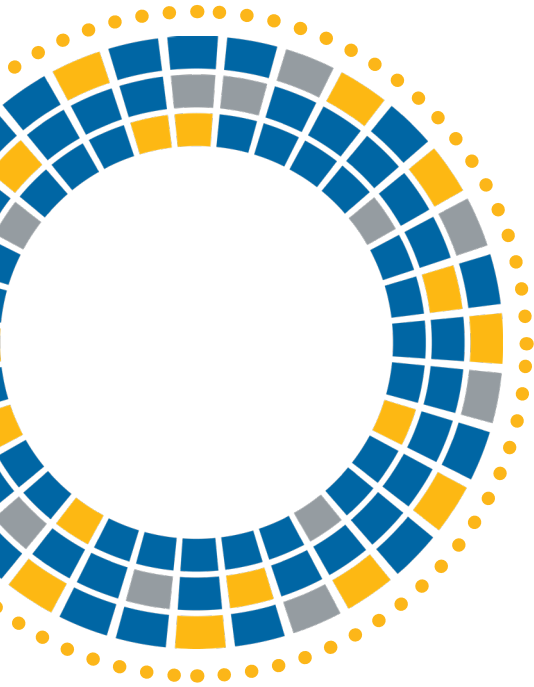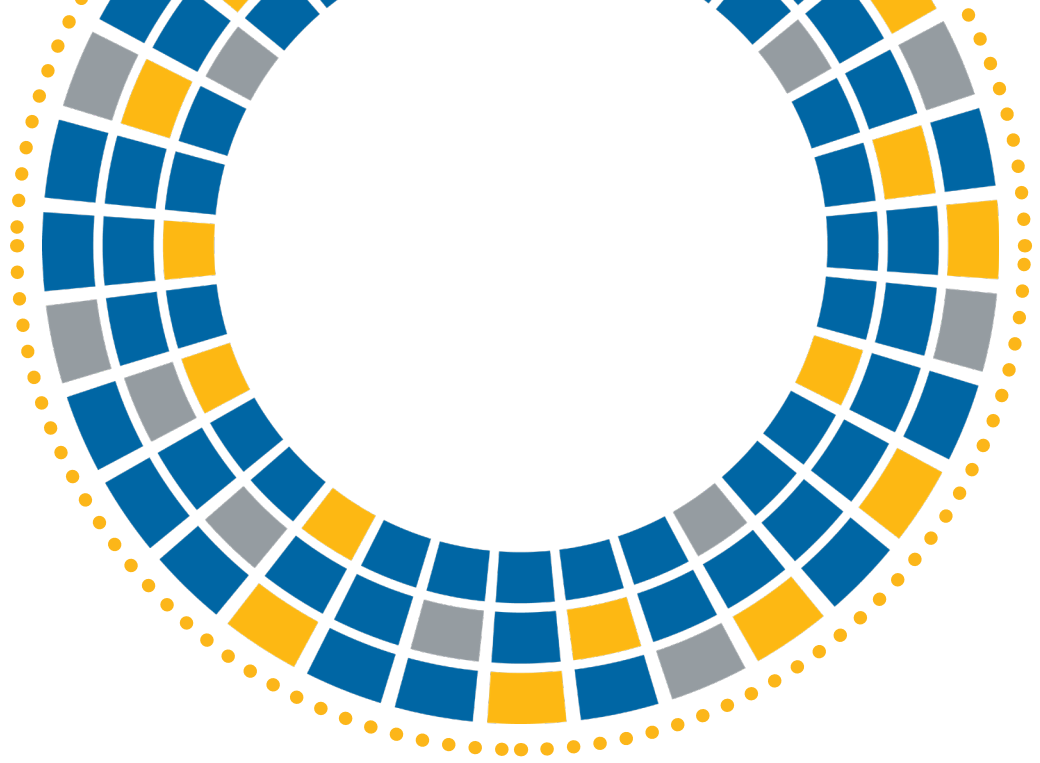Christina Zefi

The Northern Attraction Series - No. 4: Thinking Local: Best practices and Solutions for Northern Ontario Communities
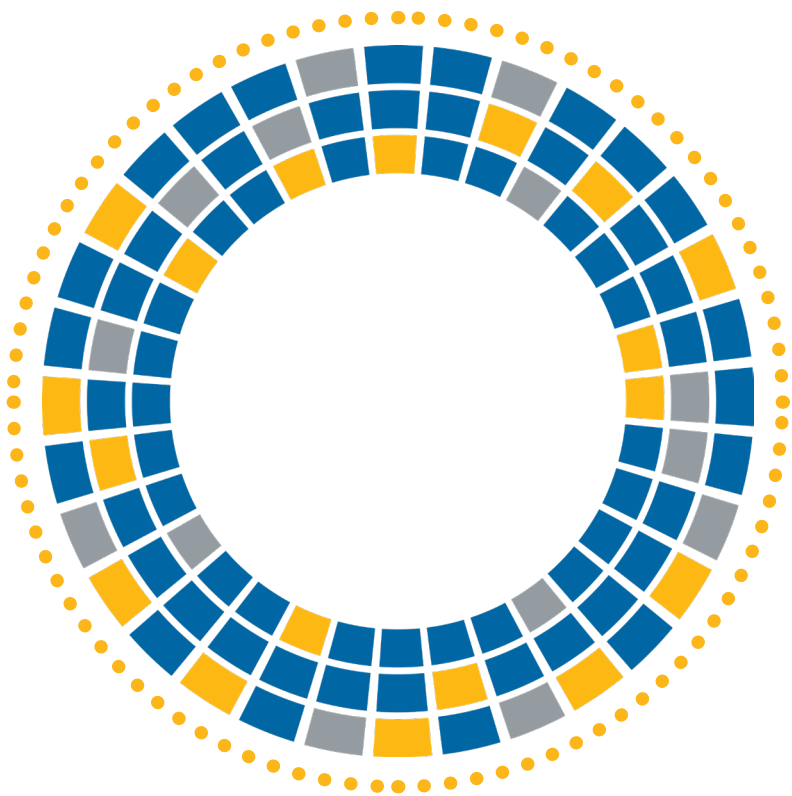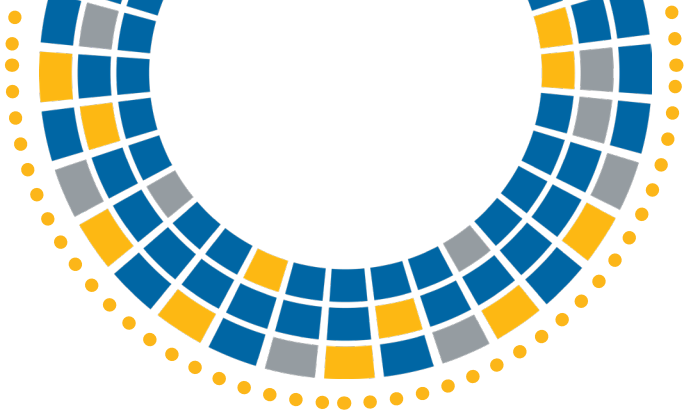Christina Zefi

To stay connected or get involved, please contact us at:
1 (807) 343-8956   info@northernpolicy.ca   www.northernpolicy.ca

French-Speaking Migrants to Greater Sudbury: 2017-2026
Northern Policy Institute / Institut des politiques du Nord | November 2019

13

NORTHERN
POLICY INSTITUTE

INSTITUT DES POLITIQUES
DU NORD

northernpolicy.ca