

2006 Census Research Paper Series



#1 – The Changing Population of Northern Ontario: 2001 to 2006

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Prepared for the Local Boards of Northern Ontario



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background to the Report:

This study has been prepared for the 5 Local Boards in Northern Ontario and the Algoma Workforce Investment Committee. Due to the particular economic conditions in Northern Ontario, it is very important for the Northern Boards to properly understand the demographic trends occurring in their region. This is the first research report in a series that examines the current trends in Northern Ontario using data from the 2006 Census. Based on concerns expressed in the Trends, Opportunities, and Priorities (TOP) Reports, this report attempts to measure the extent of population change in Northern Ontario.

Methodology:

This report is based on newly released data from the 2006 Census as prepared by Statistics Canada. Data is also used from other Census years as compiled by Statistics Canada.

Findings:

Based on analysis of 2006 Census data on population, there appears to be six main population trends occurring in Northern Ontario.

1. The first is that the population has stabilized. Statistically speaking the population of Northern Ontario was virtually the same in 2006 as it was in 2001.
2. Northern Ontario is still shrinking as a percentage of the population of Ontario. In 2001 Northern Ontario represented 6.9% of the total population of Ontario. By 2006 this percentage was down to under 6.5%.
3. High growth rates in most Aboriginal communities in Northern Ontario show these communities continue to be the most dynamic in the region. Average growth rates for these communities increased to 16.5%.
4. Another noticeable trend is a return of growth to the largest urban centres. The urban areas of North Bay, Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, and Thunder Bay all saw their population grow during this period.
5. Population figures also indicate mining dependent communities were better off than forest dependent communities. While there were exceptions, several mining communities across the North saw growth from 2001 to 2006 while many forest dependent communities continued to experience declines.
6. Those communities that are closest to the urban centres of Southern Ontario tended to have growth as opposed to decline.

Section One: Introduction

1.1 Background to the Report

This study has been prepared for the 5 Local Boards in Northern Ontario and the Algoma Workforce Investment Committee. The Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound Local Training and Adjustment Board (Local Board #20), the Sudbury and Manitoulin Workforce Partnerships Board (Local Board #21), the Far Northeast Training Board (Local Board #23), the North Superior Training Board (Local Board #24) and the Northwest Training and Adjustment Board (Local Board #25) are among the 21 Local Training and Adjustment Boards established in Ontario in 1994.¹ These Boards were created to assist in assessing the workforce development needs and issues of each area. Each Local Board is made up of representatives of the key labour market partner groups; primarily business and labour, but also including educators and trainers, Aboriginal groups, women, persons with disabilities, francophones, racial minorities and youth. The Boards are sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

The 2001 Census Research Series produced by the Northern Boards from 2002 to 2004 showed that Northern Ontario is a region undergoing important transformations. Economic growth in Northern Ontario has been significantly less than the provincial average since the 1970s. Since workforce development is seen as crucial to economic development by most people in the region, regional Boards are therefore necessarily involved in economic development discussions. Population trends are an indicator of economic development. These trends also have an important impact on future development decisions. It, therefore, becomes very important for the Local Boards of Northern Ontario to understand what population trends exist in their region.

The present study attempts to compare population trends identified in the 2001 Census Research Series population report with those found in the 2006 Census data.² That report identified four main population trends occurring between 1996 and 2001. The most important trend was a general decline in population. It occurred in the major urban areas of the region as well as the non-Aboriginal resource-dependent communities of the region. Pulp and paper towns, sawmill towns, and mining towns all decreased in size although the extent of the decrease varied from community to community. The next trend was relatively high rates of growth due to natural increase in the Aboriginal communities of the region. Overall, the average rate of growth for these communities was 5.9% in Northern Ontario. While this growth rate was slightly less than the 6.1% growth rate for Ontario, it was substantially higher than the 4% growth rate for Canada. Another trend was a slow increase in the cottage country communities closest to the major urban areas of Southern Ontario. This was clearly seen in the Muskoka District Municipality but also in some communities in the District of Parry Sound. Finally, some growth was seen in the suburban areas surrounding the largest urban centres of Northern Ontario. Those townships with lakefront appeared to have the most growth.

Section Two: Background to Population Change in Northern Ontario

2.1 Introduction to Northern Ontario

Northern Ontario comprises more than 88% of the land mass of Ontario but represents only 6.5% of the total population of the province (2006 Census). This percentage represents a decrease from 6.9% in 2001. As the region has no legislated boundaries, the definition of the region varies, especially as concerns its southern border. Currently, for the purpose of programming and statistical analysis, the provincial government has defined Northern Ontario as comprising the City of Greater Sudbury and the following districts: Kenora, Rainy River, Thunder Bay, Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Sudbury, Timiskaming, Nipissing, and Parry Sound. In 2000, the Ontario government decided to also include the Muskoka District Municipality in its definition of Northern Ontario. This inclusion was somewhat problematic in that the socio-economic characteristics of the Muskoka District Municipality differ from that of the other Districts in Northern Ontario. In 2004 the government changed the definition to once again exclude the Muskoka District Municipality. For the purposes of FedNor programming, the federal government continues to include the Muskoka District Municipality in its operational definition of Northern Ontario. In the 2001 Census Research Series, the Muskoka District Municipality was included in statistics relating to Northern Ontario. Due to the recent change in definition by the provincial government, 2006-based reports will exclude the Muskoka District Municipality from statistics relating to Northern Ontario. Comparisons between the data presented in the previous reports need to take this change in definition into account. The Muskoka district will however be included in statistics related to Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound Local Training and Adjustment Board (Board #20).

The history of continuous settlement by non-Natives in Northern Ontario is relatively recent when compared to the rest of Ontario. Settlement in earnest started with the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the late 1870s and 1880s. This was soon followed by the construction of the Canadian Northern Railway and the Grand Trunk and National Transcontinental Railways. Most non-Aboriginal communities in the region were initially railway towns.

Following the building of the railways, the region's growth has been driven primarily by the forest industry and by mining. The development of communities was, for the most part, undertaken by large resource extraction corporations based outside the region rather than by local entrepreneurs. This fact has meant that the social and economic structure of this region exhibits several unique characteristics.³

The first of these characteristics relates to an overdependence on natural resource exploitation. This has meant a high degree of vulnerability to resource depletion, world commodity prices,

corporate policy changes, the boom and bust cycles of the resource industries, changes in the Canadian exchange rate, and changes in government policies regarding Northern Ontario.⁴

The second characteristic is a high degree of dependency on external forces. The fact that most communities were developed by outside forces means that local entrepreneurship has been more limited than in other areas. This has served as a barrier to the cultivation of an entrepreneurial culture in these communities. This dependence is also seen in the area of political decision-making. Unlike most areas of Ontario, Northern Ontario is made up of Districts instead of Counties. Unlike Counties, Districts do not have regional governments. Northern Ontario is unique in Ontario in that unlike the Counties of Southern Ontario there is no regional government serving as an intermediary between the provincial government and municipalities.⁵

While all communities in the region share some common characteristics, Northern Ontario can be divided internally into three different types of communities:

Small and Medium-sized cities - Northern Ontario includes 5 cities with over 40,000 inhabitants. They are, in order of size, Sudbury (157,857), Thunder Bay (109,140), Sault Ste. Marie (74,948), North Bay (53,966), and Timmins (42,997).⁶ While these centres are heavily dependent on resource industries they are also relatively diversified in that they tend to be important centres for health, education, and other services for the outlying regions.

Resource Dependent Communities - The vast majority of the remaining non-Aboriginal communities in the region are resource dependent communities, or single industry towns, which share many distinct characteristics.⁷ These communities are smaller and less diversified economically than the small and medium-sized cities. They are much more directly dependent on resource industries.

Aboriginal Communities - The region of Northern Ontario is unique in terms of its large number of Aboriginal communities. The Aboriginal population makes up almost 8 percent of the population of the region.⁸ The population in the area of the region north of the 50th parallel is almost entirely made up of these communities. Aboriginal communities face the greatest number of social and economic challenges of all the communities in the region.

2.2 Socio-Economic Trends Identified in Previous Trends, Opportunities, and Priorities (TOP) Reports

As part of their planning process the Boards are mandated to produce a Trends, Opportunities, and Priorities (TOP) Report for their particular area every year. A TOP Report is just one aspect of a broader framework of activities undertaken by the Boards each year. It forms the basis for the Local Boards' planning processes and enables the Boards to engage the community in helping to identify and act upon training and adjustment needs in the local labour market.

TOP Reports produced by the Boards since 2004 have indicated the following trends in the region:⁹

- a slow but constant regional population decline
- a slow but increasing aging of the population when compared to Ontario
- high rates of youth out-migration
- a dependence on natural resource exploitation industries and a lack of secondary industries
- lower education and literacy levels when compared to Ontario
- high levels of unemployment
- shortages in trades, healthcare, and technology occupations
- low levels of in-migration and few recent immigrants
- recent declines in the forest industry
- lower levels of participation rates for women in the labour force
- growth in the regional Aboriginal population

Section 3: Methodology

This report attempts to describe the current state of population change in Northern Ontario. It will compare trends from 2001 to 2006 to those found in the 2001 Census Research reports and to trends identified in the TOP reports. This report is based on newly released data from the 2006 Census as prepared by Statistics Canada. Data is also used from other Census years as compiled by Statistics Canada.

Data for Northern Ontario from both the 1996, 2001 and 2006 Census is from special profiles ordered from Statistics Canada by the researcher. Data from the 1991 and 1986 Census was downloaded from the Census Profiles CDs created by Statistics Canada. Data from the 1981, 1976, and 1971 Census were copied from the print versions of census profiles of communities in Ontario prepared by Statistics Canada.

3.1 Potential problems with our method

Our method has two potential problems which must be mentioned: the “random rounding” technique used by Statistics Canada, and problems with data for Aboriginal communities in Northern Ontario. Sampling error is not a serious issue with the data being used because population data, in theory, covers 100% of households.¹⁰

The first potential problem is the use of random rounding by Statistics Canada in its census data.¹¹ In order to ensure confidentiality, census data is round up or down to the nearest 5 count. This has an insignificant effect on large numbers. On very small numbers however this process can introduce a significant degree of error. This limits our ability to be confident about the exact number of people for very small communities in Northern Ontario.

The other problem is related to the counting, or non-counting, of Aboriginal communities.¹² The population figures for the census divisions in Northern Ontario are not as reliable as the census divisions in most of Ontario. This is due to the large number of Aboriginal communities which, for various reasons, are improperly counted. If Statistics Canada cannot properly count a community, the population of that community is not included in the population totals for that census division. As a result, in past censuses, the population figures for almost all the census divisions in Northern Ontario are incomplete. Another problem which arises is comparing these figures from census year to census year. In 2001, Statistics Canada was much more successful in counting the populations of the Aboriginal communities in Northern Ontario than they were in 1996. As a result, many more communities were included in the 2001 Census than were excluded in the 1996 Census. This makes it difficult to compare the figures for 2001 and 1996.

The same is true for comparisons of figures from the 2006 census. Data for Northern Ontario shows only one community that was not counted in either 2006 or 2001, Bear Island 1 in the District of Nipissing. Seven additional communities with population were counted in the 2006 Census but not the 2001 Census: Goulais Bay 15A and Rankin Location 15D in the District of Algoma; Ojibway Nation of Saugeen (Savant Lake) and Whitesand in the District of Thunder Bay; and Marten Falls 65, Pikangikum 14, and Whitefish Bay 32A in the District of Kenora. Three communities were counted in 2001 but not in 2006: Factory Island 1 in the District of Cochrane, and Attawapiskat 91A and Fort Severn 89 in the District of Kenora.

As was the case in our analysis of the 2001 Census data, the population figures for Northern Ontario have been adjusted to try to deal with these inconsistencies. For those communities whose populations were excluded from the 2001 Census, an estimated population figure has been calculated and added to the figure for Northern Ontario. This calculation is based on the average change in the population of all those Aboriginal communities which were included in both the 2006 Census and 2001 Census (16.5%). If a community was included in 2006 but not in 2001, a population figure for 2001 was estimated by multiplying the 2006 figure by .835. For those few communities who were included in 2001 but excluded from the 2006 Census, the 2001 population figure was multiplied by 1.165.

Section Four: Changes in the Population Since 2001

4.1 Population Changes in Canada

The growth rate of the Canadian population between 2001 and 2006 was 5.4%.¹³ This represents an increase from the previous five year period when from 1996 to 2001 the Canadian population grew by only 4%. This rate of growth was the highest of the G8 countries including the United States. Most of the population growth in Canada during this period was the result of

immigration. Fully two-thirds of the population increase was due to people coming to Canada. Only one third was due to natural increase. This trend is different from that of the United States where 60% of their population growth is explained by natural increase.

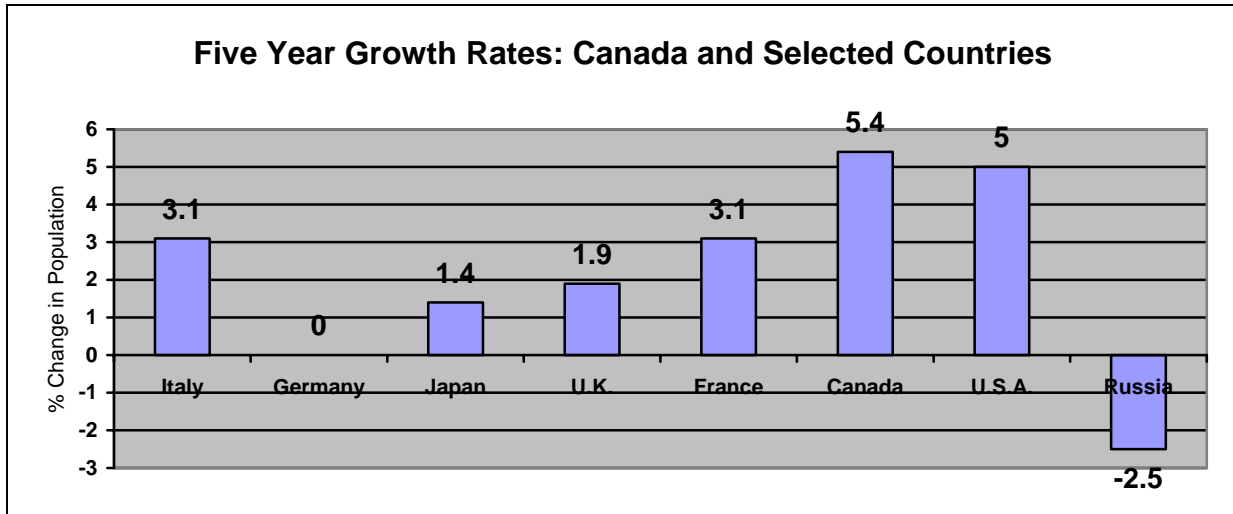


Figure 1 Source: Statistics Canada, *Portrait of the Canadian Population in 2006, 2006 Census, 2006 Census Analysis Series, Catalogue no. 97-550-XIE, March, 2007.*

Over two-thirds of Canada’s growth in population occurred in Ontario and Alberta. Alberta was the province with the highest growth rate at 10.6% followed by Ontario with an increase of 6.6%. For Ontario, this represents an increase in the growth rate from the previous 5-year period. From 1996 to 2001 Ontario grew by 6.1%. Ontario’s growth rate has been fairly steady over the past 15 years at just over 6%.

As was the case in the period from 1996 to 2001, most of the population growth occurred in the largest urban areas of Canada. The four regions with growth rates higher than the national average are all concentrated around major metropolitan centres: the southern parts of Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia, and the Calgary-Red Deer-Edmonton corridor of Alberta. Rural areas continued to see lower than average rates of growth or population decline. According to Statistics Canada,

Since 2001, most rural areas grew at a slower pace than the country as a whole or, in some cases, suffered a population decline. In general, these areas are located far from the country’s large urban centres. In most cases, they have natural resource-based economies, such as fishing, agriculture, forestry and mining.¹⁴

Over two-thirds of the population of Canada lived in Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs), urban areas with a population of 100,000 or more. At the same time, not all of these urban areas experienced rapid growth. Of 33 CMAs, 15 had rates of growth higher than the national norm.

Of these 15, six are found in the Golden Horseshoe area of southern Ontario. Almost half of Canada's population now live in the three largest urban areas: the Montreal census metropolitan area, the Vancouver census metropolitan area, and the Golden Horseshoe area. Much of the growth in these urban areas occurred in the suburban areas of these centres. The growth rates of peripheral municipalities surrounding central municipalities were twice that of the national average.

Statistics Canada lists the population figures for 111 census agglomerations (CAs), also known as mid-sized urban centres. These are centres with an urban core of at least 10,000. The average population growth for these urban communities was 4%, less than that of the nation as a whole. Most of the fastest growing CAs are located either in Alberta or within 100 kilometres of the Toronto, Montreal, or Vancouver CMAs. According to Statistics Canada, most of those CAs who experienced population declines "are located in areas whose economy depends partly or completely on the exploitation of natural resources, especially forests."¹⁵

Small town and rural areas of Canada, those with a population of less than 10,000 people, experienced an overall growth rate of 1% from 2001 to 2006. Just under 20% of the Canadian population lived in these areas in 2006. Growth rates between these areas varied considerably. Those with the highest growth rates tend to be relatively close to large urban centres. Rural and small town communities close to large urban centres, where 30% of the labour force commutes to the urban centre, had average growth rates of 4.7%. Those rural and small town communities outside commuting distance from a large urban centre had average rate of population decline of 0.1% in 2006. Of this last group of areas, those who are in close proximity to resort locations and those that are dominated by an aboriginal population are the ones that tend to have the highest rates of growth.

Ontario's population grew by over 750,000 people between 2001 and 2006. This represented half of all the population growth in Canada. Most of Ontario's growth came from international immigration. Over 600,000 immigrants settled in Ontario from 2001 to 2006. Over 84% of Ontario's growth occurred in one region: the Greater Golden Horseshoe area. The population of this area grew by over 630,000 people, or 8.4%.

4.2 Population Changes in Northern Ontario Compared to the Rest of Canada

As pointed out above, the population figures for the census divisions in Northern Ontario are not as reliable as the census divisions in most of Ontario. This is due to the large number of Aboriginal communities which, for various reasons, are improperly counted. If Statistics Canada cannot properly count a community, the population of that community is not included in the population totals for that census division. As a result, the population figures for almost all the census divisions in Northern Ontario are incomplete.

Taking into account these adjustments, the population of Northern Ontario in 2006 was

789,930.¹⁶ From 2001 to 2006 the population of Northern Ontario increased by 201 people or 0.025%. Excluding the adjustments, the population of Northern Ontario is listed as 786,290 in 2006 and 786,443 in 2001, a loss of 153 people or a decline of 0.019%. This represents a distinct change from the situation in 2001 when, according to adjusted figures at that time (excluding the Muskoka District Municipality), the population of the region had declined from 807,703 in 1996 to 766,073, or 5.1%¹⁷

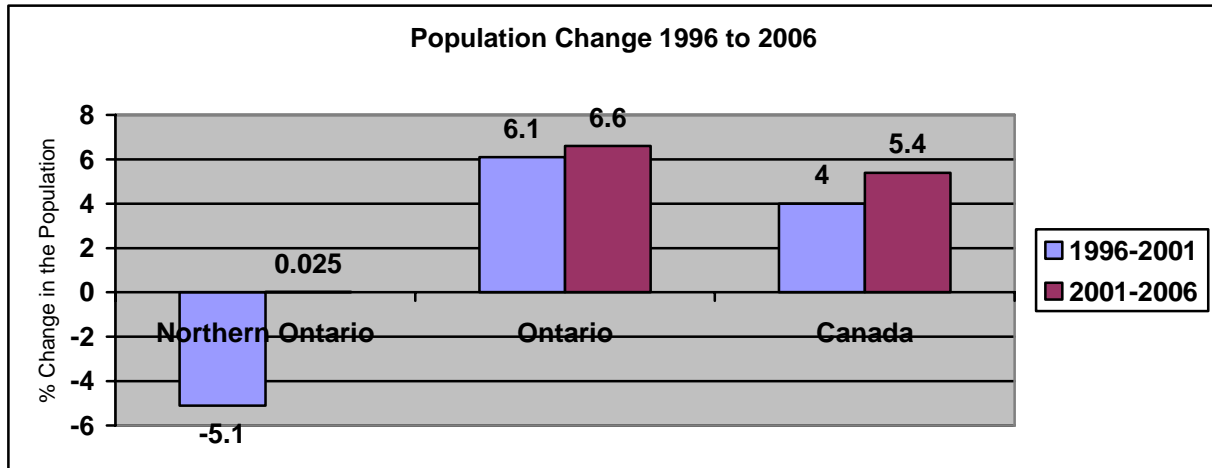


Figure 2 Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996, 2001, and 2006. Adjusted figures.

As Figure 3 indicates, there was a considerable amount of variation in growth rates for Northern resource dependent regions in Canada. Northern Ontario seemed to have the lowest rate of increase along with Northern Manitoba. Unlike the situation in 2001, the Yukon and Northwest Territories had rates of growth higher than that of Canada.¹⁸

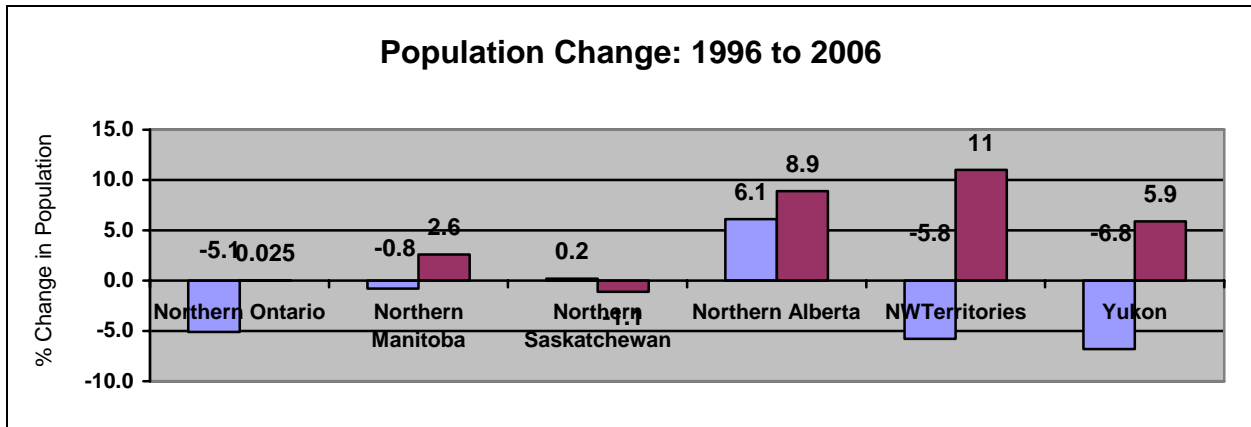


Figure 1 Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996, 2001, and 2006.

Figure 4 shows the historical trend in the population of Northern Ontario compared to Ontario since 1951.¹⁹ Until 1961, growth rates for Northern Ontario were close to that of Ontario as a

whole. In 1966 we saw for the first time an important difference in the population growth rates of Ontario and Northern Ontario. From 1966 to 1996, while the population of Ontario continued to grow, the population of Northern Ontario remained more or less stable. The previous census had shown the largest decrease in the population of Northern Ontario over the past 50 years. In fact, the only other time that the population of Northern Ontario decreased during this period was from 1981 to 1986 when the population decreased by 2.3%. From 2001 to 2006 the population trend returned to the general trend of stability seen from 1966 to 1996.

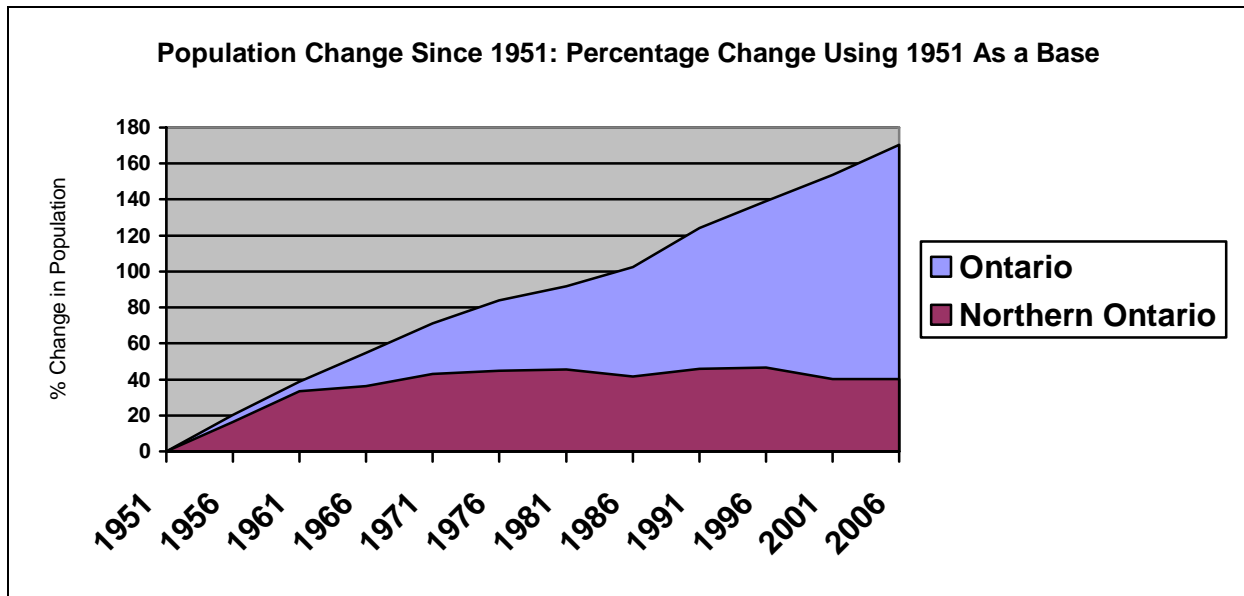


Figure 2 Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1951 to 2006. Northern Ontario population totals for 1996-2006 are adjusted.

4.3 A Comparison of the Regions

Table 1: Population Change of the Regions of Northern Ontario

Region	2006	2001	Percentage Change
Northern Ontario	789930	789729	0.02
Nipissing	84688	82910	2.1
Parry Sound	40918	39665	3.2
Manitoulin	13090	12679	3.2
Sudbury	21392	22894	-6.6
Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury	157909	155268	1.7
Timiskaming	33283	34442	-3.4

<i>Cochrane Adjusted</i>	84169	85247	-1.3
<i>Algoma Adjusted</i>	117461	119108	-1.4
Thunder Bay	149063	151148	-1.4
Rainy River	21564	22109	-2.5
<i>Kenora Adjusted</i>	66393	64259	4.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2001 and 2006. Figures in italics are adjusted.

Table 1 shows the population changes in the 11 districts of Northern Ontario. From 1996 to 2001 all districts except for Manitoulin showed population declines varying from an 8.6% decline in the District of Cochrane to a 0.6% decline in the Parry Sound District. In Table 1 we can see that from 2001 to 2006 there is much more variation between the districts. The District of Kenora had the highest population growth with 4.2% followed by the Districts of Manitoulin and Parry Sound with 3.2% each. The District of Sudbury had the largest population decline at 6.6% followed by Timiskaming at 3.4%.

4.4 The Fastest Growing Communities in Northern Ontario

Looking at the census sub-divisions in Northern Ontario, of the 285 for which 2006 figures exist, the fastest growing tended to be Aboriginal communities. Of the 50 fastest growing census sub-divisions, 36 were Aboriginal communities (See Appendix A). As was already mentioned, the average growth rate for Aboriginal communities in Northern Ontario was 16.5%. According to Statistics Canada, most of the growth in these Aboriginal communities was the result of a high birth rate.²⁰

The Census data categorizes communities according to their type. In Northern Ontario the main types of communities are: census metropolitan areas (CMA), cities (C or CY), towns and municipalities (T or MU), townships (TP), and Aboriginal communities (IRI or S). The following analysis examines trends in each.

Looking first at cities, the two Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) in Northern Ontario, Sudbury and Thunder Bay, had population increases of 1.7% and 0.8% respectively.²¹ This represented a turn around from the 1996 to 2001 period when each had population declines. At the same time, the rates of growth for each CMA are well below the 6.9% average rates of growth for all CMAs in Canada.

Table 2: Cities in Northern Ontario

Census Sub-division	Local Board	Type of Community	% Change from 2001 to 2006
North Bay	20	C	2.3
Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury	21	C	1.7

Temiskaming Shores	23	C	1
Sault Ste. Marie	22	C	0.5
Thunder Bay	24	C	0.1
Dryden	25	C	0
Timmins	23	C	-1.6
Elliot Lake	22	C	-3.4
Kenora	25	C	-4.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2001 and 2006.

Table 2 shows the population changes for the 9 cities of Northern Ontario. From 1996 to 2001 all cities experienced population declines. From 2001 to 2006 most cities saw some increase with the highest being 2.3% in North Bay and 1.7% in Sudbury. The cities with the largest declines were Kenora, at 4.2%, and Elliot Lake, at 3.4%.

Table 3: The Top 10 “Growth” Towns in Northern Ontario

Census Sub-division	Local Board	Type of Community	% Change from 2001 to 2006
Latchford	23	T	21.2
Whitestone	20	MU	20.8
Magnetawan	20	MU	20
Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands	21	T	7.1
Red Lake	25	MU	6.9
Neebing	24	MU	6.6
Killarney	21	MU	6.1
Temagami	20	MU	4.6
McDougall	20	MU	3.7
Kearney	20	T	3.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2001 and 2006.

From 1996 to 2001, only 3 towns, out of 35, showed a population increase. These were Latchford, a small town in Timiskaming, Sioux Lookout in the District of Kenora, and St.-Charles in the District of Sudbury. From 2001 to 2006, out of 40 towns and municipalities, 14 communities had increases in population. While this is an improvement on the previous census period, towns and municipalities did not do as well as most cities.

Table 3 shows that most of the top growth towns and municipalities in Northern Ontario were in the south-eastern part of the region. Of the top ten growth towns, 4 were in the District of Parry Sound, 2 were in the District of Manitoulin, and one was in the District of Nipissing.

Table 4: The Top 10 Growth Townships in Northern Ontario

Census Sub-division	Local Board	Type of Community	% Change from 2001 to 2006
Bonfield	20	TP	16.9
Carling	20	TP	11.7
Calvin	20	TP	7.3
Whitestone	20	TP	6.4
Central Manitoulin	21	TP	6.3
McMurrich/Monteith	20	TP	5.9
Tarbutt and Tarbutt Additional	22	TP	5.4
Shuniah	24	TP	5.1
Gillies	24	TP	5
Prince	22	TP	4

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2001 and 2006.

In 2001, of 152 townships in Northern Ontario, 31 showed a growth in population from 1996 to 2001. The fastest growing townships tended to be either in the southern areas of Northern Ontario or in close proximity to a larger urban area. In 2006, out of 94 townships and villages, 30 increased in population. Of these 30 communities, 9 were located in the District of Parry Sound and four were located in the District of Nipissing. Four were located in the District of Algoma. All four of these townships are in relative proximity to Sault Ste. Marie and have substantial lakeshore areas. Likewise, the two townships with growth located in the District of Thunder Bay are close to the City of Thunder Bay.

Section Five: Comparing the Local Board Areas of Northern Ontario

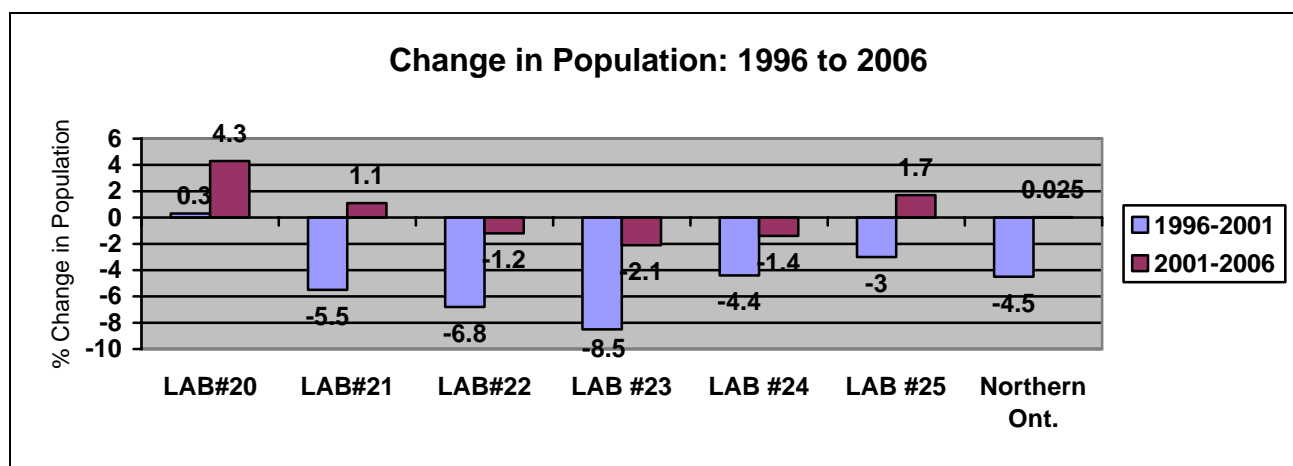


Figure 3 Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1996, 2001, and 2006.

5.1 The Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound Local Training and Adjustment Board (Board #20)

As is shown in Figure 5, population trends changed substantially from 2001 to 2006 for all Northern Boards. From 1996 to 2001 only one of the 6 Local Boards in Northern Ontario, Local Board #20, increased its population from 1996 to 2001. Local Board #23, also known as the Far Northeast Training Board saw its population decline by 8.5%. From 2001 to 2006, three of the Boards saw population increases: Local Boards #20, 21, and 25. The other boards saw their population declines significantly reduced. Board #23 saw its decline reduced from 8.5% to 2.1%.

Table 5: Communities in LB #20

Community	Type of Community	2006	2001	Change in Population	% Change in Population
LTAB# 20		183169	175681	7488	4.3
Bracebridge	T	15652	13751	1901	13.8
Georgian Bay	TP	2340	1991	349	17.5
Gravenhurst	T	11046	10899	147	1.3
Huntsville	T	18280	17338	942	5.4
Lake of Bays	TP	3570	2900	670	23.1
Moose Point 79	IRI	208	185	23	12.4
Muskoka Lakes	TP	6467	6042	425	7

Wahta Mohawk Territory	IRI	inc	inc		
Bear Island 1	IRI	inc	inc		
Bonfield	TP	2009	2064	-55	-2.7
Calvin	TP	608	603	5	0.8
Chisholm	TP	1318	1230	88	7.2
East Ferris	TP	4200	4291	-91	-2.1
Mattawa	T	2003	2270	-267	-11.8
Mattawan	TP	147	114	33	28.9
Nipissing 10	IRI	1413	1378	35	2.5
Nipissing, Unorganized, North Part	NO	1798	1856	-58	-3.1
Nipissing, Unorganized, South Part	NO	571	51	520	1019.6
North Bay	CY	53966	52771	1195	2.3
Papineau-Cameron	TP	1058	997	61	6.1
South Algonquin	TP	1253	1278	-25	-2
Temagami	MU	934	893	41	4.6
West Nipissing / Nipissing Ouest	M	13410	13114	296	2.3
Armour	TP	1249	1326	-77	-5.8
Burk's Falls	VL	893	940	-47	-5
Callander	MU	3249	3177	72	2.3
Carling	TP	1123	1063	60	5.6
Dokis 9	IRI	195	196	-1	-0.5
French River 13	IRI	99	121	-22	-18.2
Henvey Inlet 2	IRI	15	15	0	0
Joly	TP	280	290	-10	-3.4
Kearney	T	798	773	25	3.2
Machar	TP	866	849	17	2
Magnetawan	MU	1610	1342	268	20
Magnetawan 1	IRI	78	73	5	6.8
McDougall	MU	2704	2608	96	3,7
McKellar	TP	1080	933	147	15.8
McMurrich/Monteith	TP	791	766	25	3.3
Naiscoutaing 17A	IRI	0	0	0	
Nipissing	TP	1642	1553	89	5.7
Parry Island First Nation	IRI	350	375	-25	-6.7
Parry Sound	T	5818	6124	-306	-5
Parry Sound, Unorganized, Centre Part	NO	2424	2198	226	10.3
Parry Sound, Unorganized, North East Part	NO	236	185	51	27.6
Perry	TP	2010	2252	-242	-10.7
Powassan	MU	3309	3252	57	1.8
Ryerson	TP	686	632	54	8.5

Seguin	TP	4276	3698	578	15.6
Shawanaga 17	IRI	193	174	19	10.9
South River	VL	1069	1040	29	2.8
Strong	TP	1327	1369	-42	-3.1
Sundridge	VL	942	983	-41	-4.2
The Archipelago	TP	576	505	71	14.1
Whitestone	MU	1030	853	177	20.8

(1) Adjusted population Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2001 and 2006.

Table 5 shows that for Local Board #20, growth came from communities in the Muskoka District Municipality. The population in this particular census division grew by 8.4%, a rate higher than that of Canada and Ontario. The population of the District of Parry Sound increased by 3.2% while that of the Nipissing District increased by 2.1%. Just as it was the case in 2001, it is clear that communities in the Board #20 area are benefiting from their relative proximity to the urban centres of Southern Ontario.

5.2 Sudbury and Manitoulin Workforce Partnerships Board (Board #21)

Local Board #21, also known as the Sudbury and Manitoulin Workforce Partnerships Board, includes the District of Manitoulin, the Greater Sudbury Area, and most of the District of Sudbury. From 1996 to 2001, the area experienced a population decline of 5.5%. Most of this decline came from the Sudbury urban area which declined by 6.1%. The overall population of Manitoulin Island remained virtually unchanged from 1996 to 2001 due to growth in the Aboriginal communities. Overall the District of Sudbury had a population decline of just over 4%. Despite this, the process of suburbanization had meant some growth in communities surrounding the city of Sudbury.

From 2001 to 2006, the Local Board #21 had the biggest turnaround in population change. The area grew by 1.1%. Most of this growth was the result of increases in the Census Metropolitan Area of Greater Sudbury which grew by 1.7%. Communities in the District of Manitoulin grew by an average of 3.2%, most of the growth coming from the district's Aboriginal communities. Unlike the urban area of Greater Sudbury, the more rural District of Sudbury was that region of Northern Ontario that had the largest decline in population, at 6.6%.

Table 6: Communities in LB #21

Community	Type of Community	2006	2001	Change in Population	% Change in Population
Board 21		189736	187717	2019	1.1
Assignack	TP	914	931	-17	-1.8
Barrie Island	TP	47	50	-3	-6
Billings	TP	539	551	-12	-2.2
Burpee and Mills	TP	329	362	-33	-9.1

Central Manitoulin	TP	1944	1907	37	1.9
Cockburn Island	TP	10	0	10	
Gordon	TP	412	473	-61	-12.9
Gore Bay	T	924	898	26	2.9
Killarney	MU	454	428	26	6.1
M'Chigeeng 22 (West Bay 22)	IRI	766	729	37	5.1
Manitoulin, Unorganized, Mainland	NO	5	0	5	
Manitoulin, Unorganized, West Part	NO	222	204	18	8.8
Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands	T	2711	2531	180	7.1
Sheguiandah 24	IRI	160	121	39	32.2
Sheshegwaning 20	IRI	107	88	19	21.6
Sucker Creek 23	IRI	346	310	36	11.6
Tehkummah	TP	382	367	15	4.1
Whitefish River (Part) 4	IRI	379	268	111	41.4
Wikwemikong Unceded	IRI	2387	2427	-40	-1.6
Zhiibaahaasing 19 (Cockburn Island 19)	IRI	0	0	0	
Zhiibaahaasing 19A (Cockburn Island 19A)	IRI	52	34	18	52.9
Baldwin	TP	554	624	-70	-11.2
Duck Lake 76B	IRI	82	107	-25	-23.4
Espanola	T	5314	5449	-135	-2.5
French River / Rivière des Français	M	2659	2810	-151	-5.4
Markstay-Warren	MU	2475	2627	-152	-5.8
Nairn and Hyman	TP	493	420	73	17.4
Sables-Spanish Rivers	TP	3237	3245	-8	-0.2
St.-Charles	MU	1159	1245	-86	-6.9
Sudbury, Unorganized, North Part	NO	2415	2910	-495	-17
Whitefish Lake 6	IRI	349	333	16	4.8
Whitefish River (Part) 4	IRI	0	0	0	
Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury	C	157857	155219	2638	1.7
Wahnapitei 11	IRI	52	49	3	6.1

(1) Adjusted population Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2001 and 2006.

5.3 Algoma Workforce Investment Committee (Local Board Area#22)²²

Local Board #22, whose area comprises most of the District of Algoma, lost 8,575 people between 1996 and 2001, or 6.8% of its population. Most of the loss occurred in the city of Sault Ste. Marie which declined by 6.9%. Other notable losses were in Elliot Lake, which lost 12% of its population, and Michipicoten, which, due to the closure of the Algoma mining operations, lost 11.5% of its population. In 2001 the six fastest growing census sub-divisions were all Aboriginal communities. Besides these six communities, the only other census sub-divisions in the Board 20 area that had an increase in population were four townships relatively close to Sault Ste. Marie which all had a high percentage of lakefront property.

From 2001 to 2006 the population of Local Board #22 decreased by the relatively small percentage of 1.2%. Unlike the situation in 2001, the City of Sault Ste. Marie actually grew by 0.5%. Growth was once again centred in Aboriginal communities and townships with substantial lakefront areas. The largest declines occurred in Elliot Lake and the northern communities of Algoma such as Michipicoten, Dubreuilville, and White River.

Table 7: Communities in LB #22

Community	Type of Community	2006	2001	Change in Population	% Change in Population
LB#22 (1)		116252	117746	-1494	-1.2
Algoma, Unorganized, North Part	NO	5717	6114	-397	-6.5
Algoma, Unorganized, South East Part	NO	0	0	0	
Blind River	T	3780	3969	-189	-4.8
Bruce Mines	T	584	627	-43	-6.9
Dubreuilville	TP	773	967	-194	-20.1
Elliot Lake	CY	11549	11956	-407	-3.4
Garden River 14	IRI	985	859	126	14.7
Goulais Bay 15A (1)	IRI	82	68	14	
Gros Cap 49	IRI	54	61	-7	-11.5
Hilton	TP	243	258	-15	-5.8
Hilton Beach	VL	172	174	-2	-1.1
Huron Shores	MU	1696	1794	-98	-5.5
Jocelyn	TP	277	298	-21	-7
Johnson	TP	701	658	43	6.5
Laird	TP	1078	1021	57	5.6
Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional	TP	1550	1452	98	6.7

Michipicoten	TP	3204	3668	-464	-12.6
Missanabie 62	IRI	0	0	0	
Mississagi River 8	IRI	414	360	54	15
North Shore	TP	549	544	5	0.9
Plummer Additional	TP	625	671	-46	-6.9
Prince	TP	971	1010	-39	-3.9
Rankin Location 15D (1)	IRI	566	473	93	
Sagamok	IRI	884	870	14	1.6
Sault Ste. Marie	CY	74948	74566	382	0.5
Serpent River 7	IRI	340	323	17	5.3
Spanish	T	728	816	-88	-10.8
St. Joseph	TP	1129	1201	-72	-6
Tarbutt and Tarbutt Additional	TP	388	466	-78	-16.7
Thessalon	T	1312	1386	-74	-5.3
Thessalon 12	IRI	112	123	-11	-8.9
White River	TP	841	993	-152	-15.3

(1) Adjusted population Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2001 and 2006.

5.4 The Far Northeast Training and Adjustment Board (Board #23)

Local Board #23, also known as the Far Northeast Training and Adjustment Board, comprises the Districts of Cochrane and Timiskaming and small parts of the Districts of Kenora, Algoma, and Sudbury. From 1996 to 2001 the area declined by 11,863, or 8.5%. The census sub-division which showed the largest decline in absolute numbers was the city of Timmins, which declined by 3,813 people or 8%. Next came Kirkland Lake which had a decline of 1,289 people or 13% of its population. There were 13 census sub-divisions which showed a growth in population from 1996 to 2001. Of these, 9 were Aboriginal communities.

From 2001 to 2006 the population decline of communities in the Board 23 area slowed considerably to an average of 2.1%. Growth occurred in 3 Aboriginal communities, the newly created city of Temiskaming Shores, and the town of Moonbeam. Declines occurred in many of the forestry dependent communities of the regions such as Kapuskasing, Chapleau, Smooth Rock Falls, and Iroquois Falls. The city of Timmins also saw a decline of 1.6%.

Table 8: Communities in LB #23

Community	Type of Community	2006	2001	Change in Population	% Change in Population
LB#23 (1)		123043	125661	-2618	-2.1
Armstrong	TP	1155	1223	-68	-5.6
Brethour	TP	117	157	-40	-25.5
Casey	TP	385	421	-36	-8.6
Chamberlain	TP	322	348	-26	-7.5

Charlton and Dack	MU	613	702	-89	-12.7
Cobalt	T	1229	1229	0	0
Coleman	TP	431	550	-119	-21.6
Englehart	T	1494	1595	-101	-6.3
Evanturel	TP	473	506	-33	-6.5
Gauthier	TP	133	128	5	3.9
Harley	TP	551	557	-6	-1.1
Harris	TP	512	518	-6	-1.2
Hilliard	TP	222	241	-19	-7.9
Hudson	TP	305	490	-185	-37.8
James	TP	414	467	-53	-11.3
Kerns	TP	325	360	-35	-9.7
Kirkland Lake	T	8248	8616	-368	-4.3
Larder Lake	TP	735	790	-55	-7
Latchford	T	446	368	78	21.2
Matachewan	TP	375	308	67	21.8
Matachewan 72	IRI	72	61	11	18
McGarry	TP	674	787	-113	-14.4
Temiskaming Shores	CY	10732	10630	102	1
Thornloe	VL	105	120	-15	-12.5
Timiskaming, Unorganized, East Part	NO	10	0	10	
Timiskaming, Unorganized, West Part	NO	3205	3270	-65	-2
Abitibi 70	IRI	114	127	-13	-10.2
Black River-Matheson	TP	2619	2886	-267	-9.3
Cochrane	T	5487	5690	-203	-3.6
Cochrane, Unorganized, North Part (2)	NO	2447	2975	-528	
Cochrane, Unorganized, South East Part	NO	25	21	4	19
Cochrane, Unorganized, South West Part	NO	0	0	0	
Constance Lake 92	IRI	702	723	-21	-2.9
Factory Island 1 (1)	IRI	1666	1430	236	
Fauquier-Strickland	TP	568	678	-110	-16.2
Flying Post 73	IRI	40	0	40	
Fort Albany (Part) 67	IRI	1805	441	1364	309.3
Hearst	T	5620	5825	-205	-3.5
Iroquois Falls	T	4729	5217	-488	-9.4
Kapusking	T	8509	9238	-729	-7.9
Mattice-Val Côté	TP	772	891	-119	-13.4
Moonbeam	TP	1298	1201	97	8.1
Moose Factory 68	IRI	0	0	0	

Moosonee (2)	TV	2006	936	1070	
New Post 69	IRI	0	0	0	
New Post 69A	IRI	73	105	-32	-30.5
Opasatika	TP	280	325	-45	-13.8
Smooth Rock Falls	T	1473	1830	-357	-19.5
Timmins	CY	42997	43686	-689	-1.6
Val Rita-Harty	TP	939	1022	-83	-8.1
Chapleau	TP	2354	2832	-478	-16.9
Chapleau 74A	IRI	20	33	-13	-39.4
Chapleau 75	IRI	92	93	-1	-1.1
Mattagami 71	IRI	189	166	23	13.9
Mountbatten 76A	IRI	0	0	0	
Hornepayne	TP	1209	1362	-153	-11.2
Attawapiskat 91A (1)	IRI	1506	1293	213	
Peawanuck	S-É	221	193	28	14.5

(1) Adjusted population, (2) Uncertain count in 2001. Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2001 and 2006.

5.5 North Superior Training Board (Board #24)

Local Board #24 is also known as the North Superior Training Board. It comprises the District of Thunder Bay and several Aboriginal communities just north of the boundaries of the District of Thunder Bay. From 1996 to 2001 this area showed a decline in population of 6,973 people, or 4.4%. Most of the decline came in the city of Thunder Bay which declined by 4,646 people or 4.1%. Other communities with notable declines were Schreiber, which declined by 19% as a result of a mine closure, and Terrace Bay, which declined by 16.1%. Statistics Canada had listed the newly formed community of Greenstone as being the community with a population over 5,000 which had the largest decline in Canada from 1996 to 2001. Statistics Canada now indicates that its initial population count was wrong and the population decline of Greenstone was not that severe. Of the 36 census sub-divisions in the LB #24 area, 17 increased in population from 1996 to 2001. Among these 17 census sub-divisions, 14 were Aboriginal communities. The other 3 were suburb communities close to the City of Thunder Bay.

From 2001 to 2006 the rate of population decline in this region slowed considerably, to 1.4%. The main explanation for this change is that the City of Thunder Bay went from a decline of 4.1% in 2001 to a slight growth of 0.1% in 2006. Other than the City of Thunder Bay, of the 12 communities that increased in population, 8 were Aboriginal communities and 3 were suburb communities of Thunder Bay.

Table 9: Communities in LB #24

Community	Type of Community	2006	2001	Change in Population	% Change in Population
LB#24 (1)		151183	153295	-2112	-1.4
Aroland 83	IRI	325	346	-21	-6.1
Conmee	TP	740	748	-8	-1.1
Dorion	TP	379	442	-63	-14.3
Fort William 52	IRI	909	599	310	51.8
Gillies	TP	544	522	22	4.2
Ginoogaming First Nation	IRI	175	231	-56	-24.2
Greenstone (2)	MU	4906	5662	-756	-13.3
Gull River 55	IRI	206	252	-46	-18.3
Lac des Mille Lacs 22A1	IRI	21	0	21	
Lake Helen 53A	IRI	283	274	9	3.3
Long Lake 58	IRI	417	382	35	9.2
Manitouwadge	TP	2300	2949	-649	-22
Marathon	T	3863	4416	-553	-12.5
Neebing	MU	2184	2049	135	6.6
Nipigon	TP	1752	1964	-212	-10.8
O'Connor	TP	720	724	-4	-0.6
Ojibway Nation of Saugeen (Savant Lake) (1)	IRI	98	82	16	
Oliver Paipoonge	MU	5757	5862	-105	-1.8
Osnaburgh 63A	IRI	153	187	-34	-18.2
Pays Plat 51	IRI	79	65	14	21.5
Pic Mobert North	IRI	137	167	-30	-18
Pic Mobert South	IRI	104	140	-36	-25.7
Pic River 50	IRI	383	346	37	10.7
Red Rock	TP	1063	1233	-170	-13.8
Rocky Bay 1	IRI	154	197	-43	-21.8
Schreiber	TP	901	1448	-547	-37.8
Seine River 22A2	IRI	0	0	0	
Shuniah	TP	2913	2466	447	18.1
Terrace Bay	TP	1625	1950	-325	-16.7
Thunder Bay	CY	109140	109016	124	0.1
Thunder Bay, Unorganized	NO	6585	6223	362	5.8
Whitesand (1)	IRI	247	206	41	
Fort Hope 64	IRI	1144	1001	143	14.3
Summer Beaver	S-É	362	276	86	31.2

Webequie	IRI	614	600	14	2.3
Lansdowne House	S-É	0	270	-270	-100

(1) Adjusted population, (2) Uncertain count in 2001. Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2001 and 2006.

5.6 The Northwest Training and Adjustment Board (Board #25)

Local Board #25 is also known as the Northwest Training and Adjustment Board. It is comprised of the District of Rainy River and most of the District of Kenora. From 1996 to 2001 its population declined by 2,563 people, or 3%. Most of this loss occurred in the Aboriginal community of Fort Albany (Part) 67 which is listed as having lost its entire population of 1,004 people from 1996 to 2001. Important losses also occurred in Red Lake, which lost 11.4% of its population, and the city of Kenora, which lost 527 people, or 3.2% of its population. Of 82 census sub-divisions in this area, 40 increased in population from 1996 to 2001. Of these 40, 37 were Aboriginal communities. Sioux Lookout, the only town in Northwestern Ontario to increase in population from 1996 to 2001, owed its increase to its importance as a service centre for surrounding Aboriginal communities.

From 2001 to 2006 the Local Board 25 area increased its population by 1.7%. Of the 41 communities that saw their population increase during this period, 35 were Aboriginal communities. The mining communities of Pickle Lake and Red Lake were among the 6 remaining growth communities as was the community of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls. Communities with the largest decline in populations tended to be forest industry dependent communities such as Kenora, Atikokan, Ignace, Machin, and Fort Frances.

Table 10: Communities in LB#25

Community	Type of Community	2006	2001	Change in Population	%Change in Population
LB#25 (1)		84109	82734	1375	1.7
Agency 1	IRI	0	0	0	
Alberton	TP	958	956	2	0.2
Atikokan	TP	3293	3632	-339	-9.3
Big Grassy River 35G	IRI	204	176	28	15.9
Big Island Mainland 93	IRI	10	85	-75	-88.2
Chapple	TP	856	910	-54	-5.9
Couchiching 16A	IRI	691	595	96	16.1
Dawson	TP	620	613	7	1.1
Emo	TP	1305	1331	-26	-2
Fort Frances	T	8103	8315	-212	-2.5
La Vallee	TP	1067	1073	-6	-0.6

Lake of the Woods	TP	323	330	-7	-2.1
Long Sault 12	IRI	33	48	-15	-31.3
Manitou Rapids 11	IRI	228	191	37	19.4
Morley	TP	492	526	-34	-6.5
Neguaguon Lake 25D	IRI	257	207	50	24.2
Rainy Lake 17A	IRI	183	200	-17	-8.5
Rainy Lake 17B	IRI	5	0	5	
Rainy Lake 18C	IRI	95	81	14	17.3
Rainy Lake 26A	IRI	128	93	35	37.6
Rainy River	T	909	981	-72	-7.3
Rainy River, Unorganized	NO	1431	1526	-95	-6.2
Sabaskong Bay (Part) 35C	IRI	0	0	0	
Saug-a-Gaw-Sing 1	IRI	101	10	91	910
Seine River 23A	IRI	272	230	42	18.3
Seine River 23B	IRI	0	0	0	
Bearskin Lake	IRI	459	363	96	26.4
Cat Lake 63C	IRI	492	428	64	15
Deer Lake	IRI	681	756	-75	-9.9
Dryden	CY	8195	8198	-3	0
Eagle Lake 27	IRI	232	211	21	10
Ear Falls	TP	1153	1150	3	0.3
English River 21	IRI	633	454	179	39.4
Fort Albany (Part) 67	IRI	5	0	5	
Fort Severn 89 (1)	IRI	467	401	66	
Ignace	TP	1431	1709	-278	-16.3
Kasabonika Lake	IRI	681	740	-59	-8
Kee-Way-Win	IRI	318	265	53	20
Kenora	CY	15177	15838	-661	-4.2
Kenora 38B	IRI	350	119	231	194.1
Kenora, Unorganized	NO	7041	7631	-590	-7.7
Kingfisher Lake 1	IRI	415	368	47	12.8
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Aaki 84 (Big Trout Lake)	IRI	916	435	481	110.6
Lac Seul 28	IRI	821	702	119	17
Lake Of The Woods 31G	IRI	0	0	0	
Lake Of The Woods 37	IRI	58	99	-41	-41.4
MacDowell Lake	S-É	0	0	0	
Machin	TP	978	1143	-165	-14.4
Marten Falls 65 (1)	IRI	221	184	37	
Muskrat Dam Lake	IRI	252	61	191	313.1
Neskantaga	IRI	265	0	265	
North Spirit Lake	IRI	259	231	28	12.1
Northwest Angle 33B	IRI	40	97	-57	-58.8
Osnaburgh 63B	IRI	347	283	64	22.6

Pickle Lake	TP	479	399	80	20.1
Pikangikum 14 (1)	IRI	2100	1753	347	
Poplar Hill	IRI	457	373	84	22.5
Rat Portage 38A	IRI	316	182	134	73.6
Red Lake	MU	4526	4233	293	6.9
Sabaskong Bay (Part) 35C	IRI	0	0	0	
Sabaskong Bay 35D	IRI	390	346	44	12.7
Sachigo Lake 1	IRI	450	443	7	1.6
Sachigo Lake 2	IRI	0	0	0	
Sandy Lake 88	IRI	1843	1704	139	8.2
Shoal Lake (Part) 39A	IRI	346	330	16	4.8
Shoal Lake (Part) 40	IRI	105	0	105	
Shoal Lake 34B2	IRI	126	140	-14	-10
Sioux Lookout	MU	5183	5336	-153	-2.9
Sioux Narrows - Nestor Falls	TP	672	577	95	16.5
Slate Falls	S-É	164	156	8	5.1
The Dalles 38C	IRI	156	118	38	32.2
Wabaseemoong	IRI	786	388	398	102.6
Wabauskang 21	IRI	85	51	34	66.7
Wabigoon Lake 27	IRI	147	153	-6	-3.9
Wapekeka 1	IRI	0	0	0	
Wapekeka 2	IRI	350	329	21	6.4
Wawakapewin (Long Dog Lake)	IRI	21	31	-10	-32.3
Weagamow Lake 87	IRI	700	697	3	0.4
Whitefish Bay 32A (1)	IRI	622	519	103	
Whitefish Bay 33A	IRI	53	48	5	10.4
Whitefish Bay 34A	IRI	94	46	48	104.3
Wunnumin 1	IRI	487	407	80	19.7
Wunnumin 2	IRI	0	0	0	

(1) Adjusted population Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2001 and 2006.

Section Six: Observations

Trends in 2001	Trends in 2006
Decline in population	Stable population
Population Growth in Aboriginal Communities	Increased Population Growth in Aboriginal Communities
Growth in cottage country areas closer to South	Growth in cottage country areas closer to South
Growth in lakefront suburbs	Slow growth in largest urban areas
	Growth in some mining-based communities

Following the 2001 Census we identified four main population trends occurring in Northern Ontario. The most important was a general decline in population. This decline occurred in the major urban areas of the region as well as the non-Aboriginal resource dependent communities of the region. At the time there did not appear to be much of an overall difference in rates of decline based on the main economic activity of the region. Pulp and paper towns, sawmill towns, and mining towns all decreased in size although the extent of the decrease varied from community to community.

The next trend identified was the relatively high rates of growth due to natural increase in the Aboriginal communities of the region. Overall, in 2001, the average rate of growth for these communities was 5.9% in Northern Ontario. While this growth rate was slightly less than the 6.1% growth rate for Ontario, it was substantially higher than the 4% growth rate for Canada. Another trend was a slow increase in the “cottage country” communities closest to the major urban areas of Southern Ontario. This was clearly seen in the Muskoka District Municipality but also in some communities in the District of Parry Sound. Finally, some growth was seen in the suburban areas surrounding the largest urban centres of Northern Ontario. Those townships with lakefront seemed to have the most growth.

Some of these trends have reappeared following the 2006 Census but there are important differences. The first is that the population has stabilized. Statistically speaking the population of Northern Ontario was virtually the same in 2006 as it was in 2001. While this could be an indication that the socio-economic situation in most Northern Ontario communities is better than that found from 1996 to 2001, it should be pointed out that Northern Ontario is still shrinking as a percentage of the population of Ontario. In 2001 Northern Ontario represented 6.9% of the total population of Ontario. By 2006 this percentage was down to under 6.5%. While the population of Northern Ontario has stabilized, the southern urban area of the province continues to experience rapid growth.

High growth rates in most Aboriginal communities in Northern Ontario were also seen in the

years from 2001 to 2006. Average growth rates for these communities increased to 16.5%. These communities continue to be the most dynamic in the region.

Another noticeable trend is a return of growth to the largest urban centres. The urban areas of North Bay, Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, and Thunder Bay all saw their population grow during this period. Indeed much of the growth of the non-aboriginal population occurred in these cities. This may support the belief outlined in several TOP reports that the largest urban centres are best placed to adapt themselves towards a better balance between the traditional resource industry economy and a more diversified and knowledge-based economy.

One trend that is indicated in the population figures but which needs to be examined when industry data is released is that mining dependent communities were better off than forest dependent communities. While there were exceptions, several mining communities across the region such as Sudbury, Pickle Lake, and Red Lake all saw growth from 2001 to 2006. Many forest dependent communities continued to experience declines similar to those they had experienced from 1996 to 2001.

Finally, as was the case in the previous census period, those communities that are closest to the urban centres of Southern Ontario tended to have growth as opposed to decline. We see growth increasing in the traditional cottage country areas of Muskoka and Parry Sound. We are seeing these trends creeping into more northern areas of the District of Parry Sound and into certain areas of the Nipissing District.

Notes

1. As this report is being written, the Board #22 area, covering most of the Algoma District, is being represented by the recently established Algoma Workforce Investment Committee.
2. Southcott, Chris. Population Change in Northern Ontario: 1996 to 2001
2001 Census Research Paper Series: Report #1, North Bay: Northern Ontario Training Boards, 2002.
3. This has been pointed out by several government studies undertaken over the past 30 years including the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment (Fahlgren Commission). Final Report, Toronto, 1985 and the Task Force on Resource Dependent Communities in Northern Ontario, (the Rosehart Report) Final Report., 1986.
4. For an elaboration on these points see Dadgostar, B., Jankowski, W.B., and Moazzami, B. The Economy of Northwestern Ontario: Structure, Performance and Future Challenges, Thunder Bay: Centre for Northern Studies, Lakehead University, 1992.
5. For a detailed discussion of this aspect of Northern Ontario see McBride, Stephen, McKay, Sharon, and Hill, Mary Ellen. "Unemployment in a Northern Hinterland: The Social Impact of Political Neglect" in Chris Southcott (ed.) A Provincial Hinterland: Social Inequality in Northwestern Ontario, Halifax: Fernwood, 1993.
6. Canada, 2006 Census.
7. An elaboration on these unique characteristics can be found in Randall, James and R. G. Ironside "Communities on the Edge: An Economic Geography of Resource-Dependent Communities in Canada" The Canadian Geographer 40(10):17-35, 1996.
8. Census population statistics for Aboriginal communities tend to be less reliable than those for non-Native communities. These statistics are based on 2001 Census data as 2006 data was not available at the time this report was prepared.
9. The following reports were reviewed:
The Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound Local Training and Adjustment Board, Trends, Opportunities, and Priorities Report 2004, North Bay, 2004.
The Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound Local Training and Adjustment Board, Trends, Opportunities, and Priorities Report 2006-2007, North Bay, 2007.
The Sudbury and Manitoulin Training and Adjustment Board, Trends, Opportunities, and Priorities Report 2004, Sudbury, 2004.
The Sudbury and Manitoulin Workforce Partnership Board, Trends, Opportunities, and Priorities

Report 2006, Sudbury, 2006.

The Far Northeast Training Board, Trends, Opportunities, and Priorities Report 2004, Hearst, 2004.

The Far Northeast Training Board, Trends, Opportunities, and Priorities Report Update 2005, Hearst, 2005.

The Far Northeast Training Board, Trends, Opportunities, and Priorities Report 2007, Hearst, 2007.

The North Superior Training Board, Trends, Opportunities, and Priorities Labour Market Report 2004, Thunder Bay, 2004.

The North Superior Training Board, Trends, Opportunities, and Priorities Report 2006, Thunder Bay, 2006.

The North Superior Training Board, Trends, Opportunities, and Priorities Report 2007, Thunder Bay, 2007.

The Northwest Training and Adjustment Board, Trends, Opportunities, and Priorities Report 2006, Dryden, 2006

10. See Southcott, Chris. Youth Out-migration in Northern Ontario, 2001, Census Research Paper Series: Report #2, North Bay: Training Boards of Northern Ontario, 2002, p.7. There is also the problem of “missed” individuals. See Statistics Canada. Profile of the Canadian population by age and sex: Canada ages, Catalogue no. 96F0030XIE2001002, 2002, p. 14.

11. For an explanation of random rounding see Statistics Canada, 2001 Census Dictionary, Ottawa: Ministry of Industry, 2002, p. 296.

12. In addition to the incomplete enumeration of Aboriginal communities, occasionally Statistics Canada miscounts populations. When this is discovered, adjusted population numbers are listed separately from the former numbers. Three communities in Northern Ontario were miscounted by Statistics Canada in 2001. They are Greenstone, Moosonee, and Cochrane, Unorganized, North Part. Because of the uncertainty surrounding these miscounts, the adjusted figures are not included in this analysis. Statistics Canada indicates that it underestimated the 2001 population of Cochrane, Unorganized, North Part by 262 people. It claims to have underestimated the 2001 population of Moosonee by 980 and Greenstone by 245.

13. Information for this section is based largely on analysis done by Statistics Canada and contained in the document, Statistics Canada, Portrait of the Canadian Population in 2006, 2006 Census, 2006 Census Analysis Series, Catalogue no. 97-550-XIE, March, 2007.

14. Statistics Canada, Portrait of the Canadian Population in 2006, 2006 Census, 2006 Census Analysis Series, Catalogue no. 97-550-XIE, March, 2007, p. 21.

15. Ibid, p. 35.

16. This number excludes one Aboriginal community which was not properly enumerated in

either 2006 or 2001: Bear Island 1 in the District of Nipissing. Note that it also excludes the Muskoka District Municipality.

17. This number excludes six Aboriginal communities which were not properly enumerated in either 2001 or 1996.

18. Northern Manitoba is defined as census divisions 19, 21, 22, and 23. Northern Saskatchewan is defined as census divisions 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18. Northern Alberta is defined as census divisions 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, and 19.

19. These figures include the adjusted figures for the change from 1996 to 2001 that were mentioned in the text. The figures for the other census years were not adjusted.

20. Statistics Canada, A Profile of the Canadian Population: Where We Live, Ottawa, 2001, p.8.

21. It should be pointed out that the CMAs of Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay are larger than the cities of Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay. The rate of change for the City of Thunder Bay is less than that of the Thunder Bay CMA.

Appendix A

Census Sub-divisions of Northern Ontario by Change in Population from 2001 to 2006

Community	Local Board	Type of Community	Population in 2006	% Change in Population
Nipissing, Unorganized, South Part	20	NO	571	1019.6
Saug-a-Gaw-Sing 1	25	IRI	101	910
Muskrat Dam Lake	25	IRI	252	313.1
Fort Albany (Part) 67	23	IRI	1805	309.3
Kenora 38B	25	IRI	350	194.1
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Aaki 84 (Big Trout Lake)	25	IRI	916	110.6
Whitefish Bay 34A	25	IRI	94	104.3
Wabaseemoong	25	IRI	786	102.6
Rat Portage 38A	25	IRI	316	73.6
Wabauskang 21	25	IRI	85	66.7
Zhiibaahaasing 19A (Cockburn Island 19A)	21	IRI	52	52.9
Fort William 52	24	IRI	909	51.8
Whitefish River (Part) 4	21	IRI	379	41.4
English River 21	25	IRI	633	39.4
Rainy Lake 26A	25	IRI	128	37.6
The Dalles 38C	25	IRI	156	32.2
Sheguiandah 24	21	IRI	160	32.2
Summer Beaver	24	S-É	362	31.2
Mattawan	20	TP	147	28.9
Parry Sound, Unorganized, North East Part	20	NO	236	27.6
Bearskin Lake	25	IRI	459	26.4
Neguaguon Lake 25D	25	IRI	257	24.2
Lake of Bays	20	TP	3570	23.1
Osnaburgh 63B	25	IRI	347	22.6
Poplar Hill	25	IRI	457	22.5
Matachewan	23	TP	375	21.8
Sheshegwaning 20	21	IRI	107	21.6
Pays Plat 51	24	IRI	79	21.5
Latchford	23	T	446	21.2
Whitestone	20	MU	1030	20.8
Pickle Lake	25	TP	479	20.1

Magnetawan	20	MU	1610	20
Kee-Way-Win	25	IRI	318	20
Wunnumin 1	25	IRI	487	19.7
Manitou Rapids 11	25	IRI	228	19.4
Cochrane,	23	NO	25	19
Unorganized, South				
East Part				
Seine River 23A	25	IRI	272	18.3
Shuniah	24	TP	2913	18.1
Matachewan 72	23	IRI	72	18
Georgian Bay	20	TP	2340	17.5
Nairn and Hyman	21	TP	493	17.4
Rainy Lake 18C	25	IRI	95	17.3
Lac Seul 28	25	IRI	821	17
Sioux Narrows -	25	TP	672	16.5
Nestor Falls				
Couchiching 16A	25	IRI	691	16.1
Big Grassy River	25	IRI	204	15.9
35G				
McKellar	20	TP	1080	15.8
Seguin	20	TP	4276	15.6
Mississagi River 8	22	IRI	414	15
Cat Lake 63C	25	IRI	492	15
Garden River 14	22	IRI	985	14.7
Peawanuck	23	S-É	221	14.5
Fort Hope 64	24	IRI	1144	14.3
The Archipelago	20	TP	576	14.1
Mattagami 71	23	IRI	189	13.9
Bracebridge	20	T	15652	13.8
Kingfisher Lake 1	25	IRI	415	12.8
Sabaskong Bay 35D	25	IRI	390	12.7
Moose Point 79	20	IRI	208	12.4
North Spirit Lake	25	IRI	259	12.1
Sucker Creek 23	21	IRI	346	11.6
Shawanaga 17	20	IRI	193	10.9
Pic River 50	24	IRI	383	10.7
Whitefish Bay 33A	25	IRI	53	10.4
Parry Sound,	20	NO	2424	10.3
Unorganized, Centre				
Part				
Eagle Lake 27	25	IRI	232	10
Long Lake 58	24	IRI	417	9.2
Manitoulin,	21	NO	222	8.8
Unorganized, West				
Part				
Ryerson	20	TP	686	8.5
Sandy Lake 88	25	IRI	1843	8.2
Moonbeam	23	TP	1298	8.1
Chisholm	20	TP	1318	7.2

Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands	21	T	2711	7.1
Muskoka Lakes	20	TP	6467	7
Red Lake	25	MU	4526	6.9
Magnetewan 1	20	IRI	78	6.8
Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen	22	TP	1550	6.7
Additional				
Neebing	24	MU	2184	6.6
Johnson	22	TP	701	6.5
Wapekeka 2	25	IRI	350	6.4
Killarney	21	MU	454	6.1
Papineau-Cameron	20	TP	1058	6.1
Wahnapeitei 11	21	IRI	52	6.1
Thunder Bay, Unorganized	24	NO	6585	5.8
Nipissing	20	TP	1642	5.7
Carling	20	TP	1123	5.6
Laird	22	TP	1078	5.6
Huntsville	20	T	18280	5.4
Serpent River 7	22	IRI	340	5.3
Slate Falls	25	S-É	164	5.1
M'Chigeeng 22 (West Bay 22)	21	IRI	766	5.1
Whitefish Lake 6	21	IRI	349	4.8
Shoal Lake (Part) 39A	25	IRI	346	4.8
Temagami	20	MU	934	4.6
Gillies	24	TP	544	4.2
Tehkummah	21	TP	382	4.1
Gauthier	23	TP	133	3.9
McDougall	20	MU	2704	3.7
Lake Helen 53A	24	IRI	283	3.3
McMurrich/Monteith	20	TP	791	3.3
Kearney	20	T	798	3.2
Gore Bay	21	T	924	2.9
South River	20	VL	1069	2.8
Nipissing 10	20	IRI	1413	2.5
North Bay	20	CY	53966	2.3
Callander	20	MU	3249	2.3
Webequie	24	IRI	614	2.3
West Nipissing / Nipissing Ouest	20	M	13410	2.3
Machar	20	TP	866	2
Central Manitoulin	21	TP	1944	1.9
Powassan	20	MU	3309	1.8
Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury	21	C	157857	1.7
Sachigo Lake 1	25	IRI	450	1.6

Sagamok	22	IRI	884	1.6
Gravenhurst	20	T	11046	1.3
Dawson	25	TP	620	1.1
Temiskaming Shores	23	CY	10732	1
North Shore	22	TP	549	0.9
Calvin	20	TP	608	0.8
Sault Ste. Marie	22	CY	74948	0.5
Weagamow Lake 87	25	IRI	700	0.4
Ear Falls	25	TP	1153	0.3
Alberton	25	TP	958	0.2
Thunder Bay	24	CY	109140	0.1
Henvey Inlet 2	20	IRI	15	0
Cobalt	23	T	1229	0
Dryden	25	CY	8195	0
Sables-Spanish Rivers	21	TP	3237	-0.2
Dokis 9	20	IRI	195	-0.5
La Vallee	25	TP	1067	-0.6
O'Connor	24	TP	720	-0.6
Harley	23	TP	551	-1.1
Chapleau 75	23	IRI	92	-1.1
Conmee	24	TP	740	-1.1
Hilton Beach	22	VL	172	-1.1
Harris	23	TP	512	-1.2
Wikwemikong	21	IRI	2387	-1.6
Unceded				
Timmins	23	CY	42997	-1.6
Oliver Paipoonge	24	MU	5757	-1.8
Assignack	21	TP	914	-1.8
South Algonquin	20	TP	1253	-2
Emo	25	TP	1305	-2
Timiskaming, Unorganized, West Part	23	NO	3205	-2
Lake of the Woods	25	TP	323	-2.1
East Ferris	20	TP	4200	-2.1
Billings	21	TP	539	-2.2
Fort Frances	25	T	8103	-2.5
Espanola	21	T	5314	-2.5
Bonfield	20	TP	2009	-2.7
Constance Lake 92	23	IRI	702	-2.9
Sioux Lookout	25	MU	5183	-2.9
Strong	20	TP	1327	-3.1
Nipissing, Unorganized, North Part	20	NO	1798	-3.1
Elliot Lake	22	CY	11549	-3.4
Joly	20	TP	280	-3.4
Hearst	23	T	5620	-3.5
Cochrane	23	T	5487	-3.6

Prince	22	TP	971	-3.9
Wabigoon Lake 27	25	IRI	147	-3.9
Sundridge	20	VL	942	-4.2
Kenora	25	CY	15177	-4.2
Kirkland Lake	23	T	8248	-4.3
Blind River	22	T	3780	-4.8
Parry Sound	20	T	5818	-5
Burk's Falls	20	VL	893	-5
Thessalon	22	T	1312	-5.3
French River / Rivière des Français	21	M	2659	-5.4
Huron Shores	22	MU	1696	-5.5
Armstrong	23	TP	1155	-5.6
Hilton	22	TP	243	-5.8
Armour	20	TP	1249	-5.8
Markstay-Warren	21	MU	2475	-5.8
Chapple	25	TP	856	-5.9
Barrie Island	21	TP	47	-6
St. Joseph	22	TP	1129	-6
Aroland 83	24	IRI	325	-6.1
Rainy River, Unorganized	25	NO	1431	-6.2
Englehart	23	T	1494	-6.3
Evanturel	23	TP	473	-6.5
Algoma, Unorganized, North Part	22	NO	5717	-6.5
Morley	25	TP	492	-6.5
Parry Island First Nation	20	IRI	350	-6.7
Plummer Additional	22	TP	625	-6.9
St.-Charles	21	MU	1159	-6.9
Bruce Mines	22	T	584	-6.9
Jocelyn	22	TP	277	-7
Larder Lake	23	TP	735	-7
Rainy River	25	T	909	-7.3
Chamberlain	23	TP	322	-7.5
Kenora, Unorganized	25	NO	7041	-7.7
Hilliard	23	TP	222	-7.9
Kapuskasing	23	T	8509	-7.9
Kasabonika Lake	25	IRI	681	-8
Val Rita-Harty	23	TP	939	-8.1
Rainy Lake 17A	25	IRI	183	-8.5
Casey	23	TP	385	-8.6
Thessalon 12	22	IRI	112	-8.9
Burpee and Mills	21	TP	329	-9.1
Black River- Matheson	23	TP	2619	-9.3
Atikokan	25	TP	3293	-9.3
Iroquois Falls	23	T	4729	-9.4

Kerns	23	TP	325	-9.7
Deer Lake	25	IRI	681	-9.9
Shoal Lake 34B2	25	IRI	126	-10
Abitibi 70	23	IRI	114	-10.2
Perry	20	TP	2010	-10.7
Spanish	22	T	728	-10.8
Nipigon	24	TP	1752	-10.8
Baldwin	21	TP	554	-11.2
Hornepayne	23	TP	1209	-11.2
James	23	TP	414	-11.3
Gros Cap 49	22	IRI	54	-11.5
Mattawa	20	T	2003	-11.8
Thornloe	23	VL	105	-12.5
Marathon	24	T	3863	-12.5
Michipicoten	22	TP	3204	-12.6
Charlton and Dack	23	MU	613	-12.7
Gordon	21	TP	412	-12.9
Greenstone	24	MU	4906	-13.3
Mattice-Val Côté	23	TP	772	-13.4
Opasatika	23	TP	280	-13.8
Red Rock	24	TP	1063	-13.8
Dorion	24	TP	379	-14.3
McGarry	23	TP	674	-14.4
Machin	25	TP	978	-14.4
White River	22	TP	841	-15.3
Fauquier-Strickland	23	TP	568	-16.2
Ignace	25	TP	1431	-16.3
Tarbutt and Tarbutt	22	TP	388	-16.7
Additional				
Terrace Bay	24	TP	1625	-16.7
Chapleau	23	TP	2354	-16.9
Sudbury,	21	NO	2415	-17
Unorganized, North				
Part				
Pic Moberg North	24	IRI	137	-18
Osnaburgh 63A	24	IRI	153	-18.2
French River 13	20	IRI	99	-18.2
Gull River 55	24	IRI	206	-18.3
Smooth Rock Falls	23	T	1473	-19.5
Dubreuilville	22	TP	773	-20.1
Coleman	23	TP	431	-21.6
Rocky Bay 1	24	IRI	154	-21.8
Manitouwadge	24	TP	2300	-22
Duck Lake 76B	21	IRI	82	-23.4
Ginoogaming First	24	IRI	175	-24.2
Nation				
Brethour	23	TP	117	-25.5
Pic Moberg South	24	IRI	104	-25.7
New Post 69A	23	IRI	73	-30.5
Long Sault 12	25	IRI	33	-31.3

Wawakapewin (Long Dog Lake)	25	IRI	21	-32.3
Hudson	23	TP	305	-37.8
Schreiber	24	TP	901	-37.8
Chapleau 74A	23	IRI	20	-39.4
Lake Of The Woods 37	25	IRI	58	-41.4
Northwest Angle 33B	25	IRI	40	-58.8
Big Island Mainland 93	25	IRI	10	-88.2
Lansdowne House	24	S-É	0	-100
Rankin Location 15D	22	IRI	566	
Fort Albany (Part) 67	25	IRI	5	
Algoma, Unorganized, South East Part	22	NO	0	
Whitefish River (Part) 4	21	IRI	0	
Missanabie 62	22	IRI	0	
MacDowell Lake	25	S-É	0	
Rainy Lake 17B	25	IRI	5	
Marten Falls 65	25	IRI	221	
Goulais Bay 15A	22	IRI	82	
Sabaskong Bay (Part) 35C	25	IRI	0	
Whitesand	24	IRI	247	
Agency 1	25	IRI	0	
Seine River 22A2	24	IRI	0	
Seine River 23B	25	IRI	0	
Pikangikum 14	25	IRI	2100	
Fort Severn 89	25	IRI	467	
Lake Of The Woods 31G	25	IRI	0	
Manitoulin, Unorganized, Mainland	21	NO	5	
Sabaskong Bay (Part) 35C	25	IRI	0	
Ojibway Nation of Saugeen (Savant Lake)	24	IRI	98	
Cockburn Island	21	TP	10	
Sachigo Lake 2	25	IRI	0	
Lac des Mille Lacs 22A1	24	IRI	21	
Timiskaming, Unorganized, East Part	23	NO	10	
Shoal Lake (Part) 40	25	IRI	105	
Attawapiskat 91A	23	IRI	1506	

Mountbatten 76A	23	IRI	0
Cochrane, Unorganized, North Part	23	NO	2447
Neskantaga	25	IRI	265
Cochrane, Unorganized, South West Part	23	NO	0
Naiscoutaing 17A	20	IRI	0
New Post 69	23	IRI	0
Moosonee	23	TV	2006
Wapekeka 1	25	IRI	0
Moose Factory 68	23	IRI	0
Zhiibaahaasing 19 (Cockburn Island 19)	21	IRI	0
Factory Island 1	23	IRI	1666
Whitefish Bay 32A	25	IRI	622
Flying Post 73	23	IRI	40
Bear Island 1	20	IRI	
Wahta Mohawk Territory	20	IRI	
Wunnumin 2	25	IRI	0