



Municipalité de / Municipality of Val Rita-Harty
November 18, 2025 - Regular - 06:00 PM

1 Appel à l'ordre/Called To Order

The Regular Meeting of Council was called to order at _____p.m.

2 Reconnaissance des terres traditionnelles/Traditional Land Acknowledgement

3 Récit de la mission et de la vision de la municipalité/Recital of the Municipal Mission and Vision Statement

4 Adoption de l'ordre du jour/Approval of Agenda

THAT Council adopts the agenda as circulated.

5 Déclarations d'intérêts divergents (pécuniaires)/Declarations of Disqualifying Interest (Pecuniary)

6 Discours du maire/Mayor's Address

7 Délégations/présentations/Delegations/Presentations

8 Session de travail du Comité plénier/Committee of the Whole Working Session

9 Approbation du procès-verbal de la (des) dernière(s) réunion(s)/Approval of the Minutes of the Most Recent Meeting (s)

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of October 21, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

🔗 October 21, 2025 Regular Minutes of Council

10 Orientations du Conseil pour la réunion précédente/Council Direction From The Previous Meeting

10.1 MPP G. Bourgouin - Chad's Law

WHEREAS residents of the Municipality of Val Rita Harty and all users of Highway 11 and Highway 17, the only transportation highways linked to our Northern Ontario communities, consider travel along these corridors to be unsafe and challenging, particularly during the winter months;

AND WHEREAS Highway 11 and 17 serve as the only transportation corridors for the movement of people, goods and services and continue to pose a significant threat to public safety, often cutting access to vital health services and real-time economic development activities;

AND WHEREAS the Private Member's Bill 49, the *Northern Highway 11 and 17 Safety Act, 2025* presented by MPP Guy Bourgouin was defeated despite the clear need and

united support from communities;

AND WHEREAS MPP Guy Bourgouin is re-tableting legislation – *Chad's Law (Enforcing Safer Passing)*, 2025 which would amend the Highway Traffic Act to prohibit passing on double solid yellow lines to prevent dangerous head-on and evasive measure collisions and save lives on our roads;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Val Rita-Harty Council considers it critical to continue working with the Government of Ontario to act on highway safety;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality of Val Rita Harty hereby supports the Private Member's Bill , being "An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act to prohibit passing on a highway painted with double solid yellow lines", entitled Chad's Law (Enforcing Safer Passing), 2025;

AND BE IT FURTHERMORE RESOLVED that all Members of the Ontario Legislature vote in support of the bill.

📎 Letter from MPP G. Bourgouin re: Chad's Law

📎 MPP Guy Bourgouin - Chad's Law (Enforcing Safer Passing), 2025

10.2 Timmins Victor M. Power Airport reduced service

WHEREAS residents of the Municipality of Val Rita Harty, along with our neighbouring communities in Northeastern Ontario, depend on reliable air passenger services from the Timmins Victor M. Power Airport, be it for personal, health or economic development purposes;

AND WHEREAS any reduction in this critical transportation service would also result in a negative impact on not only production but also in terms of supply and demand of goods, the mobility of employees and planning of initiatives;

AND WHEREAS air services at the Timmins Victor M. Power Airport are essential flight connections for individuals travelling for required specialized medical professionals and services which are not available close to home;

NOWTHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality of Val Rita Harty supports the City of Timmins in its' opposition to any reduction in scheduled flights at the Timmins Victor M. Power Airport;

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to City of Timmins Mayor Michelle Boileau, Air Canada, Porter Airlines, Gaetan Malette- MP for Kapuskasing-Timmins-Mushkegowuk; Honourable George Pirie – MPP for Timmins and Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth; Guy Bourgouin, MPP for Mushkegowuk-James Bay; Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM); the Northeastern Ontario Municipal Association (NEOMA); Northern Corridor Chamber of Commerce and the Timmins Chamber of Commerce.

📎 City of Timmins - Timmins Victor M. Power Airport reduced service

11 Affaires législatives/Legislative Matters

11.1 Bylaw 1223-25 - Being a Bylaw to enter into an Agreement with the Province of Ontario for the Ontario FireSmart Communities Transfer Pay Program 2025-2027

THAT By-law No. 1223-25 being a bylaw to enter into agreement with the Province of

Ontario for the Ontario FireSmart Communities Transfer Payment Program 2025-2027 is hereby read and adopted this 18th day of November, 2025.

🔗 Bylaw 1223-25

11.2 Bylaw 1224-25 - Being a Bylaw to Authorize the Use of Internet and Telephone Voting for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections

THAT Bylaw No.1224-25 being a Bylaw to Authorize the use of Internet and Telephone Voting for the 2026 Municipal and School Board elections is hereby read and adopted this 18th day of November, 2025.

🔗 Bylaw 1224-25

11.3 Consent Agenda (includes items of correspondence not requiring administrative reports/action, Committee reports not requiring any action by Council. Matters that are for information purposes only.

THAT the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty Council receive the November 18, 2025 Consent Agenda items as listed:

1. Northeastern Public Health Board of Health minutes of September 25, 2025 meeting;
2. FONOM, sharing final report on Internal Migration to Northern Ontario;
3. Kapuskasing Local Citizens' Committee minutes of October 8, 2025 meeting, including attachments pertaining to mapping, slash pile burning and tree planting; and
4. MECP regarding Environmental Registry of Ontario, seeking feedback with respect to conservation authorities.

🔗 NEPH Minutes of September 25, 2025

🔗 FONOM, Final Report on Internal Migration to Northern Ontario

🔗 Kapuskasing Local Citizens' Committee Minutes of October 8, 2025

🔗 LCC Mapping

🔗 LCC 2025 Slash Pile Burning

🔗 LCC 2025 Tree Planting

🔗 MECP seeking feedback - Conservation Authorities

11.3.1 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) Allocation-For Information

THAT Council receive the information pertaining to the 2026 Ontario Municipal Partnership Funding allocation.

🔗 OMPF - Letter to Head of Council

🔗 OMPF - Letter to Treasurer

🔗 OMPF - Cash Flow Notice

🔗 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) Allocation-For Information 1

11.4 Town of Kapuskasing Resolution Support

WHEREAS the Council for the Town of Kapuskasing is strongly urging the Provincial Government to make the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) a permanent program for Northern communities;

AND WHEREAS Council for the Township of Val Rita-Harty considers the pilot project

program as having been successful having permitted municipalities to acquire funding from grant and infrastructure programs to advance capital projects;
AND WHEREAS the Township has utilized the NORDS funding for much needed road infrastructure work which would not have been possible without the NORDS funding;
AND WHEREAS Council for the Township of Val Rita-Harty considers the continuation of the NORDS program as a vital funding source and transition to permanent status would be of immense benefit relieving financial pressures, resulting in the ability to plan and undertake major capital infrastructure works in a fiscally sound manner;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Township of Val Rita-Harty supports the Kapuskasing resolution and strongly urges the Provincial Government to make the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support a permanent funding program;

AND FURTHERMORE, Council supports the principle of stacking funding from multiple grant and infrastructure programs to advance the capital works required in the Municipality and requests flexibility from senior levels of government to enable flexible financial planning and timely delivery of critical municipal infrastructure projects;
AND FURTHERMORE that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Northern Development Economic Development and Growth, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Infrastructure, Job Creation and Trade, the Minister of Natural Resources, the Associate Minister of Forestry and Forest Products, the Minister of Energy and Mines, the Minister of Rural Affairs, MPP Guy Bourgouin, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), Northeastern Ontario Municipal Association (NEOMA) Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and the Town of Kapuskasing.

🔗 Town of Kapuskasing - NORDS Resolution Recommendation Report

🔗 Town of Kapuskasing Resolution -NORDS

11.5 City of Dryden-Resolution support-Survive-to-Swim

THAT the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty Council supports the resolution from the City of Dryden urging the Minister of Education to incorporate mandatory water safety and Swim-to-Survive training into the elementary school curriculum for all Ontario students.

🔗 City of Dryden-Resolution support-Survive-to-Swim Recommendation Report

🔗 City of Dryden-Resolution support-Survive-to-Swim

11.6 Peterborough County Resolution Support

THAT the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty Council does hereby support the resolution from Peterborough County Council in urging the Provincial Government to re-instate the eligibility for curbside blue box collection January 1, 2026 for non-profit organizations, such as food banks.

🔗 Peterborough County Resolution Support Recommendation Report

🔗 Peterborough County Request for Resolution Support

- 11.7 NOW Association request for Resolution Support
- THAT the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty Council does hereby support the resolution from the Northern Ontario Women's Association in urging the Provincial Government to protect women's rights, leadership and environmental health.
- 🔗 NOW Association request for Resolution Support Recommendation Report
 - 🔗 NOW Association request for Resolution support
- 12 Affaires administratives/Administrative Matters**
- 12.1 Dillon Consulting - Landfill Site Monitoring
- THAT the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty Council acknowledges that it has read the Terms of Engagement and authorizes Dillon Consulting Ltd. to proceed with the work described in the Offer of Services letter for the Township of Val Rita-Harty Landfill Site at a cost of \$15,000 (excluding applicable taxes) and FURTHERMORE authorizes the Treasurer to execute the Agreement for Professional Services.
- 🔗 Dillon Consulting - Landfill Site Monitoring Recommendation Report
 - 🔗 Dillon Consulting 2026 Landfill Site Monitoring Workplan
- 12.2 Intelivote Systems Inc.
- THAT the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty Council authorize the Deputy Clerk to enter into an agreement with Intelivote Systems Inc. for Internet and Telephone Voting (eVoting) at a cost of \$4,313 (plus applicable taxes).
- 🔗 Intelivote Systems Inc. Recommendation Report
- 12.3 NORDS Project-Amendment to Budget
- THAT Council approve the use of \$118,838.10 of NORDS funding for gravel on rural roads using the 2025 tendered rates; and
- THAT the Treasurer be authorized to utilize the NORDS funding from the reserve and from 2025 NORDS outstanding funding to be received; and
- THAT the remaining project costs be taken from the 2025 general account to cover the expense; and
- FURTHERMORE that the 2025 budget be amended to reflect this project.
- 🔗 NORDS Project-Amendment to Budget
- 13 Questions relatives à l'encadrement/Leadership Issues**
- 14 Huis clos/Closed Session**
- THAT Council does now move into Closed Meeting Session at _____p.m. pursuant to the *Municipal Act* Section 239(2) to consider (b) personnel matters about an identifiable individual, (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board and (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.
1. Legal matter
 2. Property Matter(s)

15 Report from Closed Session

The Township of Val Rita Harty Council arose from Closed Session at _____p.m. and reported the following:

Council met in Closed Session pursuant to the *Municipal Act* Section 239(2) to consider (b) personnel matters about an identifiable individual, (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board and (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose. Council directed _____

16 Calendrier/Calendar

16.1 ROMA Conference

THAT the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty Council approves the attendance of Mayor Baril and Councillor _____ to the ROMA conference being held in Toronto January 18-20, 2026.

 ROMA Conference 1

17 Confirmation des procédures/Confirmation of Proceedings

THAT Bylaw No.1225-25 being a Bylaw to Confirm the Proceedings of Council on this 18th day of November, 2025 is hereby read and adopted.

 Confirmation des procédures/Confirmation of Proceedings

18 Ajournement/Adjournment

That this Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned at _____ p.m.



Municipalité de / Municipality of Val Rita-Harty Meeting Minutes

Regular October 21, 2025 - 06:00 PM

Membres/Members: Johanne Baril – Maire/Mayor
 Angele Beauvais – Conseillere/Councillor
 Roger Lachance – Conseiller/Councillor
 Steven Lambert – Conseiller/Councillor
 Alain Tremblay – Conseiller/Councillor

Employees: Barbara Major - Deputy Clerk - Virtual
 Leanne Crozier – Treasurer – Virtual

Others: Peggy Young Lovelace – E4m -Virtual
 Daniel Gagnon – E4m
 Josh Young – E4m – Virtual

Public: 3

1 Appel à l'ordre/Called To Order

The Regular meeting of Council was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

2 Reconnaissance des terres traditionnelles/Traditional Land Acknowledgement

In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty respectfully acknowledges that it was established on the homelands of First Nations and Métis Peoples. The municipal buildings we occupy are located on Mushkegowuk Nation territory, governed by Mushkegowuk Council representing several Cree First Nations along the James Bay coast and inland regions. Communities include Moose Cree First Nation, Fort Albany First Nation, Attawapiskat First Nation, Kashechewan First Nation, Chapleau Cree First Nation, Taykwa Tagamou Nation, and Missanabie Cree First Nation.

Beyond a land acknowledgement, we understand that reconciliation is a practice. We gratefully respect and seek insight from Elders and Knowledge Keepers who generously share their gifts and teachings with us so that we may better understand and honour their wisdom. As we work to increase awareness in our non-Indigenous community, the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty will continue to practice reconciliation by listening, learning, and fostering a culture of mutual respect and trust.

3 Récit de la mission et de la vision de la municipalité/Recital of the Municipal Mission and Vision Statement

Vision Statement

The Municipality of Val Rita-Harty envisions a vibrant, inclusive community where residents of all backgrounds thrive together in a safe, affordable environment. Guided by a spirit of unity and sustainability, we aim to be a model of small-town living with a stable economy, sufficient housing for all, and the capacity to grow while preserving our unique charm and fostering a deep sense of belonging.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to ensure that Val Rita-Harty remains a welcoming, diverse, and dynamic municipality. We are dedicated to: Maintaining a safe and affordable place to live for residents of all ages and backgrounds. Supporting economic stability and sustainable growth through strategic planning and partnerships. Providing accessible housing and essential services to meet the needs of our growing population. Fostering a strong sense of community through engagement, collaboration, and shared values. Together, we strive to build a future that balances progress and tradition, making Val Rita-Harty a place everyone is proud to call home.

4 Adoption de l'ordre du jour/Approval of Agenda

Res. # 25-131

PROPOSÉE PAR / MOVED BY: Councillor Angèle Beauvais

APPUYÉE PAR / SECONDED BY: Councillor Steven Lambert

THAT Council adopts the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

5 Déclarations d'intérêts divergents (pécuniaires)/Declarations of Disqualifying Interest (Pecuniary)

None declared.

6 Discours du maire/Mayor's Address

Nil

7 Délégations/présentations/Delegations/Presentations

Nil

8 Session de travail du Comité plénier/Committee of the Whole Working Session

Budget Variance Report

Council reviewed the budget variance report as of September 30, 2025 (unreconciled). The Treasurer informed Council that as part of budget discussion, the functional categories will be discussed at the November regular Council meeting.

9 Approbation du procès-verbal de la (des) dernière(s) réunion(s)/Approval of the Minutes of the Most Recent Meeting (s)

Res. # 25-132

PROPOSÉE PAR / MOVED BY: Councillor Alain Tremblay

APPUYÉE PAR / SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Lachance

THAT the following minutes be adopted as circulated:

- August 26, 2025 Special Meeting of Council;
- September 2, 2025 Special Meeting of Council;
- September 22, 2025 Public Meeting;
- September 22, 2025 Special Meeting of Council;
- September 23, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council (as amended);
- September 24, 2025 Special Meeting of Council; and
- October 2, 2025 Special Meeting of Council.

CARRIED

10 Orientations du Conseil pour la réunion précédente/Council Direction From the Previous Meeting

Nil

11 Affaires législatives/Legislative Matters

11.1 Bylaw to retroactively approve decisions made on July 9, 2025

Res. # 25-133

PROPOSÉE PAR / MOVED BY: Councillor Alain Tremblay

APPUYÉE PAR / SECONDED BY: Councillor Angèle Beauvais

THAT Bylaw No. 1221-25 being a bylaw to retroactively approve decisions made on July 9, 2025 is hereby read and adopted.

CARRIED

11.2 To amend Bylaw No. 1210-25, to Authorize Signing Authority

Res. # 25-134

PROPOSÉE PAR / MOVED BY: Councillor Alain Tremblay

APPUYÉE PAR / SECONDED BY: Councillor Angèle Beauvais

AS AMENDED:

THAT Bylaw No. 1210-25, being a bylaw to authorize signing authority for the Municipality be amended as follows:

- Schedule "A", addition of Councillor Steven Lambert; and
- Schedule "B" addition of the Working Foreman, only as necessary under extreme circumstances, with a member of Council being the other signatory.

CARRIED

11.3 Municipal Drinking Water Licence Renewal 2026-2031 - Financial Plan

Res. # 25-135

PROPOSÉE PAR / MOVED BY: Councillor Alain Tremblay

APPUYÉE PAR / SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Lachance

THAT Council adopts the 2026-2031 Municipal Drinking Water Financial Plan as presented.

CARRIED

12 Affaires administratives/Administrative Matters

12.1 Committee Appointments

Res. # 25-136

PROPOSÉE PAR / MOVED BY: Councillor Alain Tremblay

APPUYÉE PAR / SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Lachance

THAT Councillor Steven Lambert be appointed to the North Centennial Manor Board of Directors and to the Cochrane Provincial Offences Act (POA) Board of Directors for 2025-26.

CARRIED

12.2 2026 Municipal & School Board Elections

Res. # 25-137

PROPOSÉE PAR / MOVED BY: Councillor Angèle Beauvais

APPUYÉE PAR / SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Lachance

THAT Council receive the Staff Report Admin.2025-October 21, 2025 entitled 2026 Municipal Elections - Method of Selection; THAT Council approve Internet and Telephone Voting as a method of voting for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections and FURTHERMORE that Staff be directed to prepare the necessary bylaws and contracts.

CARRIED

12.3 Northern Corridor Chamber Shop Local Campaign

Res. # 25-138

PROPOSÉE PAR / MOVED BY: Councillor Steven Lambert

APPUYÉE PAR / SECONDED BY: Councillor Alain Tremblay

THAT the report regarding the Northern Corridor Chamber Shop Local Campaign be received and THAT the Treasurer be authorized to contribute \$250 to the Northern Corridor Chamber of Commerce shop local campaign.

CARRIED

12.4 Consent Agenda Matters

Res. # 25-139

PROPOSÉE PAR / MOVED BY: Councillor Roger Lachance

APPUYÉE PAR / SECONDED BY: Councillor Alain Tremblay

THAT the following Consent Agenda Items be received by Council:

1. Hon. Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General, informing Council of the 2026 Policing Costs Increase Cap, excluding costs related to any service enhancements;
2. Guy Bourgouin, MPP, requesting support for the Private Member's Bill "Northern Highway 11 and 17 Safety Act"; and
3. City of Timmins, formally opposing any reduction in scheduled air flights at the Timmins Victor M. Power Airport.

Council directed that staff prepare resolutions of support for Items #2 and #3 for the next Regular meeting of Council.

CARRIED

13 Questions relatives à l'encadrement/Leadership Issues

Nil

14 Huis clos/Closed Session

Res. # 25-140

PROPOSÉE PAR / MOVED BY: Councillor Roger Lachance

APPUYÉE PAR / SECONDED BY: Councillor Alain Tremblay

THAT Council does now move into Closed Session at 6:43 p.m. pursuant to the *Municipal Act* Section 239(2) (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, (d) labour relations or employee negotiations and (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications for that purpose to consider:

1. Confidential Personnel matters
2. Confidential Legal matters

CARRIED

15 Report from Closed Session

PROPOSÉE PAR / MOVED BY: Councillor Angèle Beauvais

APPUYÉE PAR / SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Lachance

Council arose from Closed Session at 7:44 p.m. and reported the following:
Council met in Closed Session pursuant to the *Municipal Act* Section 239(2) (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, (d) labour relations or employee negotiations, and (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications for that purpose to consider confidential personnel matters and confidential legal matters. Council gave direction to E4m regarding legal matters and personnel matters.

CARRIED

16 Calendrier/Calendar

Res. # 25-141

PROPOSÉE PAR / MOVED BY: Councillor Angèle Beauvais

APPUYÉE PAR / SECONDED BY: Councillor Steven Lambert

THAT Council approves the date change for the December Regular Meeting of Council to December 9, 2025.

CARRIED

17 Confirmation des procédures/Confirmation of Proceedings

Res. # 25-142

PROPOSÉE PAR / MOVED BY: Councillor Alain Tremblay

APPUYÉE PAR / SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Lachance

THAT Council for the Township of Val Rita-Harty hereby approves the Confirmatory Bylaw No.1222 this 21st day of October, 2025.

CARRIED

18 Ajournement/Adjournment

Res. # 25-143

PROPOSÉE PAR / MOVED BY: Councillor Alain Tremblay

APPUYÉE PAR / SECONDED BY: Councillor Angèle Beauvais

THAT this Regular meeting of Council be adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

CARRIED

Mayor

Deputy Clerk



November 7, 2025

Mayor Johanne Baril
Municipality of Val Rita-Harty
106 Government Road P.O. Box 100
Val Rita-Harty, ON P0L 2G0

Dear Mayor Baril,

I want to extend my sincere thanks for your ongoing advocacy and support for improving safety on Northern Ontario highways. Our communities know all too well the dangers that come with long distances, harsh weather, and heavy transport traffic. Your voice has been vital in pushing for long-overdue improvements.

Recently, our Private Member's Bill 49 — *The Northern Highways 11 & 17 Safety Act* — was brought forward with the strong backing of municipalities across the North. Unfortunately, the Conservative Government voted against the bill, despite the clear need and the united support from communities like yours.

But the fight for safer highways is far from over.

I will be re-tabling legislation — *Chad's Law (Enforcing Safer Passing), 2025* — which would amend the Highway Traffic Act to prohibit passing on double solid yellow lines. This common-sense measure aims to prevent dangerous collisions and save lives on our roads.

Once again, Northern voices will need to be heard loud and clear.

I'm asking for your continued partnership as we move ahead with this bill and continue pushing the government to take action on highway safety. Together, we can ensure the concerns of Northern municipalities cannot be ignored any longer.

Thank you again for standing with us — and with the families who rely on these roads every single day. I look forward to continuing this important work together.

Sincerely,

Guy Bourgouin, MPP
Mushkegowuk-James Bay



Le 7 novembre 2025

Mairesse Johanne Baril
Municipalité de Val Rita-Harty
106 Government Road P.O. Box 100
Val Rita-Harty, ON P0L 2G0

Mairesse Baril,

Je tiens à vous exprimer ma sincère gratitude pour votre engagement constant et votre soutien visant à améliorer la sécurité routière sur les autoroutes du Nord de l'Ontario. Nos communautés connaissent trop bien les dangers liés aux longues distances, aux conditions climatiques difficiles et au transport lourd. Votre voix joue un rôle essentiel pour obtenir des améliorations attendues depuis trop longtemps.

Récemment, notre projet de loi 49 — *Loi sur la sécurité des routes 11 et 17 du Nord* — a été présenté avec l'appui solide des municipalités du Nord. Malheureusement, le gouvernement conservateur a voté contre ce projet de loi, malgré des besoins évidents et un soutien municipal unanime de la région.

Mais la lutte pour des routes plus sécuritaires est loin d'être terminée.

Je m'apprête à déposer de nouveau un projet de loi — *Loi Chad de 2025 (pour des dépassements plus sécuritaires)* — afin de modifier le Code de la route pour interdire les dépassements lorsqu'ils nécessitent de franchir une double ligne jaune continue. Cette mesure de bon sens vise à prévenir des collisions graves et à sauver des vies.

Encore une fois, les voix du Nord devront se faire entendre haut et fort.

Je sollicite votre partenariat continu alors que nous poursuivons nos efforts et que nous pressons le gouvernement d'agir en matière de sécurité routière. Ensemble, nous pouvons faire en sorte que les préoccupations des municipalités du Nord ne soient plus ignorées.

Merci encore pour votre appui — ainsi que pour celui envers les familles qui dépendent de ces routes chaque jour. Au plaisir de poursuivre ce travail important avec vous.

Cordialement,

Guy Bourgouin, Député
Mushkegowuk-Baie James

Private Member's Bill

Projet de loi de député

MOTION FOR FIRST READING

MOTION DE PREMIÈRE LECTURE

Mr. G. Bourgouin

M. G. Bourgouin

I move that leave be given to introduce a Bill entitled

Je propose qu'il soit permis de déposer un projet de loi intitulé

“An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act to prohibit passing on a highway painted with double solid yellow lines”

«Loi modifiant le Code de la route en vue d'interdire les dépassements sur une voie publique avec une double ligne jaune continue»

and that it now be read the first time.

et que ce texte soit maintenant lu une première fois.

Bill no.

N° du projet de loi

First Reading Date

Date de la première lecture

Clerk's Signature

Signature du greffier

Chad's Law (Enforcing Safer Passing), 2025

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 148 of the *Highway Traffic Act* is amended to prohibit passing or attempting to pass another vehicle going in the same direction on a highway if doing so would require the crossing of double solid yellow lines painted on the roadway. Every person who contravenes this prohibition is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine of \$400 and three or more demerit points.

An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act to prohibit passing on a highway painted with double solid yellow lines

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

1. Section 148 of the *Highway Traffic Act* is amended by adding the following subsections:

Double solid yellow lines

(9) No person in charge of a vehicle shall pass or attempt to pass another vehicle going in the same direction on a highway if doing so would require the crossing of double solid yellow lines painted on the roadway.

Offence

(10) Every person who contravenes subsection (9) is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to,

- (a) a fine of \$400; and
- (b) three or more demerit points under Ontario Regulation 339/94 (Demerit Point System) made under this Act.

Commencement

- 2. This Act comes into force on the day it receives Royal Assent.**

Short title

- 3. The short title of this Act is *Chad's Law (Enforcing Safer Passing)*, 2025.**

Loi Chad de 2025 (pour des dépassements plus sécuritaires)

NOTE EXPLICATIVE

L'article 148 du *Code de la route* est modifié afin d'interdire le dépassement ou les tentatives de dépassement d'un autre véhicule circulant dans le même sens sur une voie publique si cette manœuvre nécessiterait le franchissement d'une double ligne jaune continue peinte sur la chaussée. Quiconque contrevient à cette interdiction est coupable d'une infraction et passible, sur déclaration de culpabilité, d'une amende de 400 \$ et de l'inscription de trois points d'inaptitude ou plus.

Loi modifiant le Code de la route en vue d'interdire les dépassements sur une voie publique avec une double ligne jaune continue

Sa Majesté, sur l'avis et avec le consentement de l'Assemblée législative de la province de l'Ontario, édicte :

1. L'article 148 du *Code de la route* est modifié par adjonction des paragraphes suivants :

Double ligne jaune continue

(9) Quiconque a la charge d'un véhicule ne doit ni dépasser ni tenter de dépasser un autre véhicule circulant dans le même sens sur une voie publique si cette manœuvre nécessiterait le franchissement d'une double ligne jaune continue peinte sur la chaussée.

Infraction

(10) Quiconque contrevient au paragraphe (9) est coupable d'une infraction et passible, sur déclaration de culpabilité, des peines suivantes :

- a) une amende de 400 \$;
- b) l'inscription de trois points d'inaptitude ou plus sous le régime du Règlement de l'Ontario 339/94 (Demerit Point System) pris en vertu de la présente loi.

Entrée en vigueur

2. La présente loi entre en vigueur le jour où elle reçoit la sanction royale.

Titre abrégé

3. Le titre abrégé de la présente loi est *Loi Chad de 2025 (pour des dépassements plus sécuritaires)*.

The Corporation of the City of Timmins

RESOLUTION

Moved by Councillor Curley

25-313

Seconded by Councillor Gvozdanovic

WHEREAS the Timmins Victor M. Power Airport serves as a critical transportation hub for the City of Timmins and surrounding communities, facilitating not only personal travel but the economic and operational functions of several key industries;

AND WHEREAS the mining sector and other resource-based industries in Northern Ontario rely heavily on regular, accessible commercial flights to transport employees, contractors, and consultants;

AND WHEREAS a reduction in flight service will have an adverse impact on economic productivity, operational planning, and employee mobility for these industries;

AND WHEREAS the residents of Timmins and surrounding areas depend on flight services not only for business and vacation travel, but also for access to specialized medical services that are not available locally;

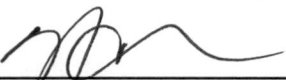
AND WHEREAS, any reduction in air service negatively affects the ability to access essential services, employment opportunities, and economic development, and where frequent cancellations or lack of regular service disrupt scheduled events or necessary travel for residents, businesses, and industries that depend on reliable air transportation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Timmins formally opposes any reduction in scheduled flights at the Timmins Victor M. Power Airport;

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to Air Canada, Porter Airlines, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, the Honourable Premier, MP Mallette, The Honourable George Pire MPP Timmins, NEOMA and the Timmins Chamber of Commerce.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
OF RESOLUTION 25-313



Steph Palmateer, City Clerk

Date: September 16, 2025

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VAL RITA HARTY

BYLAW NUMBER 1223-25

BEING A BYLAW TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH PROVINCE OF ONTARIO FOR THE ONTARIO FIRESMART COMMUNITIES TRANSFER PAYMENT PROGRAM 2025-2027

Legal Authority

Scope of Powers

Section 42 (1) (b) of the *Municipal Elections Act*, S.O. 1996, as amended, provides that the Council of a local municipality may pass bylaws authorizing electors to use an alternative voting method, such as voting by mail or by telephone, that does not require electors to attend a voting place in order to vote.

Section 8(1) of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, ("*Municipal Act*") as amended, provides that the powers of a municipality shall be interpreted broadly so as to confer broad authority on municipalities to enable them to govern their affairs as they consider appropriate, and to enhance their ability to respond to municipal issues.

Powers of a Natural Person

Section 9 of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipality has the capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person for the purpose of exercising its authority under this or any other Act.

Powers Exercised by Council

Section 5 (1) of the *Municipal Act* provides that the powers of a municipality shall be exercised by its Council

Powers Exercised by By-law

Section 5(3) of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipal power, including a municipality's capacity, rights, powers and privileges under section 9, shall be exercised by bylaw unless the municipality is specifically authorized to do otherwise.

Preamble

WHEREAS Council for the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty deems it expedient to enter into an agreement with His Majesty the King in right of Ontario, as represented by the Hon. Mike Harris, Minister of Natural Resources, (hereinafter referred to as Province of Ontario) for the Ontario FireSmart Communities Transfer Payment Program, 2025-2027, as per the attached agreement.

Decision/Direction

NOW THEREFORE the Council for the Municipality of Val Rita Harty directs as follows:

1. THAT the Mayor and Treasurer are hereby designated as signing officers and are authorized to execute the Ontario FireSmart Communities Transfer Payment Program between the Corporation of the Municipality of Val Rita Harty and the Province of Ontario.

2. THAT the attached Agreement identified as Schedule “A”, forms part of this bylaw.
3. This Bylaw takes effect on the day of its final passing

Read and adopted by Resolution 25-148 this 18th Day of November, 2025

Mayor

Deputy Clerk

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VAL RITA HARTY

BYLAW NUMBER 1224-25

BEING A BYLAW TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF INTERNET AND TELEPHONE VOTING FOR THE 2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Legal Authority

Scope of Powers

Section 42 (1) (b) of the *Municipal Elections Act*, S.O. 1996, as amended, provides that the Council of a local municipality may pass bylaws authorizing electors to use an alternative voting method, such as voting by mail or by telephone, that does not require electors to attend at a voting place in order to vote.

Section 42 (2) of the Act provides that a bylaw passed related to vote and vote-counting equipment and alternative voting methods applies to a regular election if the bylaw is passed on or before May 1 in the year of the election.

Section 8(1) of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, ("*Municipal Act*") as amended, provides that the powers of a municipality shall be interpreted broadly so as to confer broad authority on municipalities to enable them to govern their affairs as they consider appropriate, and to enhance their ability to respond to municipal issues.

Powers of a Natural Person

Section 9 of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipality has the capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person for the purpose of exercising its authority under this or any other Act.

Powers Exercised by Council

Section 5 (1) of the *Municipal Act* provides that the powers of a municipality shall be exercised by its Council

Powers Exercised by By-law

Section 5(3) of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipal power, including a municipality's capacity, rights, powers and privileges under section 9, shall be exercised by bylaw unless the municipality is specifically authorized to do otherwise.

Preamble

WHEREAS Council for the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty on October 21, 2025, by means of Resolution #25-137, approved alternative voting for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections;

AND WHEREAS Council for the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty deems it expedient to provide Internet and Telephone Voting, as it is an inclusive option which effectively serves all residents in terms of greater accessibility enabling all electors to exercise their democratic rights.

Decision/Direction

NOW THEREFORE the Council for the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty directs as follows:

1. THAT Council for the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty authorizes Internet and Telephone Voting for the 2026 Municipal and School Board elections.
2. As this Bylaw authorizes the use of alternative voting methods, Section 43 of the *Municipal Elections Act* (advance votes) and Section 44 (voting proxies) does not apply.
3. Any previous Bylaw inconsistent with this Bylaw is hereby repealed.
4. This Bylaw takes effect on the day of its final passing

Read and adopted by Resolution 25-149 this 18th Day of November, 2025

Mayor

Deputy Clerk

MINUTES

Northeastern Public Health Board of Health

Regular Meeting held on September 25, 2025 at 4:00 PM

Microsoft Teams

1.0 **ROLL CALL**

Board of Health Members

Mark Wilson	Temiskaming Shores
Andrew Marks	City of Timmins
Jeff Laferriere	Temiskaming Shores
Carol Lowery	Rural South: Armstrong, Brethour, Casey, Cobalt, Coleman, Harley, Harris, Hilliard, Hudson, Kerns, Latchford, Temagami, Thornloe
Paul Kelly	Rural Central South: Charlton & Dack, Chamberlain, Englehart, Evanturel, Gauthier, James, Larder Lake, McGarry, Matachewan
Marc Dupuis	Rural North: Fauquier-Strickland, Hornepayne, Hearst, Mattice Val Cote, Moonbeam, Opasatika, Val Rita Harty
Casey Owens	Kirkland Lake
Peter Politis	Cochrane, Smooth Rock Falls
Savion Nakogee	Rural Far North: Moosonee, James Bay and Hudson Bay region
Cindy Marks-Campbell	Provincial Appointee
Todd Steis	Provincial Appointee
David Lowe	Provincial Appointee
Tory Delaurier	Rural Central North: Iroquois Falls, Black River Matheson
Suzanne Perras	Provincial Appointee
Curtis Arthur	Provincial Appointee
Rock Whissell	City of Timmins

Northeastern Staff Members

Dr. Lianne Catton	Medical Officer of Health/Chief Executive Officer
Randy Winters	Director of Corporate and Protection Services
Lori McCord	Executive Assistant

Regrets

Michelle Boileau	City of Timmins
Gary Fortin	Kapuskasing
Cathy Dwyer	Provincial Appointee, Resigned. Awaiting Provincial Confirmation
Rosa Montico-Reimer	Director of Finance

1.1 **CALL TO ORDER:** Vice-Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm.

1.2 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION #41-R-2025

Moved by: Andrew Marks

Seconded by: Marc Dupuis

That the agenda for the Board of Health meeting on September 25, 2025, be approved.

CARRIED

1.3 **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE**

None declared.

2.0 **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

2.1 **NEPH BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – June 12, 2025**

MOTION #42-R-2025

Moved by: Paul Kelly

Seconded by: Jeff Laferriere

That the Board of Health approve the minutes for the meeting dated June 12, 2025.

CARRIED

3.0 **AGENDA ITEMS FOR INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, DECISION**

3.1 **Infrastructure Update – Pine St. Timmins**

Dr. Catton provided an update of the Pine St. Timmins HVAC system, the work completed to date and measures taken to reduce impacts on client and patient services. The original RFP did not include the boiler replacement but was identified as necessary and urgent. The timeline for expected completion is the end of October.

MOTION #43-R-2025

Moved by: Andrew Marks

Seconded by: Jeff Laferriere

That the Board of Health approve the payment of \$158,327.07 to N. Lacroix Plumbing and Heating for the installation of the boiler system.

CARRIED

3.2 Capital Project - Timmins

Dr. Catton presented an update of the capital project. An overview of increased concerns that are exacerbated by current infrastructure was shared. A project status update has been provided to the Ministry. A site selection study will be reviewed, and an overview of next steps moving forward is planned. Recruitment of a project manager was unsuccessful. The team is looking at other potential opportunities. A small Board working group will be selected to support some of the next steps in the capital framework application process. An email will be shared with more information. The Board will continue to be informed as needed. The enclosed presentation summarizes the main points shared for information purposes.

3.3 Board Attendance Report

The attendance report was provided to the Board for information purposes.

3.4 Northern Ontario Highway Safety

Vice Chair Wilson shared that FONOM has initiated a proposal looking at significant improvements in northern highways and has made a submission to the Major Projects Office – Building Canada Act. Dr. Catton advised that highway safety in Northern Ontario has been a long-standing concern for the Board, the Management team, and has often been flagged at local, regional, and provincial levels during local emergency responses. Legacy PHU had completed work on a highway safety report; and it is being updated to reflect NEPH. The report along with a resolution, with reference to the work that FONOM has put forward, will be brought forward at the next meeting of the Board.

3.5 Board Member Attendance to Workshops/Conferences Association of Local Public Health Agencies AGM Conference Updates

Dr. Catton and Board members Perras, Marks, and Lowe attended alPHA's AGM in June. Board members reported that the conference was an excellent opportunity to connect, participate and learn. Dr. Catton shared that Sue Perras, received an award from the Board of Health Section for her long-term dedication to public health. An important session was held on Indigenous engagement, flagging responsibilities to the Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action, highlighting continued need for cultural mindfulness training at the Board level. Dr. Catton moderated an Indigenous Engagement session with Dr. Nicole Blackman the Chief Operating Officer, of Indigenous Primary Health Care Council (IPHCC), and Leonore Tavares, Manager, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Unit Accountability and Liaison Branch, Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Vice Chair Wilson congratulated Sue Perras for the recognition received from alPHA.

4.0 MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Dr. Catton provided an update on the organization and shared recent highlights of services and programs. The enclosed presentation summarizes the main points shared for information purposes. Vice Chair Wilson thanked Dr. Catton for her report.

5.0 **NEPH MERGER-TRANSITION REPORT**

Dr. Catton provided an update on the merger transition. The enclosed presentation summarizes the main points shared for information purposes. Vice Chair Wilson thanked Dr. Catton for her report.

6.0 **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board went into a closed session at 5:38 pm.

MOTION #44-R-2025

Moved by: David Lowe

Seconded by: Andrew Marks

THAT the Board of Health move in camera. to a closed session as outlined in the Ontario Municipal Act, 2001, c.25, s 239 (s) (a) security of a property (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before tribunals affecting the Board (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including Board employees.

6.1.1 Program Update

6.1.2 Inquest

6.1.3 Personnel

CARRIED

The Board of Health rose from the closed session at 6:00 pm.

MOTION #45-R-2025

Moved by: Andrew Marks

Seconded by: Casey Owens

That the Board of Health for the Northeastern Health Unit rise with report

CARRIED

MOTION #46-R-2025

Moved by: Rock Whissell

Seconded by: Sue Perras

That the Board of Health receive the reports for information purposes.

CARRIED

Mr. Politis and Mrs. Lowery left the meeting at 6:11 pm.

7.0 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence was received for information purposes. Dr. Catton highlighted receipt of appointment from the Minister of Health. The budget timeline letter from the City of Temiskaming Shores was discussed. A historical comparison of legacy PHU and THU budget delivery timelines was provided with notation that budget approval has not often been finalized in the Fall for either legacy health unit. Due to ongoing merger complexities and competing challenges, the budget for 2026 will not be approved until the new year. While it may take a few years to get end-state merged stabilization, once there, a goal would be to have a budget presented to the Board in October/November annually. Administration did note a letter would be sent to municipalities earlier with an interim levy for 2026. The Board supported a letter from the Chair to the City of Temiskaming Shores addressing the timelines. Vice Chair Wilson highlighted the excellent recommendations and information in NEPH's *Submission to the third legislative review of the Tobacco and Vaping Products Act*.

8.0. **DATES OF NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting of the Board of Health to be held on October 23, 2025 at 4:00 pm.

9.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

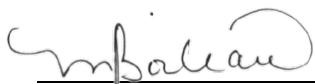
MOTION #47-R-2025

Moved by: Andrew Marks

Seconded by: Paul Kelly

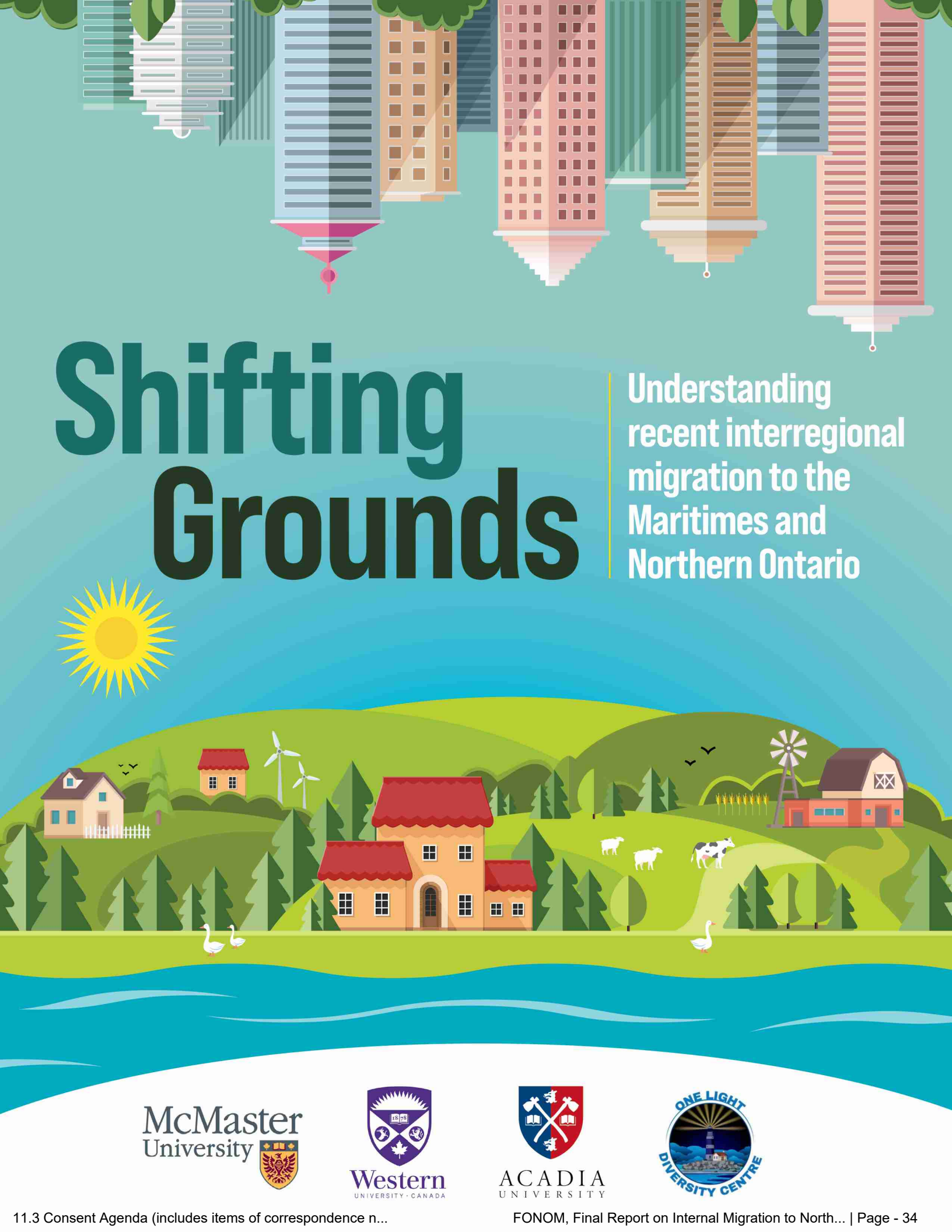
That the meeting of the Board of Health adjourns at 6:30 pm.

CARRIED



October 23, 2025

Michelle Boileau, Board Chair
Lori McCord, Recorder



Shifting Grounds

Understanding
recent interregional
migration to the
Maritimes and
Northern Ontario



Shifting Grounds:

Understanding recent inter-regional migration to the Maritimes and Northern Ontario

McMaster University, October 2025

Authors

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Taylor Paul, Western University

Dennis Soron, Brock University

Michael Haan, Western University

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the people who helped us connect with migrants and community leaders, particularly Rammy Binning, Donna Clarke, and Donna Maitland. Patrick Vitale, Jenny Rand, Joanna Regan, and Megan Devoe helped with data collection and analysis and Hui Jeong Ha produced GIS maps. This report draws on research supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

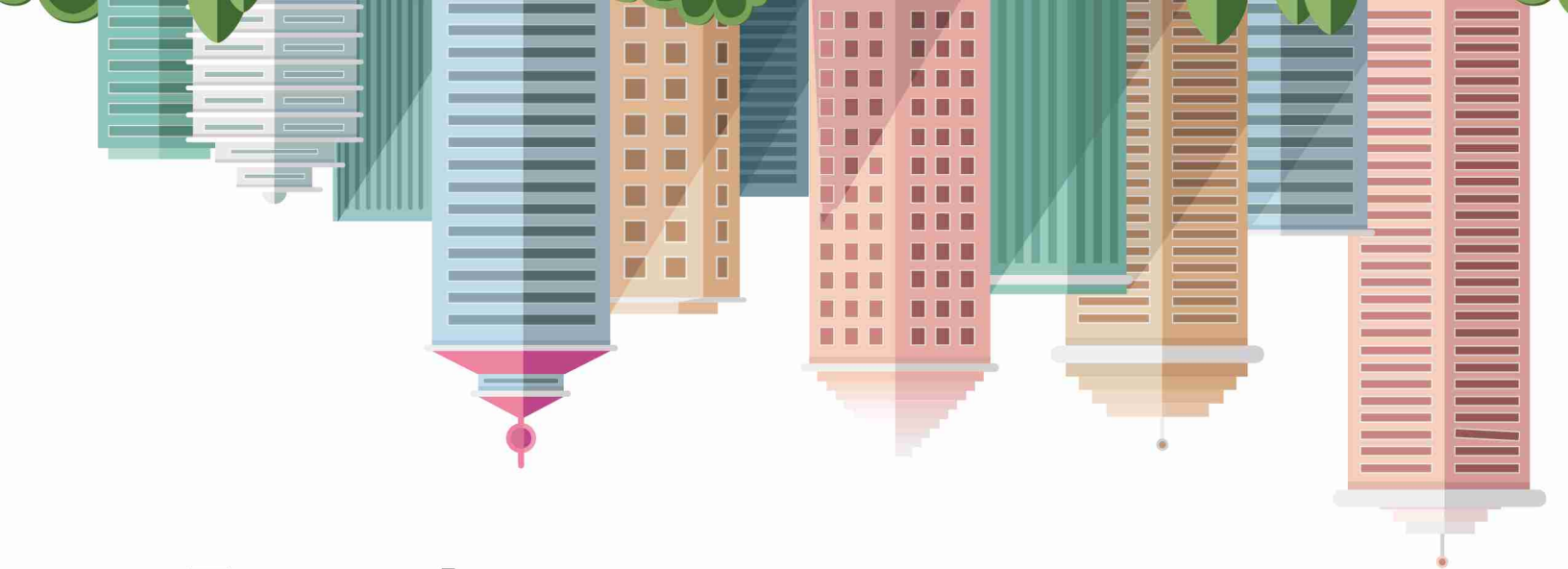
Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada



For further information please contact:

Suzanne Mills at smills@mcmaster.ca or Katie Mazer at katie.mazer@acadiau.ca

A stylized illustration of several tall, colorful skyscrapers in shades of blue, green, orange, and red, arranged in a row. They have a modern, geometric design with many windows.

Executive summary

Over the past ten years, there has been a notable shift in Canada's population dynamics. For generations, Canada's population has been growing increasingly urban. This has been driven in part by *internal* migration: migration within Canada. Drawn by economic growth and job opportunities, people tended to move from rural and peripheral areas to more urban, central, and rapidly growing regions.

As a result, while the country as a whole was growing, in some regions population growth was growing much more slowly, stagnating or even declining. **But in recent years, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, many people chose to move *away* from the country's major urban centres,** reversing longstanding patterns of outmigration for some regions. Although there were many media stories about this trend, we knew relatively little about the scale of this migration, what was driving it, or how it was playing out in receiving communities.



This report provides detailed information about this trend based on a study of two regions that were popular destinations for inter-regional migration during COVID-19: Northern Ontario and the Maritimes.

We analyzed census and administrative records and conducted interviews with 67 inter-regional migrants and 47 key stakeholders from receiving communities. This information allowed us to document where people were moving within each region, who was moving to slower-growth regions and why, how migrants were making a living and integrating socially, and how receiving communities were experiencing the influx of new residents.

Where did people move within each region?

Between 2016 and 2021 **inter-regional migration to Northern Ontario was concentrated in the near north** (Parry Sound, Manitoulin and Nipissing) followed by Northeastern Ontario more broadly. Other regions in Northern Ontario continued to see no growth or negative growth. **In the Maritimes, population growth resulting from inter-regional migration was more pronounced and widespread**, though more isolated regions with fewer amenities experienced less growth.

Who moved?

In most respects, people who moved into Northern Ontario or the Maritimes between 2016 and 2021 were similar to the pre-existing population. Some exceptions include that movers to both regions tended to be **younger** and slightly **more highly educated** than the pre-existing population. Movers were also **more likely to identify as a visible minority**.

Household incomes of those moving into the Maritimes declined post-migration. In Northern Ontario increases in household income were modest and similar to the pre-existing population. This suggests that, in general, migration was not motivated by high paying job opportunities.

The number of people working from home increased between 2016 to 2021. **The growth in working from home**, however, was **particularly strong for movers**. A greater share of movers and non-movers, however, reported working on-site at their place of employment, than working remotely from home.

Motivations for moving

Households who participated in the study typically described more than one motivation for moving. **Proximity to family and housing affordability** were the most common drivers of migration. Such motivations were **often intertwined with other motivations**. These included the desire to **slow down and work less or to pursue a passion project** like starting a new business or homesteading. Moving was also pursued as a way to **improve health and well-being**. A small number of movers to the Maritimes were attracted by what they perceived to be a **community-focused culture and more open political climate**. Some movers to both regions were seeking **safe housing and communities**.

What made the move possible?

A variety of factors made moving to Northern Ontario or the Maritimes economically feasible for our interviewees, since most were not moving in search of employment. These included the **ability to work remotely**, the **relative affordability of housing** in Northern Ontario and the Maritimes relative to large urban centres, and **retirement or COVID-related job loss**. In other cases, households sought out local employment prior to taking the leap or moved in with family or friends and searched for local employment after moving.





PICTURED ABOVE: A study participant's farm in Annapolis Valley, NS. Photo by Katie Mazer.

Life after moving

Experiences of life after moving were diverse. **While most people who moved reported that their quality of life had improved, a significant number were ambivalent about their move**, identifying unexpected economic and social challenges post-migration.

Interviewees recounted a number of benefits that flowed from their move to a more affordable locale. These included the ability to: improve their housing situation (buy a house or land or secure a more affordable rental); decrease working time or leave a stressful job; or spend more time with family or in nature. Many reported that their physical or mental health had improved as a consequence of their move.

At the same time, many migrants faced unexpected challenges after moving. A lack of local employment options in the Maritimes created economic uncertainty for some participants who worked remotely or lost employment post-move. Higher than anticipated food, energy, and renovation costs in the Maritimes also left some households economically strapped. Others faced challenges integrating in their new communities and/or experienced xenophobia, creating a sense of social isolation. Lastly, many interviewees described difficulties accessing needed services, particularly healthcare.

Remote workers often faced distinct benefits and challenges. Working remotely allowed people to keep a steady flow of employment income. Surprisingly, however, several remote workers described taking onsite employment after their move to counter social isolation or meet people in their new community.

Effects of in-migration on receiving communities and regions

Community leaders were generally optimistic about in-migration. Many described how new residents were making **positive contributions** to the economic and social life of their communities. These included **voluntarism and civic engagement, starting businesses, filling job vacancies, shopping at local businesses, and boosting local tax revenues**. The influx of people and accompanying revenue made it possible for some municipalities to increase investment in infrastructure. Those moving from other regions in Canada were also transforming communities demographically, bringing a new degree of **ethnic and age diversity** that was welcomed by community leaders.

This sense of optimism was tempered by new **challenges**, however, particularly in regions with higher levels of population growth. These included **insufficient and unaffordable housing, rising homelessness, and a lack of family doctors**. In some cases, respondents noted that internal migrants were not filling the most critical labour needs in healthcare, trades, or low-wage services. Community integration was also presented as an emergent challenge that some communities sought to address through targeted programs or events.

Ultimately, rapid population growth represents a paradox for receiving communities. Increased housing prices have led to crises of housing availability and affordability, but they have also increased the tax base on which municipalities depend to expand and maintain infrastructure and provide services.

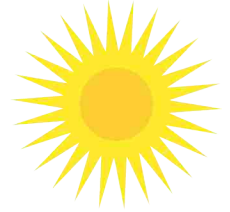
New, diverse, and affordable housing development is needed to accommodate population growth and ease the crisis, but, in the Maritimes, development has been contentious, including among newcomers who want to preserve certain features of the rural setting to which they have moved.

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1. Introduction



Over the past ten years, there has been a notable shift in Canada's population dynamics. For generations, Canada's population has been growing increasingly urban. This has been driven in part by *internal* migration: that is, migration within Canada. Drawn by economic growth and job opportunities, people have long tended to move from rural and peripheral areas to more urban, central, and rapidly growing regions.

As a result, while the country as a whole was growing, in some regions population was growing much more slowly, stagnating, or even declining. In recent years, however, an increasing number of people have been moving *away* from the country's most populated cities and regions. The COVID-19 pandemic only amplified this burgeoning trend. News reports have suggested that shifts in personal priorities, affordability crises in larger centres, and the rapid adoption of remote work

popularized the idea of moving to smaller, more rural, and relatively affordable places.ⁱ After decades of population decline, many rural and peripheral places in Canada were recast in the media as desirable places to live, offering affordability, access to nature, a slower pace of life, and ultimately, the ability to centre 'life' over work.ⁱⁱ In many cases, places that had seen decades of population decline began to grow again.



PICTURED ABOVE: Lake Timiskaming, Temiskaming Shores, ON. Photo by Suzanne Mills.

While this surprising trend was widely reported in the media, we knew relatively little about who was moving to slower-growth regions and why, how migrants were making a living and integrating socially, and how receiving communities were experiencing this unexpected influx of new residents. This report aims to answer these questions by examining two regions that were especially popular destinations for inter-regional migration during the COVID-19 pandemic: the Maritimes and Northern Ontario.ⁱⁱⁱ

Between 2016 and 2021 (Figure 1.1), generations of decline or slow growth in the Maritimes gave way to population growth rates not seen in 50 years. While much of this growth was due to an increase in international immigration to the region, inter-provincial migration was also a significant source of growth (Figure 1.2). For the first time since the early 1980s, more people moved to the Maritimes *from other parts of Canada* than left the region.^{iv}

Figure 1.1 Population change in the Maritimes 2001-2024.^v

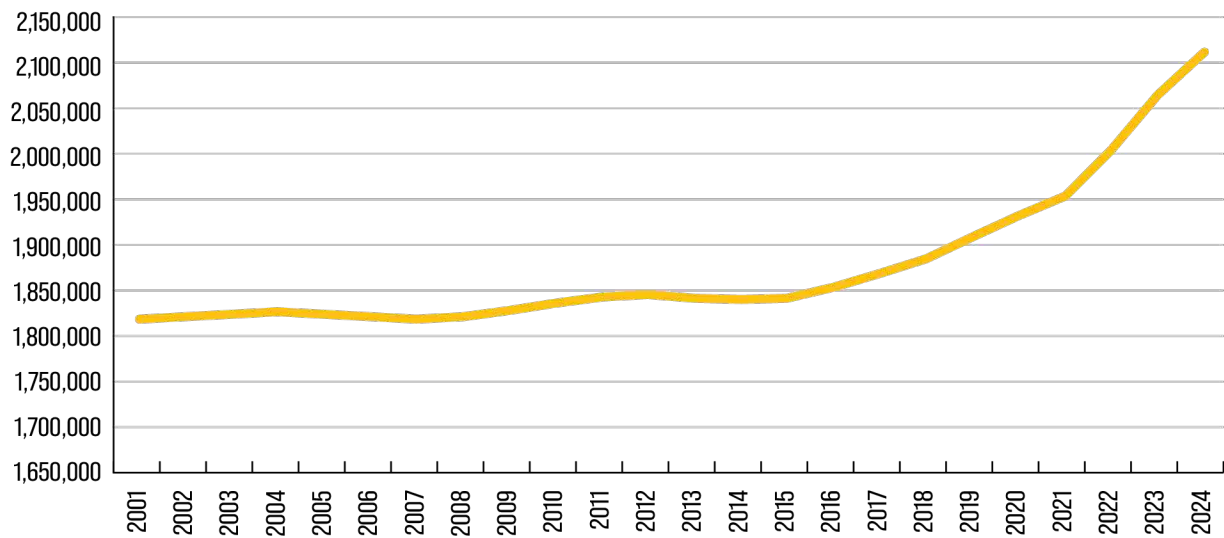
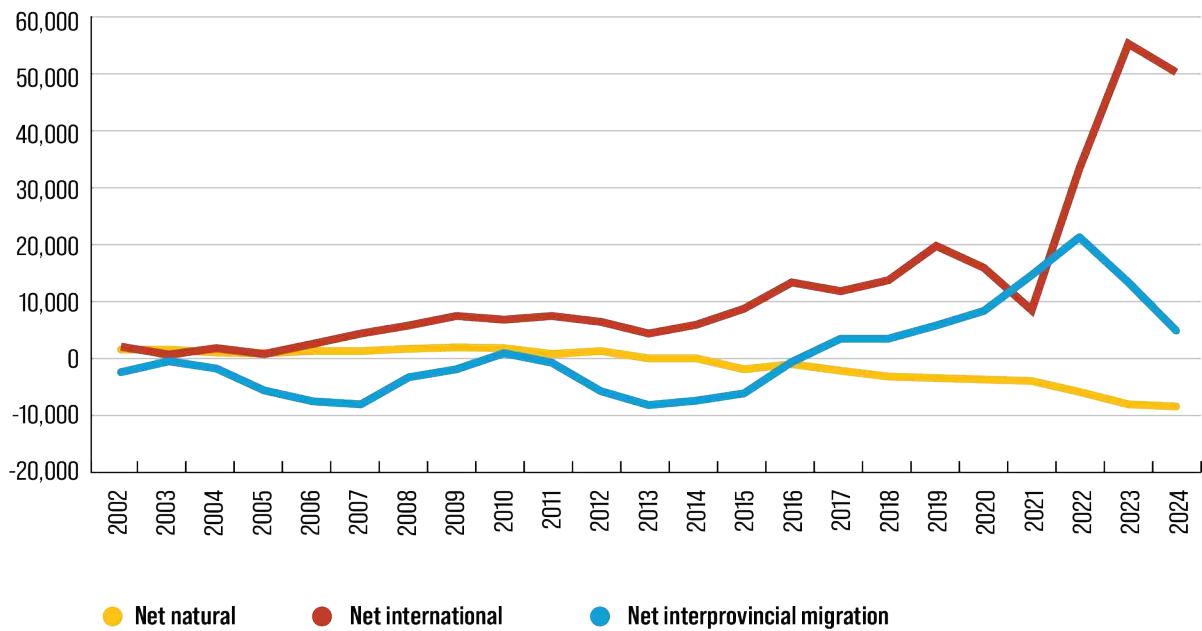


Figure 1.2 Components of population change in the Maritimes^{vi}



A similar trend, albeit less pronounced, can be observed in Northern Ontario. In Northern Ontario, longstanding population trends began to reverse in 2015/16 (Figure 1.3). Like the Maritimes, this shift was fueled by a combination of internal and international migration. Whereas internal migration to the Maritimes was fueled by people moving from other provinces, however, internal migration to Northern Ontario was predominantly fueled by intra-provincial migration from Southern Ontario (Figure 1.4).

Figure 1.3 Population change in Northern Ontario 2001-2024^{vii}

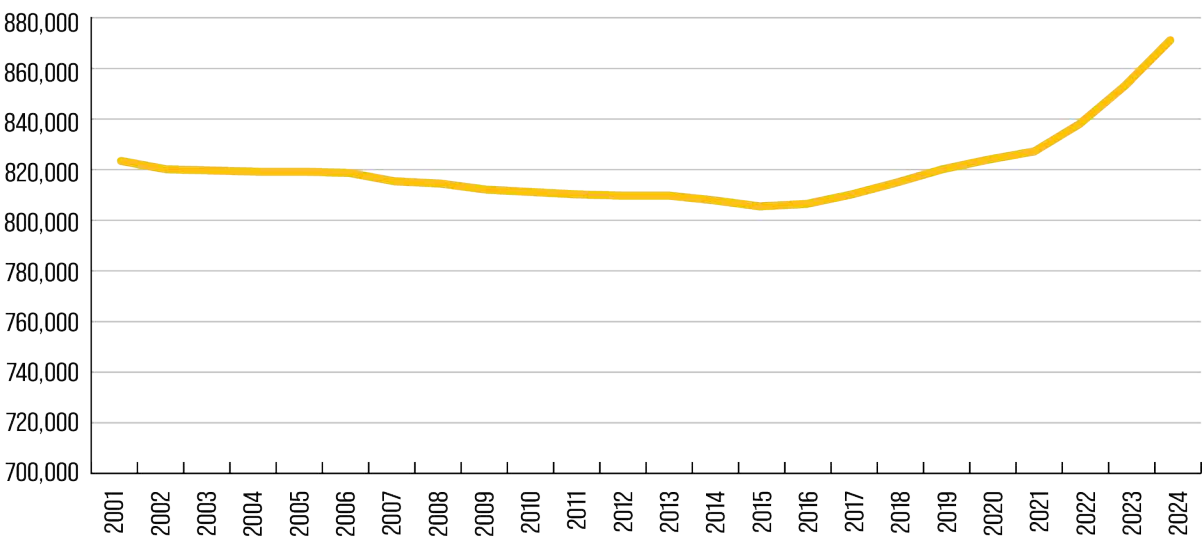
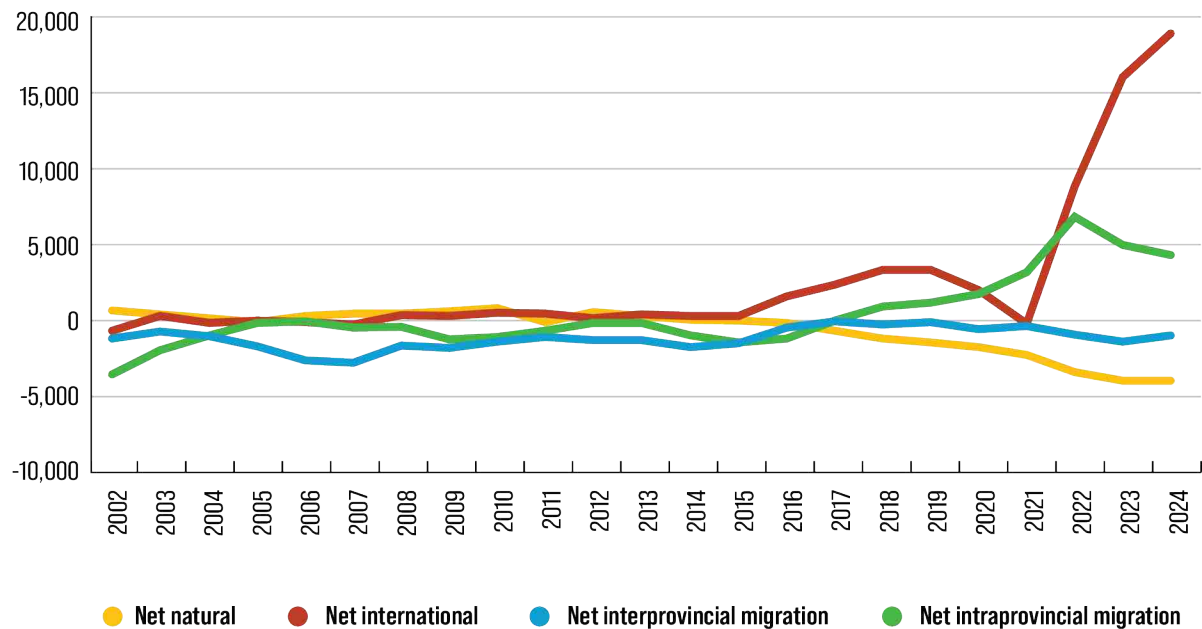


Figure 1.4 Components of population change in Northern Ontario



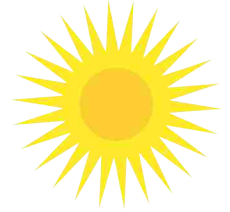
Understanding the social causes and impacts of these demographic changes requires investigating the motivations and experiences of movers, as well as how the changes are playing out in receiving communities.

Our research shows that people moving to Northern Ontario and the Maritimes from other regions in Canada during this period were overwhelmingly moving away from more urban and less affordable places. Their decisions to move were often *motivated* by concerns about housing affordability, a desire to be closer to family, aspirations to work less or differently, and the pursuit of a new and better way of life. Their *ability* to relocate was often linked to the option to work remotely and the relative affordability of housing in Northern Ontario and the Maritimes relative to large urban centres. Inter-regional migrants recounted a wide range of experiences in their new communities: from improved quality of life related to affordability, less work pressure, and time in nature, to precarious employment, poor access to services, social isolation, and xenophobia. For receiving communities, the recent surge in migration has ultimately brought both opportunities and challenges, creating new economic activity while also placing pressure on housing, social services, and job markets, and triggering social tensions.

Our study examined the demographics, drivers, and impacts of inter-regional migration to the Maritimes and Northern Ontario. The findings in this report challenge some of the taken-for-granted assumptions about people who moved into more affordable regions through the pandemic. They also highlight the real challenges and benefits unfolding in receiving communities. In sharing these details with community practitioners and the public, we hope to shed light on the causes of this migration shift and consequences for movers and receiving regions in a way that improves understanding, bolsters effective policy responses to current challenges, and helps plan for the future. For communities, our results can inform planning for economic development by providing insight into how to attract migrants, but also by providing information about how to foster greater integration while also meeting housing and service provision needs.



2. Methods



The research was conducted by an interdisciplinary team of professors and graduate students from McMaster University, Acadia University, Brock University, and Western University. We used a multi-sited, mixed-methods approach to investigate inter-regional migration trends in Canada and their relationship to work and livelihoods, focusing on Northern Ontario and the Maritimes.

Our approach involved the collection and analysis of qualitative data as well as the analysis of quantitative data from the Statistics Canada 2016 and 2021 Censuses. We sought to capture the objective details of this migration trend: who moved, from where, to where; inter-regional migrants' lived experiences; and the broader socio-economic implications of these migration patterns. Qualitative data collection took place in the summer and fall of 2024, and data analysis took place in 2025.



PICTURED ABOVE: Team members walking, Blomidon, NS. Photo by Suzanne Mills.

2.1 Data collection and analysis

Quantitative analysis: To generate maps and population component figures we used estimates of population change from Statistics Canada's Demography Division, measured at the level of Census Division. To compare total migrants, internal immigrants, and internal emigrants with non-movers we used 2016 and 2021 Census of Canada Master Files using two techniques. First, using migration data in the 2021 Census, we compared the demographic characteristics of those who moved into each region in 2020 and in 2016 with the demographic characteristics of pre-existing residents. Second, we used place of residence data in the 2016 and 2021 Census of Canada Master Files to: a) identify the size of communities internal migrants were leaving and moving to and b) compare the demographic characteristics of those who moved into each region from another region in Canada with that of pre-existing residents who did not move and those who moved out of each region.

Qualitative data collection and analysis: We conducted 57 in-depth narrative interviews with individuals and households who moved to Northern Ontario and the Maritimes between 2019 and 2024. We recruited participants using social media, posters placed in key localities, and referrals from interviewees to other potential participants from their own networks. In-person (76%) and virtual (24%) interviews allowed us to capture people's stories about work, migration decisions, and life after moving. We also conducted 47 interviews (32 in Northern Ontario and 15 in the Maritimes) with local stakeholders, including elected officials, planners, local economic development officers, real estate agents, business leaders, and social service providers. These interviews provided information about how internal migration was affecting the broader social and economic wellbeing of each region. All interviews were transcribed and coded thematically using qualitative analysis software (NVivo) to extract key themes.

2.2 Who we heard from

2.2.1 Inter-regional migrants to Northern Ontario and the Maritimes

We conducted 57 interviews with a total of 67 people who had moved to Northern Ontario (52%) or the Maritimes (48%). Almost all migrants to Northern Ontario who participated in our study had moved from *within Ontario* (94%). Participants who had move to the Maritimes, meanwhile, had more diverse source communities, moving from Ontario (58%), British Columbia (16%), Quebec (10%), and the Prairie provinces (9%). Most migrants interviewed were between 30 and 49 years old, with an average age of 45. Six participants identified as racialized, three identified as Indigenous and 10 identified their sexual orientation as other than heterosexual. Six participants identified as a person with disabilities.



PICTURED ABOVE: Community leader and team member in Temiskaming Shores, ON. Photo by Suzanne Mills.

Table 2.2.1 Demographic characteristics of migrant interview participants by region

	Northern Ontario	Maritimes	Total
Gender identity			
Male	14	11	25
Female	22	20	42
Age			
20-29	5	0	5
30-39	12	8	20
40-49	9	10	19
50-59	6	4	10
60-69	4	9	13
Sexual orientation			
Heterosexual	32	25	57
Gay or Lesbian	1	3	4
Bisexual/Pansexual/Queer	3	3	6
Racialized			
White	31	30	61
Racialized as non-white	5	1	6
Indigenous identity			
Indigenous	3	0	3
Not Indigenous	33	31	64
Ability/disability			
No disabilities	31	30	61
Person with disabilities	5	1	6
Highest level of education			
Graduate School or Professional deg.	8	14	22
Undergraduate degree	14	11	25
Some University	0	1	1
College or trade diploma	8	5	12
Some college	5	0	5
Highschool diploma or less	1	0	1

Most interview participants reported incomes between \$60,000 and \$140,000, however six households had household incomes below \$40,000 and five had household incomes of \$200,000 or higher. A slightly greater share of interview participants in the Maritimes reported household incomes above \$180,000 than in Northern Ontario. At the time of our interviews, most participants (52) were working for pay. Our interview sample included a significant number of people who were working remotely from home (17) or were self-employed (12). Interviewees who were not working for pay were either retired (11), unemployed (2), or engaged in performing care work (2).

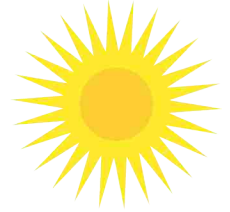
2.2.2 Key informants

Interviews with 47 key informants (32 in Northern Ontario and 15 in the Maritimes) included local elected officials (12), planners, economic development officers (8), real estate agents (6), social service providers (5), and 16 other community leaders including teachers, provincial representatives, and business leaders.



PICTURED ABOVE: Team member walking in Mattawa, ON. Picture by Suzanne Mills.

3. Who moved where?



Our analysis of Census data shows that migration was uneven within each region and that migrants were diverse geographically, demographically, and socioeconomically. Although many households moved from metropolitan areas to rural areas, a significant number moved to similarly sized communities. Demographically, movers to both regions tended to be younger, more highly educated, and more likely to identify as a visible minority than the pre-existing population. Movers also represented a range of income levels. Furthermore, economic indicators suggest that those who moved into either region from other regions in Canada were not motivated by high paying job opportunities.

3.1 Where did people move?

People who moved into the Maritimes and Northern Ontario between 2016 and 2021 were often moving away from larger centres and to cities and municipalities with smaller populations. Almost 30% of migrants moving into the Maritimes and Northern Ontario were moving from a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)—a municipality of over 100,000 people—to a non-Census Area (non-CA)—a municipality with less than 10,000 people (Table 3.1). Moves from CMAs to Census Areas—municipalities from 10,000 to 100,000 people—were also common among in-migrants. In contrast, people leaving both regions were often moving to more populated municipalities. Not everyone who moved into these regions was making an urban to rural transition, however. Just over 10% of movers were moving from other rural areas in Canada and almost a quarter of in-migrants were moving from CMA to CMA. Internal migration was also uneven within each region.



PICTURED ABOVE: Blomidon, NS. Photo by Suzanne Mills.

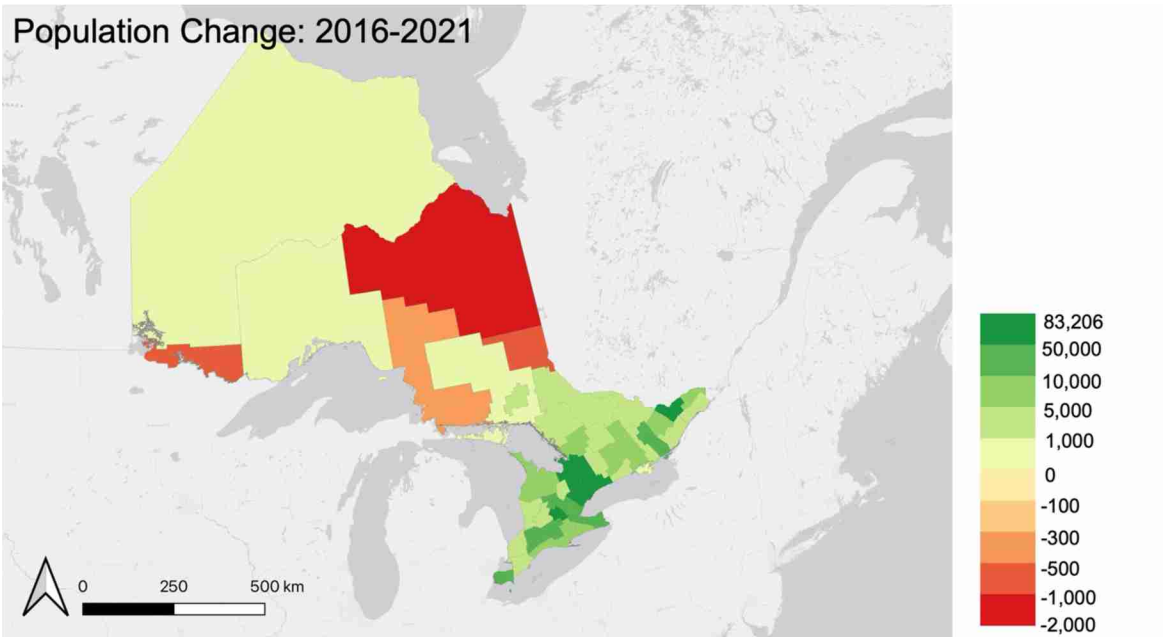
Table 3.1: Geographical size of source and receiving communities for migrants in and out of the Maritimes and Northern Ontario from 2016 to 2021, aged 25 or older in 2016 ^{viii}

	Maritimes		Northern Ontario	
	In-Migration	Out-Migration	In-Migration	Out-Migration
From CMA to CMA	14.93%	23.24%	16.01%	23.78%
From CMA to CA	16.89%	4.3%	17.43%	4.45%
From CMA to non-CA	29.18%	5.11%	27.51%	5.1%
From CA to CMA	2.31%	18.8%	2.46%	19.17%
From CA to CA	3.24%	4.13%	3.36%	4.17%
From CA to non-CA	5.23%	5.96%	4.93%	5.42%
From non-CA to CMA	2.59%	20.32%	2.74%	20.57%
From non-CA to CA	3.98%	5.73%	4.1%	5.92%
From non-CA to non-CA	10.43%	12.42%	10.13%	11.42%
External (Outside Canada)	11.22%	N/A	11.34%	N/A

3.1.1 Northern Ontario

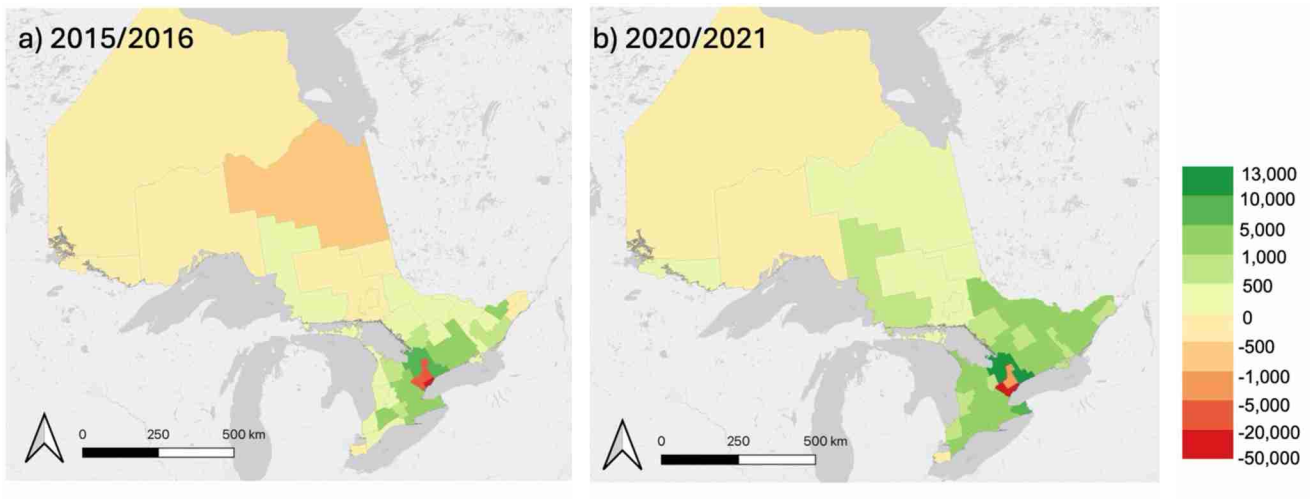
Population growth between 2016 and 2021 in Northern Ontario was largely concentrated in the near north (Parry Sound, Manitoulin and Nipissing) and northeastern Ontario more broadly (Figure 3.1.1.1). Other regions in Northern Ontario, continued to see no growth or negative growth.

Figure 3.1.1.1 Population change in Northern Ontario 2016-2021 ^{ix}



Maps of intra-provincial net migration between 2015 and 2016 and 2021 and 2022, show a flow of people away from Toronto, first to the suburbs and cottage country, and second to the near north and northeastern Ontario more broadly (Figures 3.1.1.2 a, b).

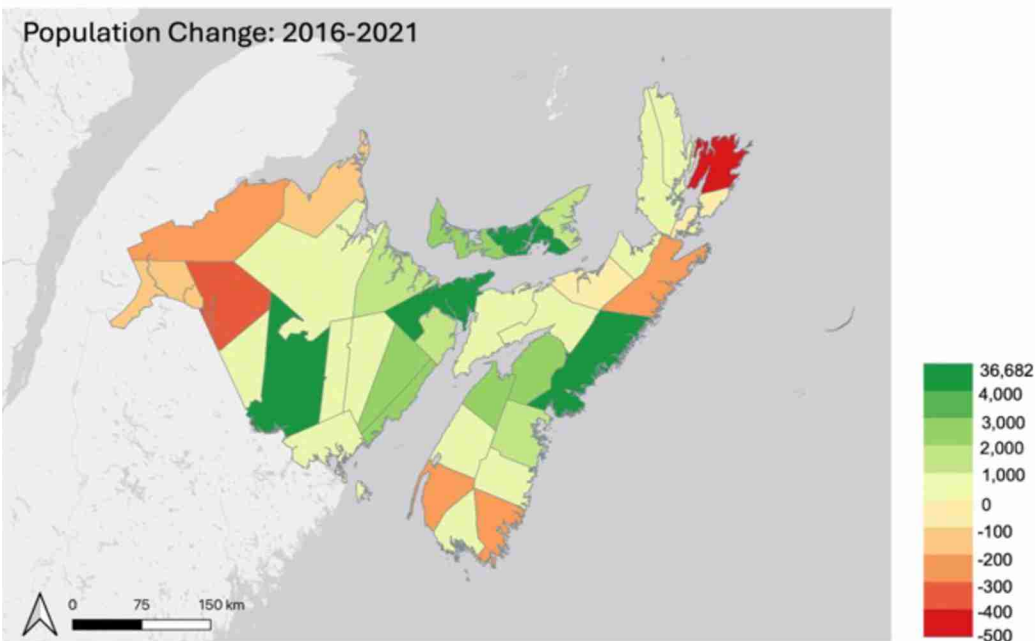
Figure 3.1.1.2 a, b Intra-provincial migration in Northern Ontario between 2015/2016 and 2020/2021^x



3.1.2 Maritimes

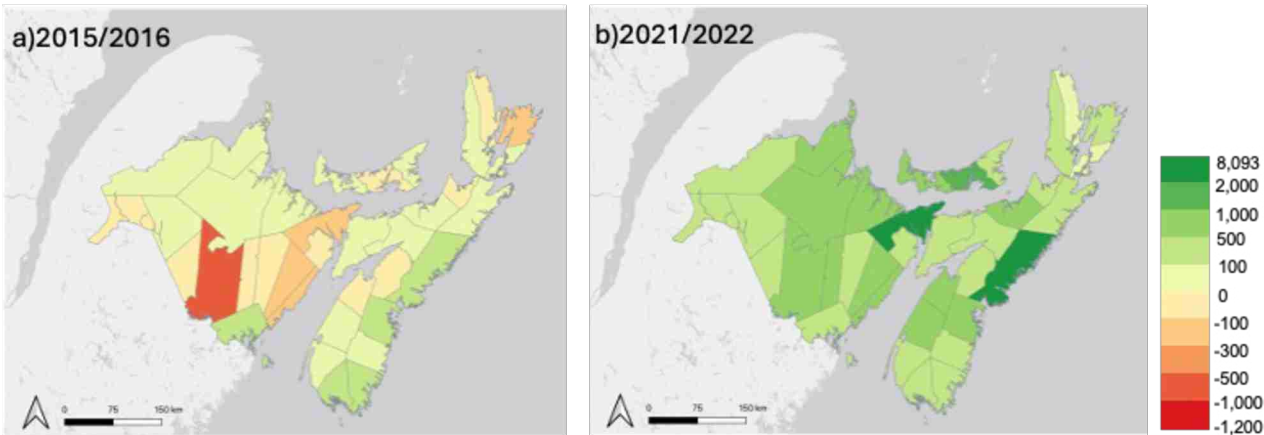
Population growth in the Maritimes from 2016 and 2021 was greatest in more populated sub-regions. These include, for example, census divisions including Halifax, NS, Fredericton NB, and Charlottetown, PEI. Other regions experienced net negative population, with Cape Breton experiencing the greatest decline.

Figure 3.1.2.1 Population change in the Maritimes 2016-2021^{xi}



Net inter-provincial migration in the Maritimes between 2015 and 2016 was slightly positive in some census divisions and neutral or slightly negative in others. Between 2020 and 2021, however, inter-provincial migration was positive in all census divisions with very high growth in the same regions that demonstrate population growth between 2016 and 2021.

Figure 3.1.2.2 a, b Inter-provincial migration in the Maritimes between 2015-16 and 2020-21^{xii}



PICTURED ABOVE: Pigs on study participant's property. Picture by Suzanne Mills.

3.2 Who moved?

In general, the people who moved into Northern Ontario or the Maritimes were quite similar to the pre-existing population. In both regions, migrants tended to be more ethnically diverse, more highly educated, and younger than those who did not move.

3.2.1 Demographic characteristics

When compared with pre-existing residents, a greater share of migrants into the Maritimes between 2016 and 2021 and between 2020 and 2021 were visible minorities and permanent residents (Table 3.2.1.1). Migrants were also younger and more likely to have a university degree than the non-migrant population, but less likely to have an apprenticeship or trades certificate. These trends were also true when internal migrants—those moving from other regions in Canada—were isolated in the analysis.

Table 3.2.1.1 Demographic characteristics of migrants into the Maritimes in 2016 and 2021^{xiii}

	Migration status (All)		
	Non-Migrant	5 years ago	1 year ago
Immigration Status in 2021			
Canadian-born	93.82	61.33	65.5
Permanent residents	5.92	25.14	19.04
Temporary residents	0.26	13.52	15.46
Gender			
Female	52.14	49.89	49.74
Male	47.86	50.11	50.26
Age in 2021			
25 to 34	14.12	33.98	36.21
35 to 44	15.16	26.42	22.28
45 to 54	17.73	14.42	15.26
55 to 64	22.19	13.78	15.05
65 or older	30.8	11.4	11.2
Visible Minority			
White	92.01	65.94	69.5
Visible minority	3.92	30.89	27.38
Indigenous	4.07	3.17	3.12
Highest Education Level in 2021			
Secondary or less	42.96	26.99	26.74
Apprenticeship or trades certificate	9.15	6.46	6.29
Some post-secondary education below bachelor's degree	26.15	22.69	23.37
Bachelor's degree	14.71	25.13	27.05
Above bachelor's level	7.04	18.73	16.55

Demographic trends among migrants were similar in Northern Ontario. A higher share of recent migrants were permanent residents and visible minorities than the non-migrant population (Table 3.2.1.2). Migrants were also, on average, younger than non-migrants. Similar to migrants to the Maritimes, a greater share of migrants had a bachelor's degree or higher than non-migrants. Once again, these trends were also evident among internal migrants.

Table 3.2.1.2 Demographic characteristics of migrants to Northern Ontario in 2016 and 2021 ^{xiv}

	Migration status (All)		
	Non-Migrant	5 years ago	1 year ago
Immigration Status in 2021			
Canadian-born	93.35	76.89	77.78
Permanent residents	6.56	14.26	14.04
Temporary residents	0.09	8.85	8.18
Gender			
Female	51.32	48.83	50.11
Male	48.68	51.17	49.89
Age in 2021			
25 to 34	14.51	32.94	35.52
35 to 44	15.07	19.32	18.79
45 to 54	16.63	14.05	14.41
55 to 64	22.82	18.24	18.17
65 or older	30.97	15.45	13.12
Visible Minority			
White	83.30	73.79	73.85
Visible minority	1.97	17.76	16.71
Indigenous	14.73	8.44	9.44
Highest Education Level in 2021			
Secondary or less	45.47	35.48	34.29
Apprenticeship or trades certificate	8.72	7.15	6.79
Some post-secondary education below bachelor's degree	29.36	27.17	26.86
Bachelor's degree	11.85	18.67	19.70
Above bachelor's level	4.59	11.53	12.37



3.2.2 Economic characteristics

Available indicators suggest that the economic situation of people who moved into Northern Ontario and the Maritimes between 2015 and 2020 was not very different from the pre-existing population in these regions. Levels of home ownership in 2015/2016 and average household incomes were relatively similar between these populations.

In Northern Ontario, both movers and non-movers had almost identical average levels of home ownership in 2015/16, 69.5% versus 68.9% respectively. In the Maritimes, movers had a slightly higher level of home ownership in 2015/16 than the non-migrant population (73.1% versus 69.5%).

Household income

Figure 3.2.2.1 shows how average total household after-tax income in the Maritimes changed between 2015 and 2020, broken down by migration status. In 2015, non-migrant and in-migrant households had similar income levels, while out-migrant households were somewhat lower. By 2020, incomes for non-migrant and in-migrant households had both declined slightly, averaging around \$74,800 and \$74,650. In contrast, out-migrant households experienced a substantial increase, reaching \$107,100. This suggests that households leaving the region tended to have higher incomes by 2020, while those staying or moving into the region saw stagnant or declining after-tax incomes.

Figure 3.2.2.1 Average total household after-tax income by migration status in the Maritimes ^{xv}

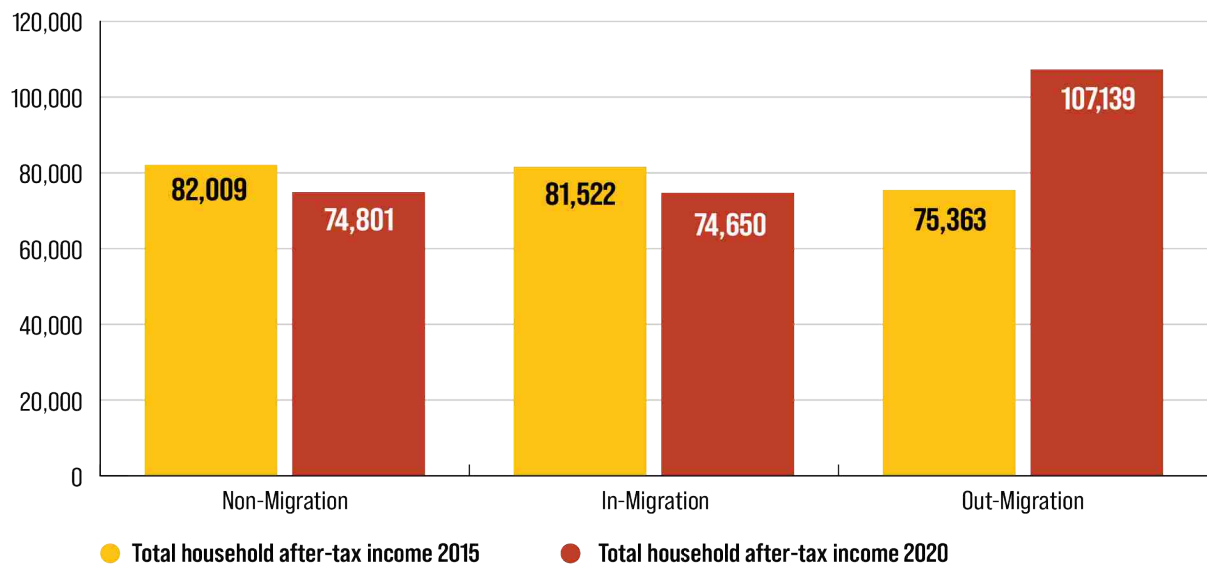
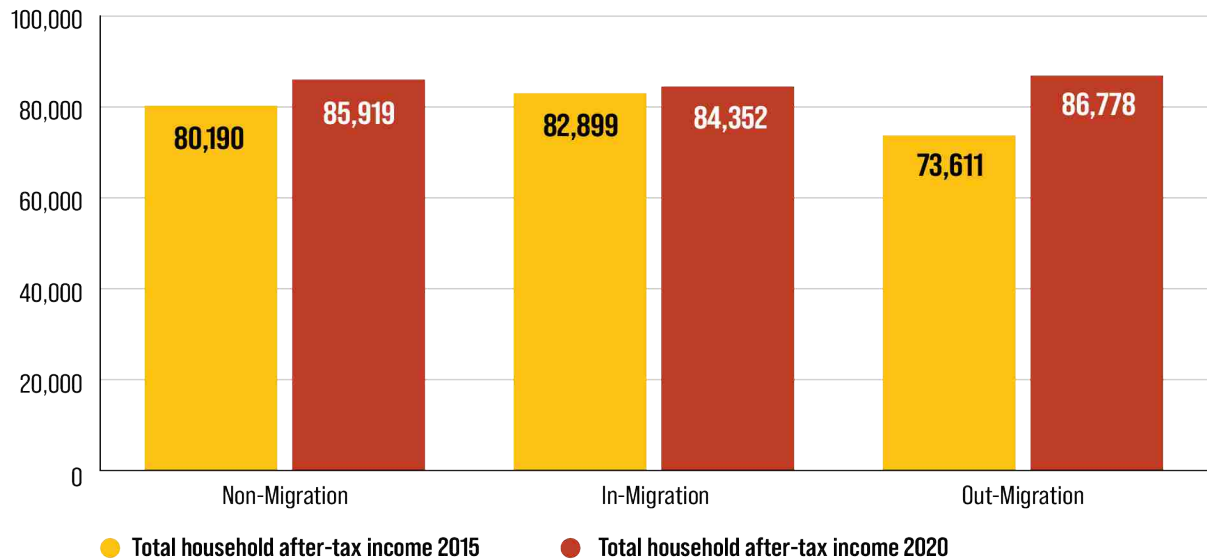


Figure 3.2.2.2 shows the same information for Northern Ontario. In Northern Ontario, average total household after-tax income shifted differently across migration groups between 2015 and 2020. Non-migrant households saw more substantial income growth, rising from about \$80,200 to \$85,900, while in-migrant households experienced only a modest increase, from \$82,900 to \$84,400. Out-migrant households, however, showed the most dramatic change: their incomes were the lowest in 2015 at \$73,600 but grew sharply to \$86,800 by 2020, making them the highest-income group overall. This pattern highlights that households leaving Northern Ontario experienced the greatest financial gains, while those staying or moving in had smaller income increases.

These results suggest that people are still leaving these regions in search of higher paid employment. In contrast, those moving into each region were not likely motivated primarily by economic considerations.

Figure 3.2.2.2 Average total household after-tax income by migration status in Northern Ontario^{xvi}



3.2.3 Employment characteristics

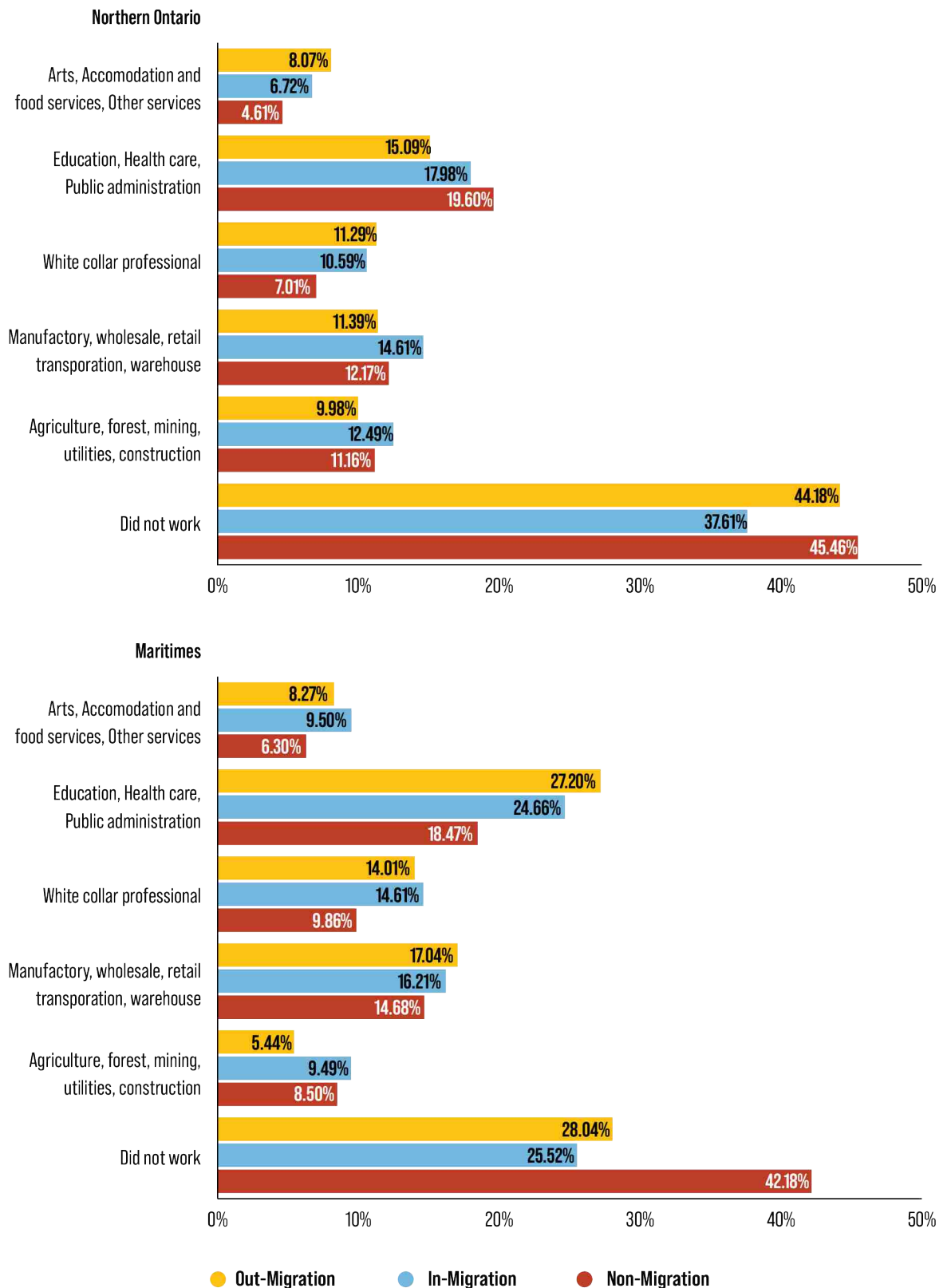
Industry sector

Figure 3.2.3.1 shows the distribution of industry sectors among Northern Ontario and Maritime residents in 2020/21, broken down by migration status.

In Northern Ontario, a large share of all groups reported not working in 2020/21, with rates ranging from 37.6% among in-migrants to 45.5% among non-migrants. Education, health care, and public administration were the most common sectors for employment, particularly for non-migrants (19.6%). Out-migrants were more represented in agriculture, forestry, mining, utilities, and construction (10%) compared to other groups, while in-migrants were more concentrated in manufacturing, retail, transportation, and warehousing (14.6%). White-collar professional roles were also more common among in-migrants (10.6%) and out-migrants (11.3%) than non-migrants (7.0%). Overall, the data suggest that while non-migrants were more likely to work in public sector roles, in- and out-migrants showed stronger ties to professional and goods-producing industries.

In the Maritimes, non-migrants had the highest share reporting they did not work (42.2%), compared to 28.0% of out-migrants and 25.5% of in-migrants. Education, health care, and public administration was the dominant employment sector for all groups, particularly among out-migrants (27.2%). In- and out-migrants were also more represented in white-collar professional roles (14.6% and 14.0%, respectively) than non-migrants (9.9%). Meanwhile, in-migrants had the largest share in manufacturing, retail, transportation, and warehousing (16.2%), slightly ahead of out-migrants (17.0%). Employment in arts, accommodation, and food services was higher for in-migrants (9.5%) than the other groups, while agriculture and resource-based work was relatively small overall but most common among in-migrants (9.5%). Overall, migrants tended to be more engaged in professional, service, and goods-producing sectors, while non-migrants showed higher reliance on public sector jobs and had a larger proportion not working.

Figure 3.2.3.1 Industry sector of employment 2020/21, migrants, non-migrants, and out-migrants in Northern Ontario and the Maritimes^{xvii}



Location of work

As anticipated, a higher percentage of the population reported home as their primary location of work in 2021 than in 2016. Out-migrants from both regions were most likely to report working from home in 2021 followed by in-migrants. Those who did not move were least likely to report working from home in 2021. Somewhat surprisingly, however, many of those who moved were working onsite in 2021/2022.

Figure 3.2.3.2 a Percent of workers reporting working from home as primary location of work by migration status in Northern Ontario, 2016 and 2021 ^{xviii}

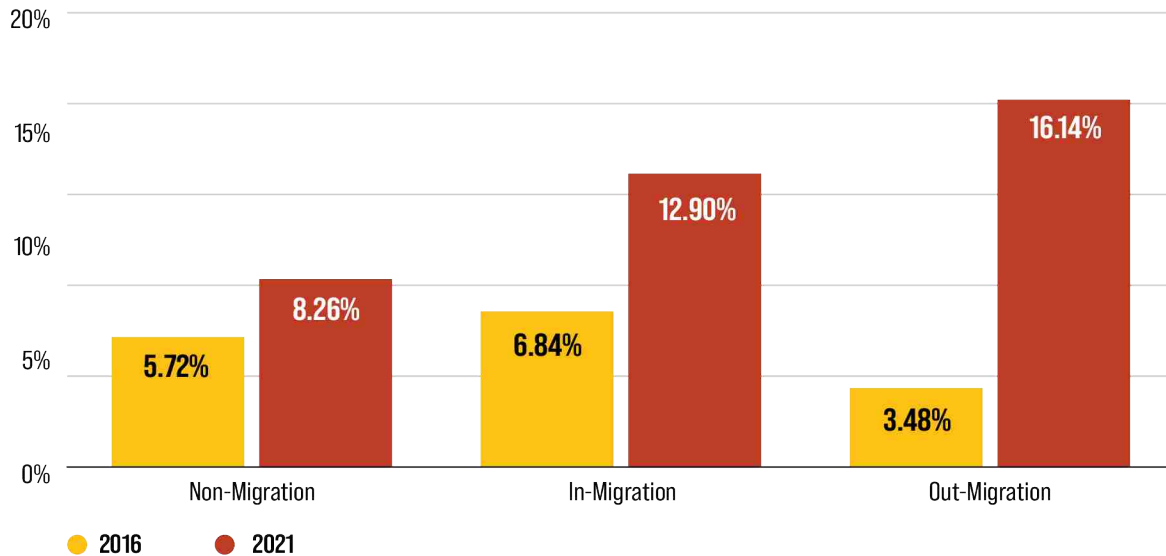
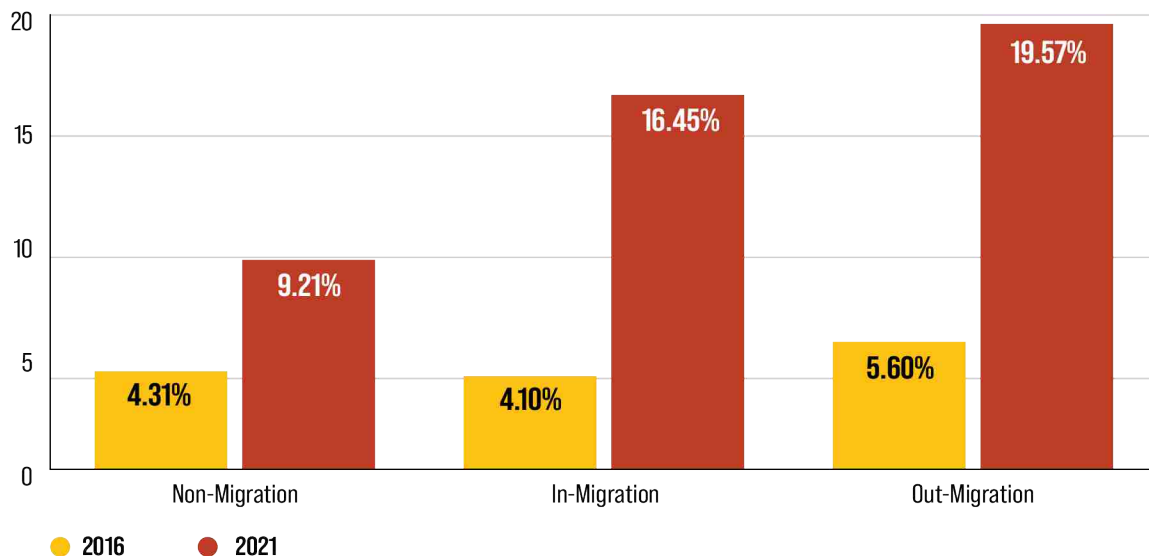
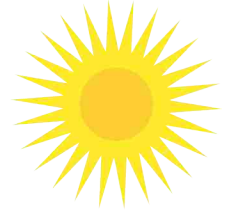


Figure 3.2.3.2 b Percent of workers reporting working from home as primary location of work by migration status in the Maritimes, 2016 and 2021.



4. Why did people move?



Across interviews, COVID-19 often acted as a catalyst for moving, granting new weight to priorities that had been simmering beneath the surface of everyday, busy, urban life. Participants described an increased pull toward re-emphasizing family and rebalancing work, often alongside a slower pace of life and improved well-being. These aims interacted with the possibilities of working remotely and reducing housing costs, both of which made the moves possible. In this section, we distinguish between motivating factors for migration and factors that made it economically feasible to move, since most of those we interviewed were not moving to take up specific jobs in their new communities.



PICTURED ABOVE: Beach in North Bay, ON. Photo by Bonnie Evans.

4.1 Motivations for moving

Motivations for moving were diverse and multi-fold, although proximity to family (39 interviews) and housing affordability (35 interviews) were most common. In fact, 23 households were motivated by both the desire to find more affordable housing (or reconfigure housing costs) and to be close to family. In the Maritimes, proximity to family was a more pronounced consideration, whereas in Northern Ontario, housing affordability was slightly more salient. These motivations were often intertwined with other goals. For example, proximity to family was often accompanied by a desire to work differently and pursue a different lifestyle (11 interviews). Moving to a region with a slower pace of life was often seen as an antidote to poor health and well-being related to work and everyday life in more urban settings (reported in 12 interviews). We also found some unexpected motivations for migration. For example, safety was a motivation for six households, and political climate prompted three households to move to the Maritimes.

4.1.1 Proximity to family

The desire to live closer to family was a widespread motivator for internal migration; 39 interviews mentioned it as a motivation factor, even if not the primary one.

Many participants described a desire to return to a place where they or their partners grew up and still had relatives. In some cases, return migration was motivated by a desire to return to the landscapes and home communities of their youth. In other cases, movers wanted to live close to family in order to ease care demands. Several households with young children moved to be closer to grandparents so that they could be more present in their children's lives and, in some cases, help with childcare. Others moved so that they could provide care for aging parents. Both of these motivations were heightened by pandemic lockdowns.



PICTURED ABOVE: Wolfville, NS. Photo by Katie Mazer.

“The whole connection to [community] is because this is where my husband is from. He grew up here.”

(Interview 105_N0)

“...when the pandemic kind of took place, we had just had our daughter, and PEI was, you know, there was the Atlantic bubble. We just struggled to find opportunities for our daughter to meet her grandparents and that sort of thing. And we kind of realized, you know, if we're ever gonna move home, now is the time...We wanted our daughter to have a relationship with her grandparents.... So we were really thinking about that as our #1 objective.”

(Interview 40_M)

“My mom has a lot of chronic pain and various health stuff going on.... So, I came back...because I knew that my mom had a couple surgeries and kind of worked out for me as well.”

(Interview 31_N0)

For some households who were moving away from family in Southern Ontario in their quest for affordability, proximity to family influenced *where* they chose to move. This meant choosing to relocate to areas in northeastern Ontario that were within a half-day drive to connections further south rather than to the Maritimes or northwestern Ontario.

4.1.2 Housing affordability

Housing affordability was a significant motivator for people moving to Northern Ontario [18] and the Maritimes [17]. Participants described being motivated by the desire to secure cheaper rents, the prospect of buying their first home, or the possibility of leveraging a regional divergence in the cost of housing to reduce debt and improve their lifestyle by buying land or working less. Escalating housing prices in urban areas in Ontario and British Columbia, before and through the pandemic, acted as a significant driver of internal migration to Northern Ontario and the Maritimes.

In several cases, renters were motivated to move to more affordable regions for cash-flow relief, to arrest debt accumulation, to escape poor housing conditions or to find an affordable apartment after being evicted.

One woman who lived in an expensive city in BC, moved to find an apartment with affordable rent after being evicted from her apartment:

“The bottom line, the reason I moved was economic. I looked for probably two months straight. I can’t remember how many places I looked at trying to find a place and, I mean, I had lived there for 30 years. But the rents were just getting stupid.”

[Interview 16_M]

In other cases, people moved to escape poor housing conditions. One social media worker from Ontario explained her and her partner’s motivation to move up north:

“We just wanted kind of a fresh start. The building that we were living in was not great. It was a really crappy one-bedroom apartment that was right above a dumpster. We had cockroaches so we were constantly getting fumigated. It was just a terrible situation.... But there really wasn’t anything else in [city] that was affordable, but not like a total slum, you know. So, we were like sinking so much money into accommodation, not getting ahead, not paying down any debt, actually accumulating debt because like, at one point, we were using credit cards for everything else because so much of our money was going to rent bills.... We couldn’t even probably afford to live there now. Just like we’re totally priced out.”

[Interview 7_NO]

In these cases, and others, moving to a more affordable region was a strategy to escape the price squeeze of housing in expensive markets and, in many cases, to improve the quality of their rental housing.

The ability to buy a first home was a motivating factor for many migrants, especially young people in their 20s and 30s who felt that owning a residence in their previous cities was impossible. As one young couple explained, the affordability of housing in northeastern Ontario made it possible to own a home for their growing family:

“I opened Realtor.ca, I scrolled, and my jaw almost hit the floor. And then messaged [partner’s name], and I said, ‘Hey, we’re moving to [city in Temiskaming region]’.... We had been looking a couple of times around [previous community in Southern Ontario].... We were actually pretty hopeless, to be honest, about the housing situation...and we were at the point where, it was like, okay, well, whatever, let’s dive in. We want to own a house.”

[Interview 21_NO]

Besides being able to buy a house, some participants were motivated by the opportunity to purchase cheaper plots of land, guided also by the motivation to lead a different way of life, have more open space, and to farm or homestead. These examples reflect a common pattern observed across both regions. Lower rents and housing prices provided migrants with multiple attractive options: the ability to reduce debts, purchase a first home, buy land, or as we will see in the next section, work less or differently.



Homesteading

The lower cost of land in the Maritimes and Northern Ontario made it possible for several households to pursue homesteading. These households sought greater self-sufficiency by producing more of their own food.

“Obviously, it [dream of farming] wasn’t going to happen in Southern Ontario,” he explains, “I had travelled to Nova Scotia before and I thought it was very lovely and I knew that land up there was cheap.”

[Interview 20_NO]

“Having the ability to provide for ourselves, and means other than financial, was a huge motivator for us, and that was, I guess, the huge motivator for me, moving up full-time and kind of going very limited with my business, so that I can [do farm work].”

[Interview 1_NO]

Another participant described how moving allowed her husband to leave his desk job:

“[He was] just wanting to be more of a farmer. He got into goats. Now he keeps goats and breeds them, and we use them for food. He was milking one of them at one point but hasn’t done that recently. He’s essentially, you know, worked in the bush a good part of his life, but for the past 10 or so years before we came up was pretty much, you know—he was a manager. He was on the desk. And so I think being up here allows him to have both of those things. He still does his same job. But he can, you know, go out and work in in the bush. You can work with the animals still have that kind of lifestyle.”

[Interview 105_NO]

These quotes illustrate how the decision to move to more remote areas, especially in Northern Ontario, was also influenced by the desire to work differently, not in paid work on the labour market, but on their land, providing for themselves. This desire became feasible when affordable acreage, a regional divergence in the cost of housing, and remote work allowed for financial security.

4.1.3 Ability to work less or differently

Often enabled by a cheaper housing market, the desire to work less or differently was also a key motivator for many migrants to Northern Ontario (7) or the Maritimes (14).

In several cases, the lower price of housing made it possible for individuals to leave jobs that were stressful or that had long work hours or both. In several cases, it meant a deliberate income/quality of life trade off. The move to PEI, coupled with the sale of a lucrative property in British Columbia enabled one participant to leave a high-pressure job and work part-time as a consultant, prioritizing his health and time with family:

“I was losing my temper with my kids. I was not the same person. And so, having the financial stability to be able to step aside... I’ve gone from making well north of \$150,000 a year to under \$40,000.”

[Interview 100_M]

Several couples described how the ability to be mortgage-free after moving to their new destination made it possible for one member of the household to take time away from paid work to focus on family or healing. As one participant described:

“So, we had a long journey with [child who passed away] and then the grief afterwards, and it all kind of rolled into we need a simpler life.... So, we actually came with no mortgage... So, that way, my husband could have time off.... Had we not moved, we’d probably be divorced.

[Interview 12_M].

Although, in this case, the break from work was temporary, in others it was permanent. Moving to a lower cost region allowed some participants to retire earlier than expected or work less and dedicate a greater share of their time to unpaid work in the home or community.



4.1.4 Way of life

Many participants were also attracted by what they perceived to be a slower and more community-centric way of life in their new locales. Interviewees often linked this desire to aspirations for improved health and wellbeing. One participant described how she moved to escape the fast pace of an urban area that she felt was negatively affecting her health:

“So essentially, I wanted to get away from the city hustle and bustle. Like, it was just getting too much for me for my mental health. I suffered from a lot of anxiety, and I thought that came from something else, but I think it came from just traffic, just everything combined.”

[Interview 11_NO]

Other participants were pulled by a culture that they perceived as down to earth and honest. As one participant described:

“There’s no filters, there’s no manipulation, there’s no hidden agendas.”

[Interview 15_M]

When asked why they moved to Northern Ontario, another respondent replied:

“Mindset. [Back in the city] I just, sometimes, I felt like you had to keep up with the Joneses, so you had to have all. Now here, we are the Joneses. They’re keeping up with us. That’s what our neighbour always tells us.”

[Interview 5_NO]

However, as this quote illustrates, the participants also (unintentionally) brought with them aspects of the very culture they were trying to escape.

Access to nature in Northern Ontario and the Maritimes was seldom the primary motivating factor, although it was often discussed as an added benefit, with several participants describing the allure of snowmobiling, being surrounded by nature, or having close proximity to water.

4.1.5 Safety and political climate

Several participants, particularly those who moved from low-income neighbourhoods, described how the desire to live in a safer community or to find safer housing motivated their move:

“We were getting people breaking into our cars. We had to step over a guy who was passed out on heroin in the morning, walking our kids to school. There were all these little things that sort of added up.”

[Interview 100_M]

For another participant who moved from a low-income neighbourhood of the GTA to Northern Ontario, the move provided the opportunity to obtain safer housing.

“But then these guys in their mid-20s, who were heavy, heavy, heavy drug addicts started showing up. And we were finding needles in the garbage area on our floor. There was one day that there was blood streaked across the wall from the elevator to his room.... We had my daughter while we lived there, and I started getting increasingly nervous about home invasion.”

[Interview 30_NO]



PICTURED ABOVE: A multi-use trail in the Annapolis Valley, NS, shares space with local farms. Photo by Katie Mazer.

In three cases, rising hostilities and shifting community norms that hindered feelings of safety and belonging motivated relocation. For one heterosexual couple living in western Canada, increasing hostility in their small town towards members of the 2SLGBTQAI+ community influenced their decision to move the Maritimes:

“I was on the committee where we decided to paint rainbow crossing in the town.... Anyway, we needed police escorts to paint this crosswalk. Yes, it was that bad, I know.... We couldn’t find any like-minded people. We had to search far and wide and that really helped us decide to just pull the plug there and go somewhere else.”

(Interview 103_M)

Similarly, a lesbian couple reported that their move to the Maritimes was in large part driven by a desire to feel more welcome in their community.

“We’ve seen Alberta over the last couple of years, it just taking a dive, and we weren’t feeling as safe as we once felt in Alberta.... People were getting a lot more aggressive and targeting queer communities. And we’re part of that. And so, it made the decision so much easier. Because we saw a real increase in hate crime during that time. So, we’re out of there.”

(Interview 102_M)

As these quotes illustrate, for some, the move was also motivated by a search for everyday acceptance, linking political climate to personal and family well-being and safety.



PICTURED ABOVE: Overlooking the Bay of Fundy, NS. Photo by Katie Mazer.

4.2 What allowed people to move?

Many factors lessened the risks associated with migration and made the move economically feasible for households. These included the ability to exploit the gap in the cost of housing between regions, the ability to work remotely, job flexibility, or retirement. In other cases, moving to live with family or to a locale with lower costs lessened the economic insecurity resulting from job loss or leaving work.

4.2.1 Divergence in regional housing costs

Selling in a high-priced market and buying in a lower-priced destination enabled the move for many participants (24 interviews) by unlocking equity and creating a cash buffer for transition. In some cases, this buffer meant that migrants did not need to have jobs lined up before the move:

“We found a rental here...because we were literally kind of going in blind. We did lots of research, but we don’t know if we’ll find jobs in this area. So [we decided] we’ll rent for a year and then see how it works out, and we were very fortunate that the sale of our house gave us that cushion! You know, not have to work for a little bit until we figured out life here, and so we just took the plunge and went for it.”

[Interview 102_M]

In Northern Ontario, another participant emphasized how the timing of his home sale during the height of the market transformed his family life, allowing him to retire early and live a slower pace of life:

“[We] had a big mortgage. So we decided to sell our house right at the peak. We made a ton of money on it, which was good and got rid of our mortgage.... So, we bought the house in [Northern Ontario community] for cash. So, we’re sitting down there trying to figure out what to do with lots of money in the bank and no expenses.”

[Interview 3_NO]

In both regions, participants described how proceeds from the sale of their homes allowed them to buy property outright, downsize monthly costs, or live off the proceeds while settling into a new location. This lowered barriers to moving and sometimes made it possible to move without immediate local employment.

4.2.2 Remote work and job flexibility

For many households (24), the ability for at least one person to work remotely increased the feasibility of the move by providing income security. One interviewee moving back to her home community in Nova Scotia described remote work as a safety cushion for her and her husband. *“Yeah...I’m not like the most risky person,”* she describes, *“so I feel for us to be able to keep our jobs and not completely give up everything.”* [Interview 96_M].

Other respondents described how the pandemic had prompted their organization to normalize working remotely, making it possible for them to “make the leap” to a new destination.

“... It was really easy to translate to doing everything online, like for our team to all be working online. And then it meant that when we were able to... when we were thinking about moving up here, it was kind of a non-issue because I work remotely.”

[Interview 21_NO]



PICTURED ABOVE: Sign in Nipissing region, ON. Photo by Suzanne Mills.

One participant who bought a small house and land in the greater Nipissing region sought out remote work because it would allow him the flexibility to pursue farming:

"I was working an in-person job and, I knew that if I could go to fully remote—that you could very easily strike a balance between being outside and doing farm work and then just heading inside on lunch breaks and stuff. And then of course, also being remote means, even if you're in a remote location as in living rurally, you can have access to jobs that wouldn't be available within a 30 or an hour of that type of house."

[Interview 20_NO]

Similar to remote work, job flexibility often enabled relocation [13]. Participants in entrepreneurial or freelance roles were often able to work remotely and serve clients at a distance. Some participants who moved to Northern Ontario negotiated hybrid work arrangements in which they returned to the office weekly or monthly. In other cases, fly-in, fly-out work or the ability to transfer within a provincial or federal organization made the move possible. Finally, workers with skills in fields with high demand (such as nursing) were often very confident in their ability to find work in their new locale. In a minority of cases, migrants opened local businesses in their new locales, ventures which both allowed the move and were part of the draw of moving.

4.2.3 Retirement/Job Loss

Leaving work voluntarily or involuntarily also freed migrants from the need to live close to their prior place of employment. Participants who retired post-move were often able to get by on different combinations of pensions, RRSPs, severance packages, and proceeds from property sales. In other cases, moving to lower cost destinations provided households with more financial security after a member had lost their job.

One household, for example, decided to move to the Maritimes after the main income earner was laid off close to retirement age. Retirement savings, coupled with more affordable housing in the new locale, made it feasible for both members of the couple to retire earlier than expected:

"I was an engineer, so I was paid reasonably well.... Even when the company didn't give me a raise for five years, we were OK. So, in terms of moving, even though [spouse] was working part-time, it wasn't as though we would be taking a major economic hit. We were planning on retiring. We were working towards retiring. We could have maybe used a couple of more nails, but we were OK."

[Interview 36_M]

Loss of employment also acted as a catalyst for six participants who were not nearing retirement to move. In these cases, job loss prompted moving by either facilitating a more substantial change of lifestyle or by helping reduce costs. One Northern Ontario mover's decision to downshift was initially driven by job loss:

"I was a senior executive at [company], a US company. Anyway, that didn't work out so good. And, before COVID, I got restructured out of the business sort of unexpectedly... That precipitated a lot of the things that happened...so the job thing happened and sort of had the opportunity to sort of look at what else can we do in life."

[Interview 3_NO]

In some cases, income support that accompanied job loss provided a financial cushion that eased the process of relocation. Severance packages, employment insurance (EI), and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) created short-term income bridges for households as they looked for local or remote employment in their new locale. In one case, severance packages were used for a downpayment on a house. In another case, participants' ability to relocate was made possible by a CERB-related cushion after layoffs.



4.2.4 Family support

Family support also enabled households to move to Northern Ontario (7) and the Maritimes (8). Family often provided access to temporary or permanent housing, property, childcare, and other everyday supports.

Many participants stayed with their parents, in-laws, siblings, or other relatives upon arrival in their new destinations or relocated into family-owned properties. Moving in with family allowed households to save money or mitigate debt in a time of economic uncertainty and transition. As one couple explained, moving in with parents cushioned the blow of job loss:

“I officially got let go at the end of September. And at the beginning of December, but by that time, I moved into a friend’s home from Toronto in October and decided, ‘You know what, let’s just move back,’ because there was no job opportunities in Ontario at the time. Let’s just go back to Nova Scotia. We were living with my parents... for about four months.”

(Interview 45_M)

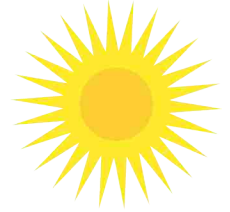
Family also played an important role in coordinating the everyday logistics of the move, through providing storage, sharing vehicles, and offering on-the-ground knowledge to find rentals, trades, and even jobs. Similarly, family served as a local support network when migrants needed support with childcare.

While not universal, family support served as a safety net for movers across regions and life stages, often working in tandem with other enablers, such as remote work and the rent gap. This support also smoothed the path to participants’ broader goals of securing affordable housing and adopting a slower, more community-oriented way of life.



PICTURED ABOVE: Scots Bay, NS. Photo by Katie Mazer.

5. Life after moving



Participants reported that their lives changed in many ways after moving. Many shifted the structure of their work lives, supplementing remote work with local jobs or starting something new. With more time and greater affordability, most participants experienced improvements to their standards of living and quality of life. Some participants felt less beholden to paid work and reported having more time for other things. While most participants encountered friendly neighbours and local hospitality, forming meaningful relationships was more difficult. Isolation and loneliness were not uncommon, and some reported experiences of social exclusion, racism, and homophobia. Across both regions, participants were struck by the poor quality of and access to services and infrastructure.



PICTURED ABOVE: Forest near Temagami, ON. Photo by Suzanne Mills.

5.1 Work and livelihood

The precise ways in which working life changed after moving varied greatly across our interviews. Some participants continued to work remotely in the jobs they had held prior to moving. Others pursued passion projects, switched to local in-person jobs, or engaged in a combination of these activities, often supplemented by remote work. Those who had found work in their fields in their new communities often reported benefiting from a healthier work culture. Almost 40% [26] of participants reported working locally in some capacity, while 40% [27] reported working remotely at some point over the course of their move. For many interviewees [40%] their earnings had decreased since moving.

While many participants continued to work remotely after moving, they often supplemented this employment with other activities. For many of these workers, taking a local on-site job in addition to their remote work was a way to meet people and get to know the community. For these participants, their local jobs—including retail work, service jobs, and municipal roles—were typically modest in terms of hours and income.

Other participants, feeling unhappy with remote work, transitioned completely to local jobs after moving. This was generally a strategy for reducing isolation and feelings of dissatisfaction related to working remotely. Transitioning from remote to local work often required taking a pay cut, but for these migrants the social connection of working on-site was worth the financial sacrifice.

As noted in the previous section, some participants used their remote jobs or the sale of a higher priced property to transition into lower-paid but more meaningful local work (e.g., social service or non-profit) or passion projects (e.g., farming), or to enable their spouse to make such a transition or take time away from paid work altogether. Several migrants who had used the move to reduce their working hours or leave a stressful job also ended up transitioning to local employment post move to help with household finances.

The pivot from remote to local work was sometimes prompted by post-pandemic changes to workplace policy that reduced access to remote work. For one participant from the Maritimes, for example, while remote work had allowed them to move to the region to care for a parent, subsequent changes in workplace policy forced them to quit and develop a strategy for working locally:

“They wanted me to be able to go into the office more often because, you know, return-to-office is a thing now. So, I just quit.... Last year, 2023, Nova Scotia had this thing... where NSCC, the government, will pay for... certain courses. I’m taking a course now at the Community College.”

(Interview 43_M)

While remote work played a major role in facilitating inter-regional migration, it doesn’t tell the whole story. For many participants, remote work served as the bridge that made relocation possible, but it did not provide a local anchor after the move. Seeking daily contact, integration, a stronger sense of belonging, or more gratification from their work, many participants sought out local jobs. Importantly, however, these transitions to local work were often only available to people with other sources of income: whether supplementary remote work, a spouse’s steady income (often through remote work), disposable income resulting from decreased housing costs, or the availability of other assets. For others, lower wages and lack of available local work were barriers to making such a transition.



5.2 Affordability

Moving resulted in a significant perceived improvement in the standard of living for most participants in our study. In 60% of our interviews (57% in Northern Ontario and 62% in the Maritimes), participants described greater affordability related to smaller or no mortgage payments, lower rent, lower property taxes, and fewer incidental expenses. Even for households that did not see an increase in disposable income, interviewees often *felt* better off because of increases to their space or assets, or reductions to their debt. Despite this overall trend, some participants in both regions conveyed an ongoing sense of “financial precarity” (Interview 13_M), particularly those who were unable to find stable employment in their new locale. Homeowners reported greater improvements to their standard of living than renters.

Especially in Northern Ontario, many participants described how the financial gains from the move showed up in their everyday budgets. Participants often reported that a lower cost of living, coupled with lower fixed costs, allowed more room for discretionary spending and left participants with a feeling of economic relief. As one participant living in the Mattawa region recounted:

“Like just overall, it’s affordable and you have kind of money to spend how you kind of want to, right? Either that’s saving it or spending it or whatever. You feel like your hard work pays off. I felt in the city, no matter what I did, I was in a loop of constantly trying to figure it out. Am I saving enough? Maybe I’m not. Do I have money for this? I didn’t know what the cause of that was until I was out of it. It’s hard to see when you’re in it.”

(Interview 11_NO)

In contrast, movers to the Maritimes were more likely to report that budgets remained tight despite cheaper housing prices. While the move may have improved their housing situation and afforded them more space, for many movers the high cost of living, including food, electricity, oil heating, and taxes, reduced disposable income, sometimes offsetting other financial gains. Many interviewees reported being surprised by the high cost of living, and some felt these unanticipated costs had dashed their hopes that moving would liberate them from financial stress. This situation was made more difficult by the frequent divergence between movers’ expectations and the reality on the ground. This was especially true for renters who wanted but were unable to buy a house upon moving. As one renter who moved to Nova Scotia from BC recounted:

“The dream was to move here and it was more affordable and I still had money in the bank for a down payment and maybe I could buy a house. Well, what I’m finding, what I’m learning is—and people moving here may or may not know—there’s a harsh reality that’s hidden. Right now, I’m feeling as though a house that I could afford to buy is not one I could afford to live in because it’s a fixer-upper or whatever.”

(Interview 16_M)

In addition to the ability to afford more secure or spacious housing, interviewees reported taking on building and renovation projects. These construction projects, supported by lower carrying costs, equity release, and sometimes the ability to take time away from paid work, ranged from DIY fixes to major upgrades and, in a few cases, building from scratch.



5.3 Quality of life

In addition to enhanced economic well-being, participants also reported improvements to their quality of life: lower stress, improved health, calmer routines, better access to nature, and more time for family, recreation, and personal projects. These improvements to quality of life were generally connected to movers' ability to slow down and to their perceptions of their new communities as quiet, green, or safe.

Ten participants (15%) specifically highlighted how the move improved their mental well-being. One participant in their thirties described the impact of leaving the dense, high-pressure environment of the GTA:

"It's the best decision that I think I made for my husband and I, especially for myself. Again, I've only been able to recognize how bad my mental health was. And now that I'm so much better, I wouldn't change it for the world. Because now I'm...just at peace, and that's just priceless."

(Interview 11_NO)

Participants who left stressful jobs also described how moving had given them more time for activities beyond work and commuting, and better access to nature, contributing to improvements in overall health. As this mover to the Maritimes explains:

"It's hard to explain how amazing it's been, because... it's just been a totally different mindset. Like I've been able to garden this year.... I've been outside.... So, you know, just things like that where I'm able to, you know go and be present. Be part of my kids' activities every single time like I'm there. It's been so good. I can't even describe to you."

(Interview 100_M)

Not all participants, however, recounted such dramatic improvements to wellbeing, with a small number (3 interviews) reporting declines in personal health and well-being after the move, generally related to social isolation and a reduced range of activities. In other words, improvements in overall wellbeing were linked to participants' success integrating into the community.

5.4 Integration into community

Community integration was the most contested aspect of the move in both regions: while 70% (47) of respondents expressed positive impressions about integrating into their new communities, 57% (38) expressed negative impressions.

Many movers reported forming social connections easily, often with other newcomers or neighbours. The most frequent positive impression participants shared with us was that people in their new communities were friendly. Participants frequently contrasted the hospitality, mutual aid, and culture of "showing up" in their new communities with the lack of neighbourliness in their previous communities. Some participants reported this left them with a sense of security and comfort they hadn't experienced in their previous homes. For some participants, who anticipated being marginalized in rural and small-town contexts, the friendliness was surprising:

"I remember the first week I was here living in [town], my neighbor across the street, who I had never met... they came by, knocked on my door. They're just like, 'Oh, I see you guys have recently moved up here, and I have this present for you.' And it was a giant basket filled with fresh produce.... It's just everyone was so lovely."

(Interview 23_NO)

But not all participants experienced this friendliness and, even among those who did, it did not necessarily lead to meaningful social integration. Especially among racialized and 2SLGBTQIA+ movers, some felt more a sense of ostracization than neighbourliness. And even for participants who felt their new communities were friendly, this friendliness was sometimes experienced as superficial and didn't always translate into the ability to form meaningful relationships. Participants reported a flipside to small-town social life that made integrating difficult: insider-outsider dynamics, gatekeeping, gossiping, and episodes of racism and homophobia. While the factors shaping peoples' experiences of belonging are complex and multi-faceted, participants generally had better luck integrating if those around them *perceived them as belonging* in their new community, based on their demographics and class.

Experiences of racism spanned experiences of repetitive subtle commentary, bullying and slights, and overt racist rhetoric on social media. One participant living in the Timmins region describes the casual racism they have encountered since moving:

"I've had people say, 'Oh, your English is very good.' Initially, that was a compliment.... Then you keep hearing, keep hearing, keep hearing and then you're like, what is happening? And then yeah, at one point...[this] lady is like, 'Oh, your English is very good.' I was like, 'Your English is good too'."

(Interview 32_N0)

One gay participant, who had moved to the Maritimes, describes how racism and homophobia intersected with local suspicion of outsiders and generalized xenophobia:

"And two months into the [new] job, I started looking for another job because of just how mean and cruel people were. Yeah. I was othered.... It was people like me that brought COVID, it was people like me who are moving from Ontario and Alberta and they're buying up all the homes and they are and they're making it unaffordable for people here.... All that stuff, you know, multiculturalism and LGBTQ, obviously... it was really hard coming into a culture where it was...so in your face, the isolationist attitude of, you know, we take care of ourselves.... [My husband] has one friend who is from Ontario and...she said to me, be prepared to go through it for about five years because they won't give you a chance. They won't give you a chance unless you [have] been here for five years."

(Interview 29_M)

Even among participants who were not otherwise marginalized, many movers to the Maritimes felt there was some local suspicion and resentment toward recent in-migrants for their perceived role in driving up the cost of housing. While some participants put this sentiment in context, expressing concern about the housing affordability crisis, other participants struggled with the sense of not being fully welcome. One participant, who grew up in the Maritimes and moved back during the pandemic, described a sense of being socially ostracised:

"When we moved in here...not a single neighbor from anywhere...came by to say, like, welcome.... [At work] I often, you know will, you know, say 'In my experience working at [a workplace in Ontario]' or whatever, and I think a lot of people just hear that and go like, 'Oh, here we go again. This guy from Ontario telling us how to do it in PEI.' And, you know, so I've really tried hard to, like, get that out of my lexicon."

(Interview 40_M)

On top of these social dynamics, work and family structures also impacted participants' ability to integrate socially. Isolation, loneliness, and struggles with community integration were more common among remote workers, retirees, and participants who defaulted to family rather than forming new ties. By contrast, finding ways to be out in the world and connecting with people helped with social integration. Participants in almost half our interviews (42%) reported using volunteering and community involvement as a strategy to integrate socially. Many of these movers recounted how community activities had helped them meet people, contribute to local life, and become part of the community more quickly.



5.5 Service and infrastructure challenges

Study participants consistently reported limited access to essential services. This manifested most obviously in a lack of reliable healthcare, but extended to municipal services, shopping, and other aspects of daily life. Overall, while these service and infrastructural challenges did not erase the overall benefits of moving, they did temper them.

Participants in 72% of our interviews reported challenges accessing healthcare. In both regions, people described years-long waitlists for family physicians. Those who had been able to secure a provider had often done so through personal connections, luck, or medical urgency (e.g. pregnancy). Participants without doctors relied on walk-in or nurse practitioner clinics, telehealth and, in some cases, family doctors in their previous home communities.

Participants reported long wait times at emergency rooms, out-of-pocket costs, and the stress of uncertainty. That is, participants were less concerned with the inconvenience of poor access to healthcare, and more worried about the transfer of risk, time, and costs to households—especially those with elderly family members or chronic conditions. One participant who moved to the North Bay region from Southern Ontario described how these interconnected challenges play out in that context:

“Basically...there’s a couple of walk-in clinics, but they’re not staffed by doctors. The doctors are telehealth. So, you would go to a walk-in clinic and talk to the nurse there, and then the nurse would relay your concerns to a doctor over a video feed. And that’s the extent of it. And they can’t really do much for you. So, for most things, they’re going to send you to the hospital anyway.... You just go straight to the hospital. There are nurse practitioners, but because they’re not covered by OHIP, you have to pay to see them. So, it’s like \$130 per [visit].”

(Interview 7_NO)

Movers’ lack of access to primary care providers may often be more a function of their relocation than of the places they moved. Communities across the country are facing doctor shortages but, in moving, many gave up family doctors and landed at the back of horribly long waitlists. Participants also noted regional differences in quality of care: most notably, the diminished availability of specialist care in more peripheral regions relative to major urban regions. Participants noted that major procedures and specialist care sometimes required travelling to the region’s larger cities. Some even recounted preferring to travel to see specialists in their previous community rather than risk waiting for an appointment locally. For some, the regional divergence in availability of care came as a shock. While the need to travel for care is often normalized in rural regions, movers were more likely to see it as a deficit. As one participant, who had moved to the Maritimes, said: *“I pray every day [that] I’m healthy”* (Interview 101_M).

Beyond healthcare, 60% of interviews—an equal number from both regions—highlighted other service and infrastructural challenges, related to childcare, municipal and professional services, recreational programs, and consumption opportunities. For a small number of interviewees, access to some services (e.g., childcare) improved after the move.

In some cases, as with the general shortage of childcare or public transit, these challenges flowed in part from a failure of local services and infrastructure to expand in step with population growth. Poor access to these and other services can make basic activities like working or grocery shopping difficult or impossible. In other cases, participants were frustrated by a lack of amenities and services—like delivery services or longer business hours—they had taken for granted while living in well-resourced metropolitan areas. Finally, in cases where sports or other recreational activities had been an important part of participants’ lives and identities prior to moving, some experienced the reduced access to organized activities as a meaningful loss.





PICTURED ABOVE: Rail bridge, Mattawa, ON. Photo by Suzanne Mills.

5.6 Regrets and return migration

Most participants in the study stood by their decisions to move, but a meaningful minority (19% of interviews) voiced ambivalence or clear regret.

One participant, who had quit her job in Southern Ontario and, with her spouse, purchased a farm in rural Nova Scotia aiming to do something creative, interesting, and good for the earth, described feeling conflicted about whether she would make the same decision again. While she embraced the opportunity to reframe her life and pursue her values, they had encountered unanticipated environmental and business challenges and, at the time of the interview, were anticipating having to sell the farm in the coming years. She explained:

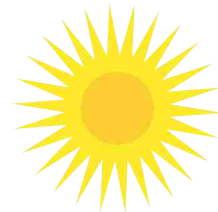
“Yeah, I don’t know. The thing is, part of me is, you know, you only live once, and you’ve gotta seize things. Seize opportunities as they come up and do them, like that part of me operates on that. But then the other part of me is very realistic and...I guess there are two, you know, the two people sitting on the shoulder. I can’t honestly answer.”

(Interview 39_M)

Other participants felt overwhelmingly negative about their moves. Seven interviewees had returned or planned to return to their previous communities. These participants were isolated and/or bullied, forced to return to in-person work, struggling to find local work, or worried about their poor access to services. Some people also struggled with cultural and class differences in their new communities, while some recounted that they had held romantic or false impressions of the place they were moving. Among those considering or desiring to go back to their previous communities, some worried about whether they could even afford to live in the inflated urban housing markets they had previously left.

Overall, regrets and returns were not the dominant outcomes in our study, but when they did occur, they followed a consistent pattern: the factors that made the move possible eroded, essential services proved too thin, and participants struggled to integrate or fit into their new communities.

With these household trajectories in view, we now turn to the receiving communities themselves, their capacities, strains, and the policies that shape them.

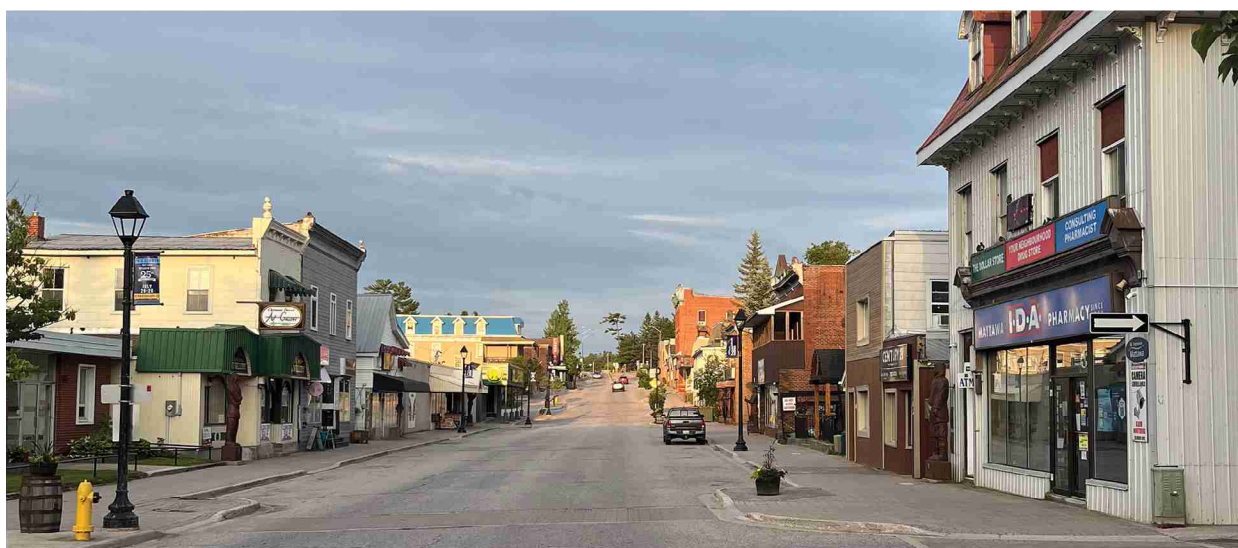


6. Effects of in-migration on receiving communities

Community leaders and officials in our study communities were generally optimistic about the increase in inter-regional migration. Notably, while our study was focused on internal migration, in both Northern Ontario and the Maritimes, key informants often did not differentiate between international migration and internal migration; rather, they described the benefits and challenges of *population growth* generally.

Interviewees described how new residents were contributing to the economic and social vibrancy of their communities through volunteerism and civic engagement, and by starting businesses, filling job vacancies, shopping locally and boosting local tax revenues. These newcomers were also transforming regions and communities demographically, bringing welcome ethnic and age diversity.

In addition to social benefits, community key informants described how in-migration could spur investment in local infrastructure, including housing, recreational facilities, and internet services. However, in areas that had seen dramatic population growth, key informants were clear that, in addition to these widely reported benefits, their communities were also facing some acute challenges: namely, insufficient and unaffordable housing, rising homelessness, shortages of family doctors and other social service capacity, infrastructure deficits, and social divisions.



PICTURED ABOVE: Downtown Mattawa, ON. Picture taken by Suzanne Mills.

6.1 Local responses to population growth

Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, some municipalities and provincial governments were already focused on attracting newcomers as a response to their aging populations. Most of these efforts focused on increasing international migration through a range of programs and immigration pathways.

But some municipalities in Northern Ontario and provincial governments in the Maritimes developed programs that explicitly sought to draw new residents from elsewhere in Canada. These campaigns expanded with the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, as governments worked to capitalize on the shift to remote work and people's desires to escape city life. One municipality in Northern Ontario, for instance, rented billboards in Toronto in their attempt to attract residents.

While both Northern Ontario and the Maritimes began to see increased population growth in the mid-2010s—resulting from internal and international migration—key informants in both regions noted that, with the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, spikes in inter-provincial and intra-provincial migration fundamentally altered the scale and pace of population growth.

Importantly, population growth has been uneven *within* both regions, with some towns growing rapidly while many more remote areas continue to crave more growth. Key informants from areas that did not see as high levels of population growth, more commonly in Northern Ontario, often reflected on the benefits that flowed from additional in-migration. Those from high growth regions of Northern Ontario or from the Maritimes, in contrast, often spoke of both the benefits and challenges that have resulted from rapid and unforeseen population growth. Among these interviewees, many recounted the acute pressure population growth has placed housing, services, and infrastructure, emphasizing that sustainable and just development requires ensuring that investment in social and physical infrastructure keep pace with demographic change.

Real-estate agents in both regions described how interest in buying properties increased dramatically in their regions during the pandemic:

Northern Ontario:

"It was almost like a tsunami, like a huge wave of people that came up." (Interview 65_NO)

Maritimes:

"And COVID just was like lighting a match, it just went insane there." (Interview 72_M)

6.2 How in-migration has benefited communities

Key informants in both regions described how people moving into their regions were making positive contributions to community social and economic life in a number of ways. As one real-estate agent in Nova Scotia remarked:

"I look at the mix of people who live in the Annapolis Royal area right now, and you know, there's some very, very intelligent, highly skilled people that that are involved in the community. And spend their money locally.... It's a different community than it was, but I think for the most part it's a better community than it was."

(Interview 95_M)



6.2.1 Volunteerism and community engagement

Community leaders from both regions noted the high levels of volunteerism and community involvement among recent internal migrants.

Not only are new residents eager to fill important volunteer roles in the community, but they also bring renewed energy to community clubs and institutions that have experienced a decline in activity in recent years. For example, as one key informant explained, some of the community halls in the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia have been revitalized due to the *“influx of new people who are interested in going back to that old model of community halls where you hold card games and have potlucks”* [Interview 90_M].

Some municipalities actually used volunteering to foster civic engagement and inclusion through partnerships with settlement agencies and community organizations that connect new migrants with local volunteering opportunities, clubs and services. Events such as “Welcome North Bay” and “Lunch and Learn” are examples of such efforts happening in Northern Ontario.

Key informants from both regions also reported that new residents have injected their communities with new ideas, diversity and vibrancy. One municipal elected official in the Maritimes recounted this sentiment, which was shared by elected officials in both regions:

“I think once we get over the hump of ‘You’re changing my town,’ yeah, there’s lots of positive things. You bring a vibrancy, you bring people with different ideas, new—you know, new ideas about what a library could be like, or... a rec centre.”

[Interview 71_M]

In some aging communities in the Maritimes, the younger age profile and family structure of recent in-migrants is seen as a community asset.

6.2.2 Increased consumer activity

Key informants reported that one positive effect of in-migration was increased consumer activity. Informants noted that, even when new migrants are not directly engaged in the labour market, they stimulate demand for goods and services and support existing businesses and municipalities through their consumption. As house prices and property taxes have risen, newcomers have contributed to expanding the local tax bases that funds municipal services and infrastructure.

Reflecting this increased consumer activity, interviewees recounted that new businesses had been opening in their communities. In Northern Ontario, one participant described how in-migration and new interest from investors has catalyzed the expansion of the retail sector, both in terms of new businesses and franchises opening and the revitalization of long-term vacant commercial properties. One informant estimated that the service industry had expanded by 25%. As demand has increased with population growth, trades businesses—contractors, roofers, plumbers, etc.—are also expanding more into northern communities.

6.2.3 Starting businesses and working local jobs

In-migrants are also investing in local businesses in Northern Ontario and the Maritimes. The local benefits of these new businesses flow outward to the community when they hire staff and buy local goods and services.

One senior economic development officer for a regional economic development organization in the Maritimes described how the ability to work remotely allowed some new residents to take the risk of making a major life transition and establishing a local business:

“I’d see the businesses, folks that were coming and bringing like a knowledge-based remote job with them, and maybe trying to—in using that as like a backbone so that they could then pursue a dream or a passion, like getting into farming, or tourism and hospitality, or running that cute little general store, or even a restaurant and things that oftentimes were very different from their career background.”

[Interview 70_M]



PICTURED ABOVE: New housing development in Wolfville, NS. Photo by Katie Mazer.

In both regions, key informants described return migration of locals who had left for education and work opportunities, emphasizing the skills, capital, and experience they brought back to the region.

Respondents in both regions were hopeful that in-migrants from within Canada would increasingly fill local labour needs. Despite persistent vacancies in key sectors (e.g., healthcare, professional services), community leaders—particularly in Northern Ontario—noted that internal migrants were filling local vacancies in a variety of sectors. As one economic development officer from Northern Ontario emphasized, increasing labour supply was necessary to foster an economic environment that can support new business activity:

“If you don’t have that—the people either investing within the community starting new businesses, you know, obviously supporting existing businesses, supporting the companies in terms of for labour relation...then you don’t really have anything. If a company is looking for 25 or 30 employees, and they can’t fill those spots, that’s massive right. Like, who knows if a company can survive that way? But at least now with the population growth, at least, hopefully, we’re filling those roles as much as we can.”

(Interview 68_NO)

6.2.4 New community resources

In some cases, local communities gained new community resources as part of municipalities’ broader attempts to appeal to new residents and the increased tax revenue that accompanied this population growth. As one participant explained, *“We’re putting in a pool and rec center, which may help make things a little more appealing for professionals wanting to come up here”* (Interview 68_NO). While such investments were a strategy to attract new residents, they were also made possible by increases in tax revenue resulting from migration.

These investments, however, were sometimes uneven. For example, while informants in the Maritimes described widespread investment in rural internet infrastructure—including in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic—similar initiatives were not available in many municipalities in Northern Ontario. As one key informant in the Mattawa-Nipissing corridor described:

“Fiber optic is like a delusion. Like that’s never coming here. That’s sort of the mentality. We don’t matter enough, but we’re not a big enough center for them to invest.”

(Interview 65_NO)

As interviewees emphasized, quality internet is a primary consideration for remote workers looking to relocate, but it also brings broader community benefits.

6.3 Challenges of population growth

6.3.1 Labour market mismatch

While new migrants participate in the labour market in diverse ways, their presence has not resolved longstanding labour shortages in specific sectors. In both regions, key informants described a labour market characterized by persistent skills mismatches and recruitment challenges. As one interviewee from the community sector in Northern Ontario described:

“There’s lots of jobs and lots of job vacancies. But hiring specific talent is really hard. I don’t get the sense that the people who have moved up are people who have those designations...we have hardly any lawyers, any accountants.”

(Interview 85_N0)

Remote workers, semi-retirees and small business owners moving to Northern Ontario and the Maritimes did not always have the technical skills, professional credentials or availability most needed in local labour markets. In some areas, key informants noted that most in-migrants were retired and not actively participating in the labour market. In both regions, interviewees noted ongoing labour shortages in healthcare, education, skilled trades, and professional services. Informants in the Maritimes speculated that in-migration has exacerbated these shortages by increasing demand for services. As one of participant observed, *“there is still a nursing shortage and teaching shortage and middle-class job shortages that may be driven by increased economic activity of remote work”* (Interview 74_M). Labour shortages are also present in low-wage sectors, including seasonal and service-sector jobs, where local demographic shifts, particularly aging populations and youth out-migration, have reduced the available labour force.

As population growth has failed to resolve certain labour shortages, governments have taken more focused measures to fill these gaps. In PEI, for example, the provincial government has worked to raise local awareness about professions in high demand and recruit workers, conducting international recruitment missions focused on nursing, construction, and other in-demand areas. In both regions, temporary and permanent international migrants were filling labour market gaps in retail, food, and accommodation sectors. In Northern Ontario, international migrants were also filling trades vacancies in mining services and other sectors. Some informants highlighted their communities’ desire to facilitate international migrants on temporary work permits staying in Canada over the long term, emphasizing the importance of creating a clear path to permanent residency for temporary foreign workers.

While most migrants to Northern Ontario were able to find on-site employment if it was desired, even if not in their field, in the Maritimes remote work has created new vulnerabilities for workers because it has allowed a pool of workers to move to the region that is more diverse and skilled than the local job market. Specialized or highly skilled in-migrants facing job loss or transition may confront a choice between relocation or underemployment. Return-to-office mandates and hybrid work arrangements also threaten to disrupt these migration patterns. While some migrants have adapted by changing jobs or commuting long distances, informants reported that some have returned to their prior communities once unable to work remotely.



6.3.2 Lack of social integration

Key informants reported that in-migrants sometimes face challenges with social integration. In some cases, they related these challenges to the “cliquey,” “narrow-minded,” or “difficult to break into” nature of some communities. Interviewees described parts of the Maritimes, in particular, as only superficially welcoming. One real-estate agent in the region recounted that she frequently hears that, **“people [here] are very friendly, but they don’t want to be your friend”** (Interview 72_M).

Social isolation was sometimes exacerbated by migrants’ unrealistic expectations about the place to which they were moving. This was especially the case with migration to the Maritimes. Informants reported that romantic preconceptions lead to disappointment and “sober second thoughts” among inter-regional migrants when their realities ultimately did not match this image. Some speculated that this dynamic had driven some migrants to return home.

Sometimes social tensions are rooted in cultural differences between rural and small-town communities and the larger urban centres from which in-migrants have often moved. As key informants described it, urbanites sometimes have expectations of individual privacy and private entitlement to space and resources that clash with the cultural norms in their new communities, and this can make social integration more difficult.

While our research was focused on inter-regional migrants, some informants spoke to the distinct challenges facing international newcomers in both regions, including racism and xenophobia. One business owner in Northern Ontario described his as **“such a narrow-minded community,”** explaining that, **“They do not like any outsiders. Unless you’re white-skinned”** (Interview 59_NO). Temporary migrant workers, meanwhile, face structural barriers to social integration. In Northern Ontario, informants reported that international students often leave the region upon graduation due to a lack of opportunities. Key informants are aware that lack of social integration leads to people leaving their new communities. One participant in Northern Ontario described it as a “revolving door”: **“We’ll bring in four newcomers... three leave, one stays. We’ll bring in another four...three leave, one stays”** (Interview 84_NO).

Municipalities and community organizations are taking steps to support the integration of inter-regional and international newcomers, sometimes through the same programs. In the Maritimes, for example, the Annapolis Valley Welcome Network uses volunteering as both a settlement strategy and a community-building tool. In Temiskaming Shores, the municipality began providing funding to One Light Diversity, a settlement organization created by an inter-regional newcomer. These networks connect newcomers to long-time residents to build relationships and share practical knowledge about life in the region while fostering a welcoming environment to support quality of life and retention of newcomers in the community.

6.3.3 Housing and affordability crisis

Rapid population growth in both regions has intensified pressures on housing and social services, heightening concerns about affordability, displacement, and increased housing insecurity and homelessness. Respondents in both regions described how the lack of housing availability and affordability has reached crisis levels.

While lack of new housing construction and public investment in affordable housing are longstanding trends that pre-date this wave of inter-regional migration, increasing investment churn and the influx of new residents to these regions brought a budding housing crisis to an apex. This was exacerbated by the differential in house prices between inter-regional migrants’ home communities and the regions into which they moved. Key informants shared the common perception that many in-migrants were able to pay unprecedented prices for local houses because they had made significant earnings on property sales in their previous communities. One real-estate agent from Northern Ontario captured this sense that in-migrants **“could sell their box in the sky in Toronto and walk away with hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash and come up here and buy a castle and live like kings”** (Interview 86_NO).

While new residents coming from more expensive housing markets might continue to see Northern Ontario and the Maritimes as affordable relative to their previous communities, home ownership has quickly slipped out of reach for many local residents. In turn, as more people are priced out of buying homes, the rental market has also become increasingly unaffordable. This trend is more pronounced in the Maritimes, where population growth, and subsequent pressure on the housing market, have been more dramatic.

Across communities in Northern Ontario, interviewees emphasized the growing tension between rising demand and the region's limited capacity to expand its housing stock. Many informants noted that their communities lack infrastructure, funding, or interest from developers. Here, the crisis has been exacerbated by speculative property purchases, investments in high-end housing, and conversion of short-term rentals.

In the Maritimes, informants emphasized that the housing supply is constrained not only by limited development capacity and a shortage of skilled labour, but also by restrictive zoning regulations and local resistance to densification and new development, including from new residents. While some municipalities have approved large-scale developments, these are not generally affordable for most. The prohibitive cost of housing means that housing insecurity now also affects middle-income earners, including those who are in high-demand occupations, like teachers and nurses. In Nova Scotia, some participants emphasized that the provincial government should play a more active role in changing regulations across the province to accelerate the pace of appropriate housing development.

Perhaps the most visible impact of the housing crisis is a notable increase in homelessness and social service use in both regions. Key informants in both Northern Ontario and the Maritimes generally described shifting patterns of inequality and a marked increase in more extreme levels of poverty as their communities have grown more bifurcated. In both regions, participants noted a dramatic increase in unhoused residents, recounting that many towns had seen encampments established, often for the first time, and unprecedented levels of service use. Given the rapid escalation of this crisis and the small size of many municipalities, towns are scrambling to provide supports to unhoused residents while feeling significantly under-resourced.

Elected officials from both regions commented on the rise of housing insecurity and heightened poverty:

“Our poor have gotten much poorer. Typically, in areas like this, in small towns and rural areas, poor people used to be the people who inherited the house that had been in the family forever. And that's what they had. And they had the old car. They probably grew a garden, but now it's more than that. There is a lower level of poverty. And it's people who aren't housed.... So, when I first started here in 2016, downtown Kentville was a real anomaly because we had Open Arms shelter on our main street.... And there was probably, at the time, ten people who were unhoused. Now I wouldn't even want to guess. I would say it's probably 40s and 50s.”

(Interview 76_M)

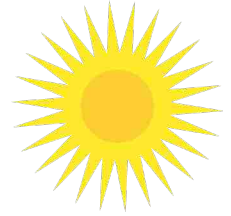
“Now we're seeing it [unhoused population] very visibly in our community. As much as we might see more homes being built, we're also seeing more people who are unhoused and the costs that are associated with helping, supporting and providing services for individuals who require assistance.... We really struggle with trying to balance providing services that are municipally mandated, but then also having more expectations from the community.”

(Interview 73_NO)

Ultimately, rapid population growth represents a paradox. Increased housing prices have led to crises of housing availability and affordability, but they have also increased the tax base on which municipalities depend to expand and maintain infrastructure and provide services. New, diverse and affordable housing development is urgently needed to accommodate population growth and ease the crisis, but development is often contentious, including among newcomers who want to preserve the rural setting to which they have moved. These conditions are more acute in the Maritimes and in the more southern parts of Northern Ontario, where population growth was far beyond what anyone had anticipated. But the situation in these areas offers a sober lesson on the dire consequences that ensue when upper levels of governments fail to create conditions that can support population growth by investing in housing and services.



7. Key conclusions



The aim of our study was to provide a more in-depth understanding about recent inter-regional migration to the Maritimes and Northern Ontario. Some of our findings conformed to stories depicted in the media and common-sense assumptions about the move. Other findings, however, complicate or question these assumptions. Our key conclusions are as follows:

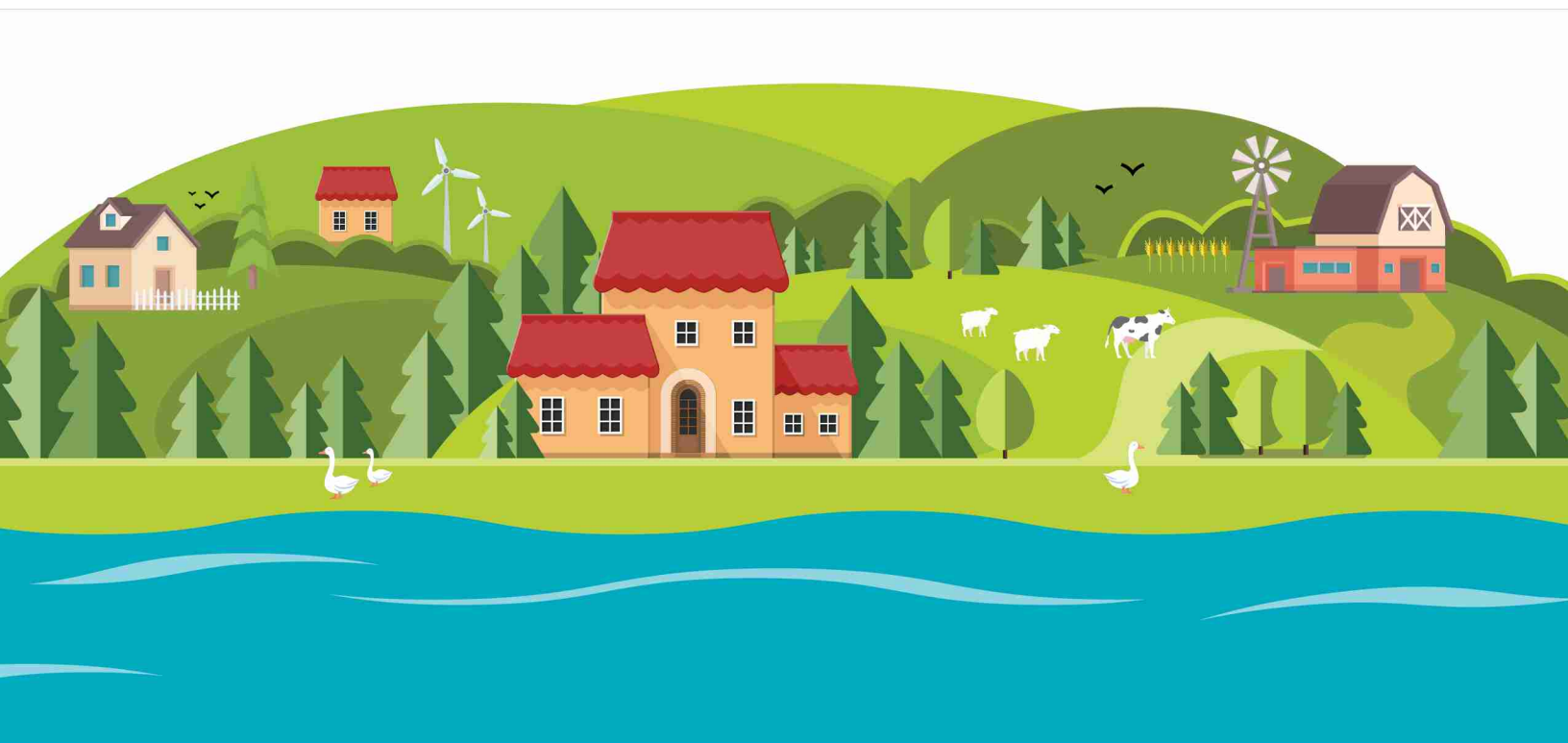
1. Inter-regional migrants are demographically and socioeconomically diverse. Migrants in our study represented a greater diversity of income levels than what was typically presented in the media.
2. Housing affordability, family, and work-life balance are becoming important drivers of inter-regional migration in Canada. In our study proximity to family, housing affordability and the desire to work less or slow down were the main motivations for migration.
3. Remote work and flexible work arrangements allow people to move to places without onsite employment opportunities that match their skills.
4. Reliance on remote work to live in small communities introduces new forms of precarity. Remote workers in our study were more vulnerable to job loss and unemployment.
5. Movers are typically active participants in community life. Participants were eager to integrate in their new communities, often joining clubs or volunteering.
6. Movers who did not match the demographic profile of dominant groups in their new community had a harder time integrating socially.
7. Inter-regional migration has endowed previously declining municipalities and regions with renewed energy and resources.
8. Inflated housing markets can have far reaching impacts. As housing became less affordable in more populated regions, out-migration had ripple effects on housing markets in other regions.
9. The influx of new residents in some communities made longstanding under-investment in services, housing, and infrastructure across Canada visible.
10. In both regions, inter-regional in-migration unrelated to work began before and continued after the COVID-19 pandemic.



Notes

- ⁱ Lukas Althoff et al., "The Geography of Remote Work," *Regional Science and Urban Economics* 93 (March 2022): 103770, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.regsciurbeco.2022.103770>; Laura Churchill Duke, "Remote Work Boom: Lifestyle, Lower Costs Making Nova Scotia Attractive Location for New and Relocating Businesses," PNI Atlantic, April 14, 2021, <https://www.saltwire.com/atlantic-canada/remote-work-boom-lifestyle-lower-costs-making-nova-scotia-attractive-location-for-new-and-relocating-businesses-100575874>; Julie Gordon, "So Long Toronto: COVID-19 Pandemic Hastens Canada's Urban Exodus," Reuters, January 14, 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/so-long-toronto-covid-19-pandemic-hastens-canadas-urban-exodus-2022-01-13/>.
- ⁱⁱ Nicole Bogart and Heather Wright, "What's behind the Rapid Population Growth in Regions in B.C. and the Maritimes?" CTVNews, February 9, 2022, <https://www.ctvnews.ca/lifestyle/article/whats-behind-the-rapid-population-growth-in-regions-in-bc-and-the-maritimes/>; Darren MacDonald, "Greater Sudbury, North Bay Post Strong Population Growth in Latest Census," CTVNews, February 10, 2022, <https://www.ctvnews.ca/northern-ontario/article/greater-sudbury-north-bay-post-strong-population-growth-in-latest-census/>; Michael MacDonald, "'Remarkable Turnaround': Census Figures Show the Maritimes Are Growing Rapidly" Global News, February 9, 2022, <https://globalnews.ca/news/8606454/remarkable-turnaround-census-figures-show-the-maritimes-are-growing-rapidly/>; CBC News, "How One Northern Ontario Village Is Luring Big-City Escapees," CBC Sudbury, May 23, 2022, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/burk-s-falls-weekend-opening-1.6461347>; Adam Ozimek, Remote Workers on the Move (October 29, 2020). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3790004> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3790004>.
- ⁱⁱⁱ The Maritimes includes the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. In this report Northern Ontario includes the following census divisions: Nipissing, Parry Sound, Manitoulin, Sudbury, Greater Sudbury, Timiskaming, Cochrane, Algoma, Thunder Bay, Rainy River, and Kenora.
- ^{iv} Statistics Canada. *Table 98-10-0001-01 Population and dwelling counts: Canada, provinces and territories*. <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810000101-eng>; Statistics Canada, "Maritimes Population Growing at Its Fastest Pace since the Mid 1970s," StatsCAN Plus, March 3, 2022, <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/e1/en/plus/478-maritimes-population-growing-its-fastest-pace-mid-1970s>.
- ^v Statistics Canada. *Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1, by age and gender*. <https://doi.org/10.25318/1710000501-eng>.
- ^{vi} Calculated for Maritime provinces using data from Statistics Canada. *Table 17-10-0153-01 Components of population change by census division, 2021 boundaries*. <https://doi.org/10.25318/1710015301-eng>. Net natural increase = Births – Deaths, Net international immigration = Immigration + Net non-permanent residents – Net emigration.
- ^{vii} Calculated for Northern Ontario Census Divisions using data from Statistics Canada *Table 17-10-0152-01 Population estimates, July 1, by census division, 2021 boundaries*. <https://doi.org/10.25318/1710015201-eng>. Net natural increase = Births-Deaths, Net international immigration = Immigration + Net non-permanent residents – Net emigration.
- ^{viii} Calculated from linked 2016 and 2021 Census of Canada Master Files.
- ^{ix} Statistics Canada *Table 17-10-0152-01 Population estimates, July 1, by census division, 2021 boundaries*. <https://doi.org/10.25318/1710015201-eng>.
- ^x Statistics Canada *Table 17-10-0152-01 Population estimates, July 1, by census division, 2021 boundaries*. <https://doi.org/10.25318/1710015201-eng>.
- ^{xi} Statistics Canada. *Table 17-10-0153-01 Components of population change by census division, 2021 boundaries*. <https://doi.org/10.25318/1710015301-eng>.

- xii Statistics Canada. *Table 17-10-0153-01 Components of population change by census division, 2021 boundaries*. <https://doi.org/10.25318/1710015301-eng>.
- xiii 2021 Census of Canada Master Files.
- xiv 2021 Census of Canada Master Files.
- xv Calculated from linked 2016 and 2021 Census of Canada Master Files.
- xvi Calculated from linked 2016 and 2021 Census of Canada Master Files.
- xvii Calculated from linked 2016 and 2021 Census of Canada Master Files using North American Industry Classification System [NAICS] Canada 2017 version 3.0. <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3VD.pl?Function=getVD&TVD=1181553>. Industry sectors were grouped. *Arts, Accommodation and food services, Other Services* includes: 71 (Arts, entertainment and recreation); 72 (Accommodation and food services); 81 Other services (except public administration). *Education, Health Care, Public Administration* includes 61 (Educational services); 62 (Health care and social assistance); 91 (Public administration). *White collar professional* includes: 51 (Information and cultural industries); 52 (Finance and insurance/management of companies and enterprises); 53 (Real estate and rental and leasing); 54 (Professional, scientific and technical services); 56 (Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services). *Manufacturing, wholesale, retail, transportation, warehouse* includes: 31 (Manufacturing); 41 (Wholesale trade); 44 (Retail trade); 48 (Transportation and warehousing). *Agriculture, forest, mining, utilities and construction* includes 11 (Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting); 21 (Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction); 22 (Utilities); 23 (Construction).
- xviii Calculated from linked 2016 and 2021 Census of Canada Master Files.





Kapuskasing Local Citizens' Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, October 8th, 2025, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in-person.

Attendance:

Bruce Newton, Chair and Kapuskasing Citizen
Laurier Guillemette, Vice-chair and Kapuskasing Citizen
Pierre Lamontagne, Municipality of Fauquier-Strickland
Réginald Manning, Municipality of Mattice-Val Côté
Roger Lachance, Municipality of Val Rita - Harty
Jim Donaldson, Moose Basin Vacations
Nicolas Isabelle, Kap Rod and Gun Club

Kevin Del Guidice, GreenFirst Forest Products
Peter Terris, GreenFirst Forest Products
Taylor Sigouin, GreenFirst Forest Products
Joshua Breau, Ministry of Natural Resources

1) Review of the Agenda

The proposed agenda for this meeting is hereby approved.

Proposed by Laurier Guillemette
Seconded by Nicolas Isabelle

Carried

2) Review of previous meeting minutes, May 14th 2025, and business arising from the minutes.

That the minutes of the meetings held on May 14th 2025, be hereby adopted as presented.

Proposed by Réginald Manning
Seconded by Roger Lachance

Carried

3) Plan amendments to expend Operational Road Boundaries in two locations and adding a township to the list of sensitive (cold water that supports trout) waterbodies used for water crossing applications.

GreenFirst presented an amendment that has three parts. There are two expansions of Operational Road Boundaries (ORB) and the addition of a township to the list of sensitive townships that is used for the review of water crossings.

The first ORB expansion is on the FE35 Road. The FE35 Road is an extension of the Ecclestone Road located on the West side of the Fergus Road. The reason for the

expansion of the ORB is to allow GreenFirst staff to build a short detour around an area on the existing road that has been flood by beaver activity to support access into block 602.

The second ORB expansion is located on the SW5 Road (winter connection) that links the Chain of Lakes Road to the Swanson Road. There are multiple locations that are impacted by beaver activity as well as old roads that are included into the expanded ORB. Providing options to detour beaver issue areas and make use of old roads or part of, will be beneficial for access into the small harvest blocks located between the Chain of Lakes and the Swanson Road.

The third item is adding a township to the list of sensitive townships that is used as a preliminary tool to identify sensitive water bodies known as cold water or trout bearing waters. Water crossings in these areas are reviewed by the MNR biologist to make the determination of in-water timing restrictions.

After questions from the Kap LCC members, everyone was in agreement that the change proposed would be of low impact and are recommending that the amendment proceed as Administrative.

4) Updates - The 2025 tree planting program.

GreenFirst staff provided a presentation of the 2025 tree planting program with their contractor Haveman Brothers Forestry. The program started on May 27 and ended on July 2. June was an exceptionally wet month with almost double the historical average of rain with approx. 218 mm received over the course of the month. The program planted 3.35 million trees, primarily black spruce with some white spruce and jack pine. The average number of trees planted per planter over the course of the program was 2400 trees per day. These are container stock, not bare root stock that some of the Kap LCC members have planted in the past!

For more detailed information, refer to the handout.

Updates – The slash pile burning program and the no hunting zones for 2025.

GreenFirst went over the Slash Pile Burning program that would be able to start on October 15, if the weather indices will allow it. MNR went over the No Hunting Zones that are in place and will be posting the information again to the Kap LCC Facebook page.

Once the program is started, GreenFirst and MNR will let the members know in order to plan a day to go see the slash piles being ignited and burned.

For more detailed information, refer to the handout.

5) A discussion about aerial herbicide application of glyphosate.

With all of the attention that the aerial herbicide application has been getting locally and in Ontario this year, we had a discussion to answer questions that the Kap LCC

members had on the topic. The discussion included the amount of area treated compared to the area harvested in the Gordon Cosens Forest; we discussed its application in other industries such as agriculture, hydro (line maintenance), and cosmetic applications (golf courses and lawns). It was a good discussion with lots of questions from the members.

We discussed the possibility of have a field tour to go see some of the sites that have been treated next summer.

5) Round Table.

Councillors voting on a resolution initiated by Moonbeam wished they have more information such as what was discussed at the meeting; good meeting; good questions and good meeting; good information all round; glad to participate.

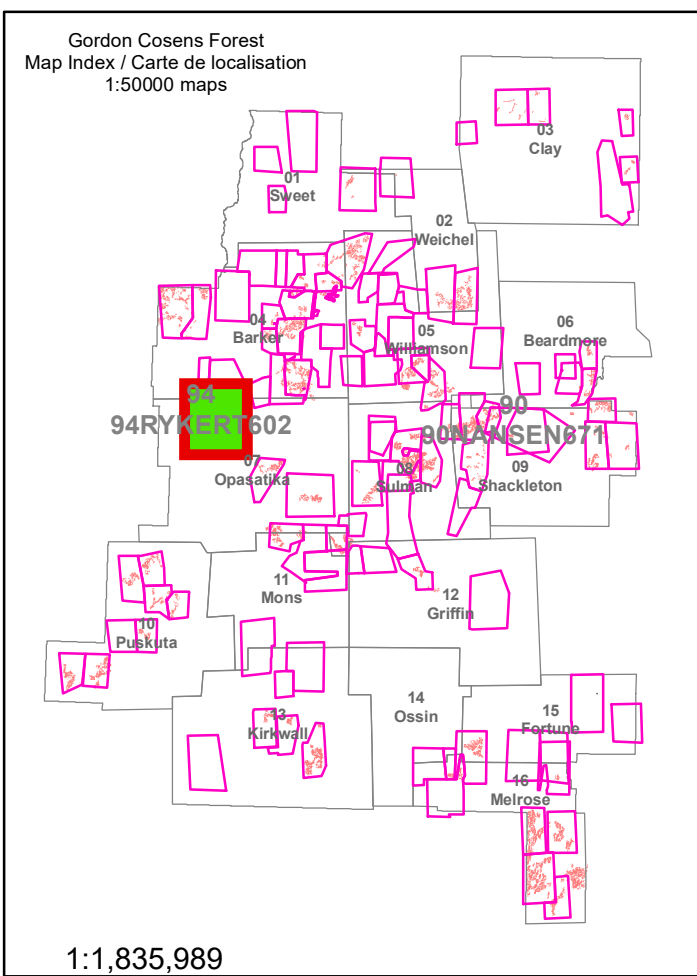
Meeting adjourned.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Joshua Breau.



Management Unit-Unité de Gestion
Gordon Cosens Forest - Forêt Gordon Cosens
Forest Management Plan
Plan de Gestion Forestier
Term of Plan - Durée du plan 2020-2030
Annual Work Schedule
Map/Carte
Area Selected for Operations
Zone Sélectionnée pour Opération
FMP April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2030
AWS April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026

Map Ops 94RYKERT602
Block Area : 602



Legend

- MU438 Gordon Cosens
- Utility Lines
- Railways
- OFSC Trail
- Other Recreational Trails
- Stream, Permanent
- Stream, Intermittent
- Lakes and Rivers Lac ou rivière
- Active Authorized Aggregate Site
- Federal Land
- Park and Reserves Land
- Other non-Crown Land
- Freehold
- Chapleau Game Preserve
- Trap Line
- Brush/Grass/BOG
- TMS/OMS
- Rock
- DAL/UCL

Areas of Concern(AOCs)

- FMP Areas of Concern
- Timing Restrictions
- Modified Ops within RBT AOC
- No Road Zone
- Med Potential Water Sensitivity
- High Potential Water Sensitivity
- Low Potential Water Sensitivity
- Archaeological Potential areas(APA)
- Modified Ops within AOC
- Modified Ops within RP AOC
- Modified Ops within CWA AOC
- Sensitive AOC Restrictions(SAOC)
- TRAPLINE_AREA

FMP2025 HARVEST

- 2025, REGULAR
- 2025, Second Pass Harvest
- Harvest not in AWS
- Residual, Absolute WWSF
- Residual, Absolute
- Residual, Floating
- AOC
- 2025
- Tree Improvement Area
- Strategic Deferrals
- MU438_25SAG00
- Primary Road Corridor
- Branch Road Corridor
- Future Road Corridor
- Road Corridor Center line
- New Planned Crossing
- Planned Crossing Removal
- Water Crossings
- Crossing Removed or to be Removed
- Cross-Drainage



0 250 500 1,000 Meters
0 0.25 0.5 Miles
1:20,000

Planimetric Base Features maintained and provided by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF, Oct. 2018, Forest Information Manual, Toronto: Queen's Printer for Ontario, 93pp).
Dépôt des bases planimétriques maintenu et fourni par le ministère d'Ontario des ressources naturelles (OMNRF, Octobre 2018, Manuel de l'information De Forêt, Toronto: L'imprimeur de la Reine pour Ontario, 93pp).

Universal Transverse Mercator Grid Zone 17.
Projection transverse universelle de Mercator Zone 17.

North American Datum 1983
Système de référence géodésique nord-américain, 1983

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1 Government road
P.O. Box 100
Kapusasing, Ontario
PSN 2Y2

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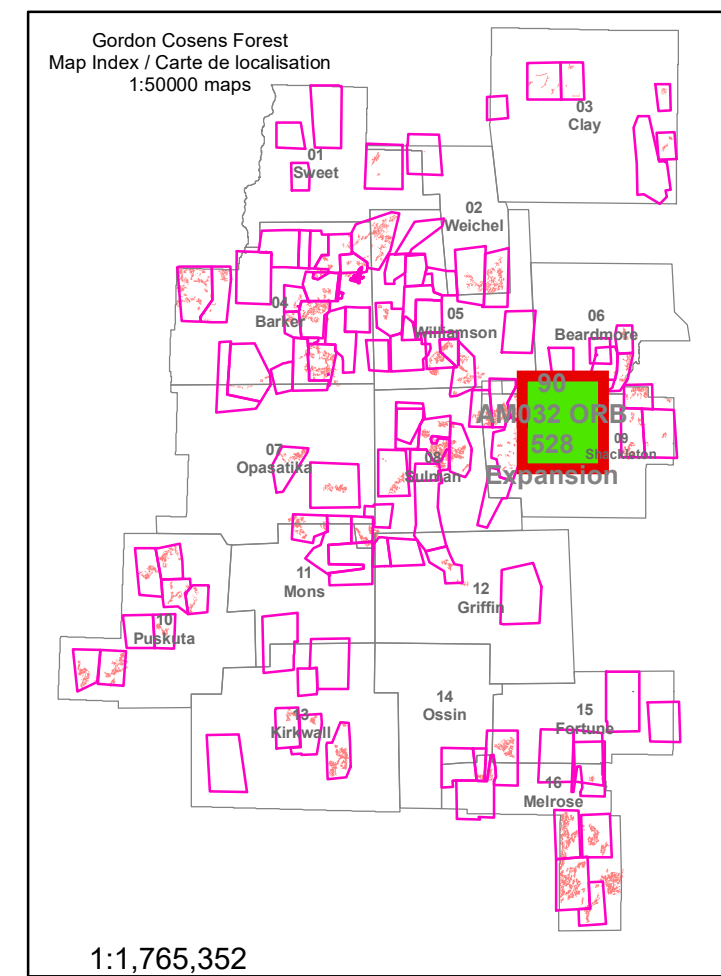


GREENFIRST
FOREST PRODUCTS

Management Unit-Unité de Gestion
Gordon Cosens Forest - Forêt Gordon Cosens
Forest Management Plan
Plan de Gestion Forestier
Term of Plan - Durée du plan 2020-2030
Annual Work Schedule
Map/Carte

Area Selected for Operations
Zone Sélectionnée pour Opération
FMP April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2030
AWS April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026

Map Ops AM032 ORB 528 Expansion
Block Area : 671



Legend

- MU438 Gordon Cosens
- Utility Lines
- Railways
- OFSC Trail
- Other Recreational Trails
- Stream, Permanent
- Stream, Intermittent
- Lakes and Rivers Lac ou rivière
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FMP2025 HARVEST

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Date: 9/26/2025

Proposed FMP Text changes (in red):

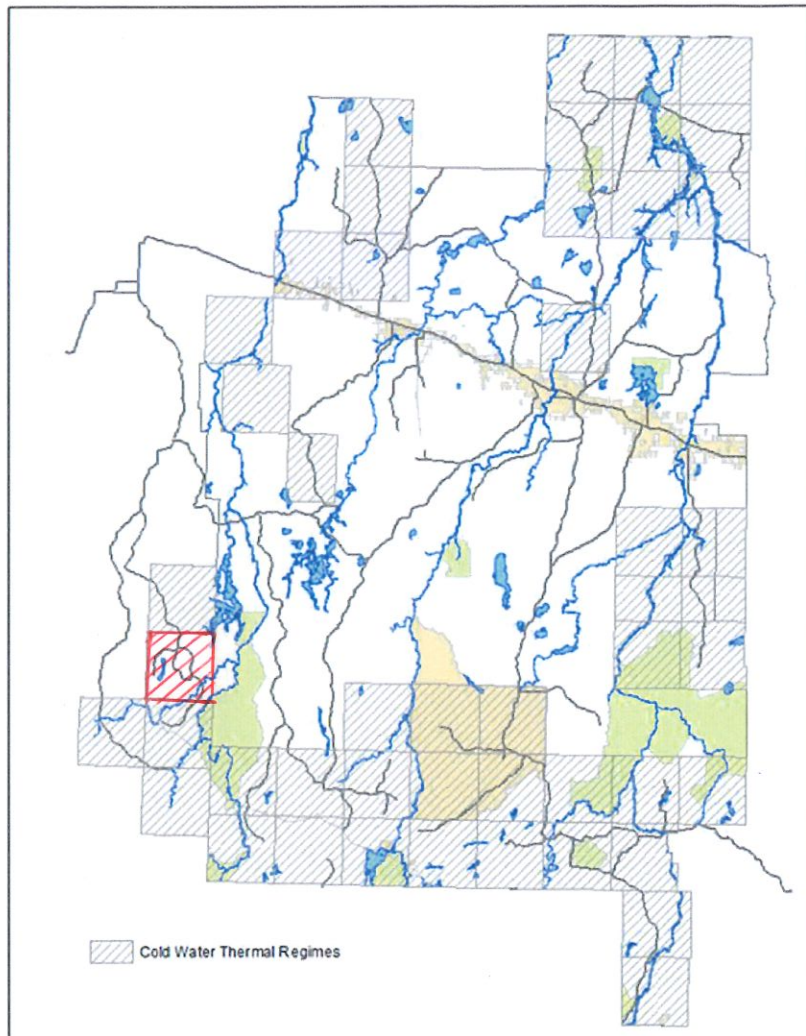
➤ Under Section 4.5.6 of the FMP text (page 204), "Road Water Crossings:"

Wild trout have been verified in reaches or parts of flowing waters in ⁵⁰~~49~~ townships of the GCF but their presence is scattered. Identified cold water streams occur in the north and southern portions of the forest with a few occurrences in the central latitude townships. Any township with trout presence (no matter how limited) are flagged to have the potential for other water ways to be trout bearing based on geographic physical characteristic association to the landscape on a township basis (Figure 58).

Townships containing cold water thermal regimes (from North to South):

- Eilber, McCowan, Fleck, Sweet, Guilfoyle, Boyle, Bradley, Hopkins, Mowbray, Harmon, Howells, Cockshutt, Clay, Teetzel, Staunton, Magladery, Rykert, Fergus, Macvicar, Carmichael, Stringer, Ford, Hicks, Oke, Byng, ~~Hook~~, Hayward, Clouston, Buchan, Lisgar, Fortune, Montcalm, Belford, Wadsworth, Davin, Amundsen, Stefansson, Coderre, Conking, Lerwick, Kirkwall, Kapuskasing, Loughheed, Ossin, Nova, Strachan, Melrose and Reeves Townships.

add
"Puskuta"





2025 GCF Slash Pile Burning Plan – October Update

October 8, 2025 LCC Meeting

What is slash pile burning and why do we do it?



Goals:

- Reduce productive area lost to roadside slash
- Reduce fire hazard
- Improve aesthetics along roads

Updates Since Last Meeting

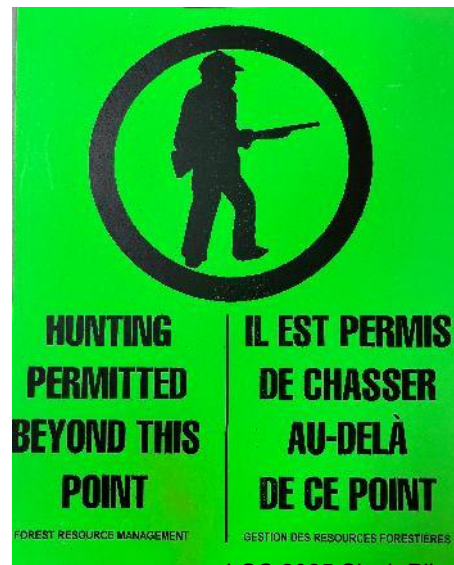
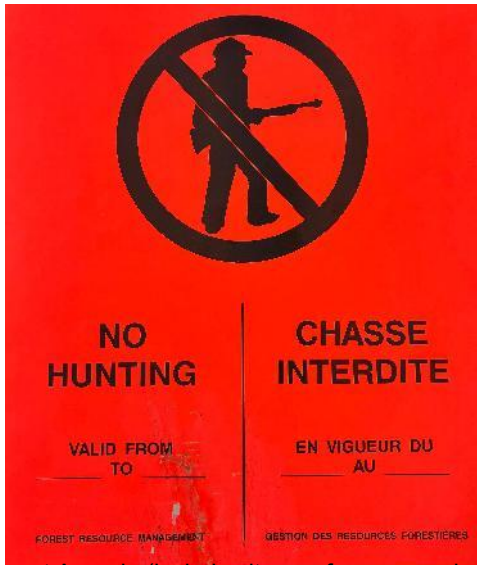
- 2025 “Low Complexity Prescribed Burn Plan for Slash Pile Burning”
 - Submitted in June
 - Approved by the MNR district and Fire Program - July 22
 - Published online
- “No Hunting Zones” approved under the Public Lands Act – July 30
- Signs set up - late July/early August
- Secured a contractor: Haveman Brothers
- Notifications have been sent out to stakeholders in burn areas:
 - Municipalities
 - Outfitters
 - Hydromega
 - Landowners
 - Etc.
- Burn Permit issued October 2

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No Hunting Zones

- Result of an incident during 2024 slash pile burn program
 - Hunters went past “Men at Work” signs at a road entrance and harvested a moose near where staff were working
- We have delayed the start of the program to not interfere with opening weekend
- No hunting zones are separated into 2 groups to minimize impacts to hunters
 - Group 1: No hunting from October 25, 2025 to November 8, 2025
 - Group 2: No hunting from November 1, 2025 to November 15, 2025

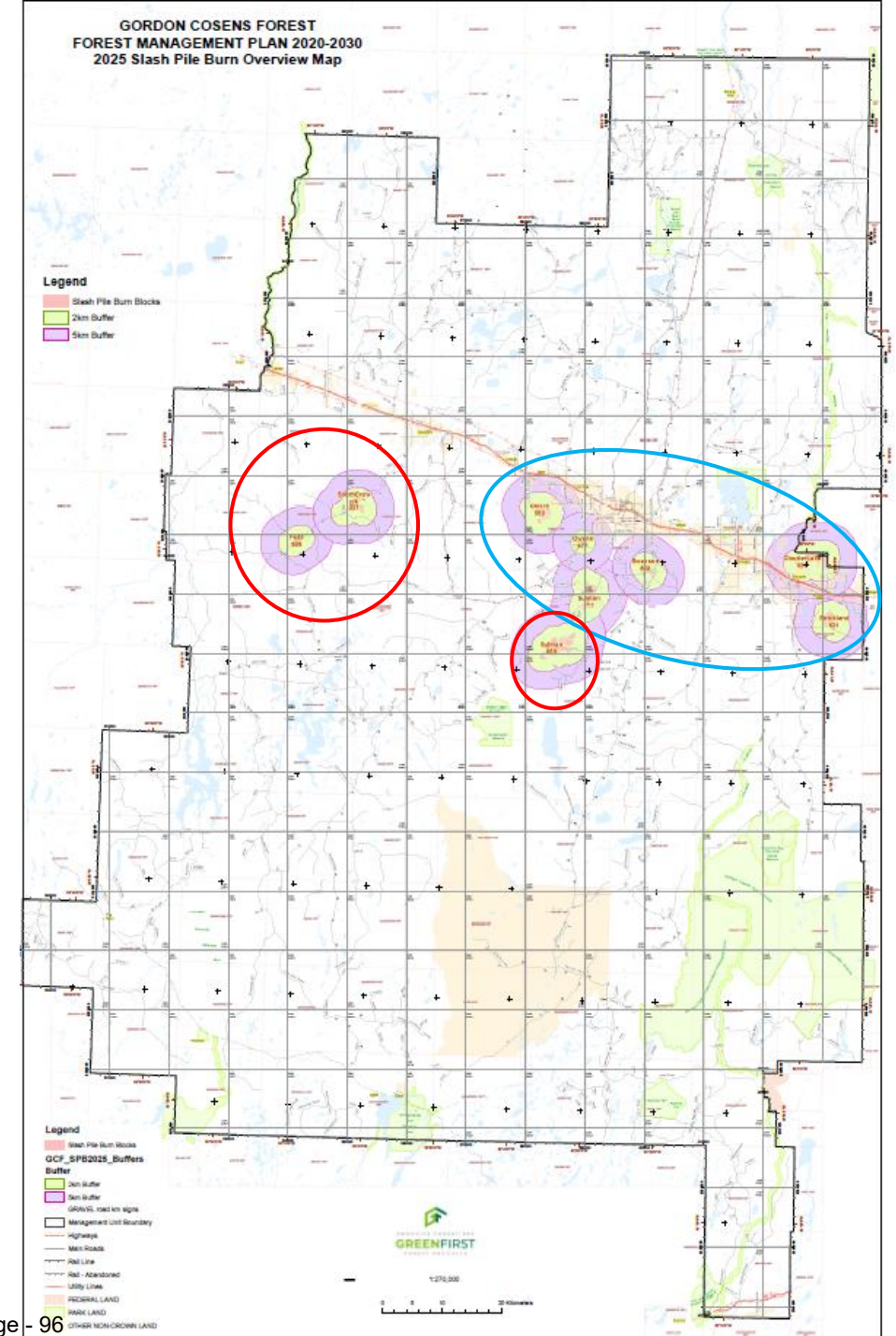


2025 Slash Pile Burning Areas

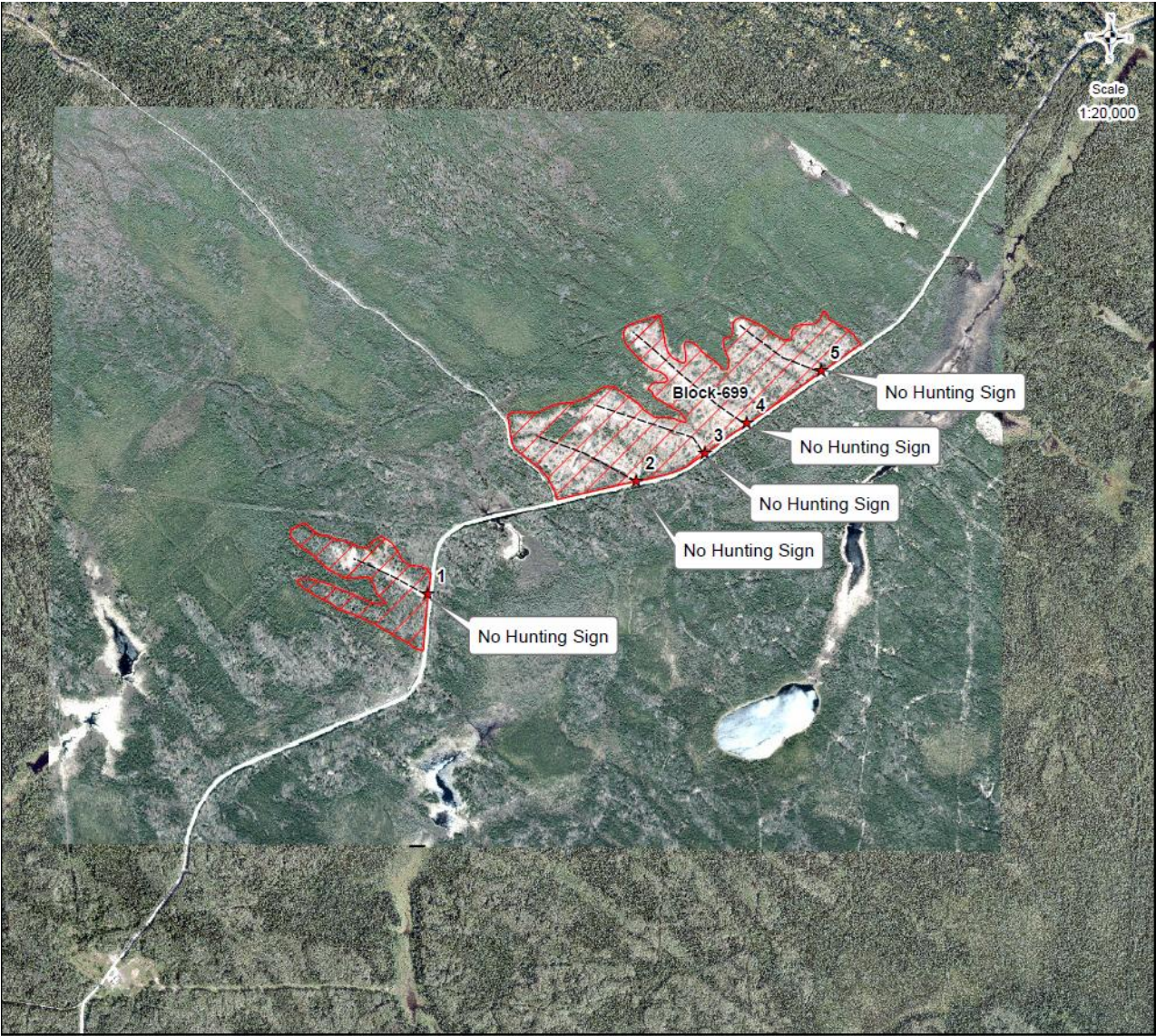
- Expected areas:
 - Fergus Rd:
 - Blk 331
 - Blk 699
 - South of Kap:
 - Blk 659
 - Blk 662
 - Blk 665
 - Blk 677
 - Blk 550
 - Fauquier area:
 - Blk 526
 - Blk 531
- Values evaluation: 2km and 5km buffers (includes values on the ARF for Fauquier area blocks)
- Detailed maps are included in the burn plan

No Hunting: Oct 25 to Nov 8

No Hunting: Nov 1 to Nov 15



Signage



Gordon Cosens Forest
Forest Management
Plan 2020-2030

Annual Work Schedule
April 1, 2025 to
March 31, 2026

Slash Pile Burn Program
Fall 2025

Block 699

Zone A-No hunting
from October 25, 2025
to November 8, 2025

Legend	
2025 Slash Pile Burn Signage	
★	No Hunt Sign
—	In Block Roads
□	No Hunt Zone

Sign	Easting	Northing
1	340928	5468600
2	341744	5469040
3	342012	5469150
4	342175	5469270
5	342467	5469470
6	352374	5476210
7	387849	5450610
8	430254	5454500
9	429864	5463470
10	401367	5462940
11	401647	5463620
12	401047	5464100
13	400655	5464010
14	400414	5463920
15	400269	5463900
16	383842	5475400
17	389760	5468720
18	391788	5460810
19	391105	5460630
20	390211	5460410
21	390488	5460500
22	390666	5460530
23	391088	5460610

Sign
facing
you as
you enter
the
block:



Sign
facing
you as
you exit
the
block:



Group 1: No Hunting Oct 25 to Nov 8



Gordon Cosens Forest
Forest Management
Plan 2020-2030

Annual Work Schedule
April 1, 2025 to
March 31, 2026

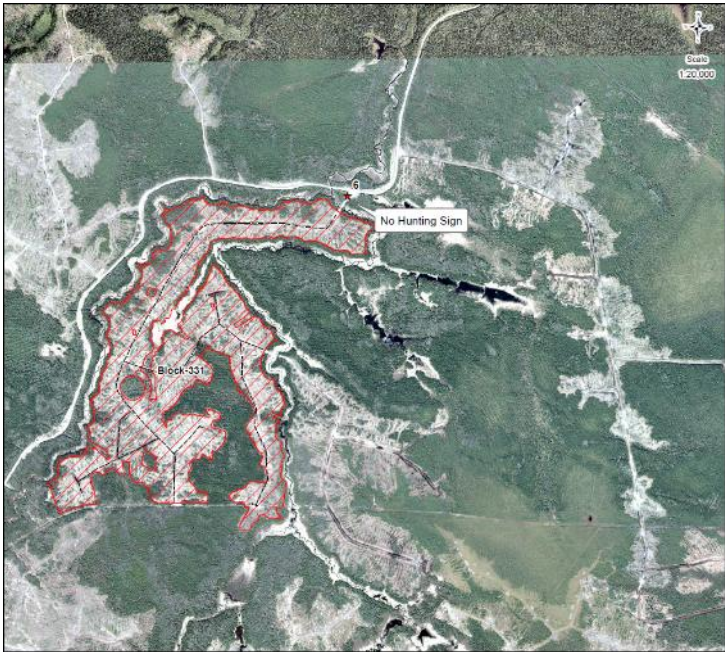
Slash Pile Burn Program
Fall 2025

Block 699

Zone A-No hunting
from October 25, 2025
to November 8, 2025

Legend		
2025 Slash Pile Burn		
Signage		
★	No Hunt Sign	
—	In Block Roads	
□	No Hunt Zone	

Sign	Easting	Northing
1	340928	5468600
2	341744	5469040
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4	342175	5469270
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GREENFIRST
Gordon Cosens Forest
Forest Management
Plan 2020-2030

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April 1, 2025 to
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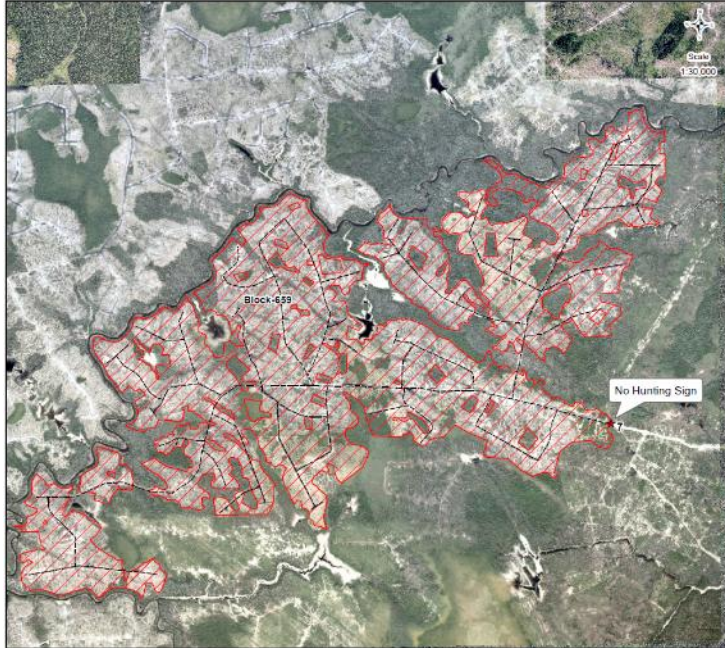
Slash Pile Burn Program
Fall 2025

Block 331

Zone A-No hunting
from October 25, 2025
to November 8, 2025

Legend
2025 Slash Pile Burn
Signage
★ No Hunt Sign
— In Block Roads
□ No Hunt Zone

Sign	Easting	Northing
1	340928	5468600
2	341744	5469040
3	342012	5469150
4	342175	5469270
5	342467	5469470
6	352374	5476210
7	387849	5450610
8	430254	5454500
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GREENFIRST
Gordon Cosens Forest
Forest Management
Plan 2020-2030

Annual Work Schedule
April 1, 2025 to
March 31, 2026

Slash Pile Burn Program
Fall 2025

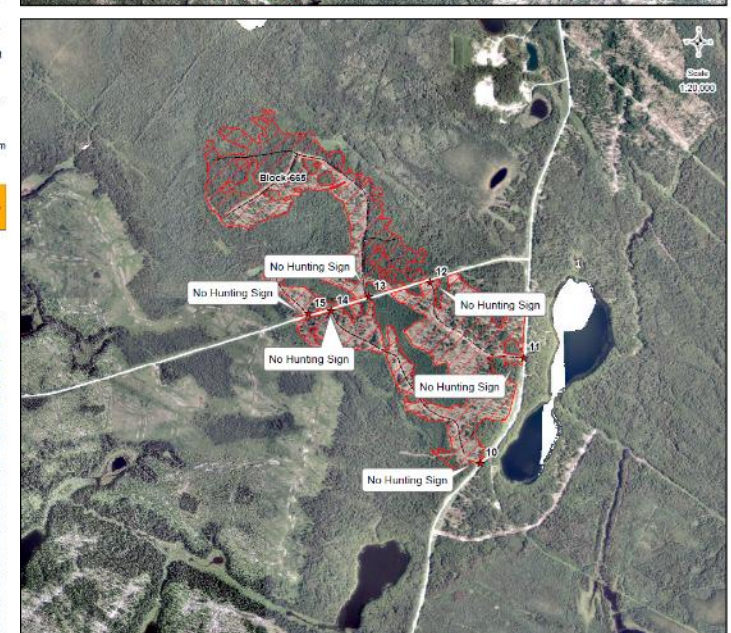
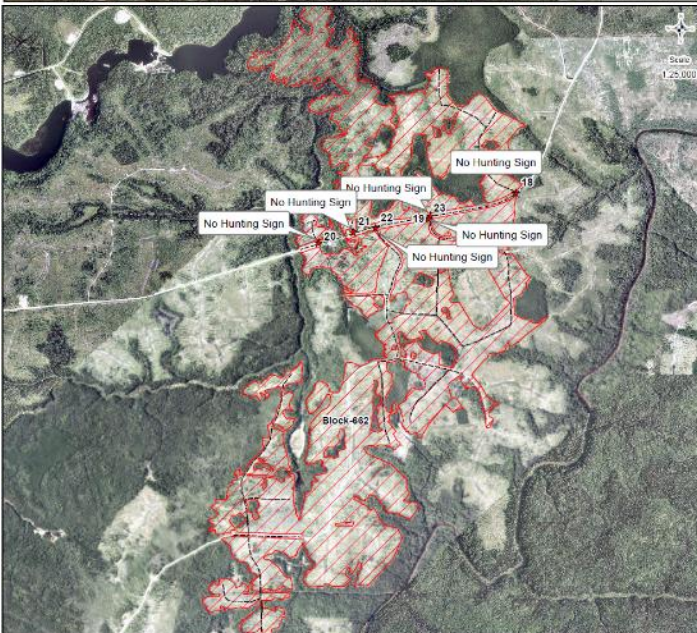
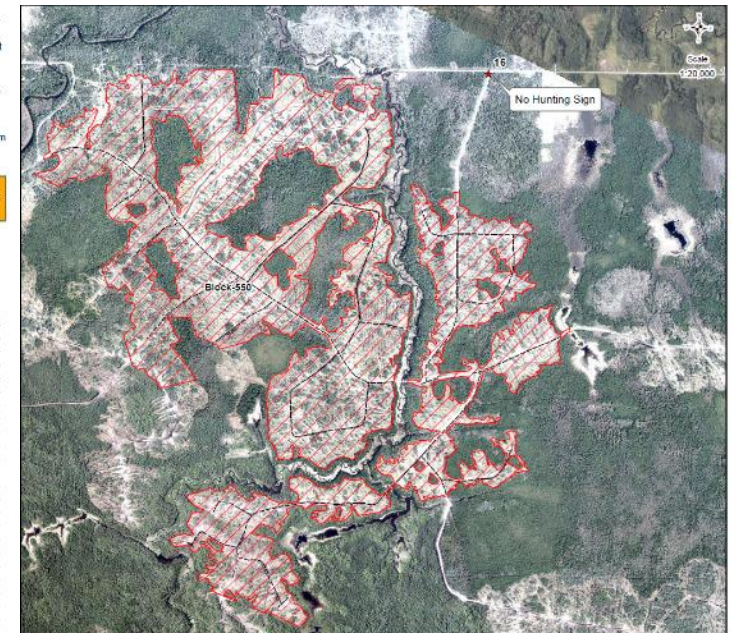
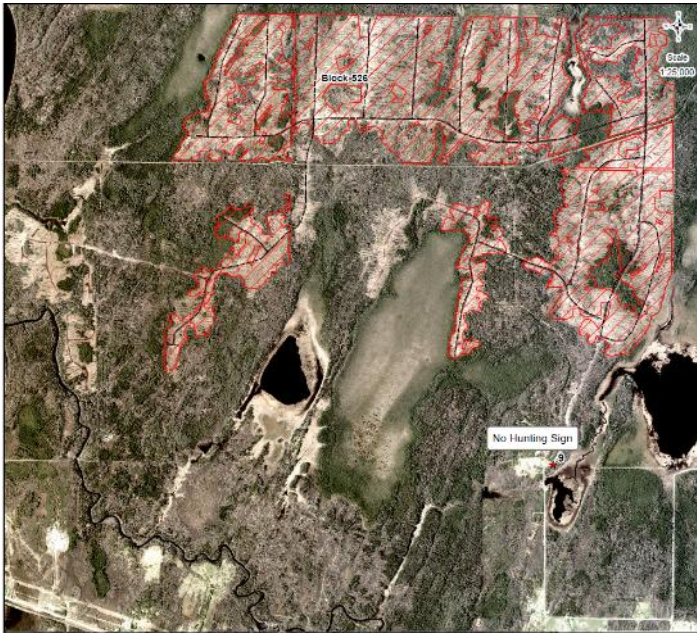
Block 659

Zone B-No hunting
from October 25, 2025
to November 8, 2025

Legend
2025 Slash Pile Burn
Signage
★ No Hunt Sign
— In Block Roads
□ No Hunt Zone

Sign	Easting	Northing
1	340928	5468600
2	341744	5469040
3	342012	5469150
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Group 2: No Hunting Nov 1 to Nov 15



Further Details

- Date in fire plan does not necessarily mean actual start date
- Considerations for actual timing:
 - risk of fire spread to adjacent cutovers is minimal
 - indices and long-term forecast indicate safe burning can proceed
 - contractor availability
 - other forest users in areas
- Block sequence (within groupings) will be most influenced by wind direction relative to values



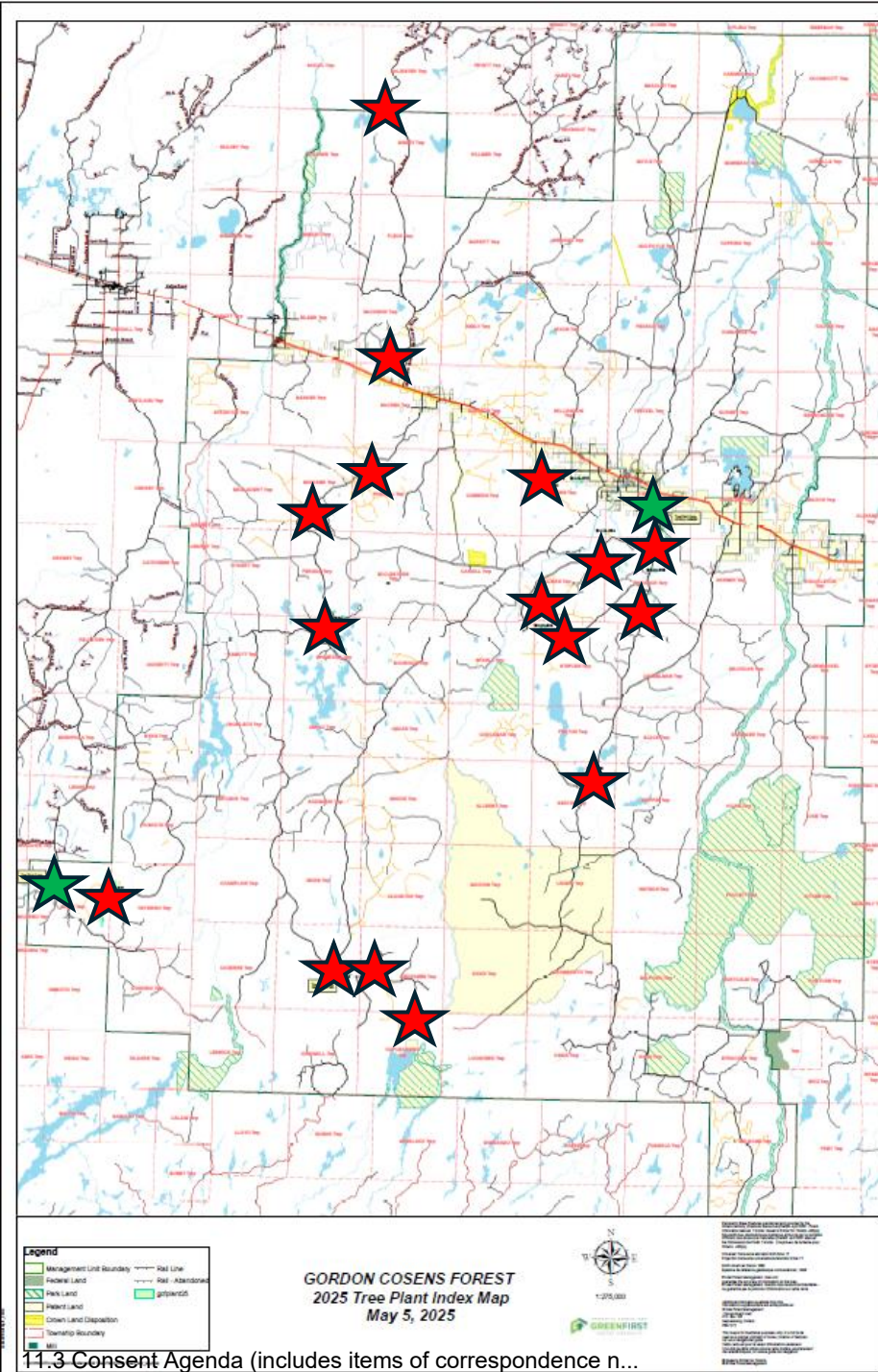


Comments or Questions?

2025 GCF Tree Plant



October 8 2025 LCC Presentation



Start Date: May 27

End Date: July 2



June 2025 brought us ~218mm of rain - almost double the historic average). This made access very challenging, and the bugs very bad!

★ = Tree Plant Area

★ = Tree Plant Camp



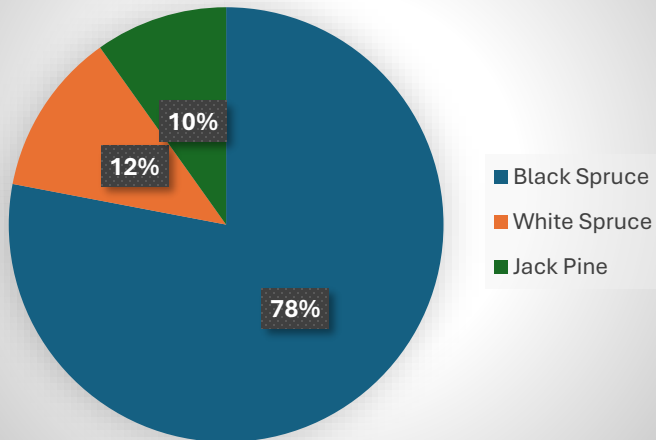


3.35 Million Trees Planted

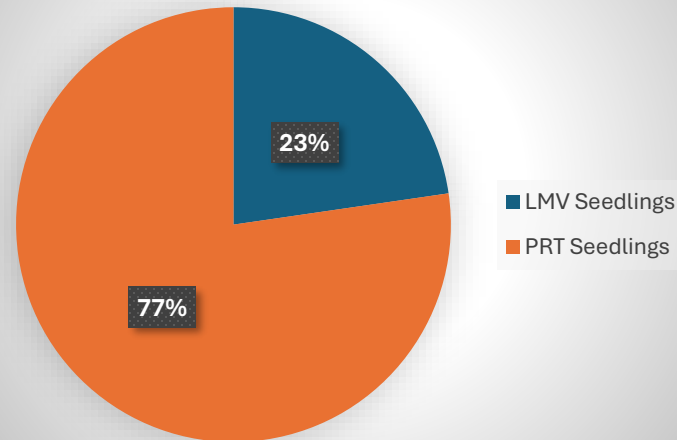
- Averaged ~50 planters/day
- Averaged ~2400 trees/day/planter



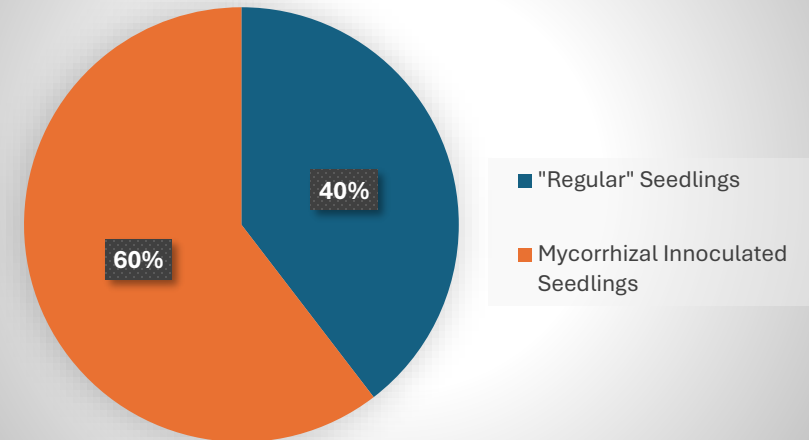
Breakdown by Species



Breakdown by Nursery



Breakdown by Innoculation



The Forest Community Renewal Project

June 28 2025

- Planted 10,350 spruce just off Swanson Rd.
- Community event in Riverside park with ceremonial tree plant



The Sensenbrenner Family



Clerk

Subject: FW: Consultation on the proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities

From: ca.office (MECP) <ca.office@ontario.ca>

Sent: Friday, November 7, 2025 4:25 PM

To: ca.office (MECP) <ca.office@ontario.ca>

Subject: Consultation on the proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities

** This message is being sent on behalf of Chloe Stuart, Assistant Deputy Minister, Land and Water Division, MECP and Hassaan Basit, Chief Conservation Executive, MECP **

Greetings,

We are writing to notify you of a policy proposal available for comment on the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#) at posting #025-1257 which is part of the government's actions to improve conservation authorities.

We are seeking feedback on proposed boundaries for the consolidation Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into regional conservation authorities, and the criteria applied to inform the proposed boundaries. The policy proposal notice includes maps depicting the proposed boundaries for the regional conservation authorities and discussion questions relevant to the planning for the future state.

The province's decision on the number and configuration of regional conservation authorities will be finalized following further technical analysis and consideration of the feedback received during this consultation phase. The province is also planning to consult further, at a future date, on potential amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and regulations under the Act, to enable the consolidation of conservation authorities.

No changes are proposed to the overall extent of conservation authority jurisdiction within the province, and under consolidation, the new regional conservation authorities would remain independent organizations operating with municipal governance and oversight, in accordance with requirements under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, as administered by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

In addition, the important work that conservation authorities do to protect people and property from the risks of flooding and other natural hazards will not change. Regional conservation authorities would continue to deliver provincially mandated programs. These include drinking water source protection under the *Clean Water Act*, managing development and other activities in areas at risk of natural hazards—such as floodplains, shorelines, watercourses, and wetlands—and providing flood forecasting and warning services. Conservation authorities would continue to manage their lands and recreational trails, providing Ontarians access to local natural areas and outdoor activities. Regional conservation authorities would also continue to be able to provide additional municipal and other watershed programs and services set out under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Existing conservation authority board members would continue to serve until the expiration of their terms next

year, with changes to governance and structure to be initiated following municipal elections in October 2026.

This proposal is part of broader action that Ontario is proposing to take to improve the conservation authority system to reduce duplicative costs, free-up resources, and better align the work of conservation authorities with provincial priorities on housing, infrastructure, the economy and climate resilience. These actions include the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency to provide centralized leadership and oversight of conservation authorities, proposed by the Government on November 6, 2025, in [Bill 68, Plan to Protect Ontario Act \(Budget Measures\), 2025](#).

To learn more about this proposal, a virtual information session for municipalities will be held on **Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 2pm**. To register for this session, please email ca.office@ontario.ca.

The Environmental Registry comment period for posting #025-1257 will close at 11:59pm on December 22, 2025. Comments may be submitted through the Registry or by email to the conservation authorities section team at the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, via ca.office@ontario.ca.

Thank you,

Chloe Stuart
ADM, Land and Water Division
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Hassaan Basit
Chief Conservation Executive
Office of the Chief Conservation Executive



Taking pride in strengthening Ontario, its places and its people

Please Note: As part of providing [accessible customer service](#), please let me know if you have any accommodation needs or require communication supports or alternate formats.



Minister of Finance | Ministre des Finances
PETER BETHLENFALVY

October 31, 2025

Dear Head of Council:

I am writing to provide you with an update on the 2026 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF).

We understand the importance of the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund to communities across Ontario. The government is committed to supporting the economic vitality and sustainability of Ontario's small, northern, and rural municipalities.

To support these objectives, as announced in Fall 2024, the government will invest a further \$50 million into the OMPF for the payment cycle beginning in January 2026. This brings the two-year incremental investment to \$100 million, and increases the total funding envelope to \$600 million. This continued enhancement for 2026 will once again be targeted towards small, northern, and rural municipalities, as well as those with a limited property tax base. This funding will assist municipalities in providing critical services to people across the province.

With the further \$50 million enhancement to the OMPF, each of the program's core grant components will again increase in 2026. The program will remain responsive to changing circumstances of individual core grant recipient municipalities through annual data updates and related adjustments. Transitional assistance will also ensure that core grant recipient municipalities in northern Ontario receive at least 90 per cent of their 2025 OMPF allocation, while those in southern Ontario receive at least 85 per cent.

In addition, starting in 2026, municipalities who are ineligible for core grants will be gradually phased-out of Transitional Assistance over a five-year period. This adjustment will allow for further investment in municipalities with measurable challenges, through the OMPF's four core grant components.

The enhancement to the OMPF builds on the significant increases in support that the government is providing to municipalities, including:

- An additional \$1.6 billion investment through the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program (MHIP), increasing the total investment to \$4 billion;

.../cont'd

- A further \$1 billion investment through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) over five years, initiated in 2022; and
- An increase in annual funding for Connecting Links from \$30 million to \$45 million to support municipalities in addressing critical road and bridge improvement needs, extending the life cycle of their assets and advancing local development.

We have always been committed to working closely with our municipal partners and recognize how important the OMPF is for many municipalities. During consultations with municipalities over this past summer, the government heard perspectives and advice on municipal priorities for the program. We want to thank our municipal partners for their input on the future of the OMPF. In early 2026, the ministry will be engaging municipalities through a short survey to better understand how the OMPF is supporting local communities.

The Ministry of Finance's Provincial-Local Finance Division will be providing your municipal treasurers and clerk-treasurers with further details on your 2026 OMPF allocation. Supporting materials on the 2026 program are available on the ministry's website at [Ontario.ca/document/2026-ontario-municipal-partnership-fund](https://ontario.ca/document/2026-ontario-municipal-partnership-fund).

As we continue to work together to build up our communities and move Ontario's economy forward, maintaining a close relationship with our municipal partners remains critical. I look forward to our continued collaboration in building a stronger future for our province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Bethlenfalvy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance

c: The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Honourable Lisa M. Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs

Ministry of Finance
Provincial-Local Finance
Division
Frost Building North
95 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

Ministère des Finances
Division des relations provinciales
municipales en matière de finances
Édifice Frost Nord
95 rue Grosvenor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7



October 31, 2025

Dear Treasurer/Clerk-Treasurer:

As outlined by the Minister of Finance in the October 31 letter to Heads of Council, a further \$50 million is being invested by the Province in the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) in 2026, bringing the two-year increase to \$100 million and the total funding envelope to \$600 million annually. This letter provides additional information regarding your municipality's 2026 OMPF allocation.

I am pleased to advise that in 2026 your municipality will benefit from an increase in OMPF funding compared to 2025.

2026 OMPF

As part of the phased-in increase to the OMPF, the program will provide \$600 million to recipient municipalities in 2026.

Details of the enhancement to the core grant components of the program and Transitional Assistance include:

Core Grant Component Enhancements:

- The **Assessment Equalization Grant component** will increase to \$161 million from \$155 million to better support municipalities with limited property assessment.
- The **Rural Communities Grant component** will increase to \$187 million from \$171 million in recognition of the challenges of rural municipalities, including rural farming communities.
- The **Northern Communities Grant component** will increase to \$121 million from \$105 million in recognition of the challenges of northern municipalities.
- The **Northern and Rural Fiscal Circumstances Grant component** will increase to \$125 million from \$109 million to support northern and rural municipalities with challenging fiscal circumstances.

Details related to grant parameters are outlined in the 2026 OMPF Technical Guide and will be included in individual municipal workbooks that will be shared with treasurers and clerk-treasurers in the coming weeks.

Transitional Assistance:

Transitional Assistance will ensure that municipalities in northern Ontario receive at least 90 per cent of their 2025 allocation, and municipalities in southern Ontario receive at least 85 per cent.

Survey of OMPF Recipients

In early 2026, the ministry will be engaging OMPF recipient municipalities through a short survey to better understand how the OMPF is supporting local communities.

2026 OMPF – SUPPORTING MATERIAL

To assist municipalities in understanding the OMPF and their individual 2026 allocations, the Ministry of Finance provides detailed and customized supporting documentation:

- A. 2026 OMPF Allocation Notice and Inserts**
- B. 2026 OMPF Technical Guide**
- C. Municipal Workbooks**

A. 2026 OMPF Allocation Notice and Inserts

The *OMPF Allocation Notice and Inserts* outline individual municipal OMPF allocations by grant component, and also provide a summary of 2026 key data inputs. A municipality's 2026 allocation is noted on line A.

B. 2026 OMPF Technical Guide

The *2026 OMPF Technical Guide* provides information with respect to individual grant thresholds, parameters and data sources.

C. 2026 Municipal Workbooks

The *2026 OMPF Workbook and the 2026 Northern and Rural Municipal Fiscal Circumstances Index (MFCI) Workbook* (if applicable) provide detailed calculations

of the 2026 OMPF grant components, the determination of the Northern and Rural MFCL, and outline all underlying data elements.

These workbooks will be provided electronically to municipal treasurers and clerk-treasurers in the coming weeks.

The *2026 OMPF Technical Guide*, as well as municipal allocations, are also available electronically on the Ministry's website:

www.ontario.ca/document/2026-ontario-municipal-partnership-fund

2026 PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The *2026 Cash Flow Notice* identifies your municipality's quarterly payment schedule. Payments will be processed at the end of January, April, July, and October 2026. As outlined in the following section, OMPF payments are subject to holdback for municipalities that do not comply with applicable reporting requirements.

2026 REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

As you know, OMPF payments are subject to compliance with the program's reporting obligations.

Specifically, municipalities are required to submit Financial Information Returns (FIR) to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) and tax-rate bylaws through the Online Property Tax Analysis (OPTA) system or to MMAH as outlined in the following schedule:

2026 OMPF Reporting Obligations	2025 FIRs	By May 31, 2026
	2026 tax-rates	By August 31, 2026

Payments for municipalities that do not meet their 2026 reporting obligations will be subject to holdback, beginning with the 2026 fourth quarterly payment, until these documents have been filed.

If you require additional information regarding the OMPF, you may e-mail your inquiries and contact information to: info.ompf@ontario.ca.

In closing, we would like to thank you for your ongoing partnership. We look forward to continuing to work with you on the OMPF.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian Freeman', is positioned above the printed name.

Ian Freeman
Assistant Deputy Minister
Provincial-Local Finance Division

- c. Caspar Hall
Assistant Deputy Minister
Local Government Division
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Sean Fraser
Assistant Deputy Minister
Municipal and Housing Operations Division
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

2026 Cash Flow Notice

Township of Val Rita-Harty

5670

A Total 2026 OMPF (2026 Allocation Notice, Line A)	See Note below	\$434,400
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B 2026 OMPF Quarterly Payments Schedule	\$434,400
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1. 2026 OMPF First Quarter Payment	<i>Scheduled for January 2026</i>	\$108,600
2. 2026 OMPF Second Quarter Payment	<i>Scheduled for April 2026</i>	\$108,600
3. 2026 OMPF Third Quarter Payment	<i>Scheduled for July 2026</i>	\$108,600
4. 2026 OMPF Fourth Quarter Payment	<i>Scheduled for October 2026</i>	\$108,600

Note: Your municipality's 2026 OMPF allocation is identified on Line A of your 2026 OMPF Allocation Notice. Please refer to the enclosed correspondence for further details.

2026 Cash Flow Notice

Township of Val Rita-Harty

5670

2026 Cash Flow Notice - Line Item Descriptions

A	Total 2026 OMPF allocation. See 2026 OMPF Allocation Notice, Line A.
B1 - B4	Scheduled quarterly payments in respect of the 2026 OMPF allocation. Payments will be subject to holdback pending submission of the applicable outstanding reporting requirements. Please refer to the Reporting Obligations section of the 2026 OMPF Technical Guide.



Municipalité de Val Rita-Harty Municipality

Item #: 11

Personnel responsable / staff: Deputy Clerk

Date : November 18, 2025

pour / for: conseil / Council

Sujet / Re : For Information-Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) Allocation

Description:

The Provincial Government has announced the OMPF annual allocation for Ontario municipalities to support fiscal challenges. The funding supports sustainability of Ontario's small, northern and rural municipalities to provide critical services to people across the Province.

Lien avec plan stratégique / Link to Strategic Plan:

The OMPF plays a critical role in strategic planning by providing essential financial resources that the Municipality requires to achieve long-term goals and meet our strategic planning priorities. The OMPF funding is a key element in budgetary considerations and financial implications to ensure that resources are allocated efficiently. This aligns with the Municipal Strategic Plan by ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently to achieve desired outcomes and improve quality of life for our residents.

Recommandation / Recommendation:

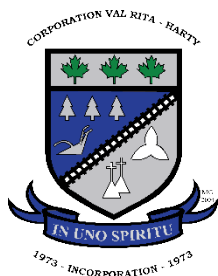
For information purposes only.

Financial Implications:

- **2026 Allocation: \$434,400**
- **2025 Allocation: \$403,400**
- **2024 Allocation: \$366,900**

Rapport soumis par / respectfully submitted:

Barbara Major, Deputy Clerk



Municipalité de Val Rita-Harty Municipality

Item #: 11

Personnel responsable / staff: Deputy Clerk

Date : November 18, 2025

pour / for: conseil / Council

Sujet / Re : Support for the Town of Kapuskasing resolution urging the Provincial Government to make the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) a permanent funding program.

Description:

The Northern Ontario Resource Development Support is a successful pilot project funding program having permitted municipalities to acquire funding to advance capital projects. The continuation of the program on a permanent basis is of immense benefit in relieving financial pressures.

Lien avec plan stratégique / Link to Strategic Plan:

The report aligns with the Municipal Strategic Plan by ensuring transparency, accountability, maximizing opportunities and mobilizing resources to support long term infrastructure sustainability.

Recommandation / Recommendation:

THAT Council for the Township of Val Rita-Harty support the Town of Kapuskasing Resolution.

Rapport soumis par / respectfully submitted:

Barbara Major

Deputy Clerk



TOWN OF KAPUSKASING RESOLUTION

Date: 20 Oct 2025

No: #2025-132

Moved By: Councillor M. Dinnissen

Seconded By: Councillor A.-M. Leblanc

Item No: b)

Description: Motion to request the Government of Ontario to make the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) Program a permanent fixtures of provincial support to Northern municipalities.

RESOLUTION:

Whereas the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) pilot program was introduced to help Northern Ontario municipalities address infrastructure pressures resulting from natural resource sector activities;

And Whereas the program has been well received and has allowed municipalities, such as the Town of Kapuskasing, to strategically accumulate funding from multiple grant and infrastructure programs to advance strategic capital projects;

And Whereas the Town of Kapuskasing recognizes the importance of modern, safe, and efficient infrastructure to support economic growth and industrial competitiveness;

And whereas the Town of Kapuskasing recognizes the significant impact agricultural and forestry equipment and operations have on municipal infrastructure, particularly in rural communities;

And whereas the Town of Kapuskasing have allocated these funds primarily toward water and sewer

Recorded Vote Requested by:

	Yea	Nay
M. Breton	_____	_____
M. Dinnissen	_____	_____
G. Fortin	_____	_____
A. M. Leblanc	_____	_____
K. Munnoch	_____	_____
B. Newton	_____	_____
D. Plourde	_____	_____

Clerk

Deferred _____ Tabled _____ Lost _____ Carried _____

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof:

.....
Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote

infrastructure projects, where alternative grant opportunities are often limited or unavailable.

And whereas the continuation of the program as a permanent funding source would alleviate funding pressures, reduce reliance on tax base or user consumption rates, and enhance the municipality's ability to plan and deliver major capital works in a fiscally responsible manner.

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Town of Kapuskasing strongly urges the Government of Ontario to make the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) program a permanent fixture of its support to Northern municipalities;

And Further Be It Resolved That the Town of Kapuskasing formally supports the principle of stacking (accumulating) funding from multiple grant and infrastructure programs to advance strategic capital works, and requests continued flexibility from higher levels of government to enable effective financial planning and timely delivery of large-scale municipal infrastructure initiatives;

And Further Be It Resolved That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Northern Development, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, MPP Guy Bourgouin, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), the Northeastern Ontario Municipal Association (NEOMA), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and all Northern Ontario municipalities for their awareness and support.

Recorded Vote Requested by:		
.....		
	Yea	Nay
M. Breton	_____	_____
M. Dinnissen	_____	_____
G. Fortin	_____	_____
A. M. Leblanc	_____	_____
K. Munnoch	_____	_____
B. Newton	_____	_____
D. Plourde	_____	_____

Clerk

Deferred ____ Tabled ____ Lost ____ Carried ____

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof:
.....
Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote



Municipalité de Val Rita-Harty Municipality

Item #: 11

Personnel responsable / staff: Deputy Clerk

Date : November 18, 2025

pour / for: conseil / Council

Sujet / Re : Resolution support for City of Dryden, Survive-To-Swim mandatory training

Description:

The City of Dryden is seeking resolution endorsement for the Ministry of Education to incorporate mandatory water safety and Swim-to-Survive training into the elementary school curriculum for all Ontario Students.

Lien avec plan stratégique / Link to Strategic Plan:

The report aligns with the Municipal Strategic Plan by ensuring transparency and accountability.

Recommandation / Recommendation:

THAT the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty Council supports the resolution from the City of Dryden urging the Minister of Education to incorporate mandatory water safety and Swim-to-Survive training into the elementary school curriculum for all Ontario students.

Financial Implications: Nil

Rapport soumis par / respectfully submitted:

Barbara Major

Deputy Clerk

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF DRYDEN

MOVED BY: Price **DATE:** 22-Sep-25

SECONDED BY: Klewning **RESOLUTION NO.:** 14

Whereas drowning is one of the leading causes of preventable deaths among children in Ontario and research by the Lifesaving Society of Ontario shows that most children who drown never intended to be in the water; and

Whereas evidence demonstrates that even basic swimming and water survival skills significantly reduce the risk of drowning; and

Whereas many children in Ontario do not have equitable access to swimming lessons outside of school due to financial, cultural or geographic barriers; and

Whereas several municipalities across Ontario have expressed strong interest in improving water safety education for children; and

Whereas the Ministry of Education has the authority to incorporate water safety and survival training into the regular elementary school curriculum as a universal, life-saving skill comparable to fire safety and road safety instruction;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of The Corporation of The City of Dryden respectfully urges the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Education, to incorporate mandatory water safety and Swim-to-Survive training into the elementary school curriculum for all Ontario students; and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Minister of Education of Ontario, local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities, with a request for their endorsement.

RECORDED VOTE		DECLARATION UNDER THE MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT	
		Councilors who have declared an interest, abstained from discussion and did not vote on this question.	
Council	Yes	No	
Councillor C. Klewning			
Councillor B. Latham			
Councillor M. MacKinnon			
Councillor R. Noel			
Councillor M. Price			
Councillor B. Tardiff			
Mayor J. Harrison			
TOTALS			
		Disposition of Resolution (Check One)	
		Carried X	Defeated

Harrison

MAYOR:



Municipalité de Val Rita-Harty Municipality

Item #: 11

Personnel responsable / staff: Deputy Clerk

Date : November 18, 2025

pour / for: conseil / Council

Sujet / Re : Resolution Support to re-instate Curbside Blue Box Collections for Non-Profit Organizations

Description:

Peterborough County Council is requesting resolution support to urge the Provincial Government to re-instate the eligibility for curbside blue box collection January 1, 2026 for non-profit organizations, such as food banks. Non-profit organizations have been deemed to be ineligible for producer blue box collection effective January 1, 2026.

Lien avec plan stratégique / Link to Strategic Plan:

The report aligns with the Municipal Strategic Plan by ensuring transparency and accountability.

Recommandation / Recommendation:

THAT the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty Council does hereby support the resolution from Peterborough County Council in urging the Provincial Government to re-instate the eligibility for curbside blue box collection January 1, 2026 for non-profit organizations, such as food banks.

Financial Implications: Nil

Rapport soumis par / respectfully submitted:

Barbara Major, Deputy Clerk

Clerk

From: Clerk
Sent: Saturday, November 8, 2025 10:28 AM
To: Barbara Major
Subject: FW: Peterborough County Council Resolution Re: Re-instating the Eligibility for Curbside Blue Box Collection January 1 2026, for Nonprofit Organizations

From: Salisko, Holly <HSalisko@ptbocounty.ca>
Sent: Friday, November 7, 2025 11:36 AM
Subject: Peterborough County Council Resolution Re: Re-instating the Eligibility for Curbside Blue Box Collection January 1 2026, for Nonprofit Organizations

Good morning,

Please note at their meeting on November 5, 2025, Peterborough County Council passed the following resolution:

Resolution No. 203-2025

Moved by Deputy Warden Senis
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

Whereas the Province of Ontario designated producers to be responsible to collect recycling in the Province; and

Whereas nonprofit organizations, including our local food banks, have been deemed ineligible for producer blue box collection effective January 1 2026; and

Whereas food insecurity is a local, provincial and federal issue; and

Whereas food banks need to receive grocery items that are delivered in cardboard boxes and cartons which generate copious amounts of recyclable material; and

Whereas food banks are volunteer and donation based with no revenue collected to pay for services such as removal of recyclable materials;

Therefore be it resolved that the Council of the County of Peterborough strongly urges the Province to re-instate the eligibility for curbside blue box collection January 1 2026, for nonprofit organizations, such as food banks; and

That this motion be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, MPP Dave Smith, MPP Laurie Scott, MPP David Piccini, the City of Peterborough, EOWC, AMO, and all Ontario municipalities for support.

Carried

Should you have any questions or concerns please contact Kari Stevenson, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk at kstevenson@ptbocounty.ca.

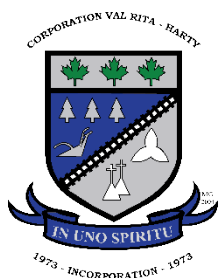
Thanks!

Holly Salisko

Administrative Services Assistant | Clerk's Division/Planning
Peterborough County
(705) 743-0380 Ext. 2105

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Municipalité de Val Rita-Harty Municipality

Item #: 11

Personnel responsable / staff: Deputy Clerk

Date : November 18, 2025

pour / for: conseil / Council

Sujet / Re : NOW Association – Resolution support to ensure Women’s Rights, Leadership, Safety and Well-being in development under Bill 5

Description:

The Northern Ontario Women’s (NOW) Association is requesting resolution support with respect to Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025*, insofar as the need to protect women’s rights, leadership and environmental health.

Lien avec plan stratégique / Link to Strategic Plan:

The report aligns with the Municipal Strategic Plan by ensuring transparency and accountability.

Recommandation / Recommendation:

THAT the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty Council does hereby support the resolution from the Northern Ontario Women’s Association in urging the Provincial Government to protect women’s rights, leadership and environmental health.

Financial Implications: Nil

Rapport soumis par / respectfully submitted:

Barbara Major, Deputy Clerk

Clerk

From: Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 2:31 PM
To: Barbara Major
Subject: FW: Northern Ontario Women's Association (NOW Association) | Upholding Women's Rights, Leadership, and Environmental Health in the Implementation of Ontario Bill 5

From: Alana Torresan <atorresan@thearchipelago.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 2:30 PM

To: premier@ontario.ca; MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca; minister.indigenousaffairs@ontario.ca; charmaine.williams@pc.ola.org; taunya.paquette@ontario.ca; Minister (MMAH) <minister.mah@ontario.ca>; Minister, MECP (MECP) <minister.mecp@ontario.ca>; FONOM Office/ Bureau de FONOM <fonom.info@gmail.com>; admin@noma.on.ca; Englehart Town of <admin@englehart.ca>; Jennifer Montreuil <Jennifer.Montreuil@tkl.ca>; Chantal Guillemette <Chantal.Guillemette@kapuskasing.ca>; Clerk <clerk@valharty.ca>; Smooth Rock Falls Town of <nvaichon@townsrf.ca>; Cobalt Town of <cobalt@cobalt.ca>; Beth Morton <beth.morton@townshipofperry.ca>; Wendy Schroeder <deputy.clerk@whitestone.ca>; Moosonee Town of <info@moosonee.ca>; Township of Machar <alonymachar@vianet.ca>; Burk's Falls Village of <clerk@burksfalls.ca>; Wawa Municipality of <Moneill@wawa.cc>; Tammy Godden <tgodden@stcharlesontario.ca>; Chamberlain Township of <info@chamberlaintownship.com>; Jocelyn Township <admin@jocelyn.ca>; Iroquois Falls Town of <MReeder@iroquoisfalls.com>; Billings Township of <tbeckerton@billingstwp.ca>; Village of Thornloe <thornloe@outlook.com>; Kapuskasing Town of <general@kapuskasing.ca>; Greenstone - Municipality of <Kristina.miousse@greenstone.ca>; Town of Moosonee <deputyclerk@moosonee.ca>; McMurrich/Monteith Township of <clerk@mcmurrichmonteith.com>; Harley-Hudson (E-mail) <admin@harley.ca>; Markstay-Warren Municipality of <mserre@markstay-warren.ca>; Mayor <mayor@timmins.ca>; Magnetawan Municipality of <info@magnetawan.com>; Tehkummah Township of <clerk.administrator@tehkummah.ca>; Dawn Noelda Tilly <Dawn.NoeldeTilly@greatersudbury.ca>; lwest@mcdougall.ca; moonbeam@moonbeam.ca; Callander Municipality of <clerk@callander.ca>; Stasia Carr <scarr@gorebay.ca>; Barbara Knauth <b.knauth@chamberlaintownship.com>; North Bay City of <communications@cityofnorthbay.ca>; Brethour Twp of <brethour@parolink.net>; Melanie Bouffard <clerk@frenchriver.ca>; Harris Township of <harris@parolink.net>; clerk@evanturel.com; West Nipissing - Jean-Pierre Barbeau <jbarbeau@westnipissing.ca>; Brian R. Walker <cao.clerk@bonfieldtownship.com>; Larder Lake Township of <info@larderlake.ca>; West Nipissing Communication <communications@municipality.westnipissing.on.ca>; Nicole Gourlay <nicole.gourlay@townofkearney.ca>; Hong Ji Lei <hlel@twpbrm.ca>; Hearst Town of <townofhearst@hearst.ca>; Nancy Austin <naustin@sundridge.ca>; Prince Township of <adminassist@princetwp.ca>; Sables-Spanish Rivers Twp - Kim Sloss <inquiries@sables-spanish.ca>; Dubreuilville Township of <township@dubreuilville.ca>; Opasatika Township of <twpopas@persona.ca>; Karine Pelletier <kpelletier@mcgarry.ca>; Burpee and Mills Twp of <burpeemills@vianet.ca>; Jessica Gilson <officeclerk@bonfieldtownship.com>; White River Township of <info@whiteriver.ca>; Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands Town of <pmyers@townofnemi.on.ca>; Ryerson Township <admin@ryersontownship.ca>; South Algonquin Township of <info@southalgonquin.ca>; Maureen Lang <MLang@powassan.net>; Sundridge Village of <admin@sundridge.ca>; Aber & Additional" <bbarbarie@onlink.net>; Liisa Cotnam <lcotnam@plummertownship.ca>; Armstrong-Thornloe <amyvickerymenard@armstrong.ca>; Temiskaming Shores City of <lbelanger@temiskamingshores.ca>; Township of Kerns <admin@kerns.ca>; Johnson Township of <jmaguire@johnsontownship.ca>; Sault Ste. Marie City of <cityclerk@cityssm.on.ca>; Johanna Berube <Johanna.Berube@townsrf.ca>; North Shore Township of <municipalclerk@townshipofthenorthshore.ca>; Bruce Mines Town of <jdavis@brucemines.ca>; Espanola Town of <jburke@espanola.ca>; Thessalon Town of <debbie@thessalon.ca>; CAO Township of Chapleau <cao@chapleau.ca>; Seguin Township of <info@seguin.ca>; Kari Hanselman <kari.hanselman@eastferris.ca>; The Township of Tarbutt <clerk@tarbutt.ca>; Nigel Black - Municipality of Whitestone <nigel.black@whitestone.ca>; Laird Township of

<info@lairdtownship.ca>; Kevin McIlwain - Carling Township <kmcllwain@carling.ca>; Mac Mer & Aber Additional <laceyk@ontera.net>; Cochrane Town of <townhall@cochraneontario.com>; Calvin Municipality of <cao@calvintownship.ca>; Temagami Municipality of <clerk@temagami.ca>; Spanish Town of <info@townofspanish.com>; Gordon / Barrie Island Township of <adminoffice@gordonbarrieisland.ca>; St. Charles Municipality of <jbarbe@stcharlesontario.ca>; Mac Mer & Aber Twp - Lynne Duguay <twpmacd@onlink.net>; Kelly Warwick <kellywarwick@plummertownship.ca>; Central Manitoulin Township of <ddeforge@centralmanitoulin.ca>; Matachewan Township of <clerktreasurer@matachewan.ca>; Elliot Lake City of <info@city.elliottlake.on.ca>; Andr  e Gagn   <deputyclerk@bonfieldtownship.com>; clerks@greatersudbury.ca; Holly Zahorodny <admin@baldwin.ca>; Nipissing Township of <admin@nipissingtownship.com>; Karen McIsaac <karen.mcisaac@cityofnorthbay.ca>; cbeauvais@municipalityofkillarney.ca; Manuela Botovanja <cao@hornepayne.ca>; Clayton Harris <charris@townofparrysound.com>; Joly Township of <office@townshipofjoly.com>; Clerk <clerk@cochraneontario.com>; Traci Denault-Roque <TDenault@espanola.ca>; Assignack Township of <dmacdonald@assignack.ca>; St. Joseph Township of <clerkadmin@stjosephtownship.com>; Timmins City of <clerks@timmins.ca>; Latchford Town of <jallen@latchford.ca>; accountspayable@whitestone.ca; Strong Township of <clerk@strongtownship.com>; Guylaine Coulombe <gcoulombe@matticevalcote.ca>; Mattawa Town of <clerk@mattawa.ca>; Charlton and Dack Municipality of <bknauth@charltonanddack.com>; Papineau-Cameron Township of <admin@papineaucameron.ca>; rjohnson@townofparrysound.com; James Township of <info@jamestwp.ca>; Mattawan Township of <admin@mattawan.ca>; John Theriault (Clerk-Treasurer Administrator) <clerk@armourtownship.ca>; Nairn and Hyman Twp <nairncentre@personainternet.com>; Val Rita-Harty CAO <cao@valharty.ca>; Chisholm Township of <info@chisholm.ca>; Chris Wray <Chris.Wray@cochraneontario.com>; Blind River - Town of <katie.scott@blindriver.ca>; Coleman Township of <toc@colemantownship.ca>; Espanola Town of <jbouthillette@espanola.ca>; Kearney Town of <admin@townofkearney.ca>; Huron Shores Municipality of <email@huronshores.ca>; Fauquier-Strickland Township of <info@fauquierstrickland.com>; Karlee Britton - Township of McKellar <clerk@mckellar.ca>; 'lkoch@kenora.ca' <lkoch@kenora.ca>; Mayor <mayor@timmins.ca>; Wendy Landry <wlandry@shuniah.org>; Lisa Greer <lisa.greer@timmins.ca>; Catherine Kiewning <CKiewning@dryden.ca>; mpilon@wawa.cc; Lauren Rooyakkers <lauren.rooyakkers@eastferris.ca>

Cc: Cheryl Fort <mayor.fort@hornepayne.ca>

Subject: Northern Ontario Women's Association (NOW Association) | Upholding Women's Rights, Leadership, and Environmental Health in the Implementation of Ontario Bill 5

Good Afternoon,

On behalf of Cheryl Fort, Chair of the Northern Ontario Women's (NOW) Association, please be advised that at the NOW Association's General Membership Meeting held on October 29, 2025, the below resolution concerning the implementation of Bill 5 and the need to protect women's rights, leadership, and environmental health was formally passed.

Resolution: Ensuring Women's Leadership, Safety, and Well-being in Development Under Ontario Bill 5

Subject: Upholding Women's Rights, Leadership, and Environmental Health in the Implementation of Ontario Bill 5

WHEREAS The Government of Ontario has passed Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, aiming to facilitate and accelerate resource development in Northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS Bill 5 presents far-reaching implications for municipalities, First Nations, and Indigenous communities across Northern Ontario—particularly affecting natural ecosystems and regions where women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people have historically borne the brunt of unchecked development and continue to face systemic disparities and heightened risks tied to resource extraction; and

WHEREAS Women are too often included in economic and development decisions as an afterthought, rather than as proactive and central stakeholders, despite their increasing presence in leadership across municipalities, First Nations governments, community services, and economic development organizations; and

WHEREAS The Northern Ontario Women's Association (NOW Association) was founded to ensure that the voices of women—who increasingly occupy leadership roles in municipal councils, First Nations governance, and community planning—are respected, protected, and embedded in all regional development initiatives; and

WHEREAS First Nations of Ontario women continue to be underrepresented at decision-making tables, despite significant leadership: as of recent reports, women hold over 35% of elected Chief positions in First Nations of Ontario, and significantly more leadership positions within community organizations, health, and education boards - positions that bring deep experience in balancing development with community well-being; and

WHEREAS The legacy of natural resource development in Northern Ontario has contributed to environmental degradation and social disruption, including clear links to the ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S); and

WHEREAS The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S) identified extractive industries as a key contributor to increased vulnerability to violence, especially in isolated development zones lacking oversight and safeguards; and

WHEREAS Resource extraction has historically contributed to environmental degradation, increased cost-of-living, housing instability, and elevated levels of gender-based violence, particularly in rural and remote areas; and

WHEREAS Without gender-based and culturally informed planning, development under Bill 5 risks reproducing the same harmful patterns of exclusion, exploitation, and environmental harm that have characterized previous waves of resource development; and

WHEREAS Development under Bill 5 also presents opportunities for women's economic empowerment—including entry into skilled trades, environmental monitoring, and leadership roles in infrastructure and project planning—if such pathways are made intentional, accessible, and equitable; and

WHEREAS Environmental degradation is directly linked to the health and well-being of women and children, particularly in remote and Indigenous communities where access to clean water, healthy food systems, and cultural practices are tied to land-based knowledge; and

WHEREAS The Province of Ontario has an obligation to ensure that economic growth is not achieved at the expense of women's safety, human rights, or environmental integrity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Northern Ontario Women's Association calls on the Province of Ontario to:

1. Ensure that women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people—particularly from Indigenous and Northern communities—are actively engaged at the forefront of all planning, consultation, and implementation processes under Bill 5, from concept to completion;
2. Establish a dedicated Ministerial role or mandate for overseeing and safeguarding women's rights, safety, and economic opportunity throughout the resource development process, including authority to apply gender-based impact assessments to proposed projects;
3. Mandate gender-based and intersectional impact assessments be carried out on all developments enabled by Bill 5, particularly with regard to safety, housing, transportation, healthcare access, and cultural impacts on women and girls;
4. Ensure environmental protections are explicitly tied to community health outcomes, especially for women and children, by investing in environmental monitoring and enforcing strong environmental safeguards tied to traditional ecological knowledge and include community-led, land-based health indicators;

5. Invest in training, apprenticeship, and leadership programs to ensure women and girls—particularly those in remote, Indigenous, and underserved communities—can access opportunities in the skilled trades, environmental sciences, project management, and public service tied to resource development;
6. Recognize and act on the findings of the MMIWG2S Inquiry by implementing protective measures around development zones, including funding for shelters, safe transportation, trauma-informed care, community safety initiatives, and anti-violence strategies embedded in community agreements;
7. Publish annual, public-facing progress reports on the gendered impacts of development under Bill 5, including employment statistics, leadership inclusion, environmental outcomes, and indicators of community safety and wellness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT This resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Energy and Mines, the Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation, the Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, FONOM, NOMA, as well as all Northern Ontario municipalities and First Nations governments.

Motion: Sally Hagman

Second: Melanie Pilon

CARRIED

The Northern Ontario Women's Association (NOW) is a group of local elected officials in Northern Ontario who identify as women, and who want to lead the conversation on priorities and issues that are directly affecting women in the northern region. NOW's membership includes women with diverse professional backgrounds in economic development, locomotive engineering, skilled trades training, health care, employment services, marketing, business management, and more. Many have multi-year experience on municipal council.

Alana Torresan (she/her)
Deputy Clerk

Township of The Archipelago
9 James Street, Parry Sound, Ontario, P2A 1T4
705-746-4243 x 315 | atorresan@thearchipelago.ca



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Municipalité de Val Rita-Harty Municipality

Item #: 12

Personnel responsable / staff: Deputy Clerk

Date : October 10, 2025

pour / for: conseil / Council

Sujet / Re : Dillon Consulting Agreement for 2026 monitoring Landfill Site

Description:

Dillon Consulting Ltd. has submitted their work plan and fee estimate to prepare the 2026 Summary Monitoring Report for the Township of Val Rita-Harty's Landfill Site.

The undertaking includes an annual review of sampling procedures and protocols by the Municipality; annual sampling of the long-term monitoring wells and the additional five shallow wells requested by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks; annual water level measurement in all and preparation of the 2026 Summary Monitoring Report.

Lien avec plan stratégique / Link to Strategic Plan:

The report aligns with the Municipal Strategic Plan by ensuring transparency and accountability.

Recommandation / Recommendation:

THAT the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty Council acknowledges that it has read the Terms of Engagement and authorizes Dillon Consulting Ltd. to proceed with the work described in the Offer of Services letter for the Township of Val Rita-Harty Landfill Site at a cost of \$15,000 (excluding applicable taxes) and FURTHERMORE authorizes the Treasurer to execute the Agreement for Professional Services.

Rapport soumis par / respectfully submitted:

Barbara Major

Deputy Clerk

October 31, 2025

The Corporation of the Township of Val Rita-Harty
30 Municipal Steet
Val Rita, Ontario
P0L 2G0

Attention: Stefan Landry
Public Works Supervisor

2026 Summary Monitoring Report – Township of Val Rita-Harty Landfill Site
Scope of Work

Dillon Consulting Limited (Dillon) is pleased to submit our work plan and fee estimate to prepare the 2026 Summary Monitoring Report for the Township of Val-Rita Harty's (Township's) Landfill Site (Site).

Understanding of the Project

The format of the report will be similar to the previous Summary Monitoring Reports Dillon has completed for the Township. The following modifications will be incorporated, as requested by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) in their letter dated May 18, 2018:

- Shallow groundwater monitoring wells 10-II, 12-II, 15-II, 13-II and 11-II will be added to the annual groundwater quality sampling program and include tabulation, analysis and interpretation of the results.
- Summary of results of the Reasonable Use Criteria (B-7 Guideline) assessment.
- Laboratory Certificates of Analysis.

Details of monitoring well rehabilitation and replacement work, if completed, will be reported in the 2025-2029 Comprehensive Monitoring Report [future work to be completed under a separate scope of work]. Should the MECP require additional work to be completed at the Site, this will be incorporated into the monitoring program at an additional cost, provided that a scope change and budget be provided to the Township for approval before undertaking the additional work.

Scope of Work

The major tasks of the 2026 work plan include the following:

- **Task 1:** Annual review of sampling procedures and protocols with Township staff.
- **Task 2:** Annual sampling of the long-term monitoring wells, including the additional five shallow wells requested by the MECP. Samples will be analyzed



235 Yorkland
Blvd.
Suite 700
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M2J 4Y8
Telephone
416.229.4646

Dillon Consulting
Limited



using a Special Water Analysis (SWA) Package. This package includes metals, major anions and general water quality parameters.

- **Task 3:** Annual water level measurement in all (i.e., not just the ones where groundwater samples are collected) available monitoring wells at the Site in conjunction with the annual sampling event.
- **Task 4:** Preparation of the 2026 Summary Monitoring Report summarizing the monitoring data and recommendations.

Details of the tasks identified above are provided in the sections below.

Task 1, 2 and 3 – Sampling Event and Water Level Monitoring

A review of sampling procedures and protocols will be conducted with Township staff prior to the annual sampling event. A Site visit is not warranted for this review; it will be conducted remotely via telephone/email.

The long-term monitoring wells, including the five additional shallow monitoring wells requested by the MECP, will be sampled. Water samples will be sent along with the chain of custody to an accredited laboratory for analysis of SWA parameters. Water levels will be measured in all available monitoring wells at the Site. Township staff will be responsible for completing this field work. Dillon staff will be responsible for coordinating and providing direction for the field work but will not visit the Site. It is noted that the Township will be responsible for any Health and Safety measures and plans for their staff during the collection of the samples.

Task 4 – Preparation of the 2026 Annual Monitoring Report

A letter report summarizing the 2026 monitoring data will be prepared. This report will be in a similar format to previous summary monitoring reports, and will include the following:

- 2026 laboratory analysis report.
- A summary of the Reasonable Use Criteria (B-7 Guideline) assessment results for the current year.
- A historical summary table of monitoring results.
- A cover letter providing analysis and interpretation of the data. The letter will summarize the results for the current year and provide conclusions and recommendations for the Site.



We have budgeted for one update to the draft report based on receiving one set of consolidated comments from the Township prior to submitting to the MECP. We have not budgeted for follow-up calls or work that may be required to address comments that the MECP may have. Should the MECP require a call or changes to the document, we would submit a scope change for approval prior to undertaking additional work.

Schedule

The 2026 Summary Monitoring Report will be submitted to the MECP by March 31, 2027. Two weeks before March 31, 2027, Dillon will provide the Township with a draft report for review and comments. Dillon will submit the report to the MECP via e-mail.

Assistance Required from the Township

Township staff are expected to be made available by the Township for the measurement of groundwater levels, purging of wells prior to sampling, and the collection of groundwater samples and mailing the samples to the lab. Coordination and workplans will be provided by Dillon staff, who will also arrange for chemical analysis of the groundwater samples by an accredited laboratory.

Fees

Dillon will complete the above-mentioned scope of work for a lump sum fee of **\$15,000**, excluding applicable taxes. Dillon will invoice monthly based on a percentage of project progress. The breakdown of costs is shown in **Table 1**, and reflects updated costs based on previous years programs, as well as updated 2026/ 2027 rates.

Table 1: Proposed Fees

Task	Description	Labour	Disbursements	Total Fee
1,2,3	Sampling Event	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$6,500
4	2026 Annual Report / Project Management and Coordination	\$8,500	-	\$8,500
Total Cost (excluding applicable taxes)		\$11,000	\$4,000	\$15,000



Assumptions

Our fee estimate assumes that no additional work will be required as a result of MECP review comments on the current report. The proposal assumes that all field work and site visits will be completed by Township Staff, and that the Dillon tasks are desktop based, and do not required travel.

Authorization

Dillon's policies require written authorization to proceed prior to commencing work. Please review the attached *Agreement for Professional Services, and Terms of Engagement*. To acknowledge that you have read, understood and accept these terms that apply to our services and to provide written authorization to proceed, please sign and return one copy of this full document including the *Agreement for Professional Services, and Terms of Engagement*, to the undersigned.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit our work plan and fees for the 2026 Summary Monitoring Report. If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned, Sara Sadowy at ssadowy@dillon.ca or (403) 215-8880.

Sincerely,

DILLON CONSULTING LIMITED

Sara Sadowy, EIT
Project Manager, Associate

SS:lld

Encl. Agreement for Professional Services, and Terms of Engagement

Our file: MN93WM2-002-01 / 518991

Commercial Confidentiality Statement

This document contains trade secrets or scientific, technical, commercial, financial and labour or employee relations information which is considered to be confidential to Dillon Consulting Limited ("Dillon"). Dillon does not consent to the disclosure of this information to any third party or person not in your employ. Additionally, you should not disclose such confidential information to anyone in your organization except on a "need-to-know" basis and after such individual has agreed to maintain the confidentiality of the information and with the understanding that you remain responsible for the maintenance of such confidentiality by people within your organization. If the head or any other party within any government institution intends to disclose this information, or any part thereof, then Dillon requires that it first be notified of that intention. Such notice should be addressed to: Dillon Consulting Limited, 235 Yorkland Boulevard, Suite 800, Toronto, Ontario M2J4Y8, Attention: Legal Department.

AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

1. This Agreement for Professional Services (this "Agreement") is between DILLON CONSULTING LIMITED ("Dillon"), and _____ (*Client to insert full legal name*) (the "Client").
2. The Client is a: (***Please check the appropriate box and provide the requested information***)
 - ☐ Corporation incorporated under the laws of _____ (*insert jurisdiction of incorporation*);
 - ☐ Partnership having the following general partners _____ (*list all general partners*);
 - ☐ Sole Proprietorship; or
 - ☐ Other (please specify) _____.
3. The Client acknowledges that it has read, understood and accepts the following attachments which form part of this Agreement:
 - A. Terms of Engagement (dated December 21, 2015).
 - B. Offer of Services Letter from Dillon (dated: **October 31, 2025**).
 - 2026 Summary Monitoring Report – Township of Val Rita-Harty Landfill Site**
 - C. Other:
 - i) NONE
 - ii) _____
 - iii) _____
4. The Client agrees to the following additions or amendments to the attached Terms of Engagement:
 - A. The laws of Ontario shall govern all matters arising out of this agreement and the venue for any related litigation will be Toronto.
5. The Client:
 - A. Authorizes Dillon to proceed with the work described in the Offer of Services Letter;
 - B. Acknowledges that it has had the opportunity to read, discuss and negotiate the attached Terms of Engagement prior to executing this Agreement;
 - C. Agrees to be bound by and comply with the provisions of this Agreement, the attached Terms of Engagement and Offer of Services Letter, and any other attachments to this Agreement;
 - D. Agrees that the signing of a facsimile copy or portable document format (PDF) copy of this Agreement and any amendments thereto shall have the same effect as the signing of an original; and
 - E. Agrees that the retention of an electronic version of this agreement is permitted and that the subsequent production of an electronic version of this document shall be treated as if it was the production of an original signed copy.

DILLON CONSULTING LIMITED:

Per: _____
I/We have authority to bind Dillon.

Name: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

Per: _____
I/We have authority to bind Dillon.

Name: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

THE CLIENT:

Per: _____
I/We have authority to bind the Client.

Name: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

Per: _____
I/We have authority to bind the Client.

Name: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

DILLON CONSULTING LIMITED - TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

These terms of engagement govern the services to be provided by Dillon Consulting Limited ("Dillon") to the Client and constitute part of the agreement for services between Dillon and the Client (the "Agreement"). By accepting Dillon's offer of services, the Client agrees to be bound by and comply with these terms of engagement.

1. Warranty

1.1 Dillon warrants that it will perform its services with the standard of due care and diligence usually practised by the consulting profession, at the time that the services are rendered. The Client acknowledges and agrees that all other warranties, representations or remedies, express or implied, except the warranty for loss of the work required under Section 2118 of the Civil Code of Quebec are excluded and the Client agrees to waive any right, remedy or cause of action it may have with respect to such warranties, representations or remedies. In addition, the Client agrees to defend and indemnify Dillon from all other liability, including but not limited to liability for direct, incidental or consequential damages arising in connection with Dillon's actions, whether such liability arises in contract, tort or otherwise.

2. Limitation of Liability

2.1 Dillon's liability to the Client and all claimants not party to this agreement shall be limited to injury or loss caused by negligence of Dillon and/or sub-consultants for which it is responsible. The total amount of Dillon's liability for said negligence shall not exceed the lesser of \$50,000.00 or Dillon's fees for this project in total for all claims, costs and expenses and the Client hereby waives all claims in excess of this amount howsoever arising including any claim for contribution and indemnity which the Client may have against Dillon. The Client irrevocably and unconditionally agrees to defend, indemnify and hold Dillon harmless from all claims and expenses associated therewith resulting from claims brought by other parties in excess of the aforesaid limit.

2.2 Increased liability limits may be negotiated prior to the commencement of services by Dillon upon the prior written request of the Client, the payment of an additional fee as determined by Dillon, and the prior written agreement of Dillon.

3. Confidentiality

3.1 Documents prepared by Dillon and provided to the Client (the "Dillon Documents"), such as proposal documentation, reports and any documentation containing professional advice, are intended exclusively for the purposes, project and site locations outlined in those documents. The information contained in any Dillon Document may not be appropriate for other uses by the Client or for use by third parties and any such use or reuse is at the sole risk of the user.

3.2 Certain Dillon Documents contain confidential information which is the intellectual property of Dillon and which is provided to the Client solely for the purposes outlined in the document. The Client shall not provide any such confidential information to any other person, or use the information in a manner other than prescribed in the Dillon Document or Documents without the prior written consent of Dillon.

4. Provision of Relevant Information

4.1 The Client shall provide Dillon with all relevant information of which the Client is aware and which may be required by Dillon to perform its services for the Client. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, if the Client has knowledge of or suspects that hazardous materials may exist at any site at which services are to be performed by Dillon, the Client shall provide this information promptly to Dillon in writing.

4.2 Dillon shall not be responsible or liable for any incorrect or inadequate advice, report, recommendation, finding, decision or conduct based either directly or indirectly on inaccurate or inadequate information supplied by the Client.

5. Site Access, Subterranean Structures and Utilities

5.1 The Client shall grant or obtain free and ready access to each project site at which Dillon is to perform services for the Client. The Client shall notify all owners and occupiers of property at the project site that Dillon is to be granted free and ready access to the site.

5.2 Unless otherwise agreed in writing by Dillon and the Client, the Client shall delineate accurately on the Client's property all subterranean structures and utilities. The Client assumes sole and complete responsibility for any damage or injury caused to any person, property, subterranean structures or utilities because of incorrect or inadequate information provided to Dillon and the Client agrees to indemnify, defend and hold Dillon harmless from any claim or liability for injury or loss resulting from such damage or injury.

6. Samples

6.1 Unless otherwise agreed in writing, all samples obtained by Dillon, including soil cores, may be discarded by Dillon within 30 days after submission of Dillon's report to the Client. A mutually agreed storage fee will be charged to the Client for any samples stored longer than this 30 day period.

6.2 If any of the samples contain substances or constituents that Dillon believes may be hazardous or detrimental to the environment or human health and safety, Dillon may, at the Client's expense, return such samples to the Client or dispose of the samples in a manner deemed appropriate by Dillon.

7. Force Majeure

7.1 Notwithstanding any other provision of the Agreement, Dillon shall not be deemed in breach of the Agreement or liable for any failure or delay in performing any of its obligations under the Agreement, if the failure or delay is caused directly or indirectly by any event or circumstance beyond Dillon's control, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, acts of God, government or civil or military authority, inclement weather, fire, flood, labour trouble, failure of transportation, accident, act or omission of the Client or anyone employed or engaged directly or indirectly by the Client, or the discovery of hazardous or potentially hazardous materials or situations at or near the project site.

7.2 Where an event or circumstance of the kind referred to in Clause 7.1 arises, Dillon may, at its option, extend the period of time for completion of the Agreement or terminate the Agreement.

8. Payment

8.1 Unless otherwise stipulated in this agreement for services, the Client shall pay Dillon for its services as follows (applicable taxes are extra):

- (a) fees shall be paid on the basis of Dillon's current schedule of standard flat hourly rates;
- (b) routine expenses and disbursements (communications, local travel, project office supplies, production of routine documents/drawings, courier/messenger services, standard software/computer costs, and similar items) shall be paid at a standard rate of 8% of fees;
- (c) other project-related expenses and disbursements (sub-consultant/sub-contractor charges, travel beyond local area, living expenses when away from home office, advertising costs, testing services, use of specialized equipment or software, approval/permit/licence fees, project specific insurance, production of tender or other non-routine documents, and similar items) shall be paid at cost plus a 5% administration fee;
- (d) payment shall be made within thirty days of the date of Dillon's invoice;
- (e) interest shall be paid by the Client at an annual rate equivalent to the average bank prime rate plus 4% on all amounts unpaid within 30 days of the date of Dillon's invoice, with payment to be applied first to accrued interest and then to the unpaid principal amount.

9. Independent Professional Services Consultant

9.1 Unless otherwise agreed in writing by Dillon and the Client, it is acknowledged that Dillon is an independent professional services consultant in performing services under this agreement, and accordingly it is further acknowledged that Dillon is an independent contractor.

10. Defects in Service

10.1 The Client shall promptly report to Dillon any defects or suspected defects in Dillon's work or services of which the Client becomes aware, so that Dillon may take measures to minimize the consequences of such defects. Failure by the Client to notify Dillon in a timely manner shall relieve Dillon of the costs of remedying the defects above the sum such remedy would have cost had prompt notification been given. No unilateral withholdings, deductions or offsets shall be made from Dillon's compensation for any defects or suspected defects unless Dillon has been found legally liable for such amounts.

11. Suspension of Services

11.1 If the Client fails to make payments when due, or otherwise is in breach of the Agreement, Dillon may suspend performance of services upon five (5) calendar days' notice to the Client. Dillon shall have no liability whatsoever to the Client for any costs or damages as a result of such suspension.

12. Agreement

12.1 These terms of engagement govern the services to be provided by Dillon under the Agreement, shall be amended only by the written agreement of Dillon's authorized representative and the Client, and shall not be altered or supplemented by any other understanding or agreement. The Client waives its right to unilateral rescission of contract under the Civil Code of Quebec and undertakes not to seek termination of the Agreement during the term of the Agreement.

12.2 The Agreement, of which these terms of engagement form a part, shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the province or territory of jurisdiction named on the Agreement for Professional Services.

12.3 Titles and section headings are for convenience of reference only and shall not be considered in interpreting the text of the terms of engagement.

12.4 If any clause in these terms of engagement is held illegal, invalid or unenforceable in whole or in part, the remaining clauses shall not be impaired and shall remain in full force and effect. All limitations of liability, releases, indemnities and similar provisions shall survive termination of the Agreement for any cause, and shall apply even in the event of the fault, negligence or other liability of Dillon, and shall extend to the officers, directors, employees and agents of Dillon.

Revised December 21, 2015



Municipalité de Val Rita-Harty Municipality

Item #: 4.1

Personnel responsable / staff: Deputy Clerk

Date : November 18, 2025

pour / for: conseil / Council

Sujet / Re : Agreement with Intelivote Systems Inc. for evoting services

Description:

At the October 21, 2025 regular meeting, by means of Resolution #25-137, Council approved Internet and Telephone Voting for the 2026 Municipal and School Board elections. Council directed that the necessary bylaw and agreement contract be prepared. The bylaw forms part of the current agenda package. Approval is required to authorize the Deputy Clerk to enter into an agreement with Intelivote Systems Inc.

Lien avec plan stratégique / Link to Strategic Plan:

The report aligns with the Municipal Strategic Plan by ensuring transparency, accountability and communication.

Recommandation / Recommendation:

THAT the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty Council authorize the Deputy Clerk to enter into an agreement with Intelivote Systems Inc. for Internet and Telephone Voting (eVoting) at a cost of \$4,313 (plus applicable taxes).

Financial Implications: 2026 Budget

Rapport soumis par / Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Major

Deputy Clerk



Municipalité de Val Rita-Harty Municipality

Item #: 4.1

Personnel responsable / staff: Dan Gagnon-E4m

Date

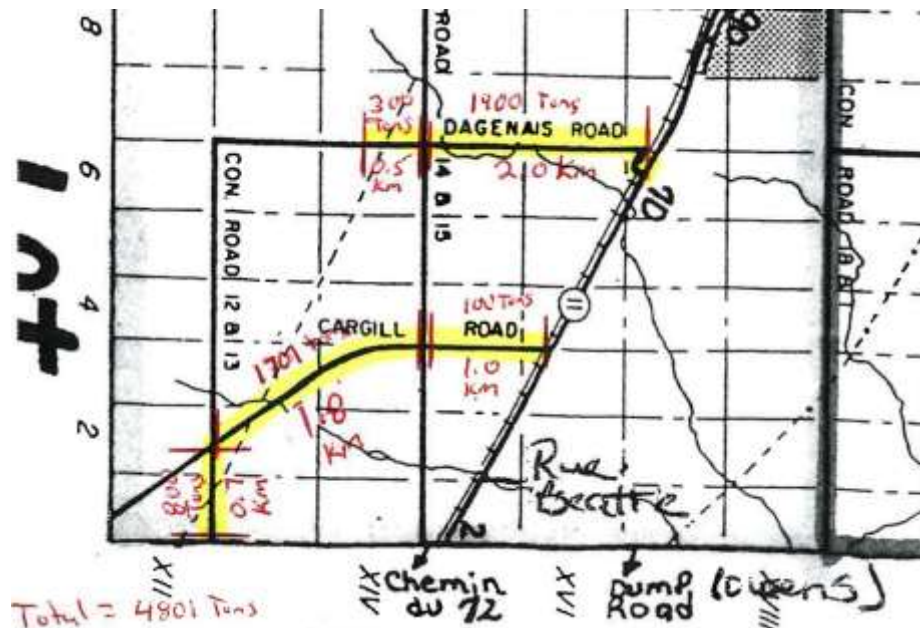
pour / for: conseil / Council

Sujet / Re : Provincial NORDS funding and Gravel project

Description:

The province has provided funding known as the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) Fund annually over five years to municipalities in Northern Ontario to support investments in local infrastructure. Val Rita Harty has used the funds in the past 4 years in varying degrees. In 2025, there remained a balance of approximately \$118,000 of the funding that needed to be used before March 31, 2026. VRH tendered for gravel prices in the spring of 2025 (\$24.35 / ton). The grant covers 100% of eligible costs (ie. using these funds has no impact on the municipal tax or water levies). The NORDS funding cannot be used for water infrastructure.

The tendered price for gravel was used and Public Works arranged for 4801 tons of gravel to be laid on approx. 6 kms of Dagenais, Cargill and Concession 12&13 – see map below). The gravel was laid in early November.



Recommendation:

THAT Council approve the use of \$118,838.10 of NORDS funding for gravel on rural roads using the 2025 tendered rates; and

THAT the Treasurer be authorized to utilize the NORDS funding from the reserve and from 2025 NORDS outstanding funding to be received; and

THAT the remaining project costs be taken from the 2025 general account to cover the expense; and

FURTHERMORE that the 2025 budget be amended to reflect this project.



Municipalité de Val Rita-Harty Municipality

Item #: 16

Personnel responsable / staff: Deputy Clerk

Date : November 18, 2025

pour / for: conseil / Council

Sujet / Re : ROMA Conference-January 18-January 20, 2026

Description:

The annual Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference is being hosted in Toronto January 18-20, 2026. Previously the Township of Val Rita-Harty Council has authorized attendance by the Mayor and one Councillor.

The deadline for delegation requests is November 18, 2026 and these requests have been submitted to several Ministers/Ministries. Topics for presentation are Request for Additional Provincial Funding for the Val Rita Water Treatment Facility Rehabilitation Project and Highway 11 closure regarding enforcement failure and resulting municipal road damage.

Direction from Council in terms of which Councillor will be attending with Mayor Baril is required to undertake registration.

Lien avec plan stratégique / Link to Strategic Plan:

The report aligns with the Municipal Strategic Plan by ensuring transparency and accountability.

Recommandation / Recommendation:

THAT the Municipality of Val Rita-Harty Council approves the attendance of Mayor Baril and Councillor _____ to the ROMA conference being held in Toronto January 18-20, 2026.

Financial Implications:

Conference costs – 2026 budget

Rapport soumis par / respectfully submitted:

Barbara Major, Deputy Clerk

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VAL RITA HARTY

BYLAW NUMBER 1225-25

BEING A BYLAW TO CONFIRM THE PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

Legal Authority

Scope of Powers

Section 8(1) of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, ("*Municipal Act*") as amended, provides that the powers of a municipality shall be interpreted broadly so as to confer broad authority on municipalities to enable them to govern their affairs as they consider appropriate, and to enhance their ability to respond to municipal issues.

Powers of a Natural Person

Section 9 of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipality has the capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person for the purpose of exercising its authority under this or any other Act.

Powers Exercised by Council

Section 5 (1) of the *Municipal Act* provides that the powers of a municipality shall be exercised by its Council

Powers Exercised by By-law

Section 5(3) of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipal power, including a municipality's capacity, rights, powers and privileges under section 9, shall be exercised by bylaw unless the municipality is specifically authorized to do otherwise.

Preamble

Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of Val Rita Harty ("Council") acknowledges that many of the decisions it makes during a meeting of Council, regular, special, or otherwise, are done by resolution. Section 5 (3) requires that Council exercise their powers by Bylaw.

Council further acknowledges that the passing of resolutions are more expedient than adopting Bylaws for each decision.

Decision

Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Val Rita Harty decides it in the best interest of the Corporation to confirm its decisions by way of Confirmatory Bylaw.

Direction

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Val Rita Harty directs as follows:

1. The Confirmatory Period of this By-Law shall be for the Regular Council meeting of November 18, 2025.
2. All By-Laws passed by the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Val Rita Harty during the period mentioned in Section 1 are hereby ratified and confirmed.
3. All resolutions passed by the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Val Rita Harty during the period mentioned in Section 1 are hereby ratified and confirmed.
4. All other proceedings, decisions, and directives of the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Val Rita Harty during the period mentioned in Section 1 are hereby ratified and confirmed.
5. This Bylaw takes effect on the day of its final passing.

Read and adopted by Resolution 25-163 this 18th Day of November 2025.

Mayor

Deputy Clerk