NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

Community Profile

TOWNSHIP OF NIPIGON, ONTARIO

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DECEMBER 2014

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Community Profile – Nipigon, ON



DECEMBER, 2014

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AANDC	Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
APM	Adaptive Phased Management
B&B	Bed & Breakfast Inn
BNAFN	Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek First Nation
BZAFN	Binjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishnaabek First Nation
CEGEP	Collège d'enseignement général et professionnel [General and Vocational College]
CFDC	Community Futures Development Corporation
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CPR	Canadian Pacific Railway
CSP	Community Sustainability Plan
DPRA	DPRA Canada (consulting firm, authors of this community profile)
EDO	Economic Development Office
FIR	Financial Information Return
GNR	Global Non-Response Rate
Northwest JTF	Joint Task Force on Northwestern Ontario Economic Development Planning
NOACC	Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce
MNO	Métis Nation of Ontario
MPAC	Municipal Property Assessment Corporation
NHS	National Household Survey
NMCA	National Marine Conservation Area
NWMO	Nuclear Waste Management Organization
NOSCP	Northern Ontario Sustainable Community Partnership
NPI	Northern Policy Institute
NSTA	Northern Superior Tourism Association
NSWPB	Northern Superior Workforce Planning Board
OPP	Ontario Provincial Police
REDA	Regional Economic Development Area
RRIB	Red Rock Indian Band
WDMP	Waterfront Development Master Plan

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This community profile has been prepared as part of the Township of Nipigon's (hereafter referred to as 'Nipigon' or 'the Township') participation in the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) *Learn More* program. This program is offered to communities interested in exploring and potentially hosting the Adaptive Phased Management (APM) Project, the deep geological repository and centre of expertise which is required as part of Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

This document brings together information about the community, its history, its aspirations, and current conditions. The information contained in this report is not an assessment of any kind; instead it is intended to paint a picture of the community as it stands today. Such a picture can be a helpful starting point for community discussions about how future projects might be implemented in the community, and the extent to which a project might contribute to the well-being of the community over the long term, including the APM Project. The APM Project will only be implemented in a community that has reflected upon whether the Project will contribute to community well-being and, after a series of detailed studies have been completed to confirm the safety and appropriateness of a site, has expressed an informed willingness to host the Project. Over time, communities in the surrounding area will also need to become involved in the learning process.

This profile is organized to describe the characteristics of the community through five different perspectives or 'lenses':

- Human: Skills, knowledge and essential services supporting the well-being of the community;
- Economic: Monetary or financial resources supporting the well-being of the community;
- Infrastructure: Basic physical infrastructure supporting the well-being of the community;
- Social: Social and community activities in which people participate and the resources drawn upon to support well-being; and,
- Natural Environment: Nature and the natural environment important to well-being.

The characteristics of the community are referred to as "assets" throughout the report. This is intended to highlight their importance and pave the way for a broad and holistic discussion of how the community may be affected by the APM Project, or other large project which the community may consider. This discussion of the characteristics of the community which support community life may also help the community identify other important aspects which should also be considered.

The information and data used to compile this profile was derived from a combination of sources, including:

- Publicly available documents and statistics;
- Data and information provided by the community;
- Insights derived from discussion with the Community Liaison Committee and through interviews with community members; and,
- Consultant visits and observations.

Although this profile contains references to other communities within the region, these references are intended only as a means to round out the community profile and provide some context for discussion. For example, the Census Division is the 'Thunder Bay District' which is not meant to imply region; the regional context is left undefined in this community profile.

This profile also includes Statistics Canada census data (collected at 5-year intervals, e.g., 1996, 2001, 2006, and 2011 [census only]). Where 2011 data is not available, it is noted that the 2006 data are now eight years old. In some cases data are limited by the level of detail available (e.g., data may be rounded[1] or suppressed by Statistics Canada due to small sample sizes), or the type of data collected in a given year. In some cases, supplementary information is available from other sources, including the engagement activities conducted for the Phase 1 Community Well-being Assessment.

The National Household Survey (NHS)[2] was also conducted by Statistics Canada in 2011. The Global Non-Response Rate (GNR) for the 2011 NHS "…combines complete non-response (household) and partial non-response (question) into a single rate. The value of the GNR is presented to users. A smaller GNR indicates a lower risk of non-response bias and as a result, lower risk of inaccuracy. The threshold used for estimates' suppression is a GNR of 50% or more." 2011 NHS data for the Township of Nipigon has been suppressed by Statistics Canada for this reason. Thunder Bay District and Ontario NHS data results are included in the report where appropriate. The 2011 NHS GNR for various geographies considered in the profile are:

- Township of Nipigon – GNR is greater than 50% (specific figure not available)
- Thunder Bay District – GNR 28.2%[3]
- Ontario – GNR 27.1%

[1] Statistics Canada applies a confidentiality procedure of random rounding to all Census data to avoid the possibility of associating statistical data with any identifiable individual. With this method all data, including totals and margins are randomly rounded either up or down to a multiple of "5" or in some cases "10". As a result, the sum of a set of data may not add to the total, and percentages, which are calculated on rounded figures, do not necessarily add to 100%. The impact of this procedure is particularly noticeable on small counts. In effect, small numbers may lose their precision, and percentages calculated based on these numbers may not represent the proportion of the population indicated. In such cases, the percentages in a table may add to over and in some instances less than 100%, and the reader is advised to apply a cautionary note when interpreting the findings.

[2] Complementing the data collected by the census, the National Household Survey (NHS) is designed to provide information about people in Canada by their demographic, social and economic characteristics as well as provide information about the housing units in which they live. It is a voluntary survey (unlike the mandatory census).

[3] Statistics Canada. 2013. *Thunder Bay, DIS, Ontario (Code 3558) (Table). National Household Survey (NHS) Profile. 2011 National Household Survey. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 99-004-XWE. Ottawa*. Website: http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E. Accessed: October 2013.

- Canada – GNR 26.1%

The NWMO *Learn More* program encourages collaboration and shared learning involving the NWMO and the community throughout all stages of reflection and decision-making. NWMO efforts to learn about and understand the community, its aspirations and current conditions will continue throughout the duration of Nipigon's involvement in the *Learn More* program.

2.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE

This section of the profile includes detailed overviews of all five Asset Categories – Human, Economic, Infrastructure, Social, and Natural Environment – as they relate to the Township of Nipigon.

The definition of the regional context of a community is subjective. The regional boundaries of a community can be defined differently by various entities. For the purposes of this Community Profile, the regional context is left undefined, as further dialogue with community members and members in surrounding communities is required to best understand the broader regional context.

The Township of Nipigon is situated within the Thunder Bay District. Statistics are readily available for the District; for this reason and for the purposes of the profile, they will be used only for the purpose of setting context and comparison. In particular, Thunder Bay District is the Census Division for which Statistics Canada data is available.

2.1 OVERVIEW

2.1.1 LOCATION

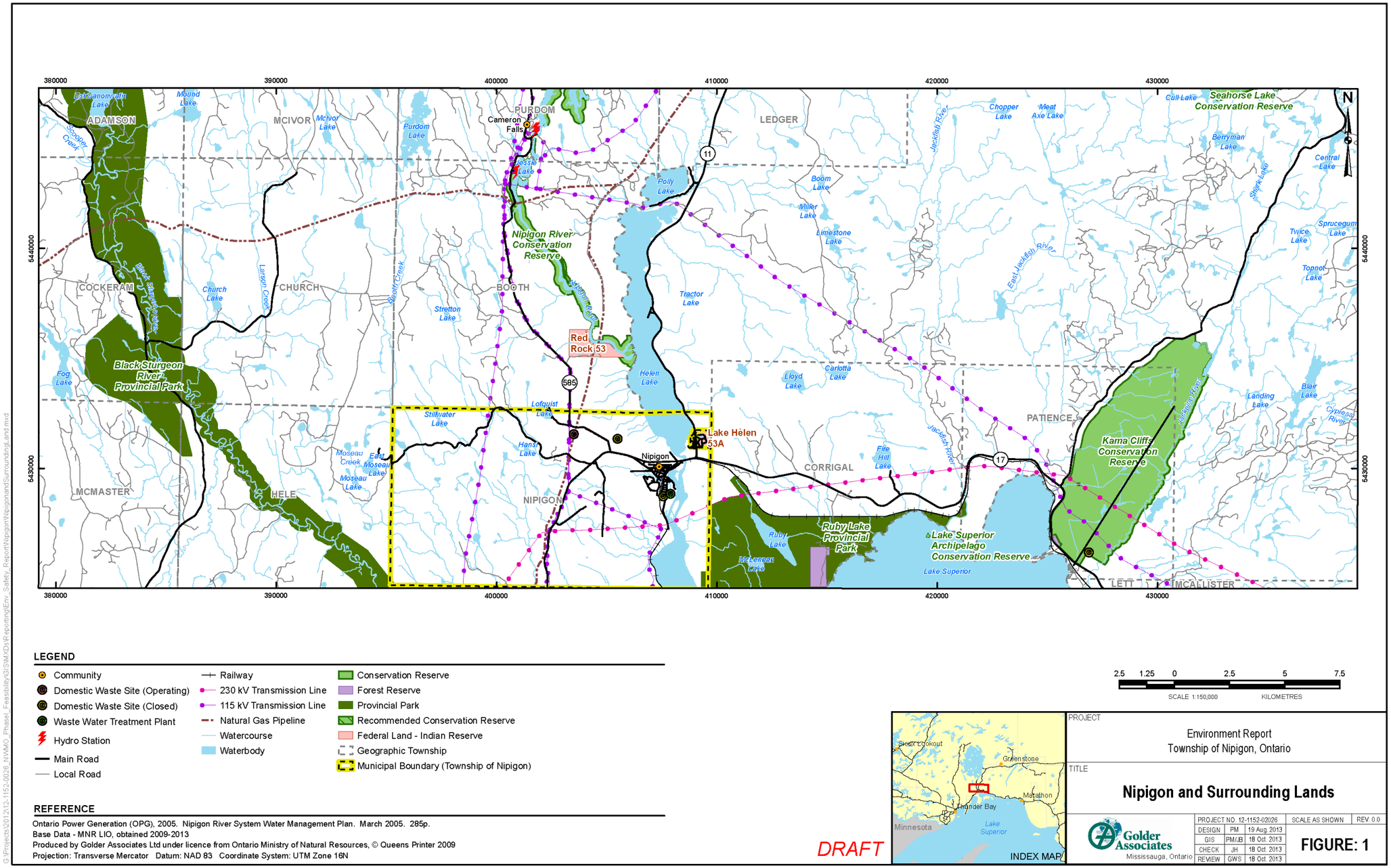
Nipigon is located in the Thunder Bay District, the Census Division for which Statistics Canada census data is available, at the junction of Highway 11 and the TransCanada Highway (Highway 17). It is approximately 120 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay, on the north shore of Lake Superior (see Figure 1). The Lake Helen Reserve of the Red Rock Indian Band (RRIB, also known as Opwaaganisining or the Lake Helen First Nation) is located approximately 2 kilometres northeast of the community of Nipigon. The Township of Red Rock is located just south of Nipigon, approximately 20 kilometres by road. Figure 2 shows Nipigon and surrounding lands.

Figure 1: Location of Nipigon



Source: DPRA Canada. 2013

Figure 2: Nipigon and Surrounding Lands



Source: Golder Associates. January 2014. *Nipigon and Surrounding Lands*.

2.1.2 Land Size and Uses

The Township of Nipigon covers a land area of approximately 115 km^2.[4] Historically, Nipigon's industry consisted mainly of forestry and related activities, and to a lesser extent mining.[5]

Additional information on land uses is provided in other sections of the profile (e.g., Sections 2.3.1.4 (Tourism), 2.4.1.1 (Land Use), and 2.6 (Natural Environment)).

2.1.3 Vision and Strategic Plan

The Township of Nipigon has a number of strategic documents that outline vision and mission statements for the community, as well as objectives and plans for the Township:

- Official Plan 2013;
- Nipigon Waterfront Development Master Plan 2013;
- Community Sustainability Plan 2013;
- Asset Management Plan for the Township of Nipigon 2013;
- Strategic Plan 2012;
- Nipigon and the Red Rock Indian Band Marketing Action Plan 2008; and,
- Nipigon and the Red Rock Indian Band Economic Diversification Strategy 2008.

Official Plan 2013

The Township of Nipigon's Official Plan was approved by Council in early 2014. The Official Plan will be used as a guide to future development and land use in the community while protecting the natural environment of Nipigon and the surrounding area. The vision and mission statements from the Official Plan are provided below.

Nipigon's vision statement is[6]:

Nipigon will become a destination for travelers, regional focus for services, recreation and culture and a sustainable, healthy and complete community.

[4] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. 2014. *Land Information Ontario - Discovering Ontario Data*. Website: https://www.javacoeapp.lrc.gov.on.ca/geonetwork/srv/en/main.home. Accessed: September 2014.
[5] Township of Nipigon. n.d. *Community Profile*. Website: http://www.nipigon.net/files/4113/6336/1347/updated_community_profile.pdf. Accessed: July 2013.
[6] MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture. December 16, 2013. *Official Plan for the Township of Nipigon.* P. 6.

The above vision statement is supported by the following mission[7] statement:

- ***Nipigon will be a prosperous and economically sustainable community;***
- ***Nipigon will be a green, mindful and environmentally sustainable community;***
- ***Nipigon will engage the community in being a healthy and socially sustainable community; and,***
- ***Nipigon will be a creative and culturally sustainable community.***

The Official Plan outlines seven objectives. They pertain to economic development, the natural environment, cultural heritage, services and transportation, mineral resources and mineral aggregates, energy conservation, and social infrastructure. (These are briefly addressed in the profile.) The policies and land use designations addressed in the Official Plan are based on accomplishing these seven objectives.[8]

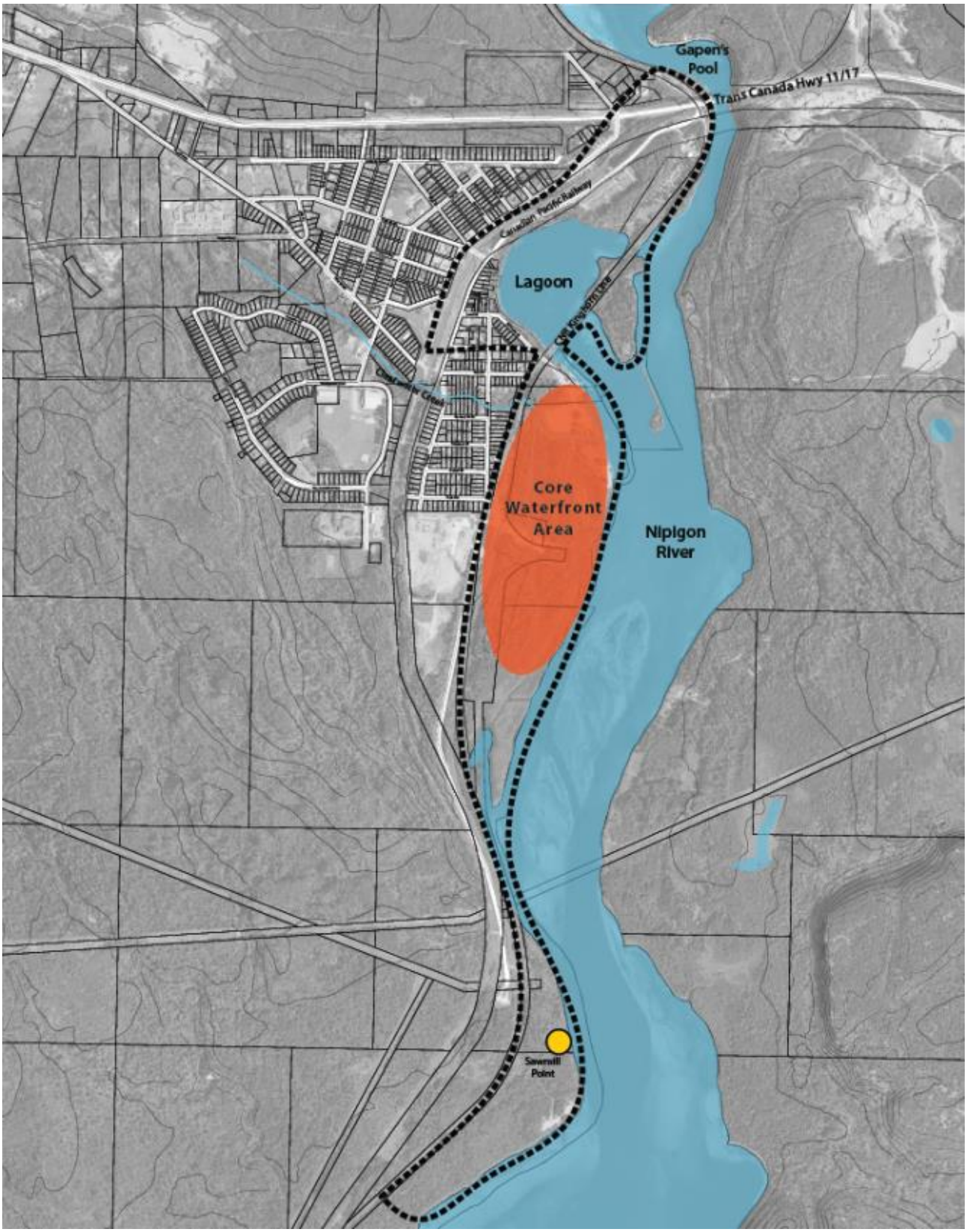
Nipigon Waterfront Development Master Plan 2013

The Nipigon waterfront (Figure 3) and marina have played major roles in the community since the 1800s as one of the most northerly freshwater ports in North America.[9] As such, the Waterfront Development Master Plan (WDMP) is a framework for this area of the community.

The Township initiated the WDMP in order to identify ways to develop the local economy and expand access to the natural environment for both residents and tourists.[10] The Plan is a partnership between the public sector (the Township) and the private sector.

[7] MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture. December 2013. *Official Plan for the Township of Nipigon.* P.6.
[8] MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture. December 2013. *Official Plan for the Township of Nipigon.*
[9] Township of Nipigon. 2014. *Nipigon Marina.* Website: http://www.nipigon.net/visitors/attractions/nipigon-marina/. Accessed: January 2014.
[10] The Planning Partnership, et.al. August 2013. *Nipigon Waterfront Development Master Plan*.

Figure 3: Nipigon Core Waterfront Area Map



Source: The Planning Partnership, et.al. August 2013. *Nipigon Waterfront Development Master Plan*.

The WDMP is based on what is referred to as 10 "big moves" which frame recommendations to improve streets and public spaces, the Town Centre, and development opportunities along the waterfront. These are:[11]

1) *Relocate the railway spur line from the Town Centre to the vacant industrial land south of Town. This move reclaims these lands to become the true heart of the Town with a long term vision for mixed use development.*

2) *Extend Third Street through the new Town Centre to provide a direct link with First Street and the TransCanada Highway to the Town Centre and the waterfront.*

3) *Create a Town Square at the corner of Third Street and Front Street as a focus of civic uses.*

4) *Infill the site of the relocated spur line with new mixed use development. Commercial, retail and higher density residential uses could be designed to augment the commercial uses on Front Street.*

5) *Create a space for a seasonal market on Front Street through landscape treatment along the railway.*

6) *Create lookouts and a focus for tourist information at the new bridge and new Vistas.*

7) *Create a new multi-use waterfront building with an iconic feature to be a landmark when viewed from the lookouts.*

8) *Continue to develop uses on the waterfront to provide a focus for year round activity.*

9) *Incorporate interpretive signage and information displays to describe the heritage features of this important location.*

10) *Create a continuous trail along the shoreline of the lagoon and Nipigon River to provide a focus for the larger regional trail system.*

The public sector improvements envisioned in the WDMP will provide a foundation for a variety of commercial development opportunities. The WDMP includes components such as:

- Waterfront boardwalk, lookout and park;
- A Multi-Use Centre that will be a focal point for waterfront development;
- Residential development;
- A camping area;
- A restaurant;
- Dock space and kiosk operations;
- Boat storage;
- An events park/area; and,
- Possible campus extension/satellite campus of a university or college.[12]

[11] The Planning Partnership, et.al. August 2013. *Nipigon Waterfront Development Master Plan*.

[12] The Planning Partnership, et.al. August 2013. *Nipigon Waterfront Development Master Plan*.

The WDMP identifies three phases of development:

- *Phase 1: Short-term 2013-2014*
  "Easily-realized" public sector improvements will be made within the community during this time (i.e., reinforce the 'Paddle to the Sea' interactive park, initial boardwalk phase, and new urban square);
- *Phase 2: Medium-term 2015-2017*
  New ways to draw visitors to Nipigon and its waterfront will be created by developing new attractions (i.e., waterfront lookout and park); and,
- *Phase 3: Long-term 2018 and beyond*
  This phase will be implemented once essential public sector improvements have been made in the community. Developer investment (i.e., residential) and other key public sector improvements (i.e., boardwalk completion, parking/multiple use area and paving) will be completed during this phase.[13]

Community Sustainability Plan 2013

The draft Community Sustainability Plan (CSP) provides the foundation for sustainable decision-making in the Township for the next 10 – 20 years. The objectives of the CSP are:

- *Coordinate public and private actions in a manner that will achieve the objectives of the Plan;*
- *Reflect and integrate social, cultural, environmental and economic sustainability objectives in community planning and decision making;*
- *Collaborate with other municipalities and First Nations where appropriate to achieve sustainability objectives; and,*
- *Engage residents in determining and achieving a long-term vision for the municipality through education and understanding of sustainability.*[14]

Asset Management Plan for the Township of Nipigon 2013

The Asset Management Plan for the Township of Nipigon was created in 2013 to meet the requirements outlined in: *Building Together Guide for Municipal Asset Management Plans*. The Asset Management Plan serves as a strategic, tactical, and financial document. It was created to ensure "*the management of the municipal infrastructure follows sound asset management practices and principles, while optimizing available resources and establishing desired levels of service*".[15]

[13] The Planning Partnership, et.al. August 2013. *Nipigon Waterfront Development Master Plan*.

[14] MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture. January 23, 2013. *Draft Community Sustainability Plan – The Township of Nipigon*. P.3.

[15] Public Sector Digest. 2013. *The Asset Management Plan for the Township of Nipigon*. Website: http://www.nipigon.net/files/3513/8962/7456/Township_of_Nipigon_Asset_Management_Plan.pdf. Accessed: May 2014.

The following asset classes are addressed in the Asset Management Plan:

1) Road Network;
2) Bridges and Culverts;
3) Water Network;
4) Sanitary Sewer Network; and,
5) Storm Sewer Network.[16]

Strategic Plan 2012

The Strategic Plan for the Township of Nipigon outlines the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and potential challenges, and identifies goals and objectives. The mission statement in the Strategic Plan is: *Nipigon will be a destination point for visitors, businesses and new residents while maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for the community*.[17] There are eleven focused goals/objectives identified in the Strategic Plan:

1) Business Development (Industry);
2) Tourism Development;
3) Knowledge Economy;
4) Nipigon Revitalization/Beautification;
5) Marina Development;
6) Tourism and Marketing;
7) Marketing;
8) Capital Infrastructure and Community Development;
9) Collaboration – On-going;
10) Volunteer – On-going; and,
11) Recreation – On-going.[18]

Nipigon and the Red Rock Indian Band Marketing Action Plan 2008

The Nipigon and the Red Rock Indian Band Marketing Action Plan was created to support and build upon the 2008 Nipigon and the Red Rock Indian Band Economic Diversification Strategy. The analysis was based on the local economy and trends in the macro-economy, and used to develop marketing directions, based on sector targets, for economic growth in each community.[19] In priority order, these were:[20]

[16] Public Sector Digest. 2013. *The Asset Management Plan for the Township of Nipigon*. Website: http://www.nipigon.net/files/3513/8962/7456/Township_of_Nipigon_Asset_Management_Plan.pdf. Accessed: May 2014.

[17] Township of Nipigon. January 2012. *Strategic Plan*.

[18] *Ibid*

[19] Millier Dickinson Blais Inc. December 17, 2008. *Final Report – Nipigon and Red Rock Indian Band: Marketing Action Plan*.

[20] *Ibid*

Nipigon:

- Lone Eagles[21]
- Government Services
- Tourism
- EnviroTech
- Forestry

Red Rock Indian Band:

- Government Services
- Forestry
- Tourism
- Lone Eagles
- EnviroTech

The Action Plan also outlines the Business Retention and Expansion Program which is a program used to improve the local business environment in the communities by identifying any barriers to growth and opportunities that exist in the broader economy. Each community has an informal program where staff liaises with local business owners on a case by case basis.[22]

Nipigon and the Red Rock Indian Band Economic Diversification Strategy 2008

The purpose and main objectives outlined in the 2008 Nipigon and the Red Rock Indian Band Economic Diversification Strategy *(currently being revised – TBC)* are:

1) *Complete a current economic profile;*
2) *Complete an organizational investment readiness/willingness assessment;*
3) *Establish local competitive advantages/disadvantages;*
4) *Assess key criteria and select sectors/clusters; and,*
5) *Understand and assess roles of local organizations*.[23]

2.2 HUMAN ASSETS

2.2.1 HUMAN ASSET INDICATORS

The Human Assets within a community include the skills and knowledge inherent in a community and the ability of a community to provide its residents with access to other skills, knowledge and essential services that are fundamental to maintaining community well-being, quality of life or a desired standard of living.

[21] 'Lone Eagles' refers to a home based business. This information was obtained during a Nipigon community discussion June 2014.

[22] Millier Dickinson Blais Inc. December 17, 2008. *Final Report – Nipigon and Red Rock Indian Band: Marketing Action Plan*.

[23] Millier Dickinson Blais Inc. 2008. *Nipigon and Red Rock Indian Band: Economic Diversification Strategy*. Website: http://www.nipigon.net/files/8113/6197/4559/Nipigon_-_RRIB_Economic_Diversification_Strategy_final.pdf. Accessed: November 2013. P.4.

The specific indicators within the Human Assets category include:

- Population Size and Demographics;
- Skills and Labour;
- Education; and,
- Health and Safety Facilities and Services.

These indicators are described in this section, within the context of human well-being of Nipigon.

2.2.1.1 POPULATION SIZE AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Population Size

Table 1 and Figures 4 – 6 show census population data for the Township of Nipigon, the Census Division* and Ontario for the period 1996 – 2011. Census data reports that Nipigon's 2011 population was 1,631, compared to 1,752 in 2006. The data indicates that Nipigon's population has been declining since 1996. Community representatives report that the current population is about 1,600 and while significantly lower than the 1996 population of approximately 2,200, the population has stabilized in the last couple of years.[24] Anecdotal reports are that the population was approximately 5,000 in the 1950s/1960s.[25] During the same period, the population of the Census Division has also declined – steeply from 1996 to 2001, then more moderately from 2001 to 2011 compared to Nipigon – while Ontario's population has continuously increased. This trend reflects the economic downturn in the community and the Census Division over the past several decades.

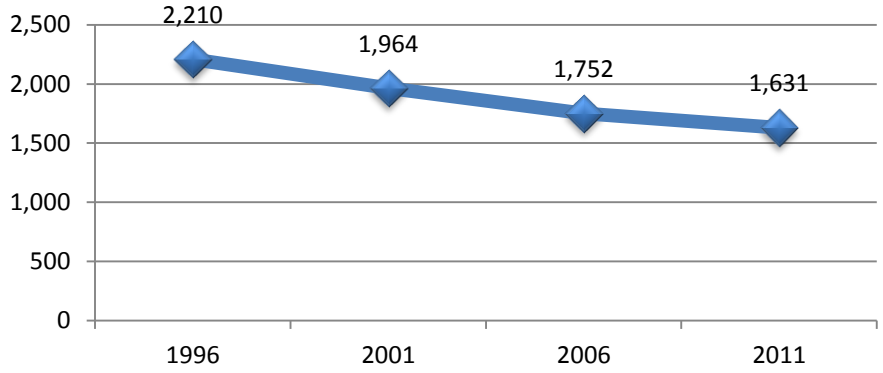
Table 1: Nipigon, Census Division*, and Ontario Population Trends, 1996 – 2011

Time Period	Nipigon Population (Change from Previous Census)	Census Division Population (Change from Previous Census)	Ontario Population (Change from Previous Census)
1996	2,210 (-5.5%)	157,619 (-0.7%)	10,753,573 (6.6%)
2001	1,964 (-11.1%)	150,860 (-4.3%)	11,410,046 (6.1%)
2006	1,752 (-10.8%)	149,063 (-1.2%)	12,160,282 (6.6%)
2011	1,631 (-6.9%)	146,057 (-2.0%)	12,851,821 (5.7%)

Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

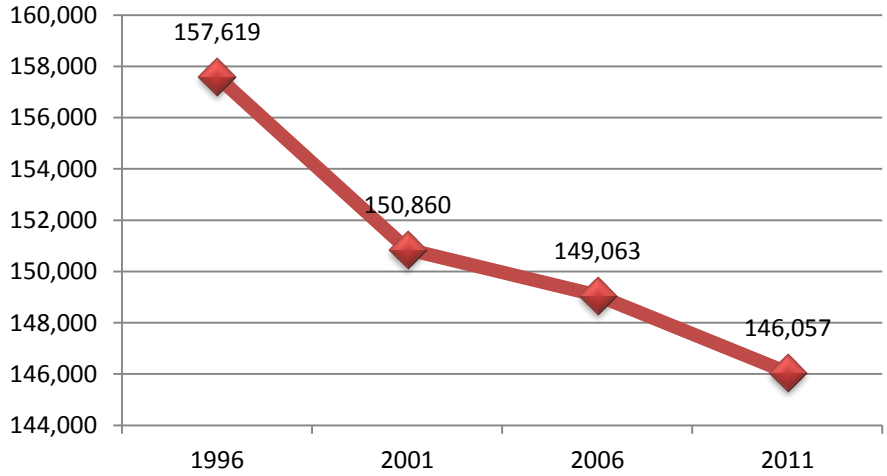
[24] Information obtained from Nipigon community discussions October 2013.
[25] Information obtained from Nipigon community discussion February 2014.
* *Please note, throughout Chapter 2 of this Profile, any reference made to the term 'Census Division' means Thunder Bay District.*

Figure 4: Nipigon Population Trends, 1996 – 2011



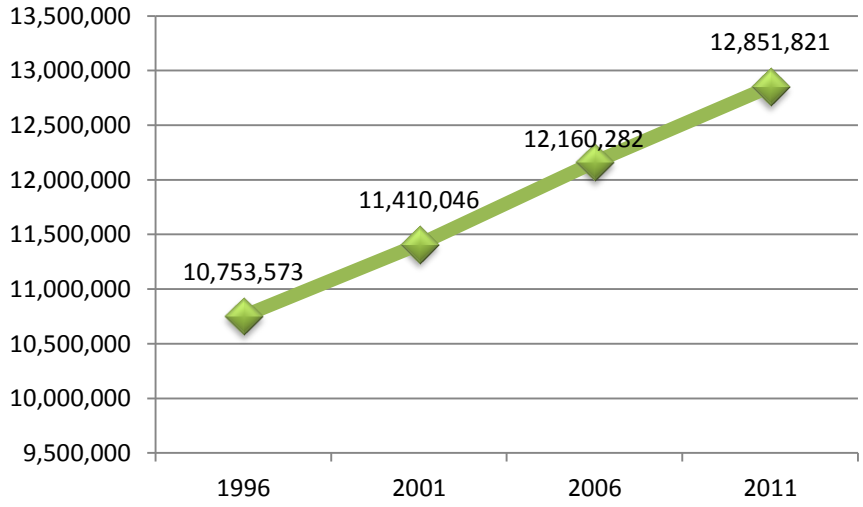
Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Nipigon, Township Community Profiles*.

Figure 5: Census Division Population Trends, 1996 – 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Thunder Bay District, Community Profiles*.

Figure 6: Ontario Population Trends, 1996 – 2011



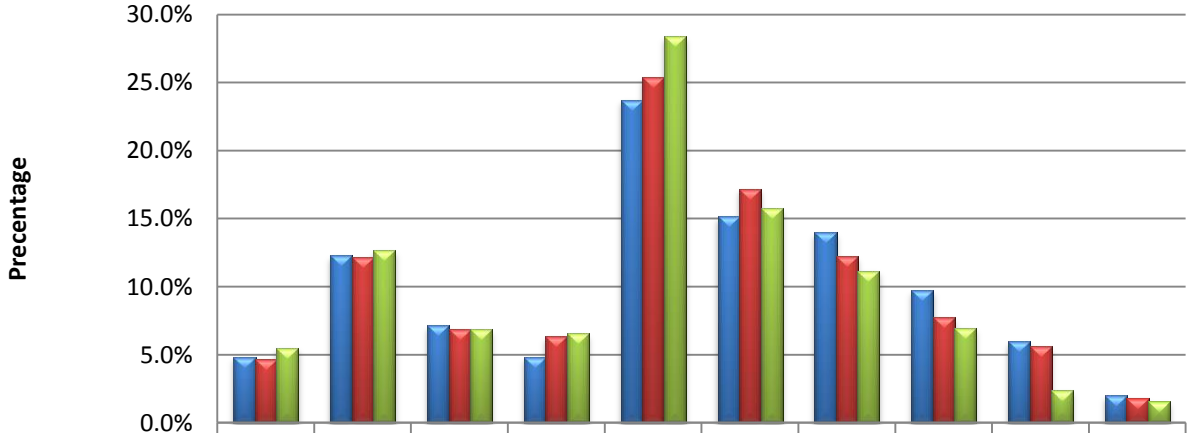
Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Ontario, Community Profiles*.

The Nipigon population figures do not include the people residing on the adjacent Lake Helen Reserve in 2013. Many RRIB members live in the community of Nipigon.

Age Structure

Figures 7 and 8 show the number of residents by age category for Nipigon, the Census Division and the province, for census years 2006 and 2011, respectively. In 2011, more than 50% of the population was over age 50. In 2006 Nipigon's 25-44 age cohort had the largest proportion of individuals among all age categories by a large margin (at 23.7%, compared to 15.1% of the population in next largest age category [45-54]). In 2011, the community's 25-44 age cohort still had the largest proportion of individuals, but had reduced to 19.0% -- less than 3 percentage points more than the 45-54 age category (16.3%). Also, the proportion of Nipigon's population over the age of 65 increased by 3.5 percentage points from 17.7% of the total population in 2006 to 21.2% of the total population in 2011: this indicates an aging trend. A similar aging trend is reflected in the Census Division (an increase of 1.6 percentage points) and the province (an increase of 3.6 percentage points) for the population aged 65 and over. Figures 7 and 8 also show an overall decrease in the proportion of children in the community (aged 5-14 and 15-19) between 2006 and 2011.

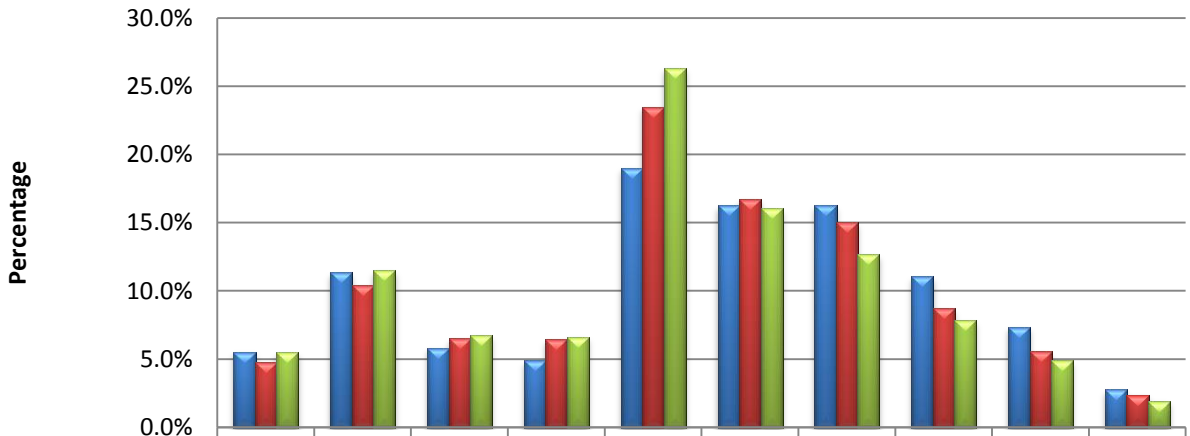
Figure 7: Nipigon, Census Division, and Ontario Age Structure, 2006



	0-4	5-14	15-19	20-24	25-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Nipigon	4.9%	12.3%	7.1%	4.9%	23.7%	15.1%	14.0%	9.7%	6.0%	2.0%
Census Division	4.7%	12.2%	6.9%	6.3%	25.4%	17.2%	12.2%	7.7%	5.6%	1.8%
Ontario	5.5%	12.7%	6.9%	6.6%	28.4%	15.8%	11.2%	7.0%	2.4%	1.6%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

Figure 8: Nipigon, Census Division, and Ontario Age Structure, 2011



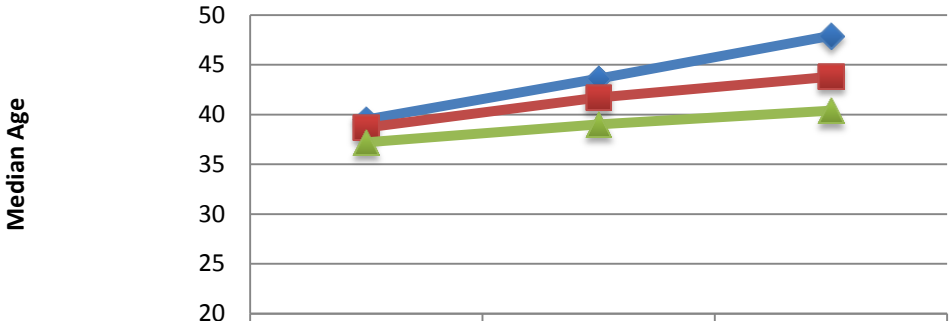
	0-4	5-14	15-19	20-24	25-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Nipigon	5.5%	11.3%	5.8%	4.9%	19.0%	16.3%	16.3%	11.0%	7.4%	2.8%
Census Division	4.8%	10.4%	6.5%	6.4%	23.5%	16.7%	15.0%	8.7%	5.6%	2.4%
Ontario	5.5%	11.5%	6.7%	6.6%	26.3%	16.0%	12.7%	7.8%	4.9%	1.9%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2012. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

Median Age

Between the 2001 and 2011 census periods, the median age of Nipigon residents increased by 8.4 years, from 39.5 in 2001 to 47.9 in 2011 (Figure 9)[26]. Over the same period the median age increased to a lesser extent in the Census Division (by 5.1 years, from 38.7 in 2001 to 43.8 in 2011) and Ontario (by 3.2 years, from 37.2 in 2001 to 40.4 in 2011).

Figure 9: Nipigon, Census Division, and Ontario Median Age, 2001 - 2011



	2001	2006	2011
Nipigon	39.5	43.6	47.9
Census Division	38.7	41.7	43.8
Ontario	37.2	39	40.4

Source: Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007, 2012. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles.*

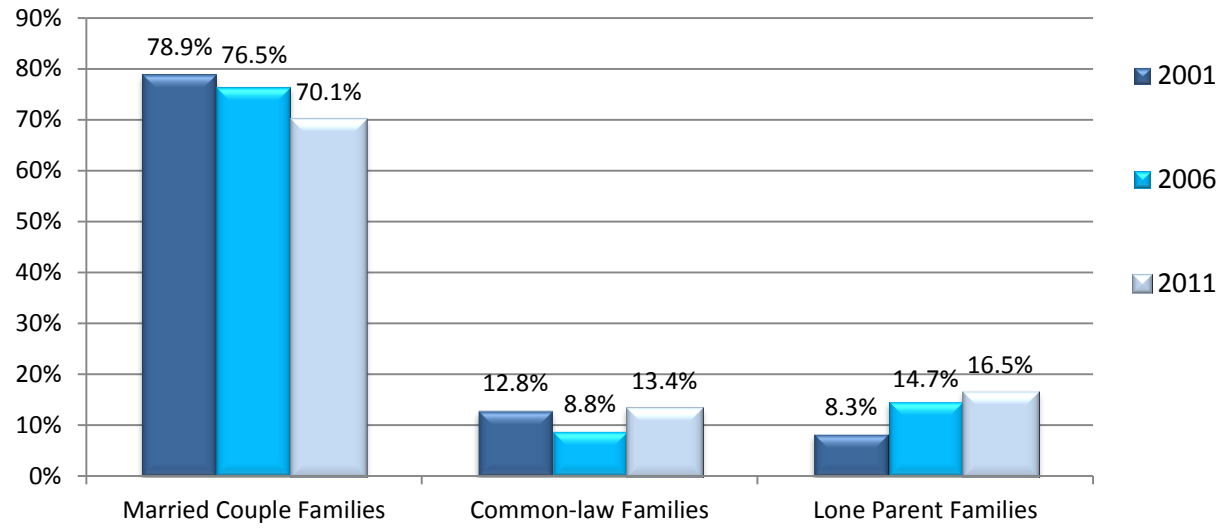
Family Characteristics

Household composition in Nipigon was fairly consistent in the census years 2001 through 2011, with the majority of families having married couples and relatively few common-law families and lone parent families (see Figure 10). Over time, however, there was a trend of reduced proportion of married couple families (70.1% in 2011, down from 78.9% in 2001) and a doubling of the proportion of lone parent families (from 8.3% in 2001 to 16.5% in 2011). Community representatives have also reported the increase in lone parent families; in particular the rise in male lone parent families.[27]

[26] Statistics Canada definition from census: "The median age is an age 'x', such that exactly one half of the population is older than 'x' and the other half is younger than 'x'."

[27] This information was obtained during Nipigon community discussions April 2014.

Figure 10: Nipigon Family Characteristics, 2001 – 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007, 2012. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

Population Mobility

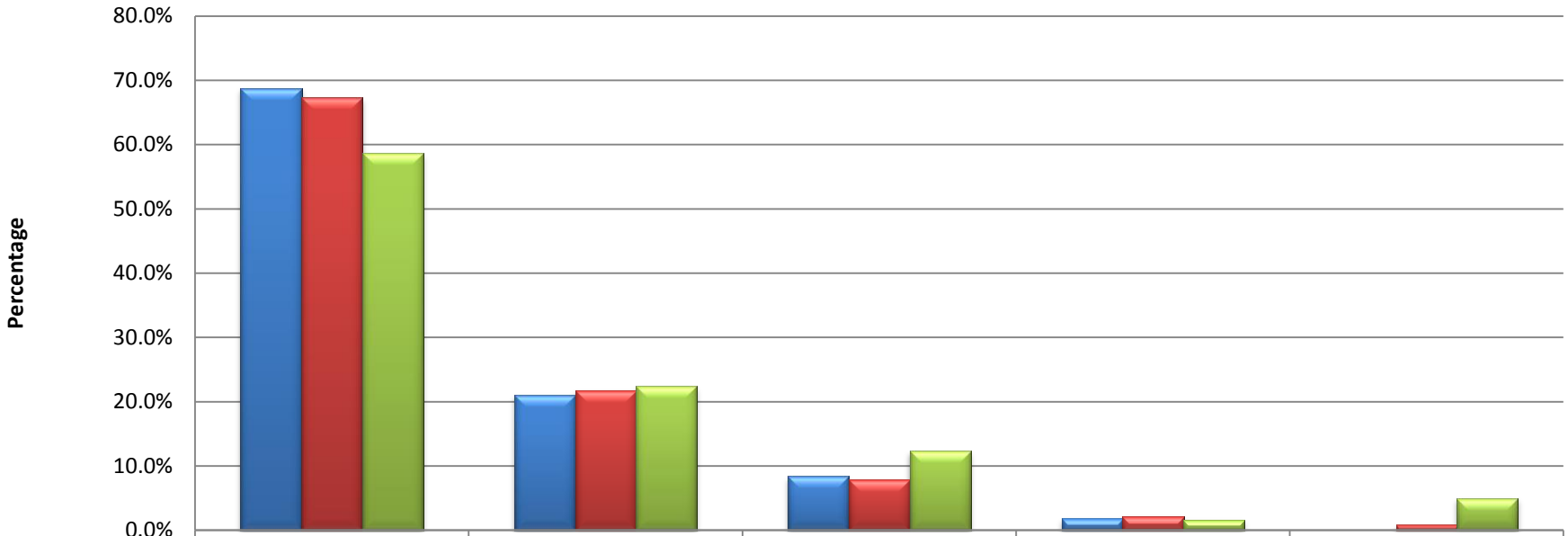
Mobility status refers to the movement of individuals over a period of time[28]. Figures 11 and 12 demonstrate the 5-year and 1-year mobility status for Nipigon, the Census Division, and Ontario for 2006, while Figure 13 illustrates 1-year mobility status for Nipigon, the Census Division and Ontario in 2011. In 2006, a majority of Township residents were categorized as non-movers (i.e., residents who have not moved in the past five years 68.8%). This rate was slightly greater than for the Census Division (67.3%), and greater than the provincial rate (58.7%) (Figure 11).

In 2006, people living in Ontario (13.4%) or the Census Division (11.3%) were somewhat less likely to have moved in the past year than those living in Nipigon (15.7%) (Figure 12). The majority of those who had moved in the past year in Nipigon had moved from another address in the Township. It is noted that the mobility data for the 2006 census was collected prior to the shut-down of the mills in Red Rock (late 2006) and Nipigon (early 2007).

Due to data limitations, only 1-year mobility status is available for Nipigon in 2011; however, a comparison can still be made across census periods. Between 2006 and 2011, there was a very slight increase in the proportion of Nipigon and Census Division residents categorized as non-movers (0.9 and 0.2 percentage points, respectively) compared to a somewhat larger increase in non-movers for the province (1.8 percentage points). Approximately 85.2% of Nipigon residents were non-movers in 2011, while 14.8% were categorized as movers.

[28] Statistics Canada defines 1 year mobility status as 'information indicating whether the person lived in the same residence on Census Day (May 16, 2006), as he or she did one year before (May 16, 2005)' and 5 year mobility status as 'information indicating whether the person lived in the same residence on Census Day (May 16, 2006), as he or she did five years before (May 16, 2001)'. Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Nipigon, Township Community Profile*. Website: http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3558044&Geo2=PR&Code2=35&Data=Count&SearchText=nipigon&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&Custom=. Accessed: September 2014.

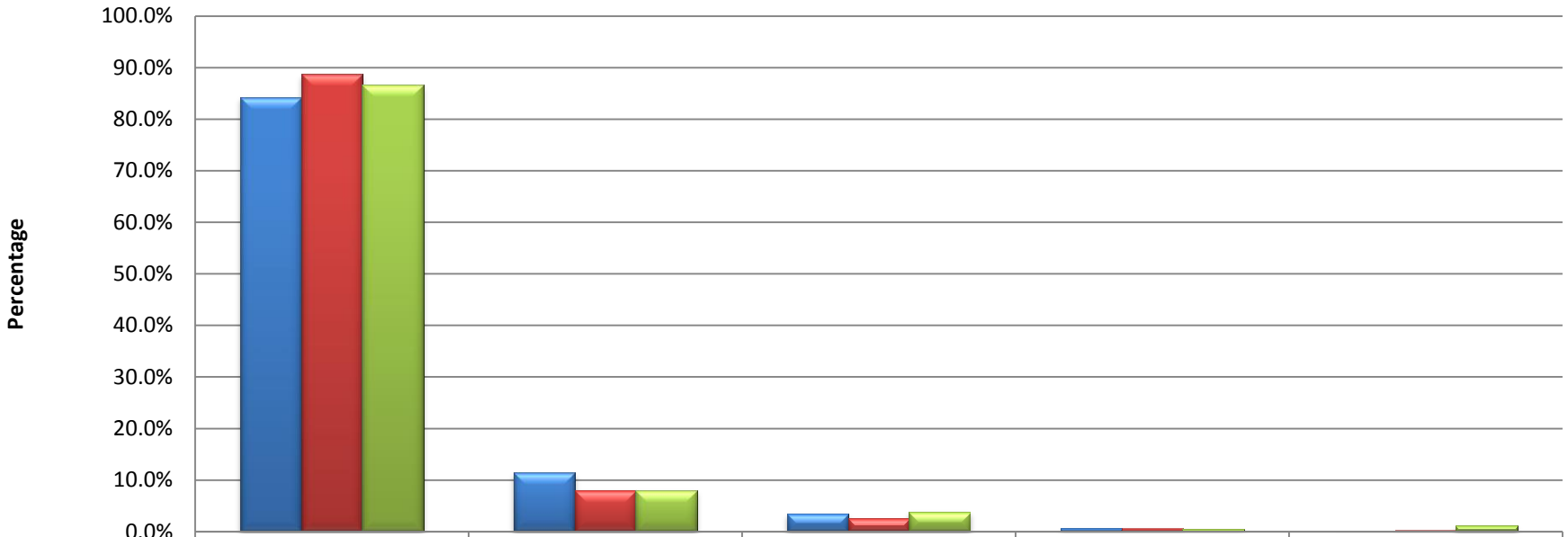
Figure 11: Nipigon, Census Division, and Ontario 5-Year Mobility Status, 2006



	Lived at the same address 5 years ago	Lived within the same province/territory 5 years ago; but changed addresses within the same census subdivision	Lived within the same province/territory 5 years ago; but changed addresses from another census subdivision within the same province/territory	Lived in a different province/territory 5 years ago	Lived in a different country 5 years ago
Nipigon	68.8%	21.0%	8.4%	1.8%	0.0%
Census Division	67.3%	21.8%	7.9%	2.2%	0.8%
Ontario	58.7%	22.4%	12.3%	1.6%	5.0%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

Figure 12: Nipigon, Census Division, and Ontario 1-Year Mobility Status, 2006

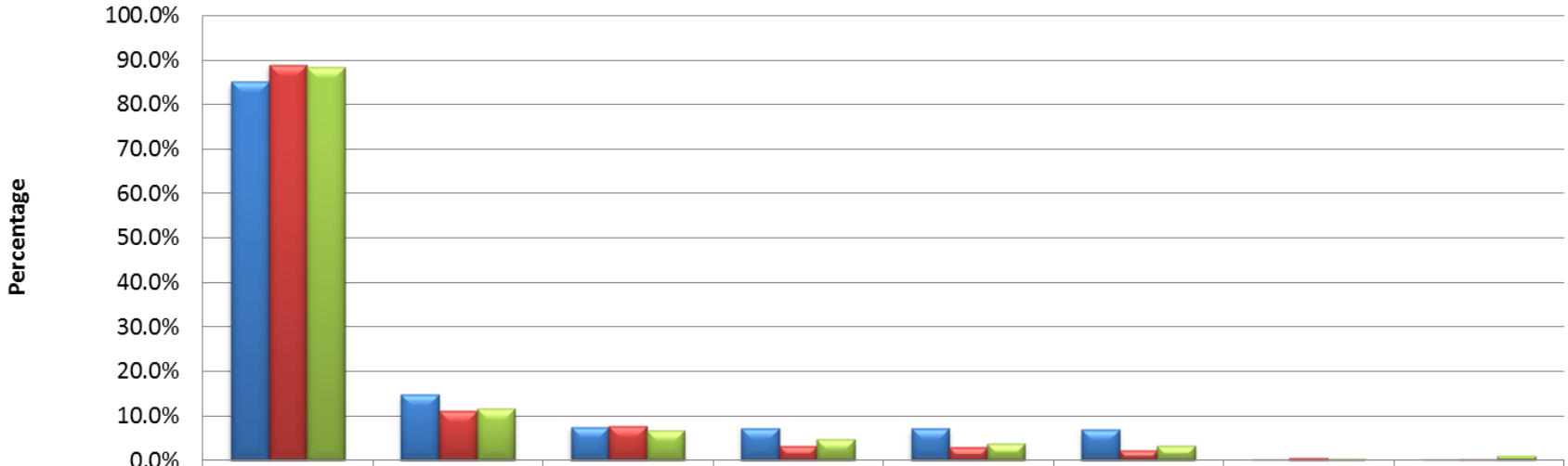


	Lived at the same address 1 year ago	Lived within the same province/territory 1 year ago; but changed addresses within the same census subdivision	Lived within the same province/territory 1 year ago; but changed addresses from another census subdivision within the same province/territory	Lived in a different province/territory 1 year ago	Lived in a different country 1 year ago
Nipigon	84.3%	11.4%	3.5%	0.6%	0.0%
Census Division	88.7%	8.0%	2.5%	0.6%	0.2%
Ontario	86.6%	8.0%	3.8%	0.5%	1.1%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

Figure 13: Nipigon, Census Division and Ontario 1 Year Mobility Status, 2011



	Non-Movers	Movers	Non-Migrants	Migrants	Internal Migrants	Intra-provincial Migrants	Inter-provincial Migrants	External Migrants
Nipigon	85.2%	14.8%	7.6%	7.3%	7.1%	6.9%	0.2%	0.1%
Census Division	88.9%	11.1%	7.8%	3.3%	3.0%	2.3%	0.7%	0.3%
Ontario	88.4%	11.6%	6.8%	4.8%	3.8%	3.4%	0.4%	1.0%

Source: Environics Analytics. 2014. *CensusPlus Enhanced Census + NHS.*

2.2.1.2 SKILLS AND LABOUR

North Superior Workforce Planning Board

The North Superior Workforce Planning Board (NSWPB) is one of twenty-five planning zones located in Ontario. The NSWPB is mandated by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities: "*to identify, assess and prioritize the skills and knowledge needs of community, employers and individual participants/learners in the local labour market through a collaborative, local labour market planning process".*[29] The Board undertakes a number of initiatives, including annual local labour market plans. These include up-to-date labour market analysis, report on actions recently taken, and identify future actions with respect to the labour force in the Census Division.

Labour Force Participation

According to the 2001 Census of Population, Nipigon residents had a labour force participation rate[30] of 64.2%; by 2006, the community's participation rate decreased by 6.2 percentage points to 58.0% (Figure 14). It is noted that 2011 NHS data on labour force participation for Nipigon is not available.[31]

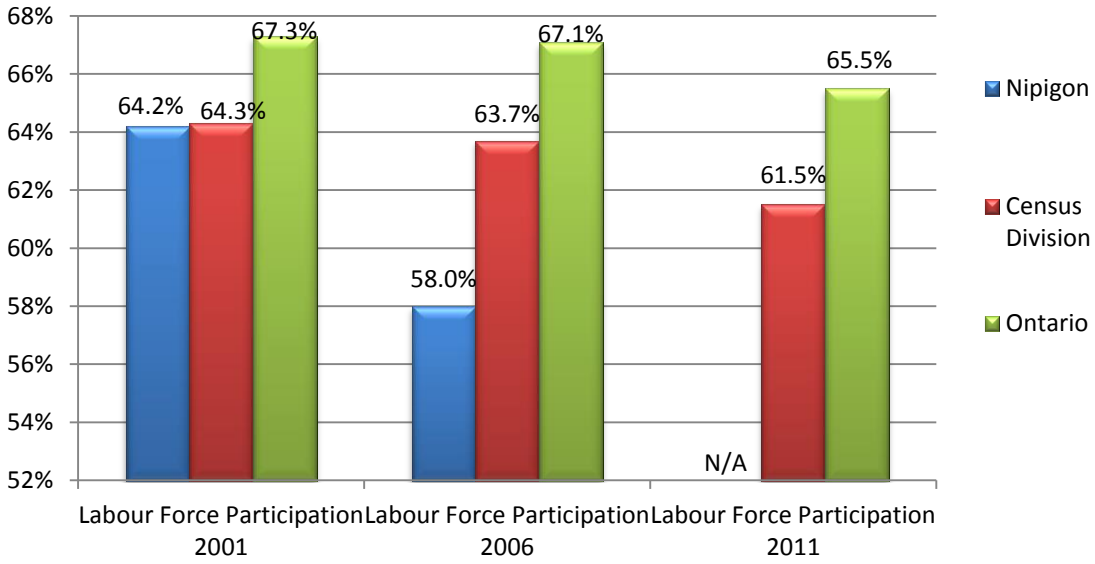
In 2001, Nipigon's labour force participation rate of 64.2% was only slightly lower than the Census Division (64.3%) and considerably lower compared to Ontario (67.3%). In 2006, the Township's participation rate was more than 5 percentage points lower than the Census Division (58.0% vs. 63.7%), and more than 9 percentage points lower than the provincial labour force participation rate (67.1%). In terms of labour force participation, Nipigon had almost the same proportion of adults in the work force as the Census Division in 2001, but much less in 2006.

[29] North Superior Workforce Planning Board. n.d. *Building a Superior Workforce: 2014-2015 Local Labour Market Plan*. Website: http://www.nswpb.ca/assets/files/NSWPB_LLMP_2014-2015_English-FINAL.pdf. Accessed: January 2014.

[30] According to Statistics Canada 2006 Census Dictionary, **participation rate** is those persons in the labour force in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day, expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over, excluding institutional residents. Statistics Canada. (2007). *2006 Census Dictionary – 2006 Census Year.* Website: http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/ref/dict/pdf/92-566-eng.pdf. Accessed: January 2014; According to Statistics Canada 2001 Census Dictionary, **participation rate** refers to the labour force in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day, expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over. Statistics Canada. 2002. *Nipigon, Community Profile*.

[31] 2011 NHS data for Nipigon has been suppressed by Statistics Canada. In addition, 2011 labour force participation data is not available using estimations by Environics Analytics. Environics Analytics. 2014. *CensusPlus Enhanced Census + NHS.*

Figure 14: Nipigon, Census Division, and Ontario Labour Force Participation Rate 2001, 2006 and 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*; Statistics Canada. 2013. *Thunder Bay District, Ontario. National Household Survey Profile. 2011 National Household Survey*.

Labour Force Size

During the period from 2006 to 2011, Nipigon and the Census Division experienced a reduction in both total population 15 years of age and older and the size of the labour force (Table 2). Ontario as a whole, however, had a different trend; the size of the provincial labour force and the population aged 15 years and over increased, but the proportion of the population in the labour force declined slightly.

Table 2: Nipigon, Census Division, and Ontario Labour Force Sizes, 2006 and 2011

Labour Force Activity		Total population 15 years and older	In the labour force (count/percentage)	Not in the labour force (count/percentage)
Nipigon	2006	1,415	820 (58.0%)	600 (42.4%)
	2011	1,322	706 (53.4%)	616 (46.6%)
Census Division	2006	122,080	77,775 (63.7%)	44,305 (36.3%)
	2011	121,310	74,610 (61.5%)	46,700 (38.5%)
Ontario	2006	9,819,420	6,587,580 (67.1%)	3,231,840 (32.9%)
	2011	10,473,670	6,864,990 (65.6%)	3,608,685 (34.4%)

Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario Community Profiles*; Statistics Canada. 2013. *Thunder Bay District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile.* 2011 National Household Survey; Environics Analytics. 2014. *CensusPlus Enhanced Census + NHS*.

Labour Force by Occupation

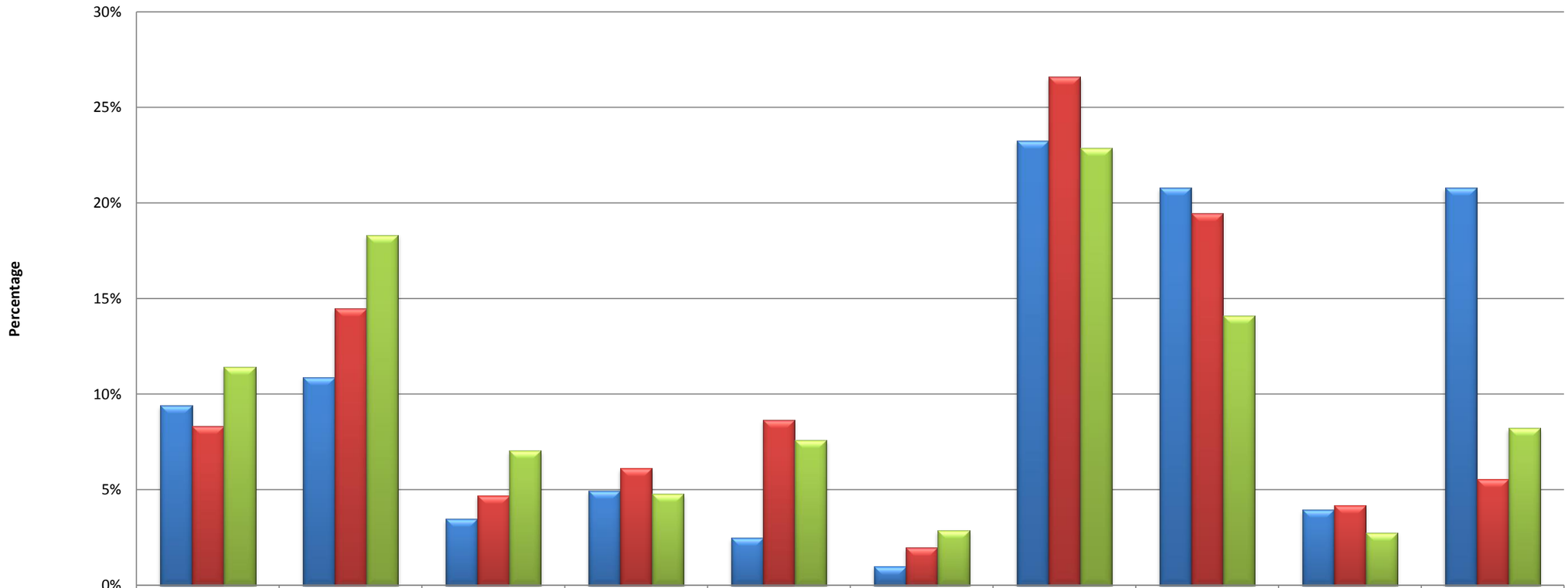
Figure 15 indicates that in 2001, most Nipigon residents worked in *sales and service occupations* (23.3%), followed by *trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations* and *occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities* (both at 20.8%). Similarly, the primary occupation categories in the Census Division and Ontario in 2001 were *sales and service occupations* (26.6% for the Census Division and 22.9% for the province) followed by either *trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations* (19.4% for the Census Division) or *business, finance and administration occupations* (18.3% for Ontario).

In 2006 (Figure 16), the primary occupations and their order (those ranking first, second and third) for the Township, the Census Division and province were the same as 2001 – only the percentage within each category varied slightly from 2001. As in 2001, the occupational category showing a proportionally large difference between Nipigon and the Census Division and province was *occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities* (19.0% for Nipigon; 4.2% for the Census Division; and, 7.2% for Ontario). Therefore, in the period from 2001 to 2006, there were no major changes in labour force by occupation at the community, the Census Division or provincial levels. Community representatives have noted that 2006 labour force information does not reflect the significant change in situation later that year, as the data was collected just before the closure of the two mills (Red Rock and Multiply) in late 2006/early 2007.

It is noted that the labour force by occupation categories used for the census by Statistics Canada are slightly different between 2006 and 2011; however, a comparison can still be made. Figure 17 indicates that the "top three" occupations of Nipigon residents shifted slightly between 2006 and 2011. This shift may be partially explained by the closure of the two mills in late 2006 and early 2007, although the mill in Terrace Bay has recently re-opened. There was a transition away from *occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities* as the main occupation in Nipigon. Instead, Nipigon residents primarily worked in *sales and service occupations* (36.7%), followed by *trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations* (14.3%) and, *natural and applied sciences and related occupations* (13.3% - proportionately higher than the Census Division or province) in 2011. In 2011, *sales and service occupations* was the largest category of occupation for the Census Division and Ontario (23.9% and 22.6%, respectively, relatively fewer than in Nipigon). The next largest proportion of the Census Division labour force worked in *trades, transport and equipment operators*

and related occupations (17.0%), followed by *occupations in education, law and social, community and government services* (14.2%); while Ontario residents also primarily worked in *business, finance and administration occupations* (16.6%) and *trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations* (12.7%).

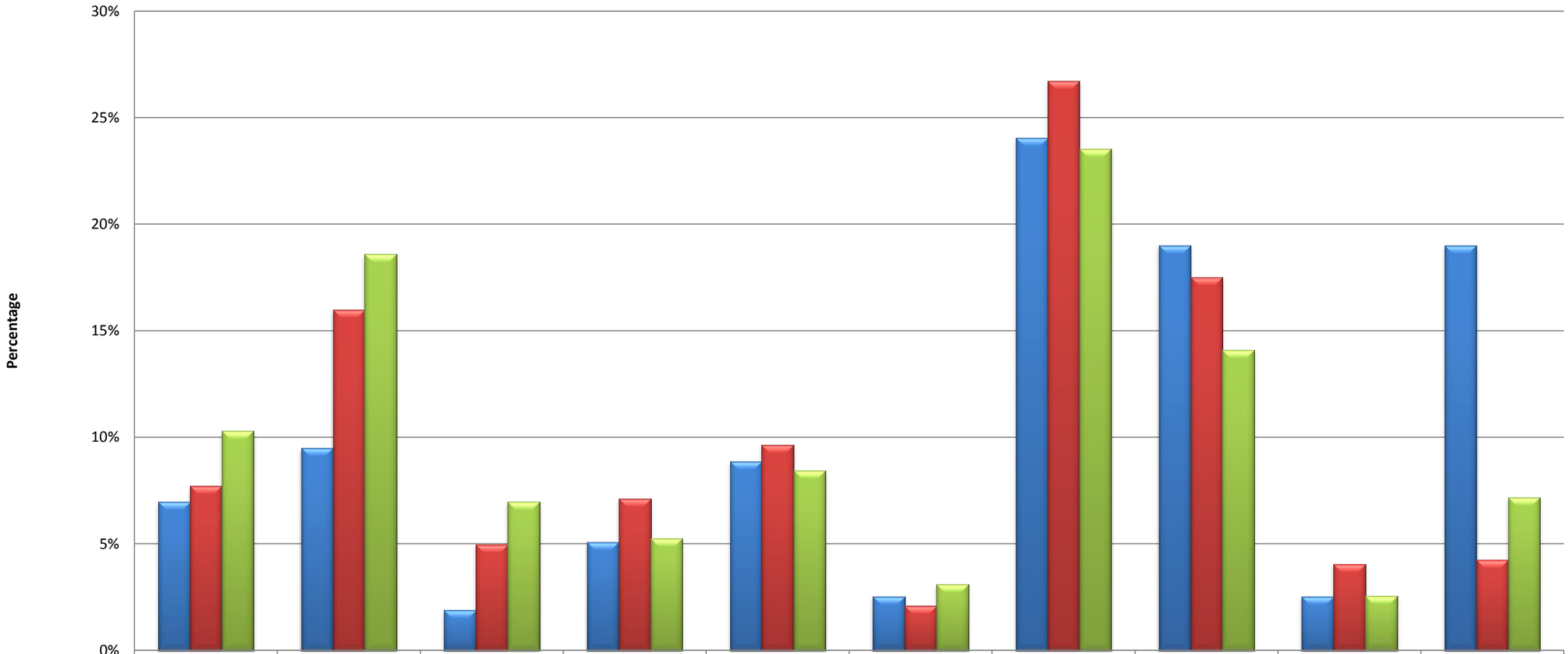
Figure 15: Nipigon, Census Division, and Ontario Labour Force by Occupation, 2001



	Management occupations	Business; finance and administration occupations	Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	Health occupations	Social science; education; government service and religion	Art; culture; recreation and sport	Sales and service occupations	Trades; transport and equipment operators and related occupations	Occupations unique to primary industry	Occupations unique to processing; manufacturing and utilities
Nipigon	9.4%	10.9%	3.5%	5.0%	2.5%	1.0%	23.3%	20.8%	4.0%	20.8%
Census Division	8.3%	14.5%	4.7%	6.1%	8.6%	2.0%	26.6%	19.4%	4.2%	5.6%
Ontario	11.4%	18.3%	7.1%	4.8%	7.6%	2.9%	22.9%	14.1%	2.7%	8.2%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2002. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

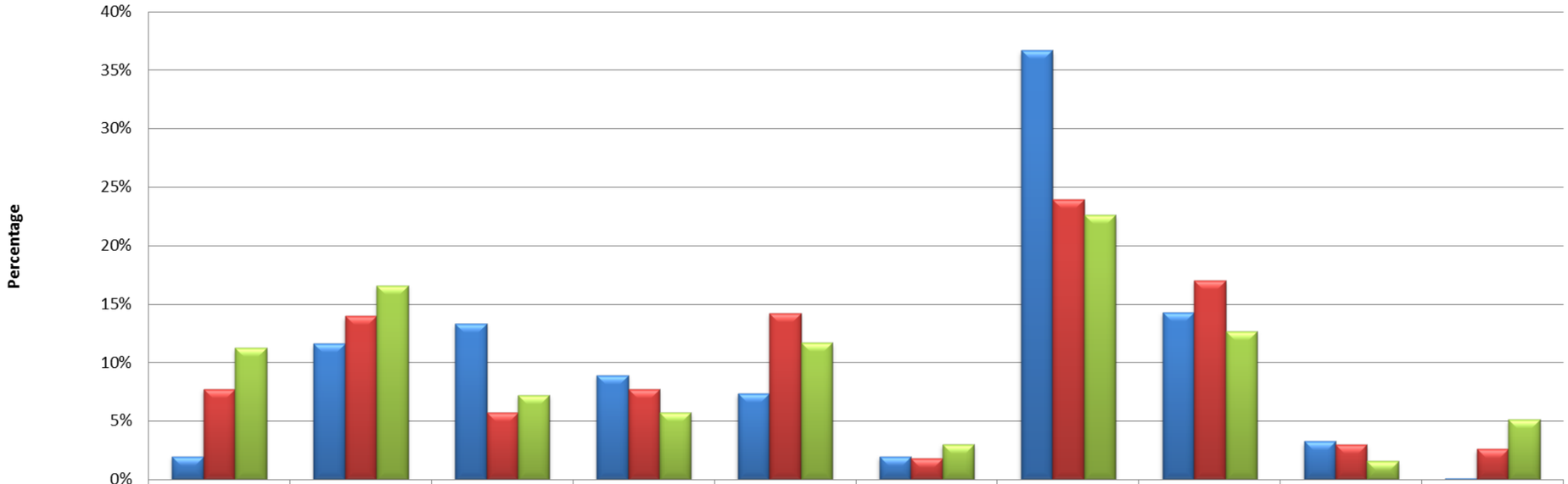
Figure 16: Nipigon, Census Division, and Ontario Labour Force by Occupation, 2006



	Management occupations	Business; finance and administration occupations	Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	Health occupations	Occupations in social science; education; government service and religion	Occupations in art; culture; recreation and sport	Sales and service occupations	Trades; transport and equipment operators and related occupations	Occupations unique to primary industry	Occupations unique to processing; manufacturing and utilities
Nipigon	7.0%	9.5%	1.9%	5.1%	8.9%	2.5%	24.1%	19.0%	2.5%	19.0%
Census Division	7.7%	16.0%	5.0%	7.1%	9.6%	2.1%	26.7%	17.5%	4.0%	4.2%
Ontario	10.3%	18.6%	7.0%	5.3%	8.4%	3.1%	23.5%	14.1%	2.6%	7.2%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

Figure 17: Nipigon, Census Division and Ontario Labour Force by Occupation, 2011



	Management occupations	Business; finance and administration occupations	Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	Health occupations	Occupations in education; law and social; community and government services	Occupations in art; culture; recreation and sport	Sales and service occupations	Trades; transport and equipment operators and related occupations	Natural resources; agriculture and related production occupations	Occupations in manufacturing and utilities
Nipigon	2.0%	11.6%	13.3%	8.9%	7.4%	2.0%	36.7%	14.3%	3.3%	0.1%
Census Division	7.7%	14.0%	5.7%	7.7%	14.2%	1.8%	23.9%	17.0%	3.0%	2.6%
Ontario	11.2%	16.6%	7.2%	5.7%	11.7%	3.0%	22.6%	12.7%	1.6%	5.1%

Source: Environics Analytics. 2014. *CensusPlus Enhanced Census + NHS.*

Labour Force by Industry

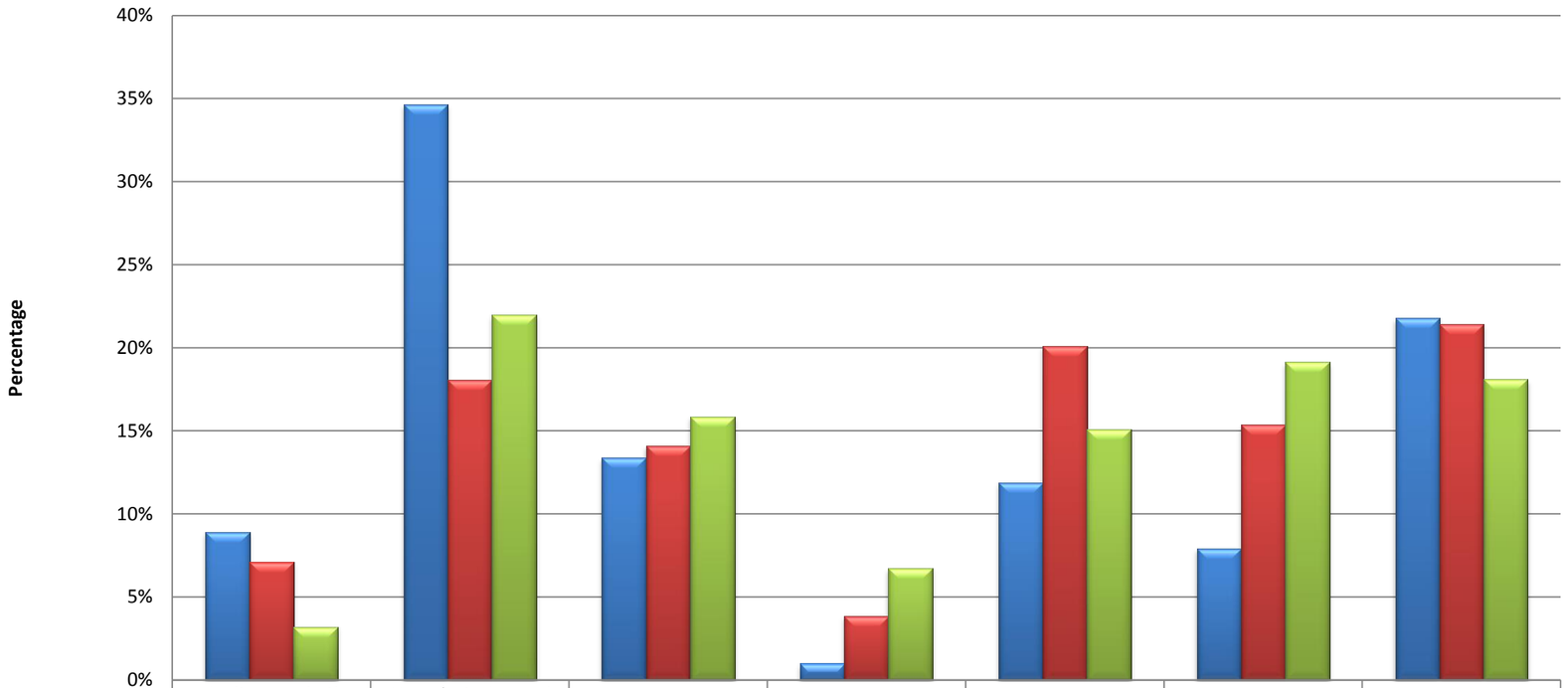
It is noted that the labour force industry categories used by Statistics Canada are slightly different between 2001 and 2006: the category *manufacturing and construction industries* (2001) was split into *construction* and *manufacturing* categories in 2006; similarly, *wholesale and retail trade* (2001) was split into *wholesale trade* and *retail trade* in 2006.

In 2001, the largest industry in Nipigon was *manufacturing and construction industries* (34.7%) followed by *other services* (21.8% [e.g., Repair and maintenance, personal and laundry services, private households, and religious/civic/professional organizations]) and *wholesale and retail trade* (13.4%) (Figure 18). *Manufacturing and construction industries* was the largest industry for Ontario (and third-largest industry for the Census Division) and *other services* was the largest industry for the Census Division (and third-largest industry for Ontario) in 2001; however, the Census Division and province differed from Nipigon in that *business services* (second largest industry for Ontario, at 19.1%) and *health and education* (second largest industry for the Census Division, at 20.1%) were not major industries in Nipigon.

A similar pattern of labour force by industry occurred in the 2006 census data (Figure 19). Nipigon was still dominated by *construction* and *manufacturing* categories (27.2% combined) and *other services* (25.3%).The Census Division was still dominated by *other services* (21.9%), and Ontario, by *business and other services* (38.4% combined).

Between 2006 and 2011, there was a significant shift in the primary occupations by industry for Nipigon, the Census Division and Ontario. In Nipigon, there was a shift away from *manufacturing* and *construction* industries following the closure of the Red Rock Mill and the Multiply Mill in late 2006 and early 2007. The proportion of the population in *manufacturing* occupations declined dramatically in Nipigon between 2006 and 2011, and by a somewhat lesser extent in the Census Division and the province. The primary occupations by industry in Nipigon in 2011 are quite different than those in 2006 (Figure 20). However, there were less dramatic shifts in the Census Division and Ontario during the same period. Figure 20 demonstrates the primary industries in Nipigon were *public administration* (21.7%), followed by *retail trade* (13.9%) and *accommodation and food services* (11.5%) in 2011. The proportion of the Nipigon workforce in these occupations was much greater than the Census Division or province. During this same period, the *health care and social assistance* industry gained importance in the Census Division, having gone from the third largest industry in 2006 to the primary industry in 2011 (14.9%). The next largest industries were *retail trade* (11.6%), followed by *public administration* (10.0%). The primary industry occupations in Ontario shifted to *retail trade* (10.9%), followed by *manufacturing* (10.2%) and, *health care and social assistance* (10.1%).

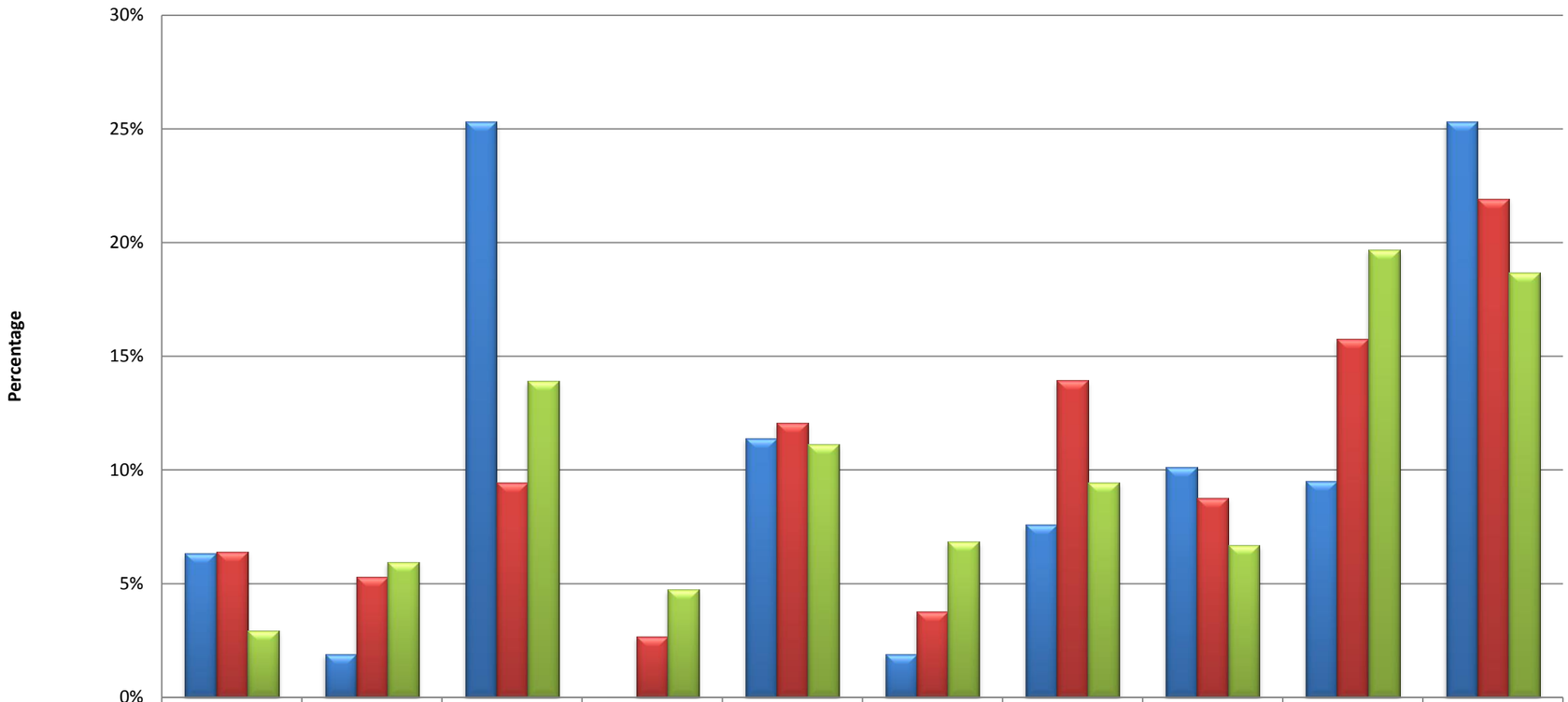
Figure 18: Nipigon, Census Division, and Ontario Labour Force by Industry, 2001



	Agriculture and other resource-based industries	Manufacturing and construction industries	Wholesale and retail trade	Finance and real estate	Health and education	Business services	Other services
Nipigon	8.9%	34.7%	13.4%	1.0%	11.9%	7.9%	21.8%
Census Division	7.1%	18.0%	14.1%	3.9%	20.1%	15.4%	21.4%
Ontario	3.2%	22.0%	15.9%	6.7%	15.1%	19.1%	18.1%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2002. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

Figure 19: Nipigon, Census Division, and Ontario Labour Force by Industry, 2006

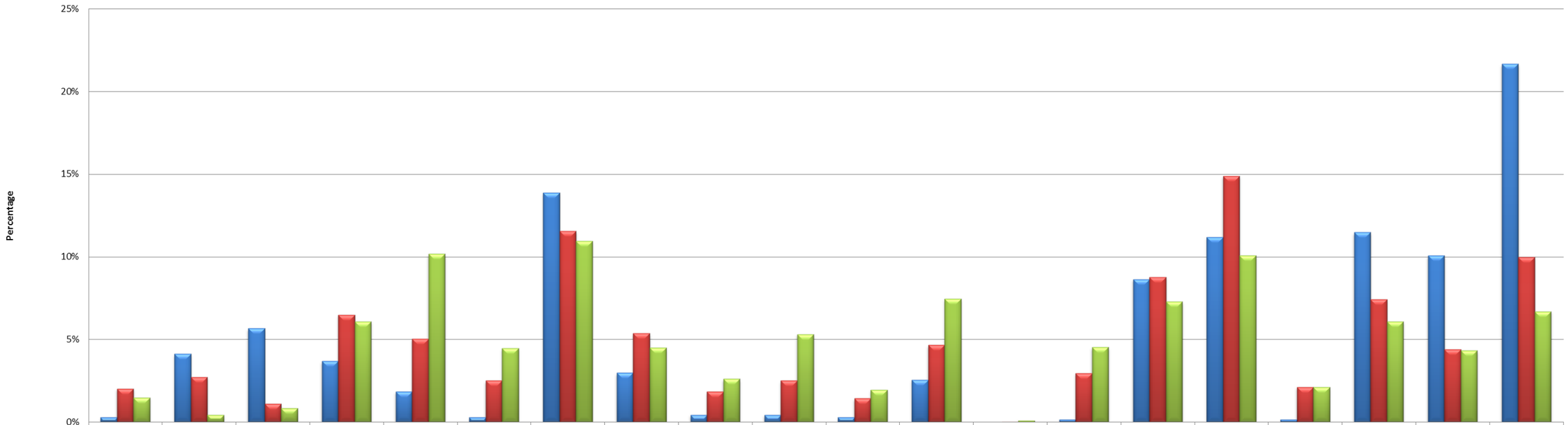


	Agriculture and other resource-based industries	Construction	Manufacturing	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Finance and real estate	Health care and social services	Educational services	Business services	Other services
Nipigon	6.3%	1.9%	25.3%	0.0%	11.4%	1.9%	7.6%	10.1%	9.5%	25.3%
Census Division	6.4%	5.3%	9.4%	2.7%	12.1%	3.8%	13.9%	8.8%	15.8%	21.9%
Ontario	2.9%	5.9%	13.9%	4.7%	11.1%	6.8%	9.4%	6.7%	19.7%	18.7%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

Figure 20: Nipigon, Census Division and Ontario Labour Force by Industry, 2011



	Agriculture; forestry; fishing and hunting	Mining; quarrying; and oil and gas extraction	Utilities	Construction	Manufacturing	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Transportation and warehousing	Information and cultural industries	Finance and insurance	Real estate and rental and leasing	Professional; scientific and technical services	Management of companies and enterprises	Administrative and support; waste management and remediation services	Educational services	Health care and social assistance	Arts; entertainment and recreation	Accommodation and food services	Other services (except public administration)	Public administration
Nipigon	0.3%	4.1%	5.7%	3.7%	1.8%	0.3%	13.9%	3.0%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	2.5%	0.0%	0.1%	8.6%	11.2%	0.1%	11.5%	10.1%	21.7%
Census Division	2.0%	2.7%	1.1%	6.5%	5.0%	2.5%	11.6%	5.4%	1.8%	2.5%	1.4%	4.7%	0.0%	2.9%	8.8%	14.9%	2.1%	7.4%	4.4%	10.0%
Ontario	1.5%	0.4%	0.8%	6.1%	10.2%	4.4%	10.9%	4.5%	2.6%	5.3%	2.0%	7.4%	0.1%	4.5%	7.3%	10.1%	2.1%	6.1%	4.3%	6.7%

Source: Environics Analytics. 2014. *CensusPlus Enhanced Census + NHS.*

2.2.1.3 EDUCATION

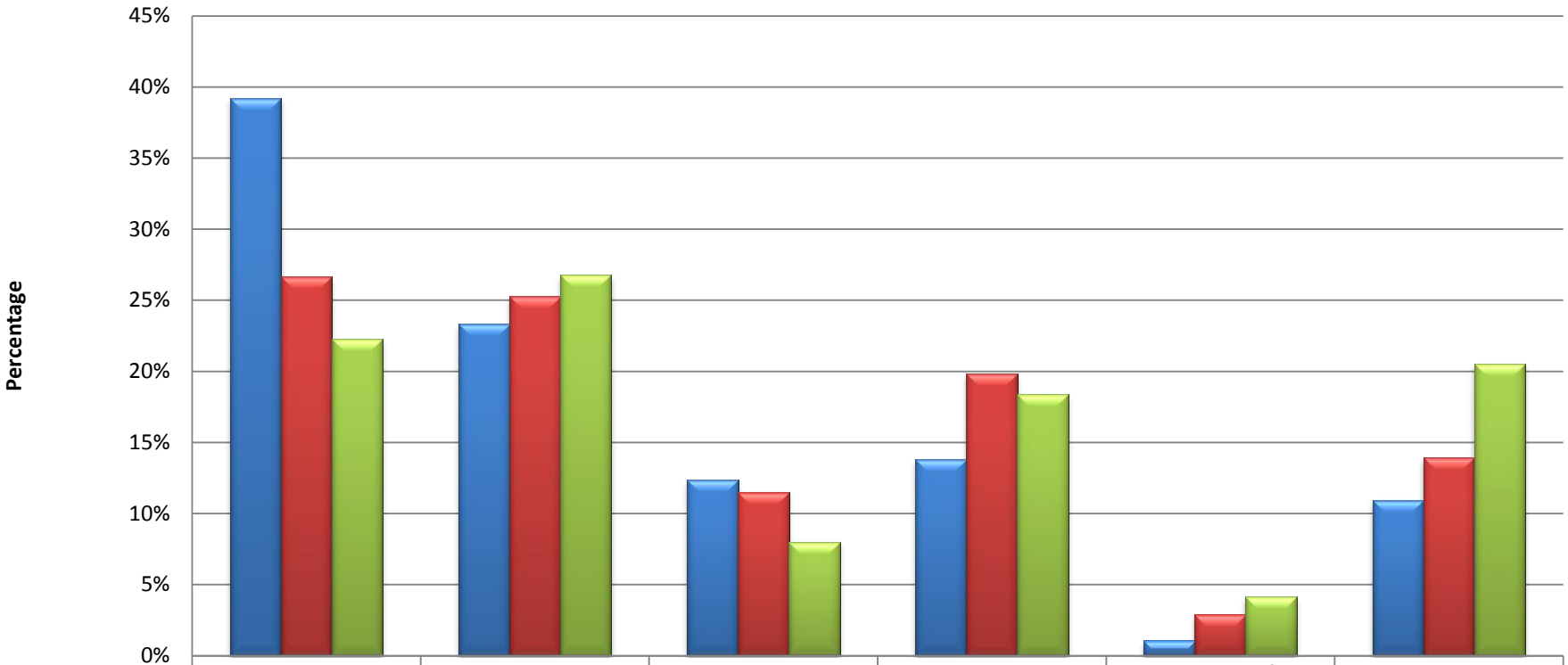
Educational Attainment

It is noted that the educational attainment categories are slightly different between 2006 and 2011; in 2011, the following two categories were added: *postsecondary certificate* and, *bachelor's degree.* In addition, the 2006 category of *university certificate, diploma or degree* was divided into two categories: *university certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above* and *university certificate, diploma or degree above bachelor level*. Despite the differences in educational attainment categories, a comparison can still be made. Figures 21 and 22 demonstrate educational attainment in 2006 and 2011.

In 2006, Nipigon's educational attainment, when compared to the Census Division and Ontario, was relatively low (Figure 21). In 2006, the largest proportion of Nipigon residents had *no certificate, degree or diploma* (39.2%), greater than either the Census Division (26.7%) or Ontario (22.2%). Nipigon had proportionately fewer residents with *college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma* education (13.8%) compared to the Census Division (19.8%) and the province (18.4%); it also had proportionately fewer residents with a *university certificate, diploma or degree* (11.0%, compared to 13.9% for the Census Division and 20.5% for Ontario). However, Nipigon had proportionately more residents with *apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma* (12.4%, compared to 11.5% for the Census Division and 8.0% for the province).

Nipigon's educational attainment in 2011 is somewhat different than it was in 2006. While the proportion of the population with *no certificate, degree or diploma* was less than in 2006 (39.2% to 32.3%), it was still greater than either the Census Division (22.7%) or Ontario (18.7%). In 2011, the largest proportion of Nipigon residents had a *postsecondary certificate; diploma or degree* (45.9%); somewhat less than the Census Division (52.2%) and Ontario (54.6%). A greater proportion of Nipigon residents had an *apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma* compared to the Census Division, and in particular, the province.

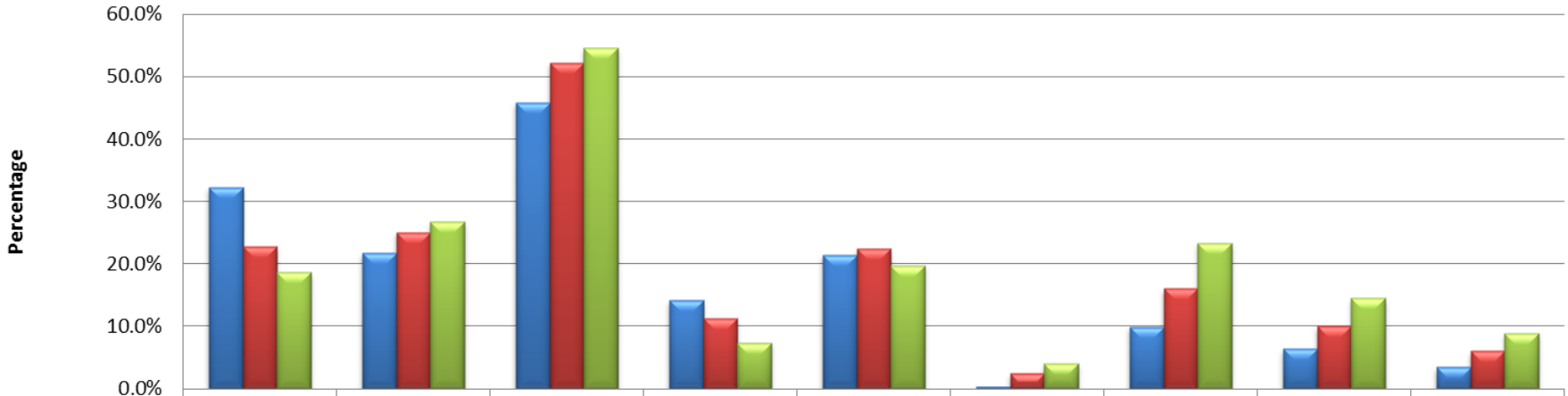
Figure 21: Nipigon, Census Division, and Ontario Educational Attainment, 2006



	No certificate; diploma or degree	High school certificate or equivalent	Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	College; CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	University certificate; diploma or degree
Nipigon	39.2%	23.3%	12.4%	13.8%	1.1%	11.0%
Census Division	26.7%	25.3%	11.5%	19.8%	2.9%	13.9%
Ontario	22.2%	26.8%	8.0%	18.4%	4.1%	20.5%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

Figure 22: Nipigon, Census Division and Ontario Educational Attainment, 2011



	No certificate; diploma or degree	High school diploma or equivalent	Postsecondary certificate; diploma or degree	Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	College; CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	University certificate; diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	Bachelor's degree	University certificate; diploma or degree above bachelor level
Nipigon	32.3%	21.8%	45.9%	14.1%	21.5%	0.4%	9.9%	6.4%	3.5%
Census Division	22.7%	25.1%	52.2%	11.3%	22.4%	2.5%	16.1%	10.0%	6.0%
Ontario	18.7%	26.8%	54.6%	7.4%	19.8%	4.1%	23.4%	14.5%	8.9%

Source: Environics Analytics. 2014. *CensusPlus Enhanced Census + NHS.*

School Facilities

Two school boards service the Township of Nipigon: Superior-Greenstone District School Board and Superior North Catholic District School Board. There are two elementary schools in Nipigon, and a high school located in Red Rock. Although there is a small public elementary school in Red Rock, some children are bussed to Nipigon to attend elementary school. Most students attending the Red Rock High School are reported to live in Nipigon, some live in Red Rock, and others are bussed from the Rocky Bay and Lake Helen Reserves.[32] It was reported that many teachers commute to Nipigon from other nearby communities, primarily Thunder Bay. This poses a challenge for recreation programs/afterschool activities as many teachers leave at the end of the school day and are not available for afterschool recreation programs. There are twelve certified teachers in Nipigon that do not work in the community as there are no teaching jobs available.[33]

Enrollment numbers (Table 3) for the schools are reported to have been declining over the past few years. Both public and separate schools in Nipigon have made additions to their buildings (i.e., portables). The St. Edward Catholic School is relatively new, having been built in 2004; the previous St. Edward School sits empty. George O'Neill Public School was recently renovated in 2009.[34]

Table 3: Nipigon School Facilities and Enrollment, 2013/2014

School Name	School Board	Programming (Grades)	2013/2014 Full Time Equivalent Student Enrolment
George O'Neill Public School	Superior-Greenstone District School Board	JK – Grade 8	75[35]
St. Edward Catholic School	Superior – North Catholic District School Board	JK – Grade 8	156[36]
Nipigon – Red Rock District High School	Superior – Greenstone District School Board	Grades 9-12	182[37]

Superior-Greenstone District School Board

George O'Neill Public School

Located in Nipigon, George O'Neill Public School has the capacity to hold 202 students; however, the full-time equivalent enrollment for the 2013/2014 school year is 75 – an occupancy rate of 37.4%.[38] Enrollment has been declining over the past 15 years, as shown in Table 4.



[32] This information obtained from Nipigon community discussions in October 2013.
[33] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions October 2013.
[34] This information was obtained during discussions from a George O'Neill School representative May 2014.
[35] Superior-Greenstone District School Board. 2013. *Enrollment in SGDSB*. Website: http://www.sgdsb.on.ca/article/enrolling-in-sgdsb-140.asp . Accessed: November 2013.
[36] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions October 2013.
[37] Superior-Greenstone District School Board. 2013. *Enrollment in SGDSB*. Website: http://www.sgdsb.on.ca/article/enrolling-in-sgdsb-140.asp . Accessed: November 2013.
[38] Superior-Greenstone District School Board. 2013. *Enrollment in SGDSB*. Website: http://www.sgdsb.on.ca/article/enrolling-in-sgdsb-140.asp. Accessed: November 2013.

Table 4: Enrollment Trends – George O'Neill Public School

George O'Neill Public School	Full Time Equivalent	Enrolment Change (%)
1998 – 1999	176.00	-
1999 – 2000	173.25	-1.56%
2000 – 2001	160.75	-7.22%
2001 – 2002	129.50	-19.44%
2002 – 2003	112.50	-13.13%
2003 – 2004	110.75	-1.56%
2004 – 2005	107.25	-3.16%
2005 – 2006	104.00	-3.03%
2006 – 2007	103.75	-0.24%
2007 – 2008	89.25	-13.98%
2008 – 2009	87.00	-2.52%
2009 – 2010	81.75	-6.03%
2010 – 2011	83.75	2.45%
2011 – 2012	86.00	2.69%
2012 – 2013	84.50	-1.74%
2013 – 2014	75.50	-10.65%

Source: Superior-Greenstone District School Board. 2013. *Enrollment in SGDSB*. Website: http://www.sgdsb.on.ca/article/enrolling-in-sgdsb-140.asp. Accessed: March 2014.



Nipigon – Red Rock District High School

Located in the community of Red Rock, this high school services students from Red Rock, Nipigon and the Lake Helen Reserve. Nipigon-Red Rock District High School has the capacity to hold 546 students; however, the full-time equivalent enrollment for the 2013/2014 school year is 188 - an occupancy rate of 34.5%.[39] Enrollment has generally been declining over the past 15 years, as shown in Table 5.

[39] Superior-Greenstone District School Board. 2013. *Enrollment in SGDSB*. Website: http://www.sgdsb.on.ca/article/enrolling-in-sgdsb-140.asp. Accessed: November 2013.

Table 5: Enrollment Trends – Red Rock District High School

Nipigon – Red Rock District High School	Full Time Equivalent	Enrolment Change (%)
1998 – 1999	333.00	-
1999 – 2000	305.00	-8.41%
2000 – 2001	290.25	-4.84%
2001 – 2002	286.13	-1.42%
2002 – 2003	301.13	5.24%
2003 – 2004	294.38	-2.24%
2004 – 2005	283.76	-3.61%
2005 – 2006	280.63	-1.10%
2006 – 2007	258.75	-7.80%
2007 – 2008	239.63	-7.39%
2008 – 2009	231.25	-3.50%
2009 – 2010	231.38	0.06%
2010 – 2011	202.13	-12.64%
2011 – 2012	192.75	-4.64%
2012 – 2013	186.00	-3.50%
2013 – 2014	188.25	1.21%

Source: Superior-Greenstone District School Board. 2013. *Enrollment in SGDSB*. Website: http://www.sgdsb.on.ca/article/enrolling-in-sgdsb-140.asp. Accessed: March 2014.

Superior North Catholic District School Board

St. Edward Catholic School

St. Edward Catholic School is located in Nipigon and opened its doors in 1955. The school offers students English instruction, as well as French or Aboriginal languages as a second language.[40] The full-time equivalent enrollment for the 2013/2014 school year is 156. As shown in Table 6, enrollment has been increasing since 2011/2012.



[40] Superior North Catholic District School Board. n.d. *Native Language*. Website: http://sncdsb.on.ca/news/view/native-language. Accessed: May 2014.

Table 6: Enrollment Trends – St. Edward Catholic School

St. Edward Catholic School	Full Time Equivalent	Enrolment Change (%)
1998 – 1999	130.5	-
1999 – 2000	128.5	-1.53%
2000 – 2001	140.5	9.34%
2001 – 2002	123.0	-12.50%
2002 – 2003	147.5	19.92%
2003 – 2004	158.0	7.12%
2004 – 2005	165.5	4.75%
2005 – 2006	166.5	0.60%
2006 – 2007	152.5	-8.41%
2007 – 2008	149.0	-2.30%
2008 – 2009	152.5	2.35%
2009 – 2010	157.0	2.95%
2010 – 2011	152.0	-3.20%
2011 – 2012	143.0	-5.92%
2012 – 2013	152.0	6.30%
2013 – 2014	156.0	2.63%

Source: Communication with Superior North Catholic District School Board representative. March 2014.

Post-Secondary

Post-secondary institutions are also available across Northern Ontario for residents interested in obtaining a degree/diploma after high school graduation. These institutions include Laurentian University, Nipissing University, Lakehead University, Cambrian College, Canadore College, College Boreal, Northern College, Sault College, Academy of Learning Career and Business College, Everest College of Business Technology and Health Care, and Transport Training Centres of Canada.

Established in 1965, Lakehead University is located in Thunder Bay and offers students a variety of degrees and programs including:

- Business;
- Education;
- Engineering;
- Forestry;
- Geology;
- Health and behavioural sciences;
- Physics; and,
- Resource and environmental economics.[41]

[41] Lakehead University. 2012. *Quick Facts*. Website: http://www.lakeheadu.ca/about/index.php?id=15. Accessed: July 2014; Lakehead University. n.d. *Programs at Lakehead U*. Website: http://www.mylakehead.ca/programs/?mn=4. Accessed: July 2014.

Confederation College's main campus is located in Thunder Bay; however, it also has regional satellites at the Greenstone campus (Geraldton), Northshore Campus (Marathon), and the Wawa campus.[42] Confederation College offers its students a number of programs and courses including:

- Aboriginal programs;
- Aviation;
- Business;
- Engineering technology;
- Health sciences;
- Natural resources;
- Skilled trades; and,
- Continuing education.[43]

Residents of Nipigon also have access to the Contact North educational facility located in town. This service provides residents the opportunity to: complete their high school certificate, participate in training courses, and enroll in university and college programs through online programs.

2.2.1.4 HEALTH AND SAFETY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Health and safety facilities and services available in Nipigon are summarized below. Nipigon is part of the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, which has an office in the community.

Nipigon District Memorial Hospital

The Nipigon District Memorial Hospital has 37 beds (15 acute care beds, 15 long term care beds, and 7 chronic care beds – one of which is a short-stay respite bed). The Hospital provides 24-hour emergency services such as emergency labour and delivery, cardiac care, rehabilitation (physiotherapy, occupational therapy), palliative care, medical day care, diagnostic services (laboratory, radiography, ultrasound, and pulmonary function testing), diabetes outreach services, and foot care among other specialist clinics provided on-site and through the Ontario Telemedicine Network.[44] The Hospital also administers the Beardmore Regional Health Centre.[45]



[42] Confederation College. 2012. *Regional Campuses*. Website: http://www.confederationc.on.ca/regionalcampuses. Accessed: July 2014.
[43] Confederation College. 2012. *Programs – All Post-secondary Programs List*. Website: http://www.confederationc.on.ca/programs/all. Accessed: July 2014.
[44] Nipigon District Memorial Hospital. 2013. *NDMH History*. Website: http://www.ndmh.ca/article/ndmh-history--3.asp. Accessed: November 2013.
[45] Nipigon District Memorial Hospital. 2013. *Nipigon District Memorial Hospital Strategic Plan 2012-2015*. Website: http://www.ndmh.ca/upload/documents/strategic-plan-2012-2015--amended-march-.pdf. Accessed: November 2013.

Nipigon District Family Health Team

The Nipigon District Family Health Team offers the services of five doctors, a nurse practitioner and a number of interdisciplinary health practitioners to approximately 4,000 area residents.[46] The Health Team offices are located both in the Hospital and in the adjacent Jackson Hughes Medical Centre. Community Care Access services are available for seniors.

In addition to the health services available in the community, residents of Nipigon benefit from mobile health services such as the 'Screen for Life' Coach who provides organized cancer screening programs to communities in Northwestern Ontario. The Coach offers digital mammography for breast cancer screening, testing for cervical cancer screening, and colon cancer check (Fecal Occult Blood Test kits) to screen for colorectal cancer for women eligible for screening.[47]

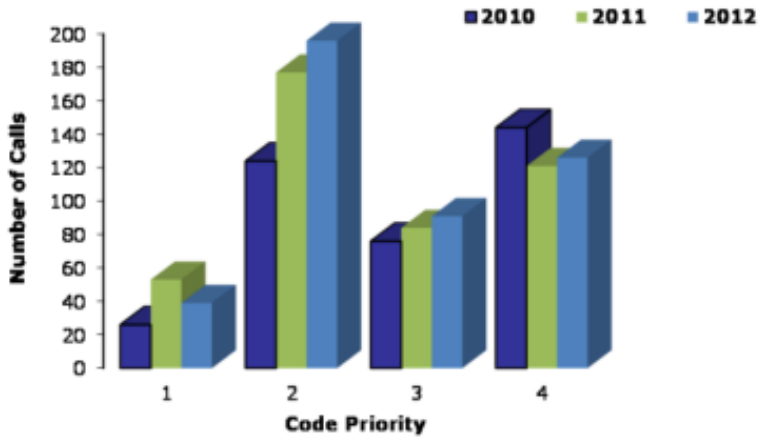
Ambulance Service



Ambulance services are provided by Superior North Emergency Medical Services.[48] There are two paramedics and an ambulance available for two shifts/day in Nipigon.[49] According to the Superior North EMS *2012 Municipal Report for the Township of Nipigon,* the following information reflects townships request for ambulance service in 2010, 2011, and 2012 (Figure 23).

[46] Nipigon District Family Health Team. 2014. *Welcome to Nipigon District Family Health Team*. Website: http://www.ndfht.ca/. Accessed: January 2014.
[47] Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation. n.d. *The Screen for Life Coach: New Services Now Available*. Website: http://www.healthsciencesfoundation.ca/article/the-screen-for-life-coach-new-services-now-available-5195.asp. Accessed: May 2014.
[48] Township of Nipigon, n.d. *Community Profile.* Website: http://www.superiornorthems.com/. Accessed: October 2013.
[49] This information was obtained during Nipigon community discussions December 2013.

Figure 23: Township of Nipigon Request for Service, 2010 - 2012



CODE	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
1	2	3	2	2	6	4	3	5	4	3	4	1	**39**
2	3	12	21	9	15	20	19	29	17	11	24	15	**196**
3	9	4	9	11	8	9	8	5	7	3	1	17	**91**
4	11	6	9	15	13	16	7	15	9	5	8	12	**126**
8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	**4**
TOTAL	**26**	**26**	**41**	**37**	**42**	**49**	**37**	**54**	**37**	**22**	**37**	**48**	**456**

Code 1 can be deferred without impact to the patient, i.e. going home from the hospital for a visit
Code 2 this must be done at a certain time due to an appointment, i.e. bringing a patient to the hospital for diagnostic tests
Code 3 is urgent because the patient needs medical attention but life or limb is not at risk, i.e. a simple broken leg
Code 4 life and death emergency or unknown situation
Code 8 where the ambulance is asked to stand by at a specific location, i.e. a fire call

Source: Superior North EMS. 2012. *2012 Municipal Report for the Township of Nipigon.* Website: http://www.superiornorthems.com/Assets/Superior+North+EMS/docs/Municipal+Reports/2012+Nipigon+Municipal+Report.pdf. Accessed: November 2013.

Policing

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have a '24/7 Detachment' located in Nipigon on Highway 11/17 with approximately 26 officers.[50] The detachment also services the Schreiber area.

Fire Protection

The Township of Nipigon is serviced by a volunteer fire department.[51] In 2013, the department had 23 members; a full complement would be 30. Nipigon has mutual aid agreements with Red Rock, Dorion-Hurkett, and Red Rock Indian Band/Lake Helen Reserve.[52]

[50] Township of Nipigon, n.d. *Community Profile.* Website: http://www.superiornorthems.com/. Accessed: October 2013.
[51] *Ibid*

2.2.2 SUMMARY OF HUMAN ASSETS

This section summarizes the Human Assets described above for Nipigon in terms of:

- Priorities and Key Issues;
- Community Aspirations; and
- Capabilities and Capacities within the Community.

2.2.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES

Nipigon's population (approximately 1,600) is significantly lower than the peak of approximately 5,000 in the 1950s/60s, but has stabilized in recent years. The population is aging at a higher rate than either the Census Division or Ontario as a whole. Many residents have been forced to leave the community to seek employment following the closure of the mills in Nipigon (2007) and Red Rock (2006); however, a number of families remain in the community while a member 'works away' at mines elsewhere in Northern Ontario, or Alberta. Although 2011 National Household Survey data for Nipigon is not available, it is anticipated that the size of the labour force has declined since 2006, and the types of occupation in the community have shifted away from those associated with processing/manufacturing and trades (previously the predominant occupational categories in Nipigon, other than sales and service).

In 2006 (the most recent year data is available), Nipigon's level of educational attainment, when compared to the Census Division and Ontario, was relatively low. Enrollment in the community's two elementary schools, and the high school in Red Rock, has been declining as families leave the community. Nipigon is well serviced by the District Memorial Hospital, the Family Health Team and an ambulance service, police (OPP) and a volunteer fire department.

2.2.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

The vision stated in the Official Plan reflects the community's aspirations: "*Nipigon will become a destination for travelers, regional focus for services, recreation and culture and a sustainable, healthy and complete community*". Many residents note a desire to increase the number of families and children in the community. This would contribute to the ongoing viability of services and programs, including schools, the hospital/medical services, and community organizations.

[52] This information was obtained during Nipigon community discussion February 2014.

2.2.2.3 CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

In looking to the future, Nipigon has completed a number of recent planning initiatives to articulate goals and actions for achieving them. These include the adoption of an updated Official Plan, a Waterfront Development Master Plan, a Community Sustainability Plan and a Strategic Plan.

2.3 ECONOMIC ASSETS

2.3.1 ECONOMIC ASSET INDICATORS

The Economic Assets within a community include resources that people use to achieve their livelihood objectives. Specific indicators within the Economic Assets category include:

- Employment;
- Income;
- Business Activity;
- Tourism;
- Economic Development Services; and,
- Governance and Municipal Finances.

These indicators are described in this section, within the context of the economic well-being of Nipigon.

2.3.1.1 EMPLOYMENT

As shown in Table 7 and Figure 24, Nipigon's unemployment rate has fluctuated between 1996 and 2011. Historically (1996, 2001), Nipigon's unemployment rate[53] was between the relatively high rate in the Census Division and the relatively low rate for Ontario as a whole. However, in 2006 the community's unemployment rate was greater than both the province and the Census Division. Nipigon's unemployment rate dropped from 10.5% in 1996 to 6.4% in 2001; unemployment rates also declined to a lesser extent at the Census Division and provincial levels between these two census years.

Between 2001 and 2006, the trend reversed in Nipigon: the community's unemployment rate rose to 8.5% in 2006. During the same period, Ontario's unemployment rate also rose slightly, while for the Census Division as a whole it dropped by 1.1 percentage points to 8.1%. Following the closure of the two mills (Red Rock and Multiply) in late 2006 and early 2007 (after the census), local unemployment was reportedly very high; many had to leave the community to find work.

[53] According to Statistics Canada 2006 Census Dictionary the *unemployment rate refers to the unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 16, 2006)*. Statistics Canada. 2007. 2006 Census Dictionary – 2006 Census Year. Website: http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/ref/dict/pdf/92-566-eng.pdf. Accessed: May 2014.

In 2011, Nipigon's unemployment rate was the lowest of three jurisdictions at 4.2%, compared to 8.9% in the Census Division and 8.3% in Ontario. It is noted that community representatives have noted that there seems to be little unemployment in Nipigon – although there is 'under-employment'; those who cannot find work locally may commute elsewhere in the region (e.g., to mines in Northwestern Ontario) or beyond (e.g., to Alberta), while choosing to keep their families in Nipigon.[54] Others may be working at jobs below their skill level. However, a number of people commute to Nipigon from Thunder Bay to work at the schools, the hospital, Ontario Power Generation, and provincial government offices (e.g., Ministry of Natural Resources, and Transportation).

Table 7: Nipigon, Census Division and Ontario Total Unemployment Rates, 1996 – 2011

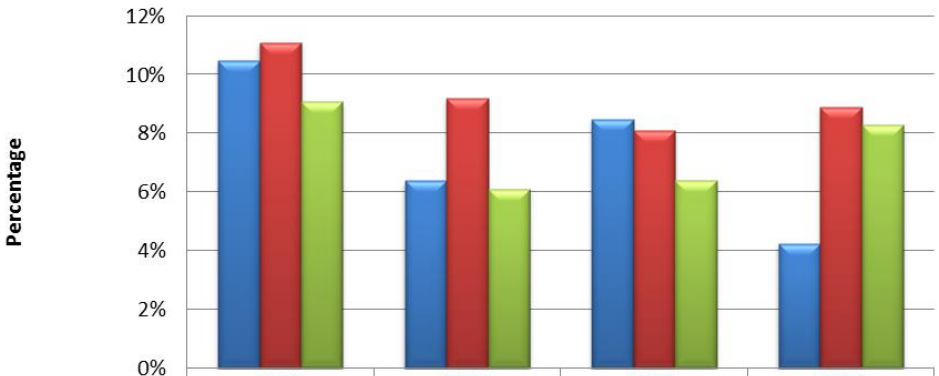
Unemployment	Nipigon	Census Division	Ontario
1996	10.5%	11.1%	9.1%
2001	6.4%	9.2%	6.1%
2006	8.5%	8.1%	6.4%
2011	4.2%[55]	8.9%	8.3%

Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*; Statistics Canada. 2013. *Thunder Bay District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile.* 2011 National Household Survey; Environics Analytics. 2014. *CensusPlus Enhanced Census + NHS*.

[54] While statistical knowledge gaps are most apparent in small communities such as Nipigon, these gaps are representative of broader trends in employment data collection. According to the Globe and Mail, May 2014, the federal Auditor-General Michael Ferguson stated that Statistics Canada data contains significant gaps on job vacancies. Specifically, employment data are missing for the various and distinct regions within each province, including jobs for which labour shortages are the most severe and respective skill sets in the highest demand. Source: McKenna, Barrie. May 11, 2014. "Why Canada has a serious data deficit". *The Globe and Mail – Ottawa*. Website: http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/why-canada-has-a-serious-data-deficit/article18598633/. Accessed: May 2014.

[55] The 2011 unemployment rate was calculated using 2011 CensusPlus raw data and applying the unemployment rate formula contained in the 2006 Census Dictionary. This formula is Unemployment Rate = Population 15 years of age and over in the labour force Unemployed / Population 15 years of age and over in the labour force multiplied by 100. Statistics Canada. 2007. *2006 Census Dictionary Census year 2006 Catalogue no.92-566-X.* Website: http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/ref/dict/pdf/92-566-eng.pdf. Accessed: August 2014.

Figure 24: Nipigon, Census Division and Ontario Total Unemployment Rates, 1996 – 2011



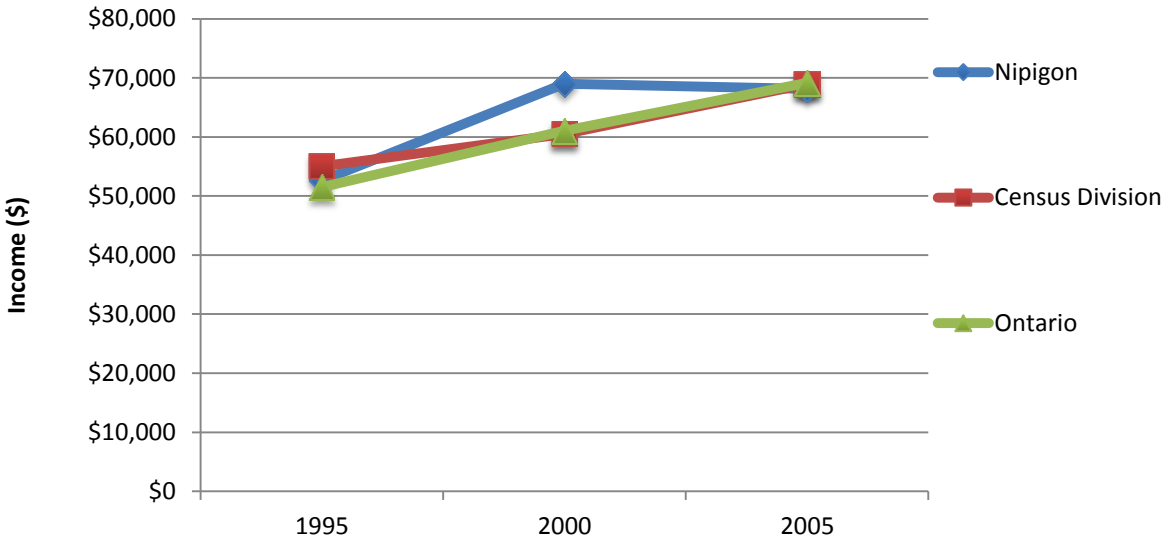
	1996	2001	2006	2011
Nipigon	10.5%	6.4%	8.5%	4.2%
Census Division	11.1%	9.2%	8.1%	8.9%
Ontario	9.1%	6.1%	6.4%	8.3%

Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*; Statistics Canada. 2013. *Thunder Bay District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile.* 2011 National Household Survey; Environics Analytics. 2014. *CensusPlus Enhanced Census + NHS*.

2.3.1.2 INCOME

As shown in Figure 25, the median family income in Nipigon increased from $52,586 in 1995, to $68,988 in 2000, and decreased to $68,123 in 2005. The median family incomes for both the Census Division and the province increased between 1995 and 2005. National Household Survey data for Nipigon for 2010 is not available. [56]

Figure 25: Nipigon, Census Division and Ontario Median Family Income – Trends over Time



Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles.*

[56] 2011 NHS data for Nipigon has been suppressed by Statistics Canada.

Between 2000 and 2005, the individual median income in Nipigon increased slightly from $25,978 in 2000, to $27,208 in 2005. During the same timeframe, individual median incomes increased to a greater extent for both the Census Division (from $23,755 in 2000 to $27,638 in 2005) and the province (from $24,816 in 2000 to $27,258 in 2005) (Table 8). NHS data for Nipigon for 2010 income is not available.[57] Community representatives have noted that average incomes for Nipigon residents are currently much lower compared to when the mills were in operation.[58]

As indicated in Table 8, government transfers[59] as a percentage of income in Nipigon in 2000 was 10.1%, increasing to 16.9% in 2005. Between 2000 and 2005, government transfers increased only slightly for the Census Division, but remained the same for Ontario. In 2005, Nipigon residents' income had a higher percentage of government transfers (16.9%) than either the Census Division (13.2%) or Ontario (9.8%).

[57] 2011 NHS data for Nipigon has been suppressed by Statistics Canada. Due to data limitations, median household incomes are not reported in the Environics Analytics CensusPlus Enhanced Census + NHS data sets.

[58] This information was obtained during Nipigon community discussion February 2014.

[59] According to Statistics Canada 2006, government transfer income in 2005, as a proportion of total income is defined as: "*money income received by persons 15 years of age and older from all transfer payments from federal, provincial, territorial or municipal governments during calendar year 2005, as a proportion of total income. This variable is derived by summing the amounts reported in: the Old Age Security pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement, Allowance and Allowance for the Survivor; benefits from Canada or Quebec Pension Plan; benefits from Employment Insurance; child benefits; and other income from government sources*". Statistics Canada. 2013. *Appendix A: Variable Definition*. Website: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-221-x/2012002/regions/app-ann/app1-ann1-eng.htm. Accessed: May 2014.

Table 8: Nipigon, Census Division and Ontario Individual Income Characteristics, 2000 – 2010

Income Characteristics	2000			2005			2010		
	Nipigon	Census Division	Ontario	Nipigon	Census Division	Ontario	Nipigon	Census Division	Ontario
Persons 15 years of age and over (counts) with income	**1,525**	**115,265**	**8,598,560**	**1,355**	**117,340**	**9,340,020**	**N/A**	**121,310**	**10,473,670**
Median income ($)	$25,978	$23,755	$24,816	$27,208	$27,638	$27,258	N/A	$31,191	$30,526
Earnings - % of income[60]	79.7%	75.4%	78.7%	70.1%	72.7%	77.4%	N/A	65.9%	70.1%
Government transfers - % of income	10.1%	12.9%	9.8%	16.9%	13.2%	9.8%	N/A	16.5%	12.3%
Other Money - % of income	10.3%	11.7%	11.5%	13.1%[61]	14%	12.9%	N/A	1.6%[62]	1.7%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007 *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*; Statistics Canada. 2013. *Thunder Bay, DIS, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile.* 2011 National Household Survey.

[60] The 2011 NHS refers to this category as *Wages and Salaries (%)* for 2010. The 2011 NHS calculates as Earnings % of income as 'Wages and salaries' – "Refers to gross wages and salaries before deductions for such items as income tax, pensions and Employment Insurance. Included in this source are military pay and allowances, tips, commissions and cash bonuses, benefits from wage-loss replacement plans or income-maintenance insurance plans, supplementary unemployment benefits from an employer or union as well as all types of casual earnings during calendar year 2010. Other employment income such as taxable benefits, research grants and royalties are included".

[61] According to the 2006 Census, Statistics Canada does not have a specific definition for the **Other Money** category; but, define the **Composition of Total Income** - Composition of income of a population group or a geographic area refers to the relative share of each income source or group of sources, expressed as a percentage of the aggregate total income of that group or area. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Statistics Canada. 2007. *Nipigon Community Profile*. Website: http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3558044&Geo2=PR&Code2=35&Data=Count&SearchText=nipigon&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&Custom=. Accessed: October 2013

[62] According to the 2011 NHS, **Other money income** - Refers to regular cash income received during calendar year 2010 and not reported in any of the other sources listed on the questionnaire. For example, severance pay and retirement allowances, alimony, child support, periodic support from other persons not in the household, income from abroad (excluding dividends and interest), non-refundable scholarships, bursaries, fellowships and study grants, and artists' project grants are included. Statistics Canada. 2012. *National Household Survey*. Website: http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CD&Code1=3558&Data=Count&SearchText=thunder%20bay&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&A1=All&B1=All&Custom=&TABID=1. Accessed: October 2013

2.3.1.3 BUSINESS ACTIVITY

Nipigon serves as a regional service hub for the surrounding communities such as Red Rock, Dorion, Hurkett and the Red Rock Indian Band. While forestry activity is returning to the region (e.g., several mills have re-opened along the north shore), its role in the local and regional economy has diminished compared to years ago.

Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. is a cooperative made up of four First Nation-owned business trusts; it manages the Lake Nipigon Forest and is responsible for planning, reporting and implementing all forest operations. It does not own or operate a manufacturing facility; harvesting is done by or on behalf of the 4 First Nation owned businesses and the wood fibre is sold to area mills.[63]

Many of the existing businesses are in the service sector. Today, Nipigon is looking to strengthen existing economic sectors (e.g., tourism) and to diversify into new areas (e.g., light industry (including those related to forestry), and residential development that may attract retirees).[64] It has been reported that Nipigon's proximity to Thunder Bay can make it difficult for existing and new businesses due to 'out-shopping' and competitive markets.[65] Nipigon's Economic Development Office (EDO) is involved in a number of initiatives,[66] including 'Business Retention and Expansion' activities in the community to support local businesses, updating the business directory (expected to be completed in early 2014), development of communications materials, and participation in regional economic development forums.

There are no large industrial employers in the community itself. Many workers travel from Nipigon to other towns, either within or outside the region, while their families stay/live in Nipigon. It is estimated that approximately 20 residents may work at mining operations in Northern Ontario, and perhaps another 30 in western Canada in the oil and gas industry. Currently, there are many residents from Thunder Bay that commute to Nipigon for work (e.g., as teachers, at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the hospital, and Ontario Power Generation).[67] Maintaining youth in the community with limited employment opportunities has been identified as a major challenge in the community.[68]

[63] SAI Global. September 2013. *Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. Forest Certification Update.* Website: http://www.sfiprogram.org/sfi-standard/audit-reports/lake-nipigon-forest-management-inc-september-2013/. Accessed: July 2014.
[64] This information was obtained during Nipigon community discussions in October 2013.
[65] This information was obtained during Nipigon community discussions in October 2013 and December 2013.
[66] Those related to tourism specifically are summarized in S.2.3.1.4. Current municipal plans (e.g. Waterfront Development Master Plan) are summarized in S. 2.1.3.
[67] This information was obtained in Nipigon community discussions October 2013.
[68] *Ibid.*

Table 9: Nipigon's Largest Private Sector Employers, 2013

Company	Industry Sector	Number of Employees
Tim Horton's	Service	41
Zechner's Ltd. (Grocery Store)	Retail	32
Husky Gas Station	Service	TBC
Musselwhite Mine (500 kilometres North of Thunder Bay)	Mining	TBC
Canadian Pacific Railway	Transportation	Approximately 10
TransCanada Pipelines		TBC

Source: This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions October 2013 and March 2014.

Table 10: Nipigon's Largest Public Sector Employers, 2013

Employer	Industry Sector	Number of Employees
Nipigon District Memorial Hospital	Health Care	100
Superior-Greenstone District School Board	Education	65
Superior North Catholic District School Board	Education	TBC
Service Ontario	Provincial Government	TBC
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources	Provincial Government	34
Ontario Provincial Police	Provincial	26
Ontario Ministry of Transportation	Provincial Government	TBC
Township of Nipigon	Local Government	Approximately 21 Full-time; several part-time
Ontario Power Generation	Utility	TBC
Hydro One	Utility	TBC

Source: This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions October 2013 and March 2014.

The 2013/2014 Nipigon Business Directory update is currently being undertaken by the Economic Development Office. The business directory will be offered in two forms – paper and digital – and will be designed "…*to bring a personal experience to the viewer, instilling a warm and inviting first impression of the business and its owners before they even set foot inside*".[69] The anticipated completion date is 2014.[70]

Top of Lake Superior Chamber of Commerce

The Land of Nipigon Chamber of Commerce was established in 1988. In 2011, the Chamber was renamed – Top of Lake Superior Chamber of Commerce – to reflect the surrounding area it serves including Dorion, Hurkett, RRIB/Lake Helen First Nation, Red Rock, and Nipigon. The mission of the Chamber of Commerce is to:

[69] Township of Nipigon. 2013. *The 2013/2014 Business Directory Initiative*. Website: http://www.nipigon.net/residents/news-around-town/business_directory_initiative/. Accessed: October 2013.
[70] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussion October 2013.

"*Serve its members as the collective voice of business, industry and the professions, to maintain and strengthen a prosperous business climate within its region, and to enhance the quality of life in the communities of Dorion, Hurkett, Red Rock, Nipigon, and Lake Helen First Nation*".[71]

Multiply Forest Products Mill - Nipigon

The Multiply Forest Products Mill in Nipigon closed in February 2007 after a devastating fire.[72] Although the direct effect on Nipigon's municipal finance was relatively low as the Mill was located outside of the municipal boundaries, at the time of the fire, 130 people worked at the Multiply Mill and it was the community's major employer. Historically, up to 500 people were reported to have worked at the Multiply Mill and its forest harvesting operations during its peak. The site is currently available for industrial use.

Red Rock Paper Mill

Downsizing at the Mill began to take shape in the early 1990's when the owner of the mill – Domtar – reduced its workforce from 650 to 300 employees. In 1998, Domtar merged with Cascade Inc. and became known as Norampac. In 2005, Norampac reduced the number of employees working at the Mill – 90 jobs were cut. Norampac's Red Rock Mill (right) was the largest employer in the area before it closed in 2006.[73] The closure of the Mill in Red Rock dealt a major financial blow to that municipality's revenues, as it was a major source of taxation revenue and a key employer in the area. Approximately 300 employees worked at the Mill when it closed in 2006.[74]



Source: Red Rock Paper Mill. n.d. *About: The Photos*. Website: http://redrockpapermill.wordpress.com/about-the-photos/. Accessed: November 2013.

[71] Top of Lake Superior Chamber of Commerce. *About Us: Mission and Values.* Website: http://www.topoflakesuperior.com/about-us/mission-and-value-statements/. Accessed: January 2014.

[72] CBC News. 2007. *130 Out of Work After Fire Destroys Ontario Mill*. Website: http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/130-out-of-work-after-fire-destroys-ontario-mill-1.652423. Accessed: January 2014.

[73] Township of Red Rock. *History*. 2014. Website: http://www.redrocktownship.com/article/history--3.asp. Accessed: September 2014.

[74] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions October 2013.

2.3.1.4 TOURISM

The Township of Nipigon derives many of its tourism attractions from its close relationship with the Nipigon River (Figure 27), Lake Superior, and Lake Nipigon. Nipigon is situated among one million hectares of fresh water with over 70 species of freshwater fish, and is the home of the world record Brook Trout caught in 1915 in the Nipigon River.[75] Nipigon has a long history of tourism, beginning with world-famous sport fishing from the 1870s to the 1930s (enhanced by the later establishment of rail and road networks).[76] Community representatives have noted that many of the small lakes in and around the Nipigon area are stocked with fish.[77]

Nipigon is located at the northernmost point of Lake Superior which is also home to the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area (see Section 2.6.1), as well as a large concentration of wetlands home to a variety of migratory birds.[78] A number of provincial parks and protected areas are located in the area (see Section 2.6.1). Nipigon residents desire greater access to, and infrastructure in, the surrounding parks and protected areas. This would increase outdoor activities and further promote the tourism sector in the area. Located on the 49th parallel, the Nipigon Marina is the most northerly freshwater port in North America.[79]



An abundance of freshwater lakes and rugged forests in the Township's vicinity provide residents and tourists a number of different recreational activities to take part in ranging from snowmobiling, cross-country skiing to hiking, swimming, boating, and fishing and hunting.[80]

Nearby Stewart, Polly, Poplar Point, and Lofquist Lakes are popular with residents for beaches and private camps (cottages).[81] There are also a number of private camps and water access for fishermen along Lake Superior in the vicinity of Nipigon (e.g., at Kama Bay, Rossport, Schreiber and Mountainview), and to the north on the Cameron Falls Road (Fraser Lake, Elizabeth Lake, and Cox Lake) along the Nipigon River.[82] Lake Nipigon itself is used extensively, but has relatively few camps. While many of these camps are owned by local residents (80% - 90% of the camps near Stewart Lake are locally owned),[83] other owners are from elsewhere in Ontario and the United States.

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[75] Township of Nipigon, n.d. *Community Profile.* Website: http://www.superiornorthems.com/. Accessed: October 2013

[76] Kelso, JR.M, and J. W. Demers. 1993. *Our Living Heritage: the Glory of the Nipigon.* Prepared for the Nipigon Bay RAP Public Advisory Committee Inc. ISBN 0-9697637-0-0.

[77] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions in April 2014.

[78] MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture. December 16, 2013. *Official Plan for the Township of Nipigon*.

[79] Township of Nipigon. 2013. *Marina and Campground – Township of Nipigon*. Website: http://nipigon.net/business/business-directory/municipal/marina-and-campground-township-nipigon/. Accessed: November 2013; this information was obtained from community discussions in April 2014.

[80] Township of Nipigon. n.d. *Community Profile*. Website: http://nipigon.net/files/4113/6336/1347/updated_community_profile.pdf. Accessed: October 2013.

[81] This information was obtained from community discussions in April 2014.

[82] This information was obtained from community discussions in May 2014.

[83] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions in December 2013.

Figure 26: Nipigon River Map



Source: Nipigon River Recreation Trail Guide. n.d. *Brochure*.

A number of commercial lodges and resorts operate on Lake Nipigon (particularly for fishing) and Lake Superior in the vicinity of Nipigon. The *Lake Nipigon Forest 2011 – 2021 Forest Management Plan* includes mapping that identifies tourism values such as trails, canoe routes, access points, camping sites, lodges and outpost camps.[84] Nipigon hosts many festivals (see Section 2.5.1.3 for a list of festival and community events) celebrating its ties

[84] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2011. *Lake Nipigon Forest 2011 – 2021 Forest Management Plan – Summary.* Website: http://www.appefmp.mnr.gov.on.ca/eFMP/viewFmuPlan.do?fmu=815&fid=100100&type=CURRENT&pid=100100&sid=8806&pn=FP&ppyf=2011&ppyt=2021&ptyf=2011&ptyt=2016&phase=P1. Accessed: July 2014

to the water and events such as fishing derbies throughout the year. Other attractions include the Nipigon Historical Museum.

Nipigon currently has 13 accommodations for visitors, ranging from lodges, to motels, B&B's, and campgrounds, as well as 10 guiding or charter fishing companies.[85] However, one of the challenges facing the community is the limited tourism infrastructure (e.g., there is no boat rental business in Nipigon).[86]



Community representatives have reported hunting tourism has been slower in recent seasons. Parks, camps, and cottages were once packed and busy during the hunting season, but the Township has seen a decline in hunting and other tourism activities.[87] A number of initiatives underway are looking at options for enhancing tourism. These include the 'Nipigon: A Natural Edge' rebranding campaign and examining the potential for the cable-stayed bridge (under construction) to be considered as the 'Golden Gate of the North'. A number of the planning activities of Council have a tourism component, including the Waterfront Development Master Plan and recent strategic planning.[88] A branding/tourism marketing strategy is currently in development. Nipigon has prepared a series of videos: 'Life on a Natural Edge', showcasing their community assets.[89]

Nipigon River Recreation Trail

The Nipigon River Recreation Trail (approximately 8-10 kilometres in length, Figure 28) connects the Nipigon and Red Rock marinas. Hugging the Nipigon River shoreline, hikers can view wildlife throughout the year and enjoy interpretive signs along the path.[90] The trail also has several lookout stops including a marsh boardwalk, and bird watching tower.[91] The activities of the Land of Nipigon Waterways Development Corporation, responsible for trail development/maintenance, have largely been taken over by the municipalities of Nipigon and Red Rock.

[85] Township of Nipigon. 2013. *Business Directory*. Website: http://nipigon.net/business/business-directory. Accessed: October 2013.
[86] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions October 2013.
[87] *Ibid.*
[88] Additional detail on these plans is provided in Section 2.1.3 of this Profile.
[89] Township of Nipigon. 2014. *"Life on a Natural Edge" Video Series.* Website: http://www.nipigon.net/nipigon-beyond/photo-video-gallery/videos/. Accessed: January 2014.
[90] Township of Nipigon. 2013. *Nipigon River Recreation Trail*. Website: http://nipigon.net/visitors/attractions/nipigon-river-recreation-trail/. Accessed: November 2013.
[91] Nipigon River Recreation Trail Guide Brochure. n.d.

Nipigon is currently looking to bridge the gap between Nipigon and Terrace Bay along trails.[92] Plans are envisioned for a trail connecting Lake Nipigon to the community. The proposed Kinghorn Rail Trail project would see the potential conversion of the decommissioned CN Rail line between Nipigon and Thunder Bay to a multi-use recreational trail. However, this proposal is facing challenges related to funding and potential liability issues. At one time, there were approximately 200 kilometres of trails in the Nipigon area, along the shores of Lake Superior, the Nipigon River, and transmission corridors.[93]

[92] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions October 2013.

[93] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions December 2013.

Figure 27: Nipigon River Recreation Trail



Source: Township of Nipigon. 2013. *Nipigon River Recreation Trail*. Website: http://nipigon.net/visitors/attractions/nipigon-river-recreation-trail/. Accessed: November 2013.

2.3.1.5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic development services in the community are available through a number of organizations:

- Township of Nipigon Economic Development Office;
- Superior North Community Futures Development Corporation;
- Top of Lake Superior Chamber of Commerce (described in Section 2.3.1.3, above);
- North Superior Workforce Planning Board;
- North of Superior Tourism Association;
- North of Superior Marina Marketing Association; and,
- PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise.

The City of Thunder Bay offers regional training in economic development.

The Township's Official Plan discusses six goals associated with economic development for the community:

1) *To encourage economic development and provide opportunities for sustainable economic growth that is compatible with the character and environment of the Township;*
2) *To encourage the development of Employment Areas to provide a range of job opportunities and a broad range of commercial and service facilities geared specifically to meet the needs of residents of the Township and the surrounding Region;*
3) *To ensure that a sufficient supply of services and un-serviced employment lands if available for development at all times;*
4) *To encourage the development of home-based businesses provided the proposed use is compatible with adjacent land uses;*
5) *To provide opportunities to improve and enhance the quality of tourist facilities and the variety of tourism related business in the Township; and,*
6) *To develop the waterfront areas to encourage tourism and recreational residential development.*[94]

Township of Nipigon Economic Development Office
The Township of Nipigon Economic Development Office (EDO) is available to assist current Nipigon businesses, as well as attract new business to the area. The goals of the EDO are to:

- Attract new ventures;
- Develop new tourism product;
- Downtown revitalization;
- Support existing businesses; and,
- Marketing Nipigon.[95]

[94] MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture. December 2013. *Official Plan for the Township of Nipigon.*
[95] Township of Nipigon. 2013. *Economic Development*. Website: http://www.nipigon.net/business/economic-development. Accessed: November 2013.

The 2013/2014 Nipigon Business Directory Initiative is an example of the work currently being undertaken by the EDO. The business directory will be offered in two forms – paper and digital – and will be designed "…*to bring a personal experience to the viewer, instilling a warm and inviting first impression of the business and its owners before they even set foot inside*".[96] The anticipated completion date is 2014.[97]

The EDO has partnered with Lakehead University, Parks Canada, Red Rock, Terrace Bay, and Marathon to take part in the Regional Data Collection Project. This project was designed to collect detailed visitor profiles for the community and surrounding area to get a better understanding of who the market is and where they are coming from. Gathering visitation data locally and in the surrounding area will allow the Township to understand the variation in visitation and determine the motivating factors attracting visitors to each community in an effort to identify markets and promote and expand further development of those factors/elements.[98]

The *Nipigon and the Red Rock Indian Band Economic Diversification Strategy 2008* and the *Nipigon and the Red Rock Indian Band Marketing Action Plan 2008* are both being updated by the EDO.[99] Partnership between the RRIB and the Township of Nipigon continues to be seen as an opportunity with respect to future economic development.

Nipigon also has an active Economic Development Committee. A number of the plans developed by Council include an economic development component (e.g., the Waterfront Master Plan).[100]

Superior North Community Futures Development Corporation

Nipigon is also part of the Superior North Community Futures Development Corporation (Superior North CFDC), a non-profit organization funded by FedNor/Industry Canada. The Superior North CFDC area includes the communities of Dorion, Hurkett, Red Rock, Nipigon, Red Rock Indian Band, Pays Plat First Nation, Rossport, Schreiber, Terrace Bay, Marathon, Manitouwadge, and the Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation/Heron Bay (see Figure 49 in Section 3.1.1).[101] The Superior North CFDC assists with:

- Access to capital;
- Business services; and,

[96] Township of Nipigon. 2013. *The 2013/2014 Business Directory Initiative*. Website: http://www.nipigon.net/residents/news-around-town/business_directory_initiative/. Accessed: October 2013.
[97] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussion October 2013.
[98] Township of Nipigon. 2013. *Economic Development*. Website: http://www.nipigon.net/business/economic-development. Accessed: November 2013.
[99] Township of Nipigon. 2013. *Economic Development*. Website: http://www.nipigon.net/business/economic-development. Accessed: November 2013.
[100] Municipal plans and strategies are summarized in S. 2.1.3 above. Additional information on activities of the EDO is summarized above in S.2.3.1.3 (Business Activity) and S.2.3.1.4 (Tourism).
[101] Superior North Community Futures Development Corporation. 2010. *Resources and Links.* Website: http://www.sncfdc.com/?pgid=33. Accessed January 2014.

- Strategic community planning and development.[102]

North Superior Workforce Planning Board

The North Superior Workforce Planning Board (NSWPB) is one of twenty-five planning zones located in Ontario. The NSWPB is mandated by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities: "*to identify, assess and prioritize the skills and knowledge needs of community, employers and individual participants/learners in the local labour market through a collaborative, local labour market planning process".*[103] The Board undertakes a number of initiatives, including annual local labour market plans.[104] These include up-to-date labour market analysis, reports on actions recently taken, and identification of future actions with respect to the labour force in the Census Division.

North of Superior Tourism Association

The Township of Nipigon is one of many communities in Northwestern Ontario that is a member of the North of Superior Tourism Association (NSTA). The NSTA provides travelers/visitors with an array of attractions in participating towns and cities. In particular, Nipigon's Paddle-to-the-Sea Park, hiking trails (i.e., Red Rock-Nipigon Hiking Trail), annual events (i.e., Blueberry Blast Festival, Fall Fishing Festival), and waterfront/marina are advertised on the NSTA's website.[105]

North of Superior Marina Marketing Association

The North of Superior Marina Marketing Association **(**NSMMA) was formed in 1993 and promotes boating and activities in various communities along the North Shore and provides marina guides for those communities.[106] Nipigon, along with several other North Shore communities, is a member of the NSMMA.

PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise

The PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise is a not-for-profit social enterprise that provides assistance to women through business services, peer support, and events. PARO works to strengthen small businesses and promote community economic development in Northern Ontario.[107]

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[102] Superior North Community Futures Development Corporation. 2010. *Resources and Links.* Website: http://www.sncfdc.com/?pgid=33. Accessed January 2014.

[103] North Superior Workforce Planning Board. n.d. *Building a Superior Workforce: 2014-2015 Local Labour Market Plan*. Website: http://www.nswpb.ca/assets/files/NSWPB_LLMP_2014-2015_English-FINAL.pdf. Accessed: January 2014.

[104] *Ibid*

[105] North of Superior Tourism Association. 2012. *Towns and Cities – Nipigon*. Website: http://www.nosta.on.ca/tourism.asp?pgid=119. Accessed: March 2014.

[106] North of Superior Marina Marketing Association. 2014. About Us. Website: http://www.lakesuperiorboating.com/about.htm. Accessed: March 2014.

[107] PARO Centre for Women's Enterprises. 2014. *What is PARO?* Website: http://paro.ca/2013/about. Accessed: June 2014.

2.3.1.6 GOVERNANCE AND MUNICIPAL FINANCES

Overview of Governance

The Township of Nipigon's elected leadership (December 2014) are Mayor Richard Harvey and four councilors – Levina Collins, Michael Elliot, James Foulds, and Gordon Mackenzie.[108] All councilors are elected to a four-year term.[109] A 'Quad Council' consisting of Nipigon, Dorion, Red Rock and the Red Rock Indian Band meets periodically to discuss matters of common interest to these communities. Nipigon is a member of the Thunder Bay District Municipal League, the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, Ontario Good Roads Association, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

An Overview of the Township of Nipigon Municipal Finances

Presently, the Township generates revenue primarily through taxes (property and payments in lieu of taxes), grants (conditional and unconditional) and user's fees/service charges.

The annual statement of financial position reports on the Township's revenue fund, expenditure, assets, liabilities and its accumulated surplus.[110] This information provides useful indicators that illustrate how the Township's financial position has evolved over time.[111] For financial reporting purposes, the Township reports on all funds, organizations, agencies, and/or boards for which it is financially responsible. The Township provides general government services including fire protection, water and sewer maintenance, waste management, and recreational facilities to its residents.

Similar to most Northern communities, Nipigon is dependent on revenues from property taxes, provincial and federal grants (conditional and unconditional), user fees and charges for services such as recreational and cultural facilities and other fees (e.g., licenses, permits and rents, fines and penalties). The analysis of the Township's revenues, expenses assets and liabilities provides insight into its fiscal performance. The overview provided below spans the period 2000 – 2012.

Financial Summary/Highlights, 2000 – 2012

- Revenue receipts ($8,935,232) were highest in 2010;
- Taxes, grants, user fees and service charges were the main contributors to the Township's revenue fund;
- Revenue through taxation decreased from 45% of total revenue receipts in 2000 to 40.7% by 2012;
- Operating expenses for the Township were the highest in 2009 at $4,790,189;
- Major expenditure items for the Township included spending on salaries, wages, and employee benefits and materials and contracted services;

[108] Township of Nipigon. 2014. *Township of Nipigon 2014 Municipal Election – Results*. Website: http://www.nipigon.net/files/1514/1450/1709/Election_Results_Summary_Sheet.pdf. Accessed: November 2014.

[109] *Ibid*

[110] Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. (2012). *Fiscal Context/Financial Administration.* Website: http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page8393.aspx. Accessed: March 2014.

[111] Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (2010). The Municipal Councillors Guide. pp. 48. Website: www.mah.gov.on.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4965. Accessed: March 2014.

- Spending for salaries, wages and employee benefits decreased from 36.2% of total expenses in 2000 to 32% in 2012;
- Spending on materials increased from 12.1% in 2000 to 27.9% in 2012;
- A review of the trend analysis for the Township's financial assets and liabilities shows similar patterns of variation throughout the period. The Township's liabilities varied in accordance with increases or decreases in assets; and,
- The Township's total assets exceeded liabilities between 2000 and 2012.

Trend in Revenue 2000 - 2012[112]

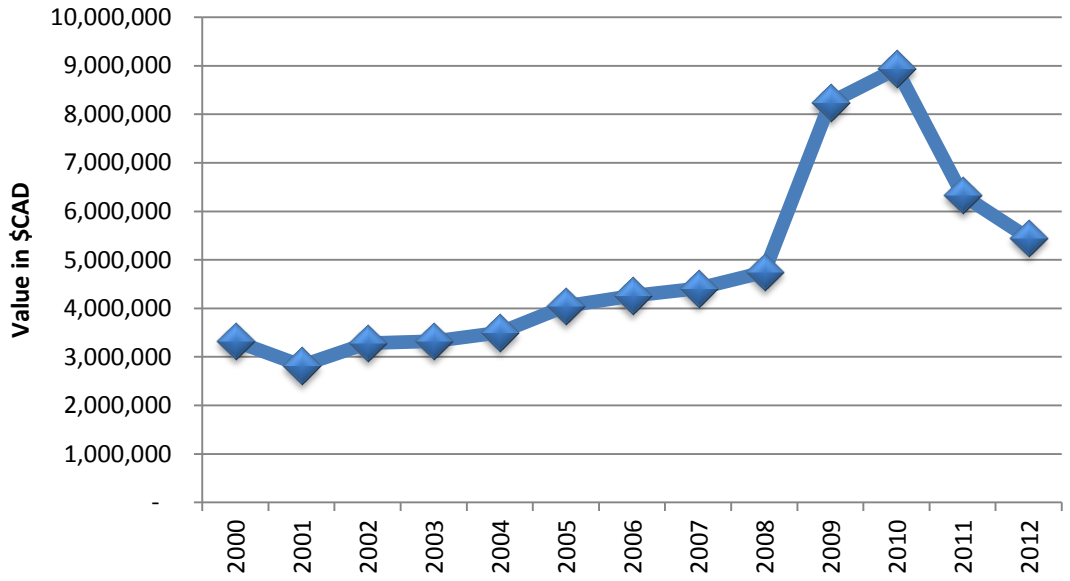
Revenues represent income for the Township. They are typically used to pay for the services that the residents receive. The three main sources of revenue for the Township of Nipigon include: taxes (property and payments in lieu of taxes), grants (conditional and unconditional) and users fees/service charges.[113] Though the Township receives revenues from other sources, variations in the contribution of the three main sources would have an immediate and direct impact of revenue receipts in any given year. Figure 29 shows the trend in revenue receipts between 2000 and 2012.

Figure 29 shows the gradual increase in revenue receipts between 2000 and 2008 with revenues increasing by 73.7% between 2008 and 2009. Between 2009 and 2010, government transfers in the form of grants were the highest recorded for the period 2000 – 2012, and contributed to the sharp rise in revenue receipts in 2009 and 2010.

[112] The categories/line items used to calculate total revenue between 2000 to 2008, and 2009 to 2012 will not (in all cases) be comparable across the two periods. As such the total revenue figures reflect the sum total of all the categories/line items recorded for a particular year.

[113] See the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Multi-Year FIR Review (2000 to 2008 & 2009 onwards) - By Municipality for a detailed breakdown of the categories/line items used in the determination of the Township's total revenue. Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2013. *The Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 - By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm. Accessed: February 2014; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *Multi-Year FIR Review 2009 on – By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202009%20On.htm. Accessed: February 2014.

Figure 28: Revenue Receipts Nipigon, 2000 to 2012



Source: Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2013. *The Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 - By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm. Accessed: February 2014; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *Multi-Year FIR Review 2009 on – By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202009%20On.htm. Accessed: February 2014.

Operating Expenditure[114]

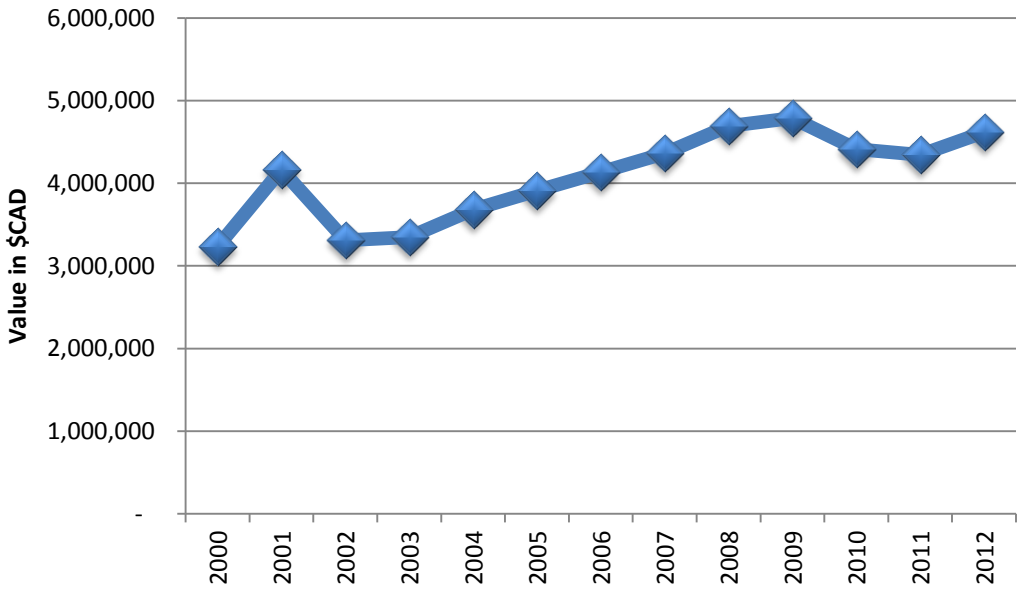
Operating expenditures relate to the cost incurred by the Township as it undertakes its regular business activities. The total operating expenditure for the Township has shown little variation (Figure 30); however, a notable peak was experienced in 2001 when municipal expenses increased by 28.8%.

The main operating expenses for the municipality included spending on salaries, wages and employee benefits, materials and contracted services.[115]

[114] The categories/line items used to calculate operating expenditure between 2000 to2008, and 2009 to 2012 will not (in all cases) be comparable across the two periods. As such the total expenditure figures reflect the sum total of all the categories/line items recorded for a particular year.

[115] See the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Multi-Year FIR Review (2000 to 2008 & 2009 onwards) - By Municipality for a detailed breakdown of the categories/line items used in the determination of the Township's total expenditures. Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2013. *The Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 - By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm. Accessed: February 2014; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *Multi-Year FIR Review 2009 on – By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202009%20On.htm. Accessed: February 2014.

Figure 29: Operating Expenditure for the Township of Nipigon, 2000 – 2012



Source: Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2013. *The Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 - By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm . Accessed February 2014; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *Multi-Year FIR Review 2009 on – By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202009%20On.htm. Accessed: February 2014.

Inflation

Inflation is the increase in prices of goods and services or a decrease in the value of money. The *rate of inflation*[116] in Canada refers to inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI demonstrates the change in prices of a standard package of goods and services that are purchased by consumers. Governments typically try to control or maintain inflationary rates between 2-3%. In Canada, the inflation target has stood at 2% since the early 1990s.[117] Assessments are then made on how much the CPI has increased/decreased in terms of percentage over a certain period of time in comparison to the CPI in a preceding period.[118]

Low, stable and predictable inflation, serves to increase confidence in the value of money and encourages consumer spending and investments. Higher inflation rates have a negative impact on economic growth as consumers spend less, interest rates increase and investments decline.[119] Inflation rates also have a direct impact on the value of municipal spending. In the case of the Township of Nipigon, high inflation rates are

[116] *Inflation* means a reduction in the value of money; in other words, a rise in general price levels. If the amount of money in a country - the money supply - grows faster than production in that country, the average price will rise as a result of the increased demand for goods and services. Inflation can also be caused by higher costs being charged on to the end-user. These might be raw material costs or production costs which have risen, but could also be higher tax rates. These price rises cause the value of money to fall. Global Rates. (2013). *Inflation Canada – consumer price index (CPI)*. Website: http://www.global-rates.com/economic-indicators/inflation/inflation-information.aspx. Accessed: February 2014.

[117] Bank of Canada. 2013. *Backgrounder: Why has Canada's Inflation Target Been Set at 2 Per Cent?* Website: http://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/indicators/key-variables/inflation-control-target/. Accessed: February 2014.

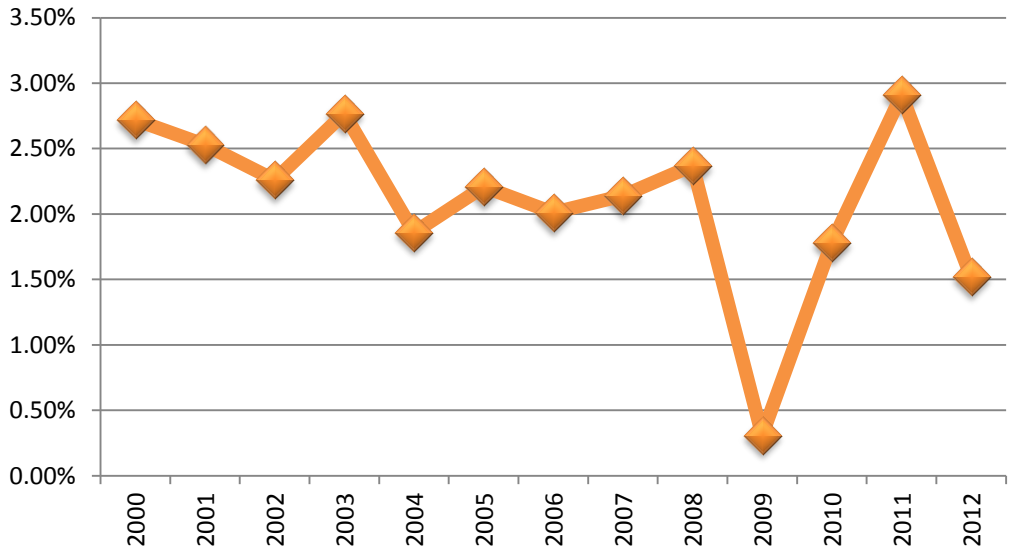
[118] Global Rates. 2013. *Inflation Canada – consumer price index (CPI)*. Website: http://www.global-rates.com/economic-indicators/inflation/inflation-information.aspx. Accessed: February 2014.

[119] Trading Economics 2012. *Canada Inflation Rate.* Website: http://www.tradingeconomics.com/canada/inflation-cpi. Accessed: February 2014.

likely to have serious and immediate consequences due to the town's narrow revenue base, in relation to its expenditure. Because inflation can result in an increase in the value of expenditure, this can in turn affect taxes and revenue receipts. Similarly, the rate of inflation can affect the amount of goods and services that the Township can purchase in any one year. Thus, if revenues have not increased proportionally to inflation, fewer resources may be available to the Township.

Figure 31 shows the average annual inflation rates for Canada between 2000 and 2012. Between 2000 and 2009, the CPI inflation rate was on a downward trend, declining to its lowest in 2009 (0.31%). The average annual inflation rate subsequently peaked in 2011 (2.91%) but fell thereafter.

Figure 30: Average Annual inflation for Canada (CPI) 2000 –2012



Source: Inflation.eu. 2013. *Worldwide Inflation Data. Historic inflation Canada - CPI inflation*. Website: http://www.inflation.eu/inflation-rates/canada/historic-inflation/cpi-inflation-canada.aspx. Accessed: February 2014.

Table 11 below shows the value of the Township's expenditure at constant year 2002 dollars.[120] The constant dollar analysis would account for the inflation and its effects on spending and also revenue receipts. The values shown in the tables were derived using Statistics Canada Cansim data tables.[121] By using 2002 as the base year, the real value of the goods and services purchased by the Township can be assessed.

By using 2002 as the base year for the CPI, the real value of the goods and services purchased by the Township can be assessed. Table 11 below shows that the value of money today, is not the same as the value in 2002.

[120] According to Statistics Canada the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is an indicator of the changes in consumer prices and measures price change by comparing over time the cost of a fixed basket of goods and services. The CPI compares (in percentage terms) prices in any given time period to prices in the official base year which is current 2002. Global Rates. (2013). *Inflation Canada – consumer price index (CPI)*. Website: http://www.global-rates.com/economic-indicators/inflation/inflation-information.aspx. Accessed: February 2014; Trading Economics 2012. *Canada Inflation Rate.* Website: http://www.tradingeconomics.com/canada/inflation-cpi. Accessed: February 2014.

[121] Statistics Canada. 2014. *Table 326-0021 - Consumer Price Index (CPI), 2011 basket, Annual (2002=100), CANSIM Database.* Website: http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a21#F9. Accessed: February 2014.

Example: $1 in 2002 is now worth $1.217 in 2012 (see Table 11). A review of data from Statistics Canada Cansim tables indicates that by 2012, inflation accounted for close to quarter of the value of the dollar compared to 2002. At the Municipal level there may be a greater demand to revenue in 2012 (due to inflation) to provide the same level of services as it did in 2002.

Table 11: Value of Nipigon Expenditure Expressed at Base Year Prices (2002)

Year	Tot. Exp. Current $	Exp. Base Year (2000) Prices $	Inflation Factor
2002	$3,310,888	$3,310,888	1.000
2003	$3,349,390	$3,255,607	1.028
2004	$3,679,303	$3,506,376	1.047
2005	$3,909,317	$3,635,665	1.070
2006	$4,132,360	$3,756,315	1.091
2007	$4,362,102	$3,860,460	1.115
2008	$4,690,047	$4,028,750	1.141
2009	$4,790,189	$4,100,402	1.144
2010	$4,410,833	$3,683,046	1.165
2011	$4,342,738	$3,478,533	1.199
2012	$4,616,486	$3,614,709	1.217

Source: Statistics Canada. 2014. *Table 326-0021 - Consumer Price Index (CPI), 2011 Basket, Annual (2002=100), CANSIM Database*. Website: http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a21#F9. Accessed: February 2014; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2013. *The Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 - By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm. Accessed February 2014; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *Multi-Year FIR Review 2009 on – By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202009%20On.htm. Accessed: February 2014.

The total expenditure at current prices in 2012 (i.e., $4.6 million) represents the nominal dollar value for that year. However, $4.6 million in 2012 expressed using the base year (i.e., 2002) dollars is equivalent to $3.6 million. Despite spending $4.6 million in 2012, in real (dollar) terms, the Township's expenditure increased by only $303,821 between 2002 and 2012.

Financial Assets and Liabilities

Financial Assets

Assets are items of value owned by the Township. Assets may be tangible physical items or intangible items with no physical form. These add value to the Township's budget and are important to its financial performance. The main contributors to the Township's financial assets include cash and temporary investments and accounts and tax receivables.[122]

The value of the Township's financial assets varied between 2000 and 2012; however, much of the variation occurred between 2008 and 2012 (Figure 32). The decrease in the value of assets in 2009 coincides with a 59% decrease in cash and cash equivalents (from $2,803,183 in 2008 to $1,142,670 in 2009). Also, between 2009 and 2010, the value of accounts receivable more than tripled (from $857,340 to $2,905,088).

The 2013 Asset Management Plan for the Township of Nipigon was designed to meet all requirements outlined in: *Building Together Guide for Municipal Asset Management Plans*. The Asset Management Plan serves as a strategic, tactical, and financial document. It was created to ensure "*the management of the municipal infrastructure follows sound asset management practices and principles, while optimizing available resources and establishing desired levels of service*".[123] In 2012, the replacement value of asset classes analyzed (road network, bridges and culverts, water network, sanitary sewer network, and storm sewer network) totaled $39 million for the Township.[124]

Liabilities

The Township's financial liabilities are debts which arise from past transactions or events, and which the local council is obligated to settle by means of transfer or use of assets. The main liabilities included the Township's obligations to repay temporary loans, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and other long-term liabilities.[125] Much like its assets, the Township's liabilities grew at a relatively stable rate between 2000 and 2006 (Figure 32). Between 2006 and 2007, total liabilities more than doubled in value. The sharp rise in the Township's liabilities was followed by a subsequent decline in 2009.

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[122] See the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Multi-Year FIR Review (2000 to 2008 & 2009 onwards) - By Municipality for a detailed breakdown of the categories/line items used in the determination of the Township's total assets. Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2013. *The Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 - By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm. Accessed: February 2014; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *Multi-Year FIR Review 2009 on – By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202009%20On.htm. Accessed: February 2014.

[123] Public Sector Digest. 2013. *The Asset Management Plan for the Township of Nipigon*. Website: http://www.nipigon.net/files/3513/8962/7456/Township_of_Nipigon_Asset_Management_Plan.pdf. Accessed: May 2014.

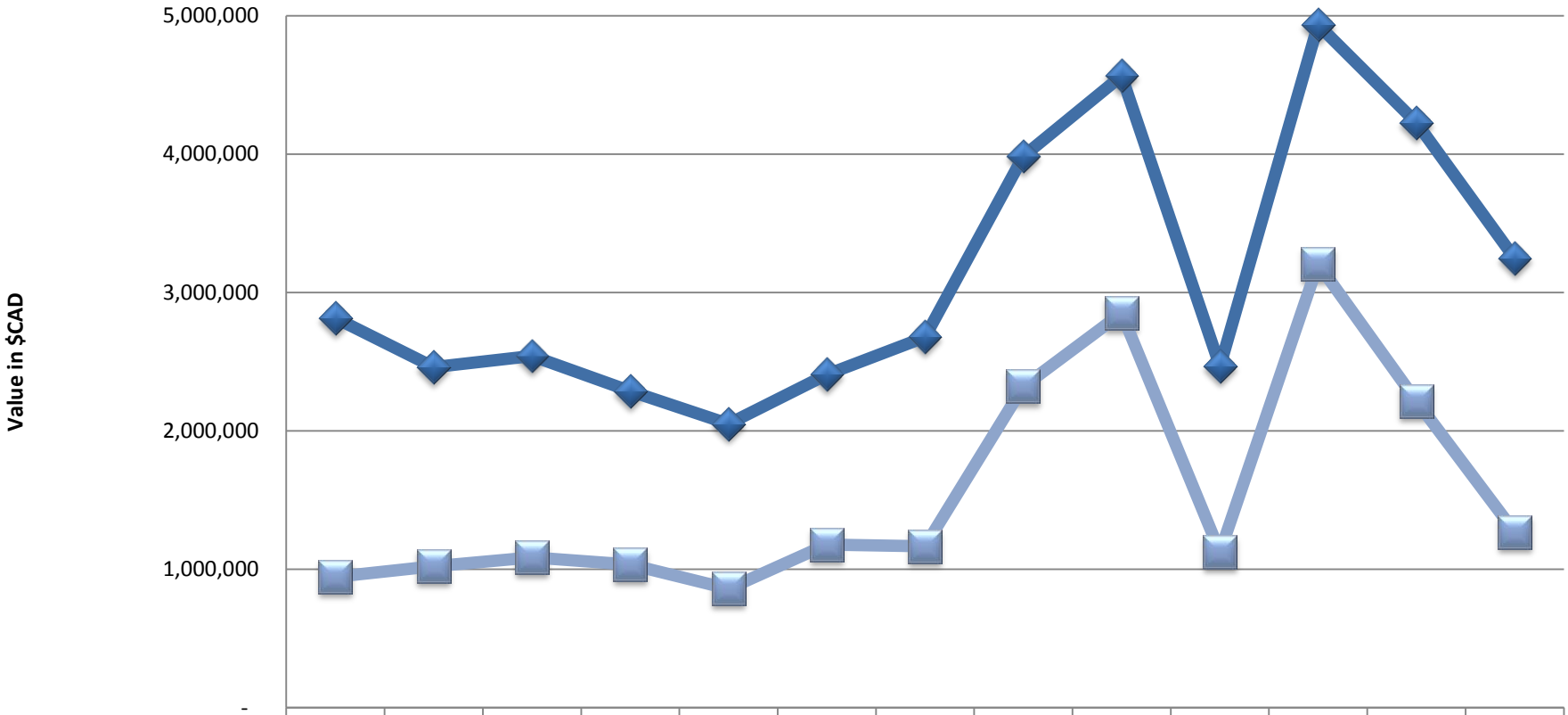
[124] *Ibid.*

[125] See the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Multi-Year FIR Review (2000 to 2008 & 2009 onwards) - By Municipality for a detailed breakdown of the categories/line items used in the determination of the Township's total liabilities. Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2013. *The Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 - By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm. Accessed: February 2014; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *Multi-Year FIR Review 2009 on – By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202009%20On.htm. Accessed: February 2014.

The increase in liabilities in 2006 and 2007 coincides with increases in deferred revenue and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. Conversely, the decline in 2009 corresponds to a reduction in accounts payable, other deferred revenue and long-term liabilities.

Overall, the Township's liabilities remained below its assets for all years examined. This means it has the resources –tangible and intangible – to fulfill its financial obligations (See Figure 32).

Figure 31: Total Financial Assets vs. Total Liabilities in Nipigon, 2000 – 2012[126]



	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total Financial Assets	2,814,5	2,461,2	2,540,5	2,287,9	2,051,2	2,406,7	2,676,2	3,984,5	4,564,9	2,464,2	4,934,9	4,227,2	3,245,3
Total Liabilities	945,621	1,022,3	1,086,3	1,034,2	859,493	1,178,5	1,165,6	2,321,1	2,849,4	1,123,6	3,205,9	2,215,5	1,269,0

Source: Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2013. *The Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 - By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm. Accessed February 2014; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *Multi-Year FIR Review 2009 on – By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202009%20On.htm. Accessed: February 2014.

[126] Between 2005 and 2008 (only for those years), the Township recorded contributions to "other assets". See *the Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 & 2009 Onwards – By Municipality.* Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm#5844. Accessed: February 2014.

Property Assessment[127]

Property assessment values are determined by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). An assessment is the value assigned by MPAC to all properties including land and buildings. It is used to determine the taxes each property owner will pay based on the property's assessed value.[128] Table 12 and Figure 33 provide property assessment values from 2002 to 2008.

Table 12: Property Assessment Values (in Canadian $) for Selected Years - Nipigon

Property Type	2002	2004	2006	2008
Residential	$59,422,296	$58,203,855	$58,130,025	$57,855,515
Multi-Residential	$233,000	$391,000	$394,000	$394,000
Managed Forest	$11,900	$23,600	$30,670	$30,280
Commercial	$8,489,229	$9,176,365	$8,553,235	$9,073,679
Industrial	$2,542,050	$2,662,450	$2,800,595	$2,800,595
Pipeline	$2,214,000	$2,440,000	$2,505,000	$2,506,000
Total	$72,912,475	$72,897,270	$72,413,525	$72,660,069

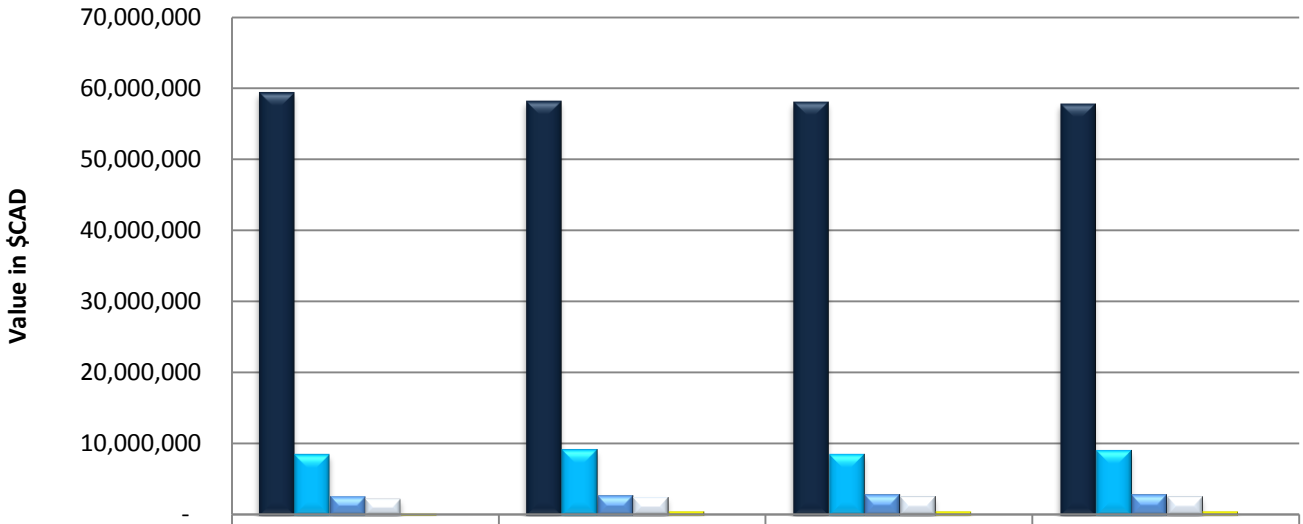
Source: Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2013. *The Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 - By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm. Accessed February 2014; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *Multi-Year FIR Review 2009 on – By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202009%20On.htm. Accessed: February 2014.

The Township's current assessment profile shows that the majority of the tax burden is placed on residential ratepayers. Based on the property assessment values illustrated in Table 12 and Figure 33, it is apparent that residential properties account for approximately 80% of the Township's total tax assessment annually.

[127] Property assessment categories are assigned according to the use of the property. There are seven major property classes and six specialty classes recognized by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation. Additional sub-classes have been added by municipalities and the Province of Ontario to reduce taxes paid for properties constructed after March 2007. Major classes include: residential, multi-residential, commercial, industrial, pipeline, farmland and managed forests. Specialty classes include new multi-residential, office building, shopping centre, parking lots, vacant lands, large industrial and professional sport facilities. MPAC. 2013. *Property Classification*. Website: http://www.mpac.on.ca/property_owners/how/assessment_guide2.asp#15; 2013 Glossary – Property Classification. Website http://www.mpac.on.ca/property_owners/how/glossary_terms.asp#O. Accessed: May 2014.

[128] Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2010. *Section 4: The Fiscal Context. Assessment (Tax Base*). Website: http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page8393.aspx. Accessed: May 2014.

Figure 32: Property Assessment Value – Nipigon



	2002	2004	2006	2008
Residential	59,422,296	58,203,855	58,130,025	57,855,515
Commercial	8,489,229	9,176,365	8,553,235	9,073,679
Industrial	2,542,050	2,662,450	2,800,595	2,800,595
Pipeline	2,214,000	2,440,000	2,505,000	2,506,000
Multi-Res	233,000	391,000	394,000	394,000
Managed Forest	11,900	23,600	30,670	30,280

Source: Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2013. *The Multi-Year FIR Review 2000 to 2008 - By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202000%20-%202008.htm. Accessed February 2014; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 2014. *Multi-Year FIR Review 2009 on – By Municipality*. Website: http://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/Multi%20Year%202009%20On.htm. Accessed: February 2014.

As population in the Township declines, so too does its property tax base. It will become increasingly difficult for the Township to continue to offer the current level of community services with a steadily declining population, limited industrial and commercial assessment base and a growing tax burden on the remaining residential rate payers.

2.3.2 Summary of Economic Assets

This section summarizes the Economic Assets described above for Nipigon in terms of:

- Priorities and Key Issues;
- Community Aspirations; and
- Capabilities and Capacities within the Community.

2.3.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES

Following the closure of the two mills (Red Rock and Multiply) in late 2006 and early 2007, local unemployment was reportedly very high; many had to leave the community to find work. 2011 data on unemployment for Nipigon is not available, although community representatives have noted that there seems to be little unemployment; those who cannot find work locally move, or may commute elsewhere in the region (e.g., to mines in Northwestern Ontario) or beyond (e.g., to Alberta), while choosing to keep their families in Nipigon. However, a number of people commute to Nipigon from Thunder Bay to work at the schools, Ontario Power Generation, and provincial government offices (e.g., Ministry of Natural Resources, and Transportation). There are no large industrial employers in Nipigon.

Nipigon serves as a regional service hub for the surrounding communities such as Red Rock, Dorion, Hurkett and the Red Rock Indian Band/Lake Helen First Nation. While forestry activity is returning to the region (e.g., several mills have re-opened along the North shore), its role in the local and regional economy has diminished compared to years ago. Many of the existing businesses are in the service sector. Today, Nipigon is looking to strengthen existing economic sectors (e.g., tourism) and to diversify into new areas (e.g., light industry [including those related to forestry], and residential development that may attract retirees).

Tourism has a long history in Nipigon, and many see it as a focus for the future, given the natural amenities in the local area – Lake Superior, the Nipigon River, and Lake Nipigon. The need for additional tourism infrastructure is seen as a priority. A number of lodges/resorts operate on Lake Nipigon and Lake Superior in the vicinity of Nipigon.

In terms of municipal finance, assets have exceeded liabilities for the past decade. The majority of the tax burden for the Township is placed on residential ratepayers (80%). As population in the Township declines, so too does its property tax base. It will become increasingly difficult for the Township to continue to offer the current level of community services with a steadily declining population, limited industrial and commercial assessment base and a growing tax burden on the remaining residential rate payers. However, community representatives have noted the Township is in a good financial position.[129]

2.3.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

Nipigon highly values the natural amenities that contribute to both the quality of life for residents, and tourism potential. The recent Waterfront Development Master Plan was initiated in order to identify ways to develop the local economy and expand access to the natural environment for both residents and tourists. Many residents have expressed a desire for local employment opportunities to retain existing workers and attract new people to the community. Entrepreneurship is viewed as necessary to grow Nipigon's economy in the future.

[129] This information was obtained during Nipigon community discussion February 2014.

2.3.2.3 CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Nipigon's Economic Development Office is involved in a number of initiatives, including 'Business Retention and Expansion' activities in the community to support local businesses, updating the business directory, development of communications materials, and participation in regional economic development forums. Recent planning initiatives such as the Waterfront Development Master Plan, Community Sustainability Plan, the updated Official Plan, and Strategic Plan include an economic development focus, with an emphasis on tourism.

2.4 INFRASTRUCTURE

2.4.1 INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET INDICATORS

The infrastructure within a community consists of the physical assets needed to support livelihoods. Infrastructure is a public good and improved access to it increases community well-being, human health and quality of life. The specific indicators include:

- Land Use;
- Housing;
- Municipal Infrastructure and Services; and,
- Transportation.

These indicators are described in this section, within the context of the physical well-being of Nipigon.

2.4.1.1 LAND USE

The Township of Nipigon covers a land area of approximately 115 km^2.[130] The designations of land use are specified in Nipigon's recently approved Official Plan: residential, special purpose, employment area, central commercial, waterfront mixed use, environmental protection area, hazard lands and open space/parkland.[131]

The Official Plan also identifies the following planning principles:

- *Protection of the natural environment and natural heritage features;*
- *Management of growth through allocating servicing capacity and development phasing;*
- *Management of shoreline development and protecting the lakeshore environment;*

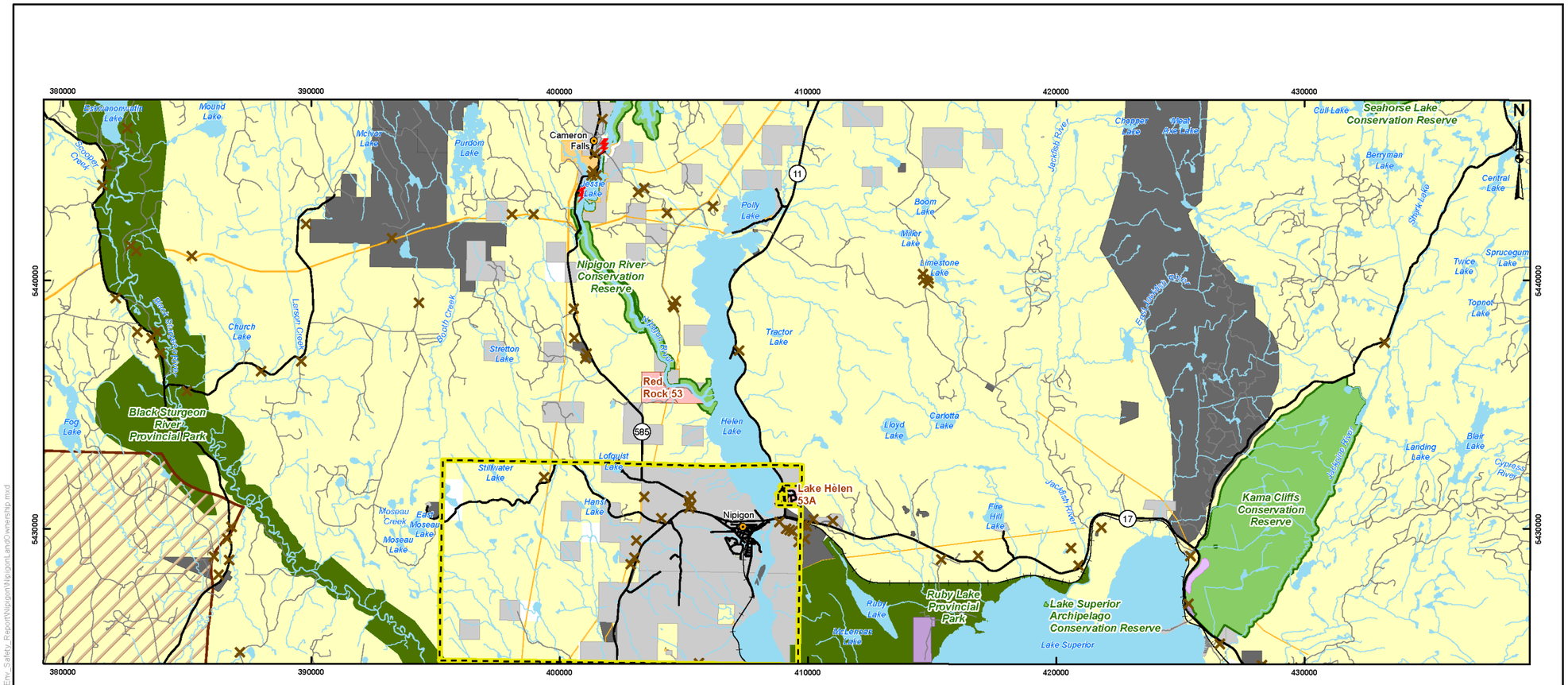
[130] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. 2014. *Land Information Ontario - Discovering Ontario Data*. Website: https://www.javacoeapp.lrc.gov.on.ca/geonetwork/srv/en/main.home. Accessed: September 2014.
[131] MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture. December 2013. *Official Plan for the Township of Nipigon*.

- *Protection of the rural and resource lands from incompatible development that may preclude rural and resource related uses;* and,
- *Maintaining the character of the community.*[132]

Figure 34 shows land ownership in the Township of Nipigon and surrounding area.

[132] Ibid

Figure 33: Nipigon Land Ownership



LEGEND

- Community
- Hydro Station
- Main Road
- Local Road
- Railway
- Watercourse
- Waterbody
- Pit (Gravel)
- ANSI, Earth Science
- Conservation Reserve
- Forest Reserve
- Provincial Park
- Recommended Conservation Reserve
- Private Land
- Federal Land - Indian Reserve
- Crown Land - Non-Freehold Dispositions Public
- Crown Land - Unpatented Public Land
- Crown Reserves
- Regular Registered Trapline Area License
- Municipal Boundary (Township of Nipigon)

REFERENCE

Base Data - MNR LIO, obtained 2009-2013
Crown Reserves - Ministry of Northern Mines and Development (April 4, 2013)
Produced by Golder Associates Ltd under licence from Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, © Queens Printer 2009
Projection: Transverse Mercator Datum: NAD 83 Coordinate System: UTM Zone 16N

2.5 1.25 0 2.5 5 7.5
SCALE 1:150,000 KILOMETRES

DRAFT



PROJECT
Environment Report
Township of Nipigon, Ontario

TITLE
Nipigon Land Ownership

Golder Associates
Mississauga, Ontario

PROJECT NO. 12-1152-0026		SCALE AS SHOWN	REV. 0.0
DESIGN	PM	19 Aug 2013	**FIGURE: 3**
GIS	PM/JB	18 Oct. 2013	
CHECK	JH	18 Oct. 2013	
REVIEW	GWS	18 Oct. 2013	

G:\Projects\2012\12-1152-0026_NWMO_Phase1_Feasibility\GIS\MXDs\Reporting\Env_Safety_Report\NipigonLandOwnership.mxd

Source: Golder Associates. January 2014. *Nipigon Land Ownership.*

2.4.1.2 HOUSING

Dwelling Characteristics

Between 2001 and 2011, the total number of private dwellings in Nipigon declined from 780 (2001), to 740 (2006), and further to 713 (2011) (Table 13). A decline also occurred in the number of owned dwellings: between 2001 and 2006, the number in Nipigon went from 700 to 620, a drop of 11.4%. In contrast, both the Census Division and Ontario experienced an increase in the number of total private dwellings and owned dwellings from 2001 to 2011.

Nipigon had a relatively large proportion of owned (vs. rented) dwellings in 2001, 2006 and 2011 (89.7% in 2001; 83.7% in 2006; 79.0% in 2011) compared to residents of the Census Division (73.0% in 2001; 73.6% in 2006; and, 73.3% in 2011) and Ontario as a whole (67.8% in 2001; 71.0% in 2006; and, 71.4% in 2011) (Table 13).

Table 13: Nipigon, Census Division and Ontario Dwelling Characteristics, 2001 – 2011

Dwelling Characteristic	Year	Number of Dwellings[133]	Number of owned dwellings	Number of rented dwellings
Nipigon	2001	780	700 (89.7%)	80 (10.3%)
	2006	740	620 (83.7%)	125 (16.9%)
	2011	713	563 (79.0%)	150 (21.0%)
Census Division	2001	60,470	44,125 (73.0%)	15,740 (26.0%)
	2006	61,836	45,485 (73.6%)	15,725 (25.4%)
	2011	62,318	45,677 (73.3%)	16,181 (26.0%)
Ontario	2001	4,219,415	2,862,300 (67.8%)	1,351,365 (32.0%)
	2006	4,554, 251	3,235,495 (71.0%)	1,312,290 (28.8%)
	2011	4,887,508	3,491,738 (71.4%)	1,390,183 (28.4%)

Source: Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007, 2012. Nipigon, *Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*; Environics Analytics. 2014. *CensusPlus Enhanced Census + NHS.*

Note: only selected Statistics Canada Dwelling Characteristics categories are used..

[133] Number of dwellings refers to private dwellings occupied by usual residents, in which a person or group of persons permanently reside.

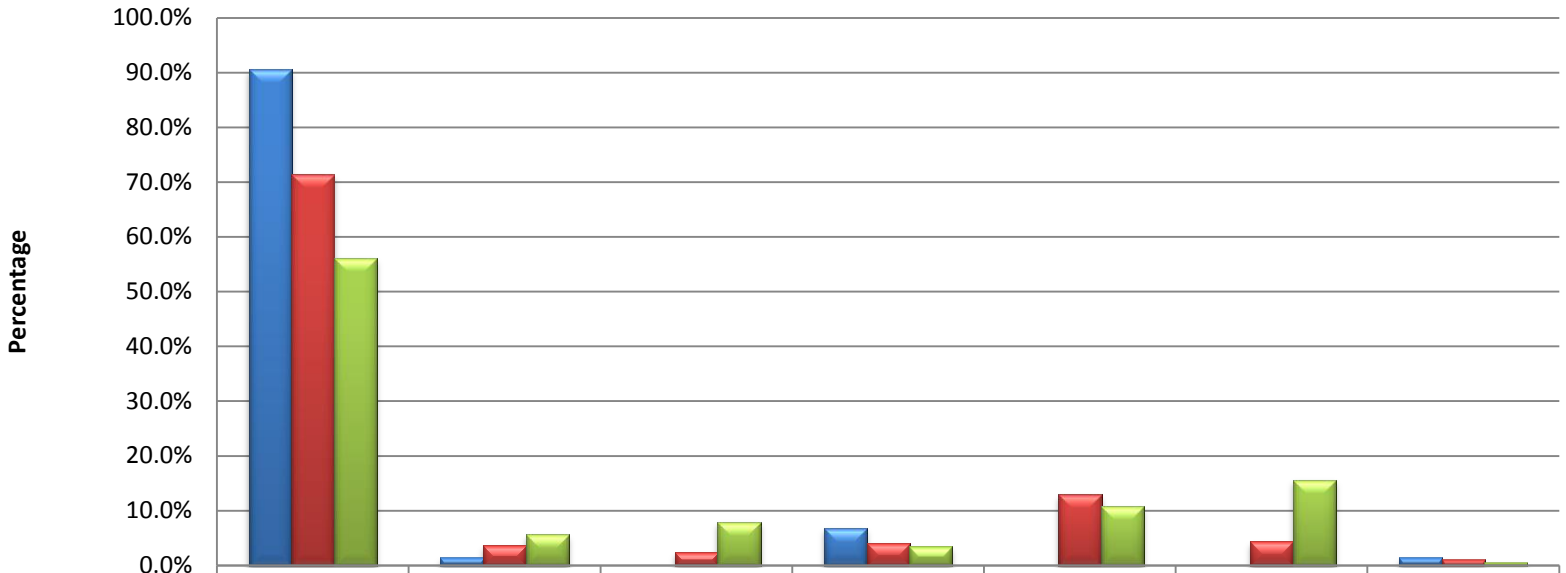
Housing Stock

According to the 2006 Census, more than 90% of all dwellings occupied by usual residents in Nipigon were *single-detached houses*, which was greater than the figure for both the Census Division (71.4%) and Ontario (56.1%) (Figure 35). Most of Nipigon's remaining housing stock consists of *duplex apartments* (6.8%), which is proportionately more than the Census Division (4.1%) and the province (3.4%). Nipigon has proportionately fewer *semi-detached houses* (1.4% vs. 3.6% than the Census Division and 5.7% for Ontario).

In 2011, *single-detached houses* accounted for 93.7% of all dwellings in Nipigon, in comparison to the Census Division at 71.8% and the province at 55.6% (Figure 36). Nipigon has a considerably lower proportion of *other dwellings*[134] (6.3%) than the Census Division (22.8%) and the province (27.9%) in 2011.

[134] According to the Statistics Canada 2006 Census, **Other Dwellings** is defined as: "Other occupied private dwellings' includes other single attached houses and movable dwellings such as mobile homes and other movable dwellings such as houseboats and railroad cars". Statistics Canada. 2007. *Nipigon, Township Community Profile.*
According to the Statistics Canada 2011 census, **Other Dwellings** is defined as: "a subtotal of the following categories: semi-detached house, row house, apartment or flat in a duplex, apartment in a building that has fewer than five storeys, and other single-attached house". Statistics Canada. 2012. *Nipigon, Township Community Profile.*

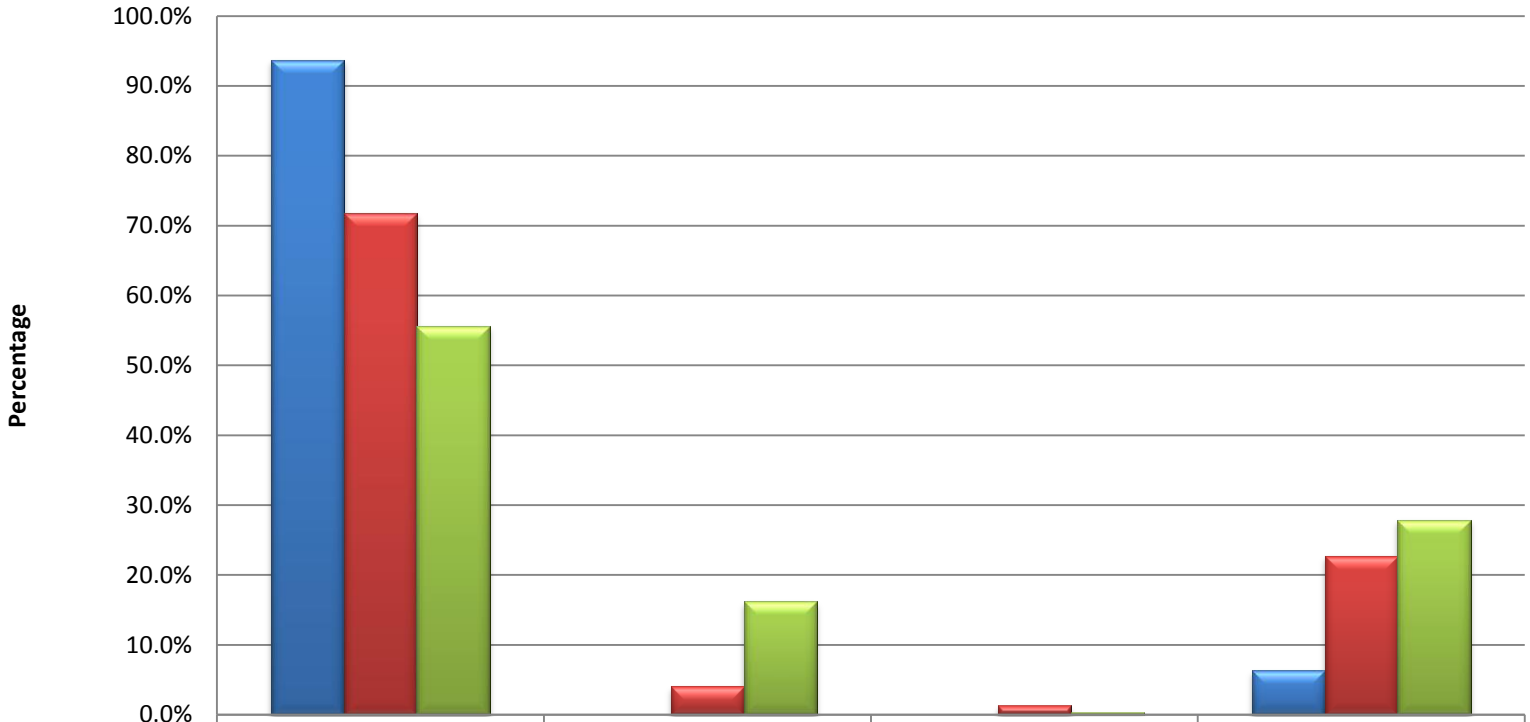
Figure 34: Nipigon, Census Division and Ontario Average Housing Stock Composition, 2006



	Single-detached houses	Semi-detached houses	Row houses	Apartments; duplex	Apartments in buildings with fewer than five storeys	Apartments in buildings with five or more storeys	Other dwellings
Nipigon	90.5%	1.4%	0.0%	6.8%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%
Census Division	71.4%	3.6%	2.4%	4.1%	13.0%	4.4%	1.1%
Ontario	56.1%	5.7%	7.9%	3.4%	10.8%	15.6%	0.5%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles.*

Figure 35: Nipigon, Census Division and Ontario Average Housing Stock Composition, 2011



	Single-detached houses	Apartment; building that has five or more storeys	Movable dwelling	Other dwelling
Nipigon	93.7%	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%
Census Division	71.8%	4.1%	1.3%	22.8%
Ontario	55.6%	16.2%	0.3%	27.9%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2012. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles.*

Value of Owned Dwellings

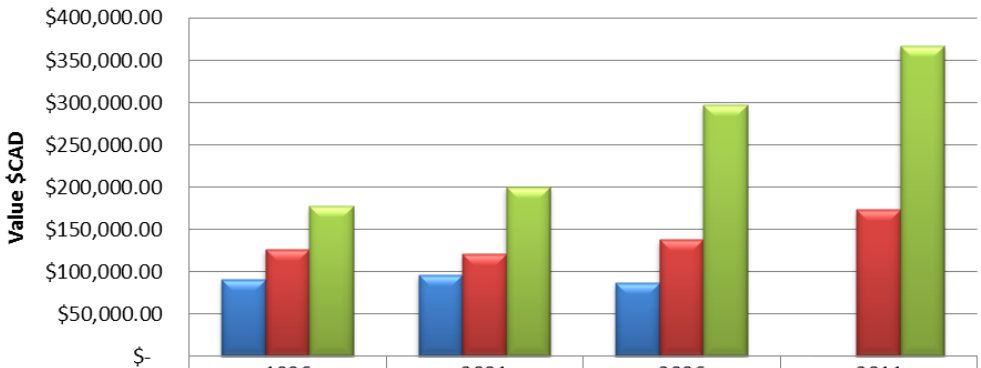
Discussions with community representatives indicate that while housing is relatively inexpensive in Nipigon, the availability of housing is getting tighter. Homes that are on the market sell relatively quickly. The low cost of housing has attracted retirees to the community. Red Rock Indian Band members also purchase homes in Nipigon as the on-reserve population is increasing and housing supply is short. At this time, there is limited housing available in the community.[135] New homes are relatively expensive to build. Fully serviced roads and municipal services have been put in place for lots established on 'Greenmantle Ridge'.[136] The Township of Nipigon Council is currently investigating options for improving the housing stock. Community representatives have noted that due to lack of availability in Nipigon, some people are purchasing/renting homes in the Township of Red Rock (more affordable) or Thunder Bay (larger/high-end homes). The Spruce Apartments in Nipigon provide housing for adults with developmental disabilities in the community.

Figure 37 shows the average value of owned dwellings[137] in Nipigon, the Census Division and province for census years 1996, 2001, and 2006; and, 2011 for the Census Division and province[138] In Nipigon the value of dwellings increased by 7% from 1996 to 2001, followed by a decrease of 10.3% between 2001 and 2006. During this same period, owned dwellings in the Census Division had a slight decrease in value between 1996 and 2001, followed by an increase between 2001 and 2006. The average value of owned dwellings in Ontario as a whole, however, steadily increased between 1996 and 2006. Community representatives have noted that current housing prices are approximately $86,000 on average in Nipigon.[139]

Nipigon dwellings have historically had lower average values than the Census Division and the province. In 1996, the average value of a dwelling in the Census Division ($126,445) was 40% more than the average Nipigon dwelling ($90,156) and the average value of an Ontario dwelling ($177,410) was approximately double than the average Nipigon dwelling. By 2006, the average value of a dwelling in the Census Division ($137,923) was 59% more than the average Nipigon dwelling ($86,560) and the average value of an Ontario dwelling ($297,479) was nearly 3.5 times the value of the average Nipigon dwelling.

[135] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions in October 2013.
[136] *Ibid*; This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussion February 2014.
[137] According to the 2006 Statistics Canada definition, the "*'value of dwelling' refers to the dollar amount expected by the owner if the dwelling were to be sold"*. Statistics Canada. 2010. 2006 *Community Profiles – Average value of owned dwelling ($)*. Website: http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/details/page_Definitions.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3558044&Geo2=PR&Code2=35&Data=Count&SearchText=nipigon&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&Custom=&LineID=5015. Accessed: May 2014.
[138] 2011 NHS data for Nipigon has been suppressed by Statistics Canada (the NHS included value of owned dwellings data).
[139] This information was obtained during Nipigon community discussion February 2014.

Figure 36: Nipigon, Census Division and Ontario Average Value of Owned Dwellings, 1996 – 2011



	1996	2001	2006	2011
Nipigon	$90,156.00	$96,471.00	$86,560.00	N/A
Census Division	$126,445.00	$121,361.00	$137,923.00	$173,025.00
Ontario	$177,410.00	$199,884.00	$297,479.00	$367,428.00

Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*; Statistics Canada. 2013. *Thunder Bay District and Ontario 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) Profiles. National Household Survey*.

According to the Canadian Real Estate Association, there are eight houses that are for sale in Nipigon with asking prices that range from $47,000 - $145,000; and one property with an asking price of $789,900.[140]

2.4.1.3 MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Community representatives have noted that while infrastructure in Nipigon is being improved, aging municipal infrastructure is a challenge.[141] The Township has developed an Infrastructure Master Plan.

The Official Plan outlines four goals associated with services and transportation for the community:

1) *To ensure that all necessary services required to serve and support development are available to meet the demands of present and future inhabitants and reflects the financial ability of the Township to provide services;*
2) *To establish an integrated transportation system that safely and efficiently accommodates various modes of transportation including automobiles, trucks, cycling and walking, snowmobiles, recreational vehicles and boats;*

[140] Canadian Real Estate Association. 2014. Website: http://beta.realtor.ca/Map.aspx#CultureId=1&ApplicationId=1&RecordsPerPage=9&MaximumResults=9&PropertyTypeId=300&TransactionTypeId=1&SortOrder=A&SortBy=1&LongitudeMin=-88.32136631011963&LongitudeMax=-88.20497989654541&LatitudeMin=48.96646993395566&LatitudeMax=49.05587018193852&PriceMin=0&PriceMax=0&RentMin=0&RentMax=0&BedRange=0-0&BathRange=0-0&ParkingSpaceRange=0-0&viewState=m&Longitude=-88.2631731033325&Latitude=49.0111901544824&ZoomLevel=13&CurrentPage=1. Accessed: May 2014.

[141] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions in October 2013.

3) *To ensure that all development is appropriately services with potable water and sewage services, and that public and privately serviced developments will have the least impact possible on water quality or quantity; and,*
4) *To promote the active transportation system of trails and cycle routes through the Township and Region.*[142]

Electricity/Natural Gas

Electricity and natural gas are provided in Nipigon by Hydro One and Union Gas respectively.[143] Ontario Power Generation has three hydroelectric stations located to the North on the Nipigon River.[144]

The Official Plan outlines four goals associated with energy conservation:

1) *To recognize and encourage alternate forms of energy including the development of wind generated power and solar power in a manner that does not impact the visual or environmental qualities of the Township;*
2) *To encourage energy conservation through planning that promotes pedestrian and cycling activities in the Township;*
3) *To encourage and promote building design with energy conservation in mind which will include water use, electrical, HVAC systems using operation techniques that promote a sustainable community concept; and,*
4) *To encourage all practical forms of conservation to reduce the environmental impact on the community.*[145]

Waste Management



Nipigon has municipal garbage collection and a landfill to process household waste, as well as demolition debris from the Township and clean soil.[146] The 100-acre land fill site is located just outside of the community. The site has 90 years of remaining capacity.[147] The Township has initiated a recycling program for the community.

[142] MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture. December 2013. *Draft Official Plan for the Township of Nipigon.*
[143] Township of Nipigon. n.d. *Community Profile*. Website: http://nipigon.net/files/4113/6336/1347/updated_community_profile.pdf. Accessed: October 2013.
[144] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions in October 2013.
[145] MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture. December 2013. *Draft Official Plan for the Township of Nipigon.*
[146] Township of Nipigon. n.d. *Community Profile*. Website: http://nipigon.net/files/4113/6336/1347/updated_community_profile.pdf. Accessed: October 2013; This information in part was obtained from Nipigon community discussions in October 2013.
[147] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions in October 2013.

Water/Wastewater

The Nipigon Water Treatment Facility was built in 1946, doubled its size in the 1960s/1970s, and was upgraded between 2003 and 2005 with plans to continue updating the facility until 2015.[148]

Municipal water supply is provided to residents of Nipigon's urban area.[149] Nipigon's water treatment system is classified as Water Treatment Class 2 and a Water Distribution Class 1. The surface water plant has conventional filtration. The facility draws its water from the Nipigon River. The intake is approximately 14 metres long and has a capacity to intake 4500 m^3/day.[150]

The Nipigon Sewage Works system is comprised of a water pollution control plant and three sewage pumping stations that services residents in the urban area of the municipality.[151]. Much of the wastewater generated at the facility is collected by gravity to the main trunk line.[152] The plant underwent a $7 million upgrade in 2011 to secondary treatment (aerobic digestion, ultra violet disinfection, sludge storage). These upgrades allow for improved treatment.[153] The sludge storage lagoon and the pumping station were both commissioned in 2012.[154]

Communications

Broadband internet, cable and modern telecommunications services, including 4G wireless coverage, are available in Nipigon from a number of providers including Bell ExpressVu, Shaw, Tbaytel and Bell Canada.[155] Public Wi-Fi services are also offered in Nipigon at the Library. There are gaps in cell phone service for some providers.[156]

[148] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions in October 2013; This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussion February 2014.
[149] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions in October 2013.
[150] Township of Nipigon. 2014. *2013 Annual/Summary Report – Nipigon Drinking Water System*.
[151] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions in October 2013.
[152] Township of Nipigon. 2013. *Nipigon Water Pollution Control Plant*.
[153] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions in October 2013.
[154] Township of Nipigon. 2013. *Nipigon Water Pollution Control Plant*.
[155] Township of Nipigon. n.d. *Community Profile*. Website: http://nipigon.net/files/4113/6336/1347/updated_community_profile.pdf. Accessed: October 2013.
[156] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions in October 2013.

2.4.1.4 TRANSPORTATION



Nipigon is located at the junction of Highway 11 and the Trans-Canada Highway 17. Community representatives report that there have been discussions with the province about upgrading several sections of the Highway; there are associated plans to extend services to the west on Highway 17 for potential commercial development.[157] Nipigon has been called the 'Crossroads of Canada'[158], as Canada's major highways (17 and 11) intersect here.[159]

Nipigon is also positioned along the Canadian Pacific Railway freight line linking Sault Ste. Marie to Thunder Bay. There is no passenger rail service in the community.

Nipigon is serviced by the Thunder Bay International Airport. A private airstrip located to the west of Nipigon near Stillwater within the municipal boundary may not be operational.[160]

The Greyhound bus service and Caribou Coach both stop along the TransCanada Highway in Nipigon.[161] There was a local taxi service provider in town; however, it recently closed.[162] The community once had Handi Transit; however, due to funding shortages, the service has not been available in Nipigon since 2011.[163] Currently, there is no transportation service for seniors in town.[164]

Cable-Stayed Bridge

Construction of the new four-lane Cable-Stayed Bridge (Figure 38) on the TransCanada Highway in Nipigon has begun. The $106 million contract was awarded to Bot Ferrovial Nipigon Joint Venture. The bridge will be the first of its kind in Ontario, consisting of three towers with cables designed to support the bridge deck, and a separate sidewalk for pedestrians (see Figure 39). The project has an expected completion date of 2017.[165] It is

[157] *Ibid.*
[158] *Ibid.*
[159] Northern Wilds. 2011. *Nipigon: At Canada's Crossroads.* Website: http://www.northernwilds.com/pages/Explore/faces/nipigon-at-canadas-crossroads.shtml. Accessed: January 2014.
[160] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions in October and December 2013. The status of the airstrip near Stillwater is not known; it may now be inactive.
[161] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussion in April 2014.
[162] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions in October 2013.
[163] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions in December 2013.
[164] *Ibid*
[165] Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. 2013. *Construction Underway on New Nipigon River Bridge.* Website: http://news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2013/09/construction-underway-on-new-nipigon-river-bridge.html. Accessed: November 2013.

hoped that the bridge will also contribute to local tourism by serving as a stopping point for travelers along the TransCanada Highway.

Figure 37: Conceptualization - Nipigon Cable-Stayed Bridge



Source: Township of Nipigon. March 2014.

Figure 38: Conceptualization - Pedestrian Walkway of Nipigon Cable-Stayed Bridge



Source: Township of Nipigon. March 2014.

2.4.2 SUMMARY OF INFRASTRUCTURE

This section summarizes the Infrastructure Assets described above for Nipigon in terms of:

- Priorities and Key Issues;
- Community Aspirations; and
- Capabilities and Capacities within the Community.

2.4.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES

Discussions with community representatives indicate that while housing is relatively inexpensive in Nipigon, the availability of housing is getting tighter. Census data also indicates a decline in the number of dwellings in the community. Homes that are on the market sell relatively quickly. The low cost of housing has attracted retirees and others on fixed income to the community. While infrastructure in Nipigon is being improved (e.g., water and wastewater treatment), aging municipal infrastructure remains a challenge. Recently, the local taxi service closed; Handi-Transit is no longer available in the community, and there is no transportation service for seniors in town.

2.4.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

Improving the municipal revenue stream to allow for continued maintenance or improvement of infrastructure is an objective for the Township. Community representatives report that there have been discussions with the province about upgrading several sections of Highway 17; there are associated plans to extend services to the west on Highway 17 for potential commercial development. Construction of the new four-lane Cable-Stayed Bridge on the TransCanada Highway in Nipigon has begun. The $106 million project will be the first of its kind in Ontario, and it is hoped that the bridge will attract visitors to the community.

2.4.2.3 CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The Township has developed an Infrastructure Master Plan to facilitate future improvements.

2.5 SOCIAL ASSETS

2.5.1 SOCIAL ASSET INDICATORS

The Social Assets within a community include the social and community activities in which people participate and the resources that they draw upon in pursuit of their livelihood objectives. These activities and resources create networks within and between communities, enhance cohesion, and generate trusting relationships and community pride. The specific indicators within the Social Assets category include:

- Diversity of Population;
- Cultural Heritage Resources;
- Community Facilities and Programs; and,
- Social Services and Organizations.

These indicators are described in this section, within the context of the social well-being of the Township of Nipigon.

2.5.1.1 DIVERSITY OF POPULATION

Aboriginal Identity

Community representatives have noted that there are strong linkages (economic, familial, and social) between the Red Rock Indian Band (RRIB)/the Lake Helen Reserve and the community of Nipigon. Many RRIB and Flying Post First Nation members, as well as non-status Aboriginal people live and work in Nipigon. In 2001, Nipigon's Aboriginal identity population was 18.7% of the total population: more than double the proportion in the Census Division (8.8%) and 11 times greater than the proportion in Ontario (1.7%) (Table 14). Nipigon's Aboriginal identity population increased between 2001 and 2006 by 40 people. Due to a decreasing total community population during this timeframe, the proportion of the population with Aboriginal identity increased to 23.5% by 2006. This increase is greater than either the Census Division (a 1.7 percentage point increase from 8.8% in 2001 to 10.5% in 2006) or the province (relatively unchanged over the same period at approximately 2%) (Table 14).

In 2011, the Aboriginal identity population in Nipigon decreased from 23.5% in 2006 to approximately 21.0% (Table 14). However, community representatives have noted that the Aboriginal population in Nipigon is higher than indicated by Statistics Canada, perhaps 50%.[166] For the same period, the Aboriginal identity population increased in both the Census Division (from 10.5% in 2006 to 11.9% in 2011) and Ontario (2.0% in 2006 to 2.4% in 2011).

[166] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussion February 2014.

Table 14: Nipigon, Census Division and Ontario Aboriginal Identity Population, 2001 – 2011

Aboriginal Population	Community	2001		2006		2011	
Total Population	**Nipigon**	1,950		1,720		1,602	
Aboriginal Identity Population		365	18.7%	405	23.5%	336	21.0%
Non-Aboriginal Population		1580	81.0%	1320	76.7%	1,266	79.0%
Total Population	**Census Division**	149,150		147,105		143,390	
Aboriginal Identity Population		13,180	8.8%	15,495	10.5%	17,135	11.9%
Non-Aboriginal Population		135,970	91.2%	131,610	89.5%	126,255	88.1%
Total Population	**Ontario**	11,285,545		12,028,900		12,651,790	
Aboriginal Identity Population		188,315	1.7%	242,490	2.0%	301,430	2.4%
Non-Aboriginal Population		11,097,235	98.3%	11,786,405	98.0%	12,350,365	97.6%

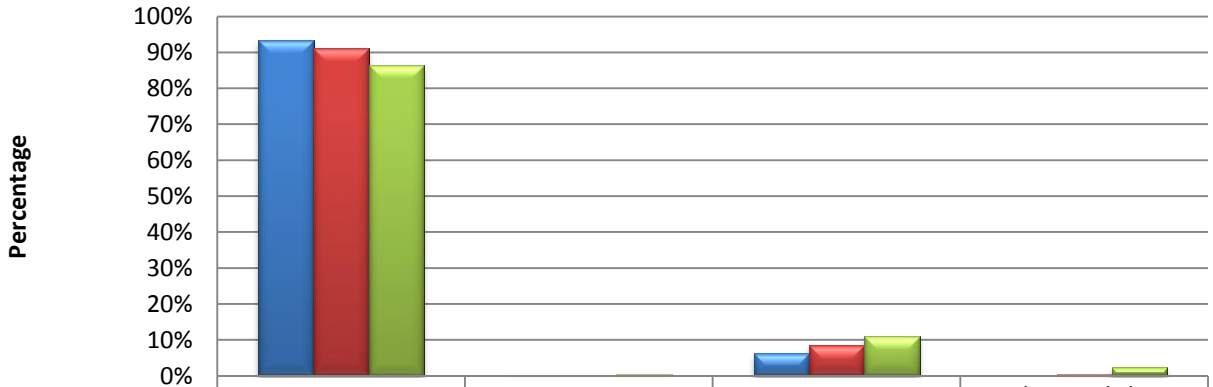
Source: Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*; Environics Analytics. 2014. *CensusPlus Enhanced Census + NHS.*
Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

Language

Knowledge of Official Languages[167]

Figure 40 shows the knowledge of official languages for Nipigon, the Census Division, and the province for the 2011 census year. Compared to both the Census Division and Ontario, the Township of Nipigon has a relatively small proportion of the population speaking both English and French.

Figure 39: Nipigon Knowledge of Official Languages, 2011



	English Only	French Only	English and French	Neither English nor French
Nipigon	93.5%	0.3%	6.2%	0.0%
Census Division	91.0%	0.2%	8.4%	0.4%
Ontario	86.3%	0.3%	11.0%	2.3%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2012. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

Language Spoken Most Often at Home[168]

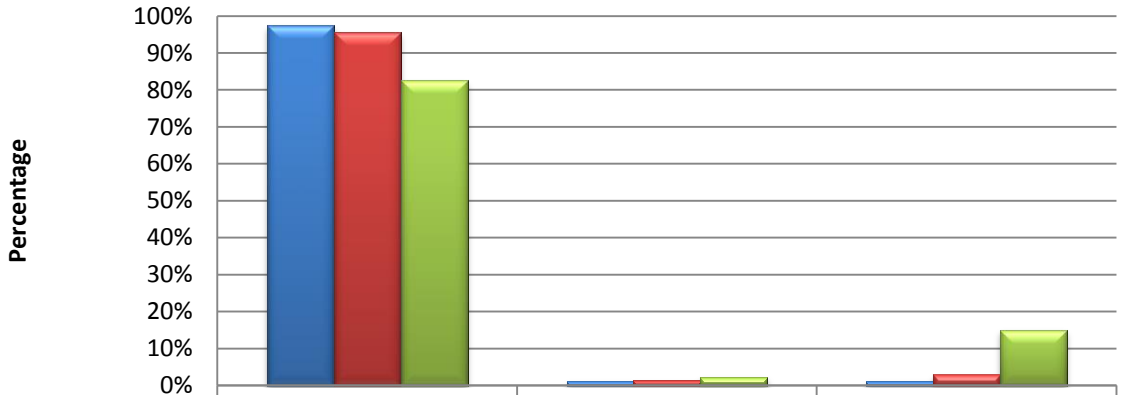
Census data for 2011 indicates that only 2.6% of Nipigon's population speaks a language other than English at home (Figure 41) – half of these people speak French, and half speak other languages. The Census Division and Province, by contrast, have proportionately more speakers of French and non-official languages. Community representatives have noted that many people living in Nipigon speak Finnish or Ojibway.[169] Finnish, Ojibway and Oji-Cree are included in the 'non-official languages' spoken most often at home.

[167] Knowledge of Official Languages "*Refers to the ability to conduct a conversation in English only, in French only, in both English and French, or in neither English nor French*". Statistics Canada. 2012. Census Dictionary. Website: http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/ref/dict/pop055-eng.cfm. Accessed: March 2014.

[168] "*Refers to the language spoken most often or on a regular basis at home by the individual on May 10, 2011*". Statistics Canada. 2012. Census Dictionary. Website: http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/ref/dict/pop042-eng.cfm. Accessed: March 2014.

[169] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussion February 2014.

Figure 40: Nipigon Language Spoken Most Often at Home, 2011



	English	French	Non-official languages
Nipigon	97.5%	1.3%	1.3%
Census Division	95.6%	1.4%	3.0%
Ontario	82.6%	2.3%	15.0%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2012. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

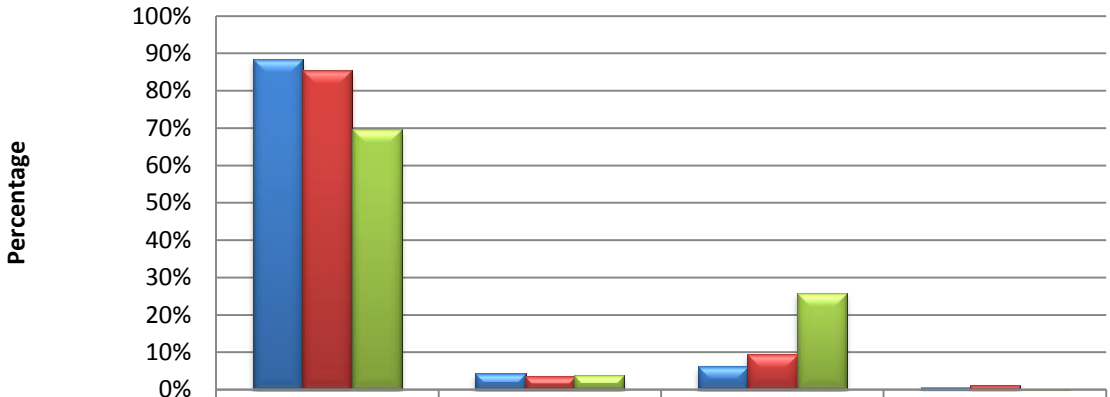
Mother Tongue[170]

The predominant mother tongue in Nipigon in 2011 was English (88.5%), followed by. French (4.4%); Other selected languages were the mother tongue of 6.3% of the population; 0.6% of the Nipigon population indicated an Aboriginal[171] mother tongue (Ojibway or Oji-Cree) in 2011 (Figure 42).

[170] *"Refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual on May 10, 2011"*. Statistics Canada. 2012. *Census Dictionary*. Website: http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/ref/dict/pop095-eng.cfm. Accessed: March 2014.

[171] In March 2014, community representatives noted that the data reflecting Aboriginal *mother tongue* may not necessarily reflect actual numbers as people may choose not to complete this section of the census.

Figure 41: Nipigon Mother Tongue, 2011



	English	French	Selected Languages	Selected Aboriginal languages
Nipigon	88.5%	4.4%	6.3%	0.6%
Census Division	85.4%	3.6%	9.5%	1.2%
Ontario	69.7%	3.9%	25.9%	0.1%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2012. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario Community Profiles*.
Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

2.5.1.2 CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES

Historical Overview

Our Living Heritage: the Glory of the Nipigon describes the natural, social and economic history of the Nipigon area.[172] The Nipigon of today has been influenced by a number of factors, including:

- The historical and ongoing use and occupancy of the area by Aboriginal people. Archaeological evidence points to inhabitants living in the Nipigon area over 9,000 years ago. Rock paintings at the mouth of the Nipigon River have been tested and pre-date European contact by several hundred years;[173]
- Exploration for fur trade and missionary purposes beginning in the last half of the 1600s;
- Establishment of a permanent trading post in 1679 as part of the fur trade, making Nipigon the oldest European settlement on the North Shore of Lake Superior;[174]
- Geological surveys by government beginning in 1869;
- World famous sport fishing from the 1870s to the 1930s (enhanced by the later establishment of rail and road networks);

[172] Kelso, JR.M, and J. W. Demers. 1993. *Our Living Heritage: the Glory of the Nipigon.* Prepared for the Nipigon Bay RAP Public Advisory Committee Inc. ISBN 0-9697637-0-0.
[173] Township of Nipigon. n.d. *Community Profile.* Website: http://nipigon.net/files/4113/6336/1347/updated_community_profile.pdf . Accessed: October 2013.
[174] *Ibid.*

- Forestry – initiated in the late 1800s/early 1900s, and continuing in various forms including operation of mills beginning in the 1930s in both Nipigon (until 2007) and Red Rock (until 2006). The forestry/mill town 'heyday' of both Nipigon and Red Rock was the 1950s and 1960s;
- Establishment of the railroad network, with the final link at the Nipigon Gorge in 1885 and completion of the northern link in 1909;
- A strong history of Finnish immigration to Nipigon, which remains a strong part of the community's identity;[175]
- Formal incorporated status in 1909;[176]
- Commercial fisheries, perhaps as early as the 1830s, until the 1970s/80s;
- Establishment of the highway network beginning in 1920, with various spokes on the hub being completed between the 1930s and 1960s; and,
- Operation of three generating stations along the Nipigon River, beginning in 1920.





Heritage Resources

The Nipigon Historical Museum has a number of artifacts displayed that showcase the rich pre-contact, fur-trading, and railway history of the area.

There are seven known archaeological sites in the Nipigon area[177]. There is one provincially designated historic site[178] and a series of federally identified trading posts within the Nipigon area.[179]

[175] This information was obtained during Nipigon community discussion February 2014.

[176] Township of Nipigon. n.d. *Community Profile.* Website: http://nipigon.net/files/4113/6336/1347/updated_community_profile.pdf . Accessed: October 2013.

[177] von Bitter, R., 2013. Personal Communication on September 12, 2013 re: Archaeological Sites Database. Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport.

[178] Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport. 2013. *Heritage Properties Search Form*. Website: http://www.hpd.mcl.gov.on.ca/scripts/hpdsearch/english/default.asp. Accessed: October 2013.

[179] The cultural heritage screening examined known archaeological and historic sites in the Nipigon area, using the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database, the Ontario Heritage Trust Database, the Parks Canada Database and the National Historic sites Database. Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport. 2013. *Heritage Properties Search Form*. Website: http://www.hpd.mcl.gov.on.ca/scripts/hpdsearch/english/default.asp. Accessed: October 2013; Parks Canada, 2013. *Canada's Historic Places*. Website: http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/lhn-nhs/index.aspx. Accessed: June 2013; Voorhis, E. 1930. *Historic Forts and Trading Posts of the French Regime and of the English Fur Trading Companies*. Canadian Department of the Interior Natural Resources Intelligence Branch, Ottawa.

Of the seven archaeological sites, two contain no information about the nature of the site recorded (time period or cultural affiliations are not provided), three are identified as pre-contact (prior to European arrival) Aboriginal sites and the remaining two are historic Euro-Canadian sites. Of the three pre-contact Aboriginal sites, two have been identified as pre-contact Aboriginal findspots. The other site is a pictograph. The historic Euro-Canadian sites include a Hudson's Bay Company post and the remains of a railway lodge.

A search for Provincial Historic Sites through the Ontario Heritage Trust resulted in one location where a plaque has been placed to commemorate a historic event of provincial significance within the Nipigon area. This plaque is located at the Nipigon River lookout along Highway 11/17, commemorating the Jesuit Mission to the Nipissings in 1667.[180] A search for National Historic Sites in the Nipigon area determined that there are a series of French trading posts from the mid to late 17th century along the Nipigon River.[181] They were designated in 1944, but there are no plaques commemorating these posts and there is no current mapping showing the location of these posts.[182]

Cultural Heritage

The Official Plan outlines four goals associated with cultural heritage for the community:

1) *To enhance the character of the Township by protecting and maintaining and promoting the Township's cultural heritage resources;*
2) *To ensure that the nature and location of cultural heritage and archaeological resources are known and considered before land use decisions are made by requiring the appropriate studies in accordance with provincial guidelines;*
3) *To encourage the development of a comprehensive inventory of the Township's built heritage and cultural heritage landscape resources, archaeological sites and areas of archaeological potential, and establish criteria respecting the conservation of these features; and,*

[180] Ontario Heritage Trust. 2013. Retrieved from http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/Home.aspx. Accessed: October 2013.

[181] Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport. 2013. *Heritage Properties Search Form*. Website: http://www.hpd.mcl.gov.on.ca/scripts/hpdsearch/english/default.asp. Accessed: October 2013; Parks Canada, 2013. *Canada's Historic Places*. Website: http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/lhn-nhs/index.aspx. Accessed: June 2013; Voorhis, E. 1930. *Historic Forts and Trading Posts of the French Regime and of the English Fur Trading Companies*. Canadian Department of the Interior Natural Resources Intelligence Branch, Ottawa.

[182] Archaeological potential is established by determining the likelihood that archaeological resources may be present on a subject property. In archaeological potential modeling, a distance to water criterion of 300 m is generally employed for water sources, including lakeshores, rivers and large creeks (Government of Ontario. 2011. *Standards and Guidelines for Consulting Archaeologists*. Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport. The potential for archaeological and historical sites along the Nipigon River and its associated tributaries as well as Nipigon Bay and Helen Lake is considered to be high as these water sources were used as part of a major transportation route for both Aboriginal and Euro-Canadian people. The presence of local heritage sites would need to be further confirmed in discussion with the community and Aboriginal peoples in the area.

4) *To work with First Nations communities in protecting and promoting heritage sites and cultural activities.*[183]



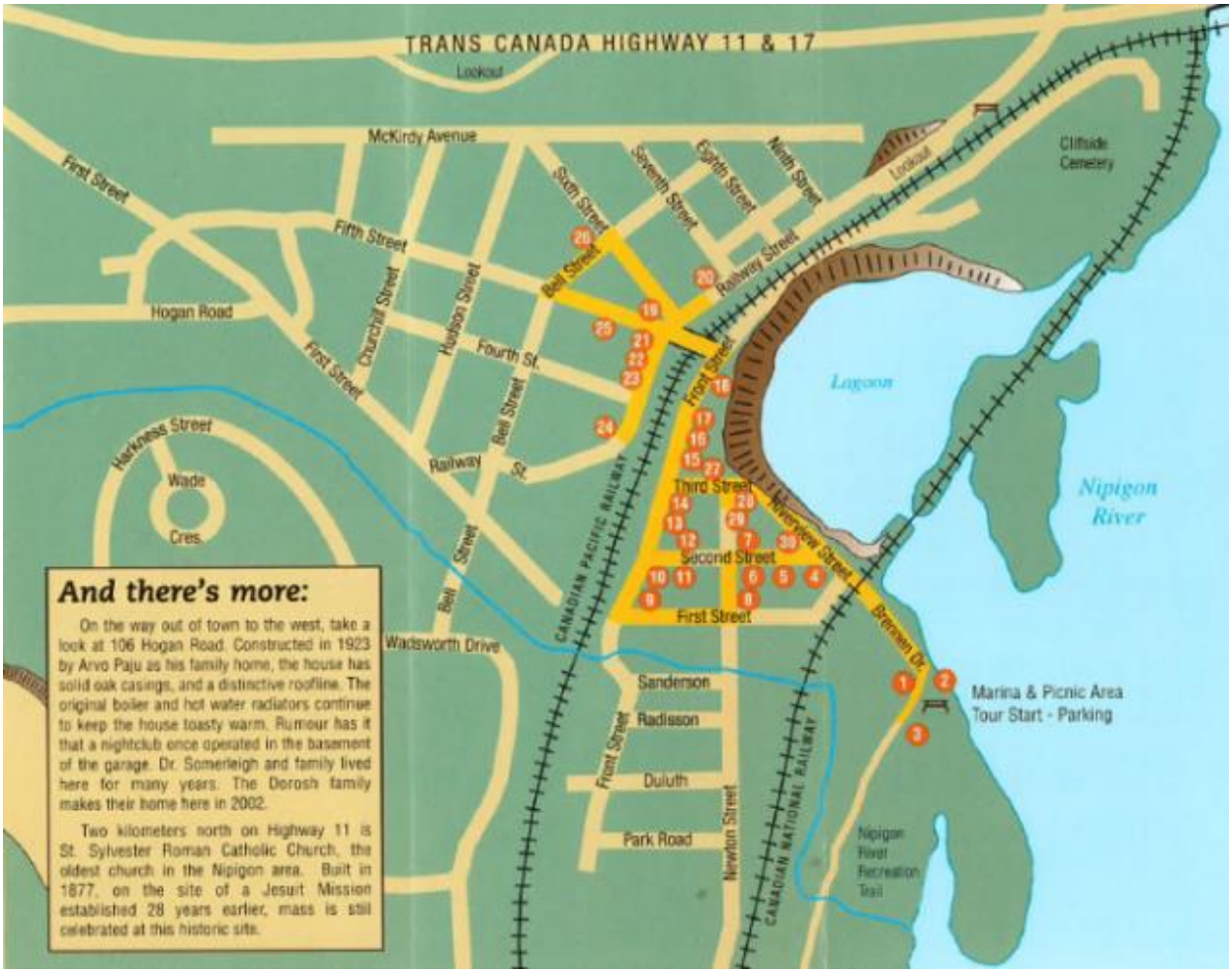
Historical Sites

Nipigon offers a self-guided historical walking tour of the town. There are 30 historical sites (Figure 43) in the Township of Nipigon. These are:[184]

1) Red Rock Post
2) Canadian Pacific Railway
3) Mudflats
4) Dampier/Delaronde (Rowley) House
5) First Catholic Church
6) Anglican Church
7) Skandia House
8) Flanagan House
9) Jail
10) Nipigon Inn
11) Presbyterian Church
12) First School
13) Hudson's Bay Company
14) Revillion Building
15) McKirdy's Store
16) Saunders Building
17) Pool Hall
18) Taylor House
19) Nipigon Service Garage/Palace Theatre
20) Mural CPR Station
21) Mural Nipigon River Drive
22) Mural F. Zechner Clothier
23) Consumers Coop
24) Nipigon Café
25) Maple Leaf Ski Factory
26) Consolidated School
27) McKirdy/Vivone House
28) Post Office
29) Fraser House
30) Anglican Rectory

[183] MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture. December 2013. *Draft Official Plan for the Township of Nipigon.*
[184] n.d. *Nipigon Historical Walking Tour*. Brochure.

Figure 42: Nipigon Historical Sites



Source: n.d. *Nipigon Historical Walking Tour*. Brochure.

2.5.1.3 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

Community facilities in Nipigon include a community centre, Nipigon Public Library, and the Paddle to the Sea interpretive playground. The Legion Hall is used for a variety of meetings and events. Nipigon views itself as an active, healthy and family-oriented community with many recreational activities, and a number of organizations and events are available year-round. Many of these activities are focused on Nipigon's natural amenities. Nearby Stewart, Polly, and Lofquist Lakes are popular with residents for beaches and camps. Nipigon's Recreation Committee provides a forum for organizing events and programs.

The Official Plan outlines four goals associated with social infrastructure for the community:

1) *To encourage the provision of an appropriate range, type and distribution of educational, cultural and recreational facilities and services for residents and tourists alike in the community;*
2) *To encourage and support the development of new and expanded leisure facilities, parks, open space and trail systems for the community to provide a range of active and passive recreation opportunities;*

3) *To ensure that community facilities and services are accessible to all township residents; and,*
4) *To encourage consideration of the needs of special groups and in particular persons with disabilities, and an aging population in the design and construction of buildings and other facilities.* [185]

Community Centre

The community centre opened a new ice arena in 1993 (reported to be the hub of the community, and the nicest on the North Shore) and the fitness centre in 1998. Membership at the fitness centre ranges from 150 to 200. The recreation department offers residents a variety of activities including zumba classes, lacrosse, soccer, hockey, and swimming (summer only at outdoor pool). (Both lacrosse and soccer are offered for kids ages 4 – 14.)

Fewer programs are offered during the summer months as many residents are out of town; however, summer camps (four one-week camps) are offered for kids in the community. Some members of the community take their children to Thunder Bay for hockey, baseball, and swimming lessons.[186] Curling is also offered at the community centre. Youth hockey in Nipigon is very popular and involves community members of all ages; approximately 150 children are involved each year. There is an active biking community in Nipigon that offers activities for people of all ages.

The community centre is also home to a free seniors walking group; however, no other seniors programs are currently offered by the Township. This has been noted as a challenge in the community – meeting the needs of seniors by having affordable programs/activities.

Nipigon Public Library

The Nipigon Public Library is located in the Municipal building in downtown Nipigon. The Library provides far more services to the community than basic library services. For example, the Library provides:

- Internet access (Wireless);
- Laminating services;
- Photocopying/printing;
- Inter-library loans;
- 5 computer stations;
- Health workshops;
- Faxing services;
- Microfilm/ fiche machine;
- Book club;
- VHS and DVD rental; and,
- Activity Groups (arts and crafts).[187]

The Library is also home to the Community Access Program site, a Government of Canada program aimed at providing affordable public access to computers and internet services that is administered by Industry Canada.[188]

[185] MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture. December 2013. *Draft Official Plan for the Township of Nipigon.*
[186] This information was obtained in Nipigon community discussion October 2013.
[187] Township of Nipigon. 2013. *Services*. Website: http://www.nipigon.net/residents/nipigon-public-library/services/. Accessed: November 2013; This information was obtained during Nipigon community discussions April 2014.

Paddle to the Sea

The Paddle to the Sea Park in Nipigon is an interpretive playground that begins at the Lake Superior waterfall playground in downtown Nipigon and takes children through twelve interpretive stations in Town and along the waterfront.[189] The park is based on the 1941 children's book *Paddle to the Sea* written by Holling Clancy Holling. The book tells the story of an Aboriginal child's carving of a wooden figurine in a canoe, and its journey through the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean.

Community Organizations and Events

Community organizations in Nipigon include the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 32, Nipigon Rotary Club, Nipigon Elks, the Nipigon Cross Country Ski Club, and the Nipigon Curling Club among others.[190] The community is also home to a Silver Club where local seniors socially meet approximately twice each week and participate in activities such as shuffle board and card playing.[191]

There are seven[192] religious facilities in Nipigon which meet spiritual needs and provide community and social services:

- Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary;
- Grace United Church;
- His Way Ministries (non-denominational);
- Immanuel Lutheran Church;
- Nipigon Baptist Church;
- Nipigon Pentecostal Assembly; and,
- St. Mary's Anglican Church.

Community events are organized by the Township, as well as many community organizations and volunteers. Local and area events include:

[188] Township of Nipigon. 2013. *Community Access Program Services*. Website: http://www.nipigon.net/residents/nipigon-public-library/community-access-program/. Accessed: November 2013.
[189] Township of Nipigon. 2013. *Paddle to the Sea Park*. Website: http://www.nipigon.net/paddle-sea/. Accessed: November 2013.
[190] Township of Nipigon. 2013. *Clubs and Service Organizations*. Website: http://www.nipigon.net/residents/directory-community-services/clubs-and-service-organizations/. Accessed: October 2013.
[191] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions in October 2013.
[192] It is understood that the Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall has been sold.

- Winter Carnival;
- Ice Fest;
- Fall Fishing Festival;
- Red Rock Ice Fishing Derby;
- Canyon Country Birding Festival;
- Blueberry Blast Festival;
- Bioblitz;
- Canadian Curling Championship;
- Epic Adventures Mountain Biking Festival;
- 5 kilometre run (with Fishing Festival);
- Triathlons;
- Arts & Craft Show;
- Hike for Health;
- March Meltdown;
- Canyon Country Challenge;
- Ice skating races;
- Hockey shootouts; and,
- Relay for Life.[193]

Nipigon hosted the provincial Men's Curling Championships in February 2013. The 2012 Canadian Fire Fighters Curling Association competition in Truro, Nova Scotia was won by the Nipigon Fire Department team.

Unorganized recreation activities are popular, including kayaking, boating, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, hiking, and biking.[194]

2.5.1.4 SOCIAL SERVICES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Social services organizations serving residents in Nipigon include:

- Nipigon Housing Authority;
- Spruce Apartments;
- Children's Aid Society;
- Dilico Ojibway Child and Family Services;
- Ontario Works;
- Best Start Nipigon;
- The Family Place Child Care Centre;
- Nipigon Food Bank; and,
- Alcoholics Anonymous.

Crime

The Nipigon OPP Detachment 4th Quarter Report (January 2014) describes the number and type of calls/activities during that period in 2013. A total of 173 calls for police services were made within the Nipigon area during that time.[195] These relate to core policing responsibilities, including crime prevention, law enforcement, assistance to victims of crime, emergency response, and public order maintenance. The number of calls has increased annually between 2010 and 2012. Residents note that Nipigon is a safe community.

[193] This information was obtained during Nipigon community discussions October 2013 and December 2013.
[194] Township of Nipigon. 2014. *"Life on a Natural Edge" Video Series.* Website: http://www.nipigon.net/nipigon-beyond/photo-video-gallery/videos/. Accessed: January 2014.
[195] Ontario Provincial Police. 2014. *Nipigon Detachment – Township of Nipigon 4th Quarter Report January 2014.*

Youth Justice Committee

The Youth Justice Committee was a program offered to youths in the community, who were first time offenders and committed minor and/or non-violent offence(s). This program was used as an alternative to court proceedings. The young offender, the victim, and their supporters would be required to attend the program.[196] Despite the importance and success of the Youth Justice Committee in the community, the program is no longer offered in the Township as there is no funding for the program.[197]

2.5.2 Summary of Social Assets

This section summarizes the Social Assets described above for Nipigon in terms of:

- Priorities and Key Issues;
- Community Aspirations; and
- Capabilities and Capacities within the Community.

2.5.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES

Nipigon has a proud cultural heritage. Aboriginal people have lived in the Nipigon area for thousands of years. The establishment of a permanent trading post in 1679 as part of the fur trade made Nipigon the oldest European settlement on the North Shore of Lake Superior. Tourism came with the railroads in the 1870s, followed by forestry in the late 1800s/early 1900s. The dominant role of forestry included operation of mills beginning in the 1930s in both Nipigon (until 2007) and Red Rock (until 2006). With a declining population and tax base, it is becoming more difficult to maintain, let alone improve, community facilities, programs and events. While the volunteer base in the community remains strong, there are challenges recruiting new people to provide ongoing support for the many activities and organizations in Nipigon.

2.5.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

Many residents note a desire to increase the number of families and children in the community. This would contribute to the ongoing viability of community facilities, culture and recreational programs, and community organizations.

[196] Youth Justice Committee Ontario. n.d. *Welcome*. Website: http://www.yjcontario.ca/english/. Accessed: November 2013.

[197] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions in October 2013.

2.5.2.3 CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Community representatives have noted that there are strong linkages (economic, familial, and social) between the Red Rock Indian Band/the Lake Helen Reserve and the community of Nipigon. Many RRIB members and other Aboriginal people live and work in Nipigon.

Community facilities in Nipigon include a community centre, Nipigon Public Library, and the Paddle to the Sea interpretive playground. The Legion Hall is used for a variety of meetings and events. Nipigon is an active, healthy and family-oriented community with many recreational activities, a number of organizations and events available year-round. Many of these are focused on Nipigon's natural amenities. The Nipigon Historical Museum, resources including a walking tour brochure, local histories, and the goals stated in the Official Plan celebrate local heritage.

2.6 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

This section of the profile outlines the natural environment or natural assets in Nipigon. The key natural asset indicators discussed for this community are: Parks and Protected Areas, Natural Areas and Features of Significance. The Lake Nipigon Forest Management Plan (2011) is also briefly summarized.

2.6.1 NATURAL ASSET INDICATORS

2.6.1.1 PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS/NATURAL AREAS/FEATURES OF SIGNIFICANCE

Nipigon is surrounded by vast wilderness and lakes, providing various outdoor recreational opportunities for residents and tourists. Approximately 40 kilometres north of Nipigon on Highway 11, there are opportunities for ice climbing. Hunting, trapping, and fishing are also abundant in the region. Community representatives have noted active trapping in the area by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal trappers.[198] Community representatives have also noted that many of the existing logging roads in the area are now used for hunting and blueberry picking.[199]

Nipigon is home to a variety of protected areas, parks and unique environmental features, including Lake Nipigon, the Nipigon River/Nipigon Bay, wetlands (including those on the Nipigon waterfront), the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area, sensitive fish habitats, and moose wintering grounds.[200] A number of provincially protected areas have also been established.

[198] This information was obtained during Nipigon community discussions in May 2014.
[199] This information was obtained during Nipigon community discussions in April 2014.
[200] MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture. December 2013. *Draft Official Plan for the Township of Nipigon*.

This section of the community profile briefly highlights the natural areas in/near Nipigon such as municipal parks and private camps, as well as the Nipigon Bay Remedial Action Plan, the Lake Nipigon Forest Management Plan, the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site, Hurkett Cover Conservation Area, and the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area.



Municipal Parks and Private Camps

Nipigon's waterfront includes a series of trails, RV campground, boat launch and storage, and other amenities, and a plan is underway to further utilize this community asset. The Paddle to the Sea interactive park (Section 2.5.1.3 above) is also a source of community pride. Lofquist Lake – 10 minutes north of town – and Poplar Point both have a public beach.

Nearby Stewart, Polly, and Lofquist Lakes are popular with residents for beaches and private camps (cottages). There are also a number of private camps along Lake Superior in the vicinity of Nipigon, and to the north on the Cameron Falls Road (Fraser, Elizabeth, and Cox Lakes are situated with camps and have water access for fishermen)[201] along the Nipigon River.

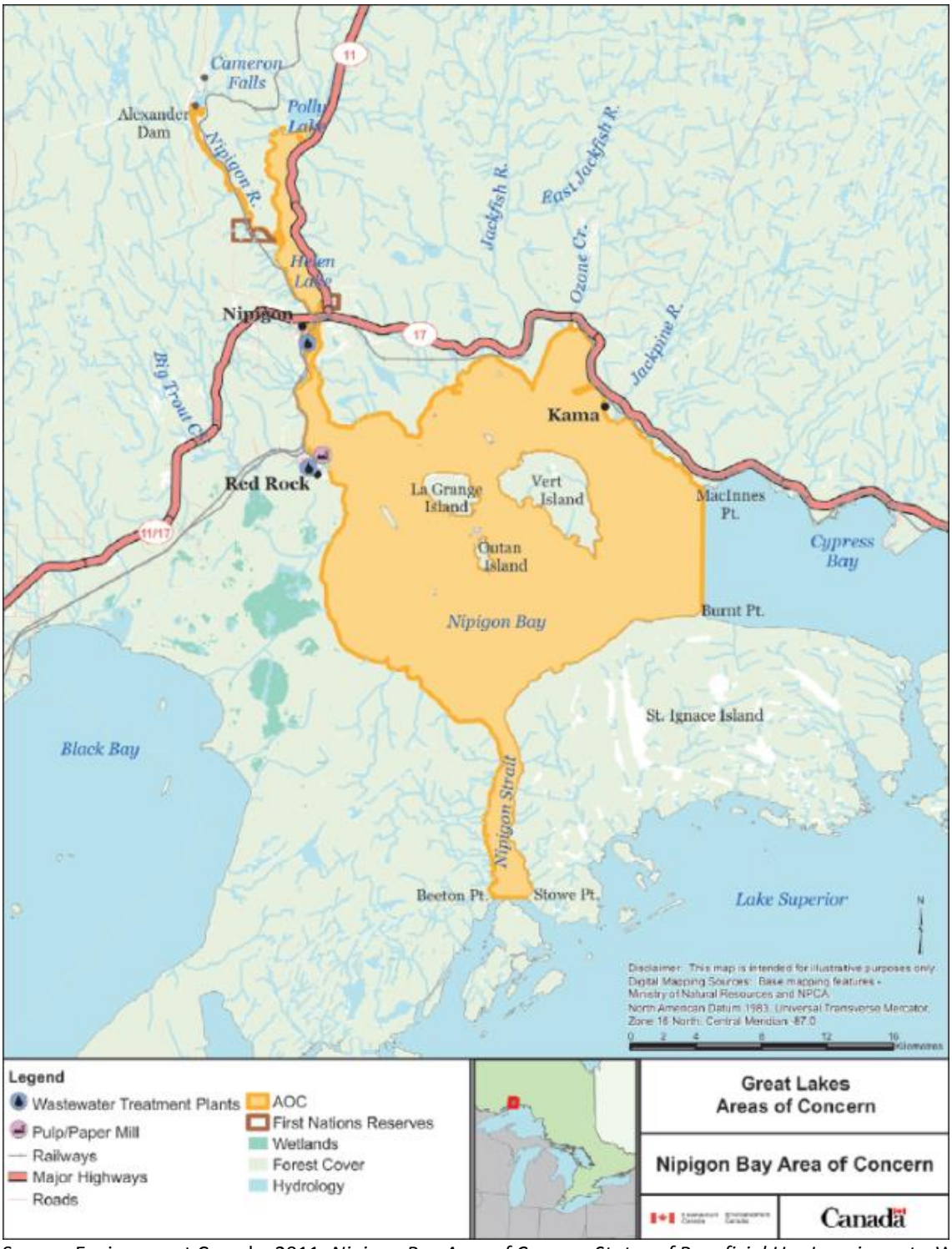
Nipigon Bay Remedial Action Plan

Nipigon Bay is located at the most northern point of Lake Superior and has been designated an Area of Concern since 1987. The Nipigon Bay Area of Concern encompasses most of Nipigon Bay (Figure 44) and part of Nipigon River. The area received the Area of Concern status primarily due to the presence of upstream hydroelectric dams; the accumulation of wood fibre, bark, and organic matter from log drives; and, effluent inputs from both industrial and municipal sources.[202]

The Nipigon Bay Remedial Action Plan is being spearheaded by Lakehead University under the supervision of Environment Canada, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.[203] There have been a number of programs implemented over the years through the Action Plan in an effort to enhance fish and wildlife communities and rehabilitate aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Some of these programs/initiatives have involved the cleanup of historical spawning areas of the Nipigon River, the restoration of Clear Water Creek, the development of the Nipigon River Water Management Plan, implementation of adult walleye, and a habitat overlay component of the Red Rock Marina.[204]

[201] This information was obtained during Nipigon community discussions in May 2014.
[202] North Shore of Lake Superior Remedial Action Plans. n.d. *Nipigon Bay*. Website: http://www.northshorerap.ca/nipigon-bay. Accessed: November 2013.
[203] *Ibid.*
[204] *Ibid.*

Figure 43: Nipigon Bay and the Area of Concern



Source: Environment Canada. 2011. *Nipigon Bay Area of Concern Status of Beneficial Use Impairments.* Website: http://www.ec.gc.ca/Publications/F787D308-3315-40E0-8FAF-8956A5D4C74D/NipigonBayAreaOfConcernStatusOfBeneficialUseImpairments.pdf. Accessed: January 2014.

Lake Nipigon Forest Management Plan

The Lake Nipigon Forest is a new forest management unit formed through the amalgamation of the former Armstrong Forest and Lake Nipigon Forest.[205] The Lake Nipigon portion of the forest is located in the MNR Administrative District of Nipigon, while the Armstrong portion of the forest is located in the MNR Administrative District of Thunder Bay.[206] The Lake Nipigon Forest is located east and northwest of Lake Nipigon, entirely within the section of the Boreal Forest Region of Canada known as the Central Plateau. Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. is a cooperative of four First Nation-owned business trusts; it manages the Lake Nipigon Forest and is responsible for planning, reporting and implementing all forest operations. It does not own or operate a manufacturing facility; harvesting is done by or on behalf of the 4 First Nation-owned businesses, and the wood fibre is sold to area mills.[207] The Plan also documents other environmental values in the Plan area, including those related to:

- Bear management areas;
- Cultural heritage sites;
- Fisheries and wetlands;
- Land values/existing roads;
- Resource-based tourism;
- Resource uses;
- Traplines; and,
- Wildlife and forestry.

Lake Nipigon

Lake Nipigon (Figure 45) is the largest lake contained completely within the province of Ontario[208] and, along with the Nipigon River, is the largest tributary of Lake Superior. The Lake has a total area of 4,848 km^2 with a maximum depth of 165 metres (541 feet).[209]

Lake Nipigon has 46 species of fish; two of which are listed as threatened: the shortjaw cisco and the deep-water sculpin. Fishing in Lake Nipigon is considered world class and has the reputation for brook trout fishing.[210]

Lake Nipigon itself is used extensively, but has relatively few camps. A number of resorts operate on Lake Nipigon and Lake Superior in the vicinity of Nipigon.

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[205] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2011. *Lake Nipigon Forest 2011 – 2021 Forest Management Plan – Summary.* http://www.appefmp.mnr.gov.on.ca/eFMP/viewFmuPlan.do?fmu=815&fid=100100&type=CURRENT&pid=100100&sid=8806&pn=FP&ppyf=2011&ppyt=2021&ptyf=2011&ptyt=2016&phase=P1. Accessed: July 2014.

[206] *Ibid.*

[207] SAI Global. September 2013. *Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. Forest Certification Update.* http://www.sfiprogram.org/sfi-standard/audit-reports/lake-nipigon-forest-management-inc-september-2013/. Accessed: July 2014.

[208] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2014. *Fishing Destination: Lake Nipigon –Zone 6.* Website: http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/LetsFish/2ColumnSubPage/STDPROD_081355.html. Accessed: January 2014.

[209] *Ibid.*

[210] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2004. *Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site*: *Ecological Land Use and Resource Management Strategy*. Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/laken_planning.html. Accessed: January 2014.

Figure 44: Lake Nipigon



Source: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2014. *Fishing Destination: Lake Nipigon – Zone 6.* Website: http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/LetsFish/2ColumnSubPage/STDPROD_081355.html. Accessed: January 2014.

Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site



The Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site is approximately 370,000 hectares and is one of nine such areas identified in the province's 1999 *Living Legacy Land Use Strategy*. The site includes provincial parks, conservation reserves and enhanced management areas, as well as general use areas including Lake Nipigon. The 2004 *Ecological Land Use and Resource Management Strategy* for the Basin provides direction for the land use areas that make up the site. The area is also an important woodland caribou habitat as the islands of Lake Nipigon provide caribou calving grounds; migration corridors pass through many different areas of the Basin.[211] The Site includes:[212]

[211] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2004. *Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site*: *Ecological Land Use and Resource Management Strategy* http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/laken_planning.html. Accessed January 2014.
[212] Ontario Outdoors Recreational Alliance. 2011. *Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site*. Website: http://ontora.ca/ref/gov/mnr-policies-procedures/ontarios-living-legacy/lake-nipigon-basin/. Accessed: January 2014.

- Lake Nipigon Conservation Reserve
- Nipigon Palisades Conservation Reserve
- Nipigon River Conservation Reserve
- Provincial Nature Reserves
    - Lake Nipigon
    - Kabitotikwia River
    - Livingstone Point
    - Windigo Bay
    - West Bay
- Black Sturgeon River Provincial Park
- Enhanced Management Areas
    - Lake Nipigon – Beardmore
    - Orient Bay Peninsula
    - South Lake Nipigon
    - Gull Bay
    - West Lake Nipigon
    - Pikitigushi

Hurkett Cove Conservation Area

The Hurkett Cove Conservation Area is located in the Township of Dorion on Black Bay. The area is known for bird watching, botanizing, picnicking and canoeing.[213]

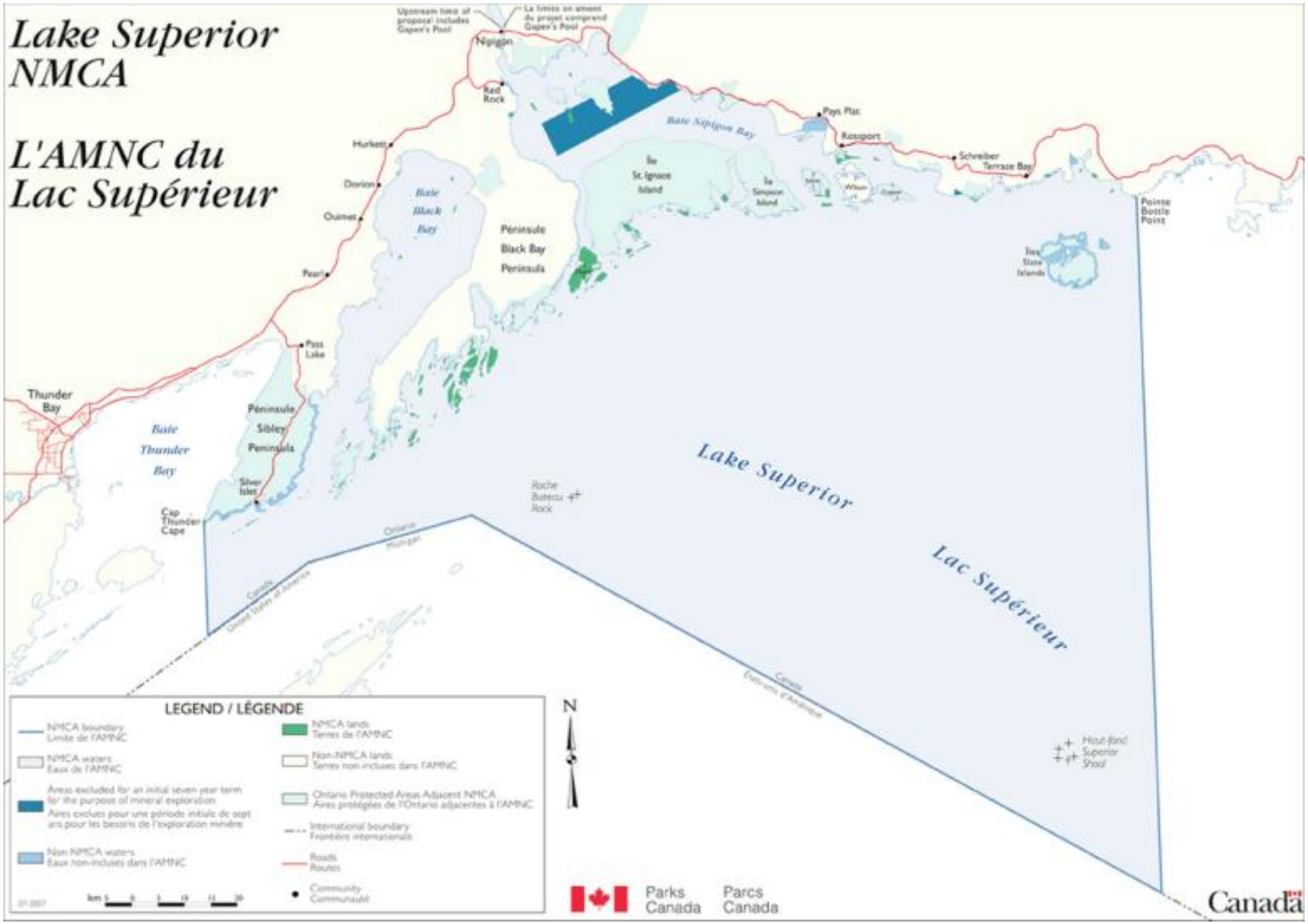
Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area

Lake Superior is the largest fresh water lake in the world and is the deepest and coldest of the Great Lakes. The two largest cities along the Canadian side of Lake Superior are Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie. Little settlement exists along the Canadian side; however, Lake Superior, with few coastal wetlands along its shores, is losing some of its natural shoreline and habitat to both urban and other forms of development. Lake Superior is also known to have the highest ratio of aquatic invasive species to native species of all the Great Lakes.[214]

The creation of the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area (Lake Superior NMCA) (Figure 42) (approximately 10,000 km^2) was announced in 2007. The Lake Superior NMCA boundaries extend from Thunder Cape, located at the tip of Sleeping Giant Provincial Park, east of Terrace Bay and south to the Canada/US border.[215]

[213] Lakehead Region Conservation Authority. n.d. *Hurkett Cover Conservation Area.* Website: http://www.lakeheadca.com/hurkett.htm. Accessed: January 2014.
[214] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions in October 2013.
[215] Parks Canada. 2010. *Lake Superior Marine News*. (No. 1, Vol. 1). Website: http://www.pc.gc.ca/amnc-nmca/on/super/ne/ne6.aspx. Accessed: January 2014.

Figure 45: Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area



Source: Parks Canada. 2009. *Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area of Canada.* Website: http://www.pc.gc.ca/amnc-nmca/on/super/visit/visit3a.aspx?m=1. Accessed: January 2014.

Parks Canada, with the Province of Ontario, First Nations, Métis organizations, communities along the north shore and other stakeholders, manage this conservation area. An Interim Management Advisory Board (the Board) was established and is developing a Draft Interim Management Plan for the Lake Superior NMCA. The vast size of the conservation area called for a number of Board members, which include representatives from: Dorion, Red Rock, Nipigon, Rossport, Schreiber, Terrace Bay, Pays Plat First Nation, Red Rock Indian Band, Fort William First Nation, the Northern Superior First Nations, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay Field Naturalists, Thunder Bay Yacht Club, Silver Islet Campers' Association, Superior North Power and Sail Squadron, Western Lake Superior Commercial Fishermen's Association, remote properties owners, and other members. An administration office has been established in Nipigon. [216]

NATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION AREA

National marine conservation areas are established to conserve and protect representative examples of Canada's oceans and Great Lakes. Each marine conservation area contributes to our understanding and appreciation of Canada's natural and cultural marine heritage. They also:

- *Contribute to the social, cultural and economic well-being of people living in coastal communities.*
- *Provide opportunities for the ecologically sustainable use of aquatic resources for the long-term benefit of coastal communities.*
- *Involved other federal and provincial agencies, aboriginal governments, communities and others in establishing and maintaining the areas.*

Parks Canada. 2010. *Lake Superior Marine News*. (No. 1, Vol. 1). Website: http://www.pc.gc.ca/amnc-nmca/on/super/ne/ne6.aspx. Accessed: January 2014.

The Draft Interim Management Plan will be a guide designed for the first five years of operation of the Lake Superior NMCA. The plan includes management objectives and zoning plans (consisting of at least two types of zoning areas).[217] Draft management themes have also been created by Parks Canada and the Board to help guide initial operations. These draft themes are: *maintaining meaningful community relationships*; *building a national marine conservation area community*; *showcasing the national marine conservation area*; *facilitating the Lake Superior experience*; *honouring the past*; and, *protecting and conserving*.[218] Once the Draft Interim Management Plan is finalized, it will be sent to Parliament for review and approval.[219]

[216] Parks Canada. 2010. *Lake Superior Marine News*. (No. 1, Vol. 1). Website: http://www.pc.gc.ca/amnc-nmca/on/super/ne/ne6.aspx. Accessed: January 2014.

[217]

[218] *Ibid.*

[219] *Ibid.*

Parks and Protected Areas

There are several provincial parks, nature reserves, and conservation areas situated near Nipigon. Some of these are part of the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site (see above). Table 15 provides information on park class, size, and a brief description of the parks and provincially protected areas near Nipigon.

Table 15: Parks and Protected Areas near Nipigon

Protected Area	Class	Area (hectares)	Description
Ruby Lake Provincial Park	Natural Environment	2,734 ha	• Non-operational (not staffed)[220] • Within the traditional land use area of the Red Rock Indian Band • Part of Ontario's Living Legacy Great Lakes Heritage Coast Signature Site[221] • Ruby Lake marble quarry recently reactivated by RRIB within Park boundaries[222]
Black Sturgeon River Provincial Park	Waterway	23,531 ha	• Non-operational (not staffed) • Part of the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site • Day-use opportunities are available for angling, canoeing, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing • Camping is also available[223]
Nipigon River Conservation Reserve	Conservation Reserve	2,871 ha	• Southeast corner of Lake Nipigon, approximately 10 kilometres north of the Town of Nipigon[224] • Part of the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site
Lake Nipigon Provincial Park	Natural Environment	1,357 ha	• Non-operational (not staffed) • There are no visitor facilities • Part of the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site[225] • Part of this park was deregulated to provide reserve lands for Sand Point First Nation • Facilities – 60 campsites and comfort station[226]

[220] Non-Operational Provincial Parks are unmanned and do not collect fees. According to Ontario Parks, some Non-Operational Provincial Parks may have limited facilities.
[221] Ontario Parks. 2009. *Ruby Lake Park Management Plan*. Website: http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr_bpp0097.pdf. Accessed: November 2013.
[222] Township of Nipigon. 2011. *Northwestern Ontario Joint Task Force Report: Regional Economic Development Planning.* Website: http://www.nwoeconomiczone.ca/uploads/documents/JTF-EastReport.pdf. Accessed: January 2014.
[223] Ontario Parks. 2003. *Black Sturgeon River Park Management Plan*. Website: http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr_bpp0098.pdf. Accessed: November 2013.
[224] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2002. *Nipigon River Conservation Reserve 2383 Fast Sheet.* Website: https://ospace.scholarsportal.info/bitstream/1873/4370/2/10307025.pdf Accessed: March 2014.
[225] Ontario Parks. 2013. *Lake Nipigon*. Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/nonoperating/lakenipigon. Accessed: November 2013.

Protected Area	Class	Area (hectares)	Description
Lake Superior Archipelago Conservation Reserve	Conservation Reserve	46,052 ha	• Located within the Great Lakes Heritage Coast Signature Site, and within/adjacent to the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area[227]
Cavern Lake Provincial Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	189 ha	• Non-operational (not staffed) • Habitat of several bat colonies • Visitors are discouraged due to the vulnerability of the nature reserve • There are no visitor facilities or amenities[228]
Kama Hills Provincial Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	1 ha	• Non-operational (not staffed) • There are no visitor facilities[229]
Kama Cliffs Conservation Reserve	Conservation Reserve	3,713	• Located within the Great Lakes Heritage Coast Signature Site[230]
Seahorse Lake Conservation Reserve	Conservation Reserve	658 ha	• There are no visitor facilities [231]
Gravel River Provincial Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	763 ha	• Non-operational (not staffed) • There are no visitor facilities[232] • Situated between the Grand River Conservation Reserve and Lake Superior[233]

[226] Boreal Forest. n.d. *Regional Green Spaces of Northwestern Ontario – Lake Nipigon Provincial Park.* Website: http://www.borealforest.org/greenspaces/region.htm#nipigon. Accessed: July 2014.

[227] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2010. C*rown Land Use Policy Atlas – Policy Report C2245: Lake Superior Archipelago.* For clarity, the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area includes the bed of Lake Superior, all islands less than 100 hectares in size, as well as Borden, Bowman, Brodeur, Fluor, Gourdeau, Lasher, Outan, Puff, Shaganash and Swede Islands. These areas are excluded from the Lake Superior Archipelago Conservation Reserve. Accessed: March 19, 2014.

[228] Ontario Parks. 2013. *Cavern Lake*. Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/nonoperating/cavernlake. Accessed: November 2013.

[229] Ontario Parks. 2013. *Kama Hill*. Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/nonoperating/kamahill. Accessed: November 2013.

[230] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2003. *Kama Cliffs Crown Land Use Atlas-Policy Report*. http://publicdocs.mnr.gov.on.ca/View.asp?Document_ID=14889&Attachment_ID=30942 Accessed: February 2014.

[231] Government of Ontario. 2014. *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006. Ontario Regulation 315/7 – Designation of Conservation Reserves.* http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_070315_e.htm#BK30 Accessed: March 2014.

[232] Ontario Parks. 2013. *Gravel River*. Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/nonoperating/gravelriver. Accessed: November 2013.

[233] Ontario Parks. 2005. *Gravel River Area Strategy Terms of Reference.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning_pdf/gravel_ToR.pdf. Accessed: July 2014.

Protected Area	Class	Area (hectares)	Description
Ouimet Canyon Provincial Park	Nature Reserve	777 ha	• Day-use park only (no overnight camping facilities) • Day-use opportunities are available for hiking and bird watching • 150 metre wide gorge and sheer cliffs that drop 100 metres straight down[234]
Gravel River Conservation Reserve	Nature Reserve	46,632 ha	• Reserve is located directly north of the Gravel River Provincial Nature Reserve; the Reserve's southern boundary abuts the Gravel River Provincial Nature Reserve • Opportunities exist for canoeing, snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, backpacking, horseback riding, photography, wildlife viewing and camping activities[235] • Habitat provided for a variety of fish, wildlife and plant life • Located within the traditional land use area of Pays Plat First Nation
Gravel River Provincial Park	Nature Reserve	763 ha	• Includes diverse vegetation • Day-use opportunities are available for canoeing, fishing, hiking, walking, nature appreciation and wildlife viewing[236] • Seasonal and round-year residential development is present to the west of the park[237] • One of ten provincial parks located adjacent to the proposed Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area[238]

[234] Ontario Parks. 2013. *Ouimet Canyon.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/park/ouimetcanyon. Accessed: January 2014.
[235] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2003. *Gravel River Conservation Reserve (C225) – Statement of Conservation Interest.* Website: http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr00_bcr0115.pdf. Accessed: July 2014.
[236] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2013. *Gravel River Provincial Nature Reserve (P2660) – Interim Management Statement.* Website: http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@parks/documents/document/mnr_bpp0163.pdf. Accessed: July 2014.
[237] Ontario Parks. 2009. *Sleeping Giant, Slate Islands, Puff Island, Schreiber Channel and Gravel River Terms of Reference.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning_pdf/nmca/nmca_ToR.pdf. Accessed: July 2014.
[238] Ontario Parks. 2009. *Sleeping Giant, Slate Islands, Puff Island, Schreiber Channel and Gravel River Terms of Reference.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning_pdf/nmca/nmca_ToR.pdf. Accessed: July 2014.

Protected Area	Class	Area (hectares)	Description
Puff Island Provincial Park	Nature Reserve	9 ha	• Non-operational (not staffed) • There are no visitor facilities • Features a 10-metre thick wedge of rock referred to as "Puff Island Conglomerate"[239] • One of ten provincial parks located adjacent to the proposed Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area[240] • In 2009, it was proposed that the entire Provincial Park (e.g., all 9 hectares) be transferred to be incorporated into the new Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area
Shesheeb Bay Provincial Park	Nature Reserve	275 ha	• Non-operational (not staffed) • There are no visitor facilities • Limited walking trails are available • Park includes three distinct coastal areas and a small island[241] • One of ten provincial parks located adjacent to the proposed Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area[242]
Rainbow Falls Provincial Park	Recreation	575 ha	• Activities – hiking, canoeing, swimming, boating, fishing, biking, winter activities, water sport activities, camping • Facilities – Comfort stations, flush toilets, barrier free access, day use area, laundry, boat launch, rentals, park store, and picnic shelter • Recreational opportunities provided by Rainbow Falls[243] • Water sport recreational opportunities are present in Whitesand Lake or Lake Superior • One of ten provincial parks located adjacent to the proposed Lake Superior National

[239] Ontario Parks. 2014. *Puff Island.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/nonoperating/puffisland. Accessed: July 2014.
[240] Ontario Parks. 2009. *Sleeping Giant, Slate Islands, Puff Island, Schreiber Channel and Gravel River Terms of Reference.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning_pdf/nmca/nmca_ToR.pdf. Accessed: July 2014.
[241] Ontario Parks. 2014. *Shesheeb Bay.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/nonoperating/shesheebbay. Accessed: July 2014.
[242] Ontario Parks. 2009. *Sleeping Giant, Slate Islands, Puff Island, Schreiber Channel and Gravel River Terms of Reference.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning_pdf/nmca/nmca_ToR.pdf. Accessed: July 2014.
[243] Ontario Parks. 2014. *Rainbow Falls.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/park/rainbowfalls. Accessed: July 2014.

Protected Area	Class	Area (hectares)	Description
			Marine Conservation Area[244]
Sleeping Giant Provincial Park	Natural Environment	24,400 ha	• Activities – hiking, canoeing, swimming, boating, fishing, biking, birding, camping, natural heritage education and winter activities[245] • Facilities – Comfort stations, flush toilets, barrier free access, day use area, laundry, boat launch, rentals, park store, and visitor centre • One of ten provincial parks located adjacent to the proposed Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area[246] • In 2009, it was proposed that 1,578 hectares of the Provincial Park be transferred and incorporated into the proposed Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area • The Island's peninsula also includes Middlebrun Island, a lakebed and the Federal Lighthouse Reserve; these are located south of Sleeping Giant Provincial Park
Edward Island Provincial Park	Nature Reserve	600 ha	• Non-operational (not staffed) • There are no visitor facilities • Park is remote, densely covered with Boreal forest and accessible only by boat[247] • Located immediately east of Sleeping Giant Provincial Park • One of ten provincial parks located adjacent to the proposed Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area[248]
Porphyry Island Provincial Park	Nature Reserve	107 ha	• Non-operational (not staffed) • There are no visitor facilities • Park is remotely located and situated in proximity to Edward Island Provincial Park

[244] Ontario Parks. 2009. *Sleeping Giant, Slate Islands, Puff Island, Schreiber Channel and Gravel River Terms of Reference.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning_pdf/nmca/nmca_ToR.pdf. Accessed: July 2014.

[245] Ontario Parks. 2014. *Sleeping Giant.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/park/sleepinggiant. Accessed: July 2014.

[246] Ontario Parks. 2009. *Sleeping Giant, Slate Islands, Puff Island, Schreiber Channel and Gravel River Terms of Reference.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning_pdf/nmca/nmca_ToR.pdf. Accessed: July 2014.

[247] Boreal Forest. n.d. *Regional Green Spaces of Northwestern Ontario – Edward Island Nature Reserve.* Website: http://www.borealforest.org/greenspaces/region.htm#edward. Accessed: July 2014.

[248] Ontario Parks. 2009. *Sleeping Giant, Slate Islands, Puff Island, Schreiber Channel and Gravel River Terms of Reference.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning_pdf/nmca/nmca_ToR.pdf. Accessed: July 2014.

Protected Area	Class	Area (hectares)	Description
			• Managed to provide protection for significant biological and geological values[249], including protection for a variety of rare and endangered plant species[250] • One of ten provincial parks located adjacent to the proposed Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area[251,252]
Albert Lake Mesa Provincial Park	Nature Reserve	130 ha	• Non-operational (not staffed) • There are no visitor facilities • Provides protection for regionally rare and/or uncommon species of liverwort plants and lichens[253254]

[249] Ontario Parks. 2014. *Prophyry Island.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/nonoperating/porphyryisland. Accessed: July 2014.

[250] Boreal Forest. n.d. *Regional Green Spaces of Northwestern Ontario – Porphory Island Nature Reserve.* Website: http://www.borealforest.org/greenspaces/region.htm#porphory. Accessed: July 2014.

[251] Ontario Parks. 2009. *Sleeping Giant, Slate Islands, Puff Island, Schreiber Channel and Gravel River Terms of Reference.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning_pdf/nmca/nmca_ToR.pdf. Accessed: July 2014.

[252] Government of Ontario. 2010. *Environmental Registry – Amendments to Park Management Plans, Park Boundaries, and to Crown Land Use Policy to Transfer Certain Lands and Lands under Water to the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area (Amendment #2007-34).* Website: http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?noticeId=MTA1ODkx&statusId=MTU4NzQw. Accessed: July 2014.

[253] Ontario Parks. 2014. *Albert Lake Mesa.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/nonoperating/albertlakemesa. Accessed: July 2014.

[254] Boreal Forest. n.d. *Regional Green Spaces of Northwestern Ontario – Albert Lake Mesa Nature Reserve.* Website: http://www.borealforest.org/greenspaces/region.htm#albert. Accessed: July 2014.

Protected Area	Class	Area (hectares)	Description
Schreiber Channel Provincial Park	Nature Reserve	12 ha	• Non-operational (not staffed) • There are no visitor facilities • Includes a diverse and well-preserved collection of micro-fossils, as well as various tree species[255] • Also referred to as the Schreiber Channel Provincial Nature Reserve • One of ten provincial parks located adjacent to the proposed Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area[256] • In 2009, it was proposed that the Provincial Park's entire island, or approximately 0.5 hectares be transferred to be incorporated into the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area
Slate Islands Provincial Park	Natural Environment	6,570 ha	• Non-operational (not staffed) • There are no visitor facilities • Contains a grouping of islands and provides habitat for woodland caribou, beaver, hare, fox and various shorebird species[257] • Activities – boating, angling, scuba diving, scenic viewing • One of ten provincial parks located adjacent to the proposed Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area[258] • In 2009, it was proposed that 1,844 hectares of land be transferred from the Provincial Park to become federal Crown land contained in the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area

[255] Ontario Parks. 2014. *Schreiber Channel.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/nonoperating/schreiberchannel. Accessed: July 2014.
[256] Ontario Parks. 2009. *Sleeping Giant, Slate Islands, Puff Island, Schreiber Channel and Gravel River Terms of Reference.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning_pdf/nmca/nmca_ToR.pdf. Accessed: July 2014.
[257] Ontario Parks. *Slate Islands.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/nonoperating/slateislands. Accessed: July 2014.
[258] Ontario Parks. 2009. *Sleeping Giant, Slate Islands, Puff Island, Schreiber Channel and Gravel River Terms of Reference.* Website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning_pdf/nmca/nmca_ToR.pdf. Accessed: July 2014.

Protected Area	Class	Area (hectares)	Description
Fishnet Lake Conservation Reserve	Conservation Reserve	3,503 ha	• There are no visitor facilities[259]
Three Mile Narrows Conservation Reserve	Conservation Reserve	840 ha	• There are no visitor facilities[260]
Lake Superior North Shore Conservation Area	Conservation Reserve	1,501 ha	• There are no visitor facilities • Encompasses islands in the vicinity[261]
Nipigon Palisades Conservation Reserve	Conservation Reserve	11,522 ha	• There are no visitor facilities[262]
Lake Nipigon Conservation Reserve	Conservation Reserve	188,136 ha	• There are no visitor facilities[263]
Black Bay Bog Conservation Reserve	Conservation Reserve	1,881 ha	• There are no visitor facilities[264]

[259] Government of Ontario. 2014. *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006 Ontario Regulation 315/07 Designation of Conservation Reserves Schedule 74: Fishnet Lake Conservation Reserve.* Website: http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_070315_e.htm#BK258. Accessed: July 2014.

[260] Government of Ontario. 2014. *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006 Ontario Regulation 315/07 Designation of Conservation Reserves Schedule 249: Three Mile Narrows Conservation Reserve.* Website: http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_070315_e.htm#BK258. Accessed: July 2014.

[261] Government of Ontario. 2014. *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006 Ontario Regulation 315/07 Designation of Conservation Reserves Schedule 79: Lake Superior North Shore Conservation Reserve.* Website: http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_070315_e.htm#BK258. Accessed: July 2014.

[262] Government of Ontario. 2014. *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006 Ontario Regulation 315/07 Designation of Conservation Reserves Schedule 231: Nipigon Palisades Conservation Reserve.* Website: http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_070315_e.htm#BK258. Accessed: July 2014.

[263] Government of Ontario. 2014. *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006 Ontario Regulation 315/07 Designation of Conservation Reserves Schedule 230: Lake Nipigon Conservation Reserve.* Website: http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_070315_e.htm#BK258. Accessed: July 2014.

[264] Government of Ontario. 2014. *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006 Ontario Regulation 315/07 Designation of Conservation Reserves Schedule 113: Black Bay Bog Conservation Reserve.* Website: http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_070315_e.htm#BK258. Accessed: July 2014.

Protected Area	Class	Area (hectares)	Description
Shook Lake Conservation Reserve	Conservation Reserve	159 ha	• There are no visitor facilities[265]
Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area	Pending	Pending[266]	• There are no visitor facilities[267] • Once approved, the Conservation Area would be the largest freshwater protected area in the world • Would include unique attractions including geology, human and natural history features[268]

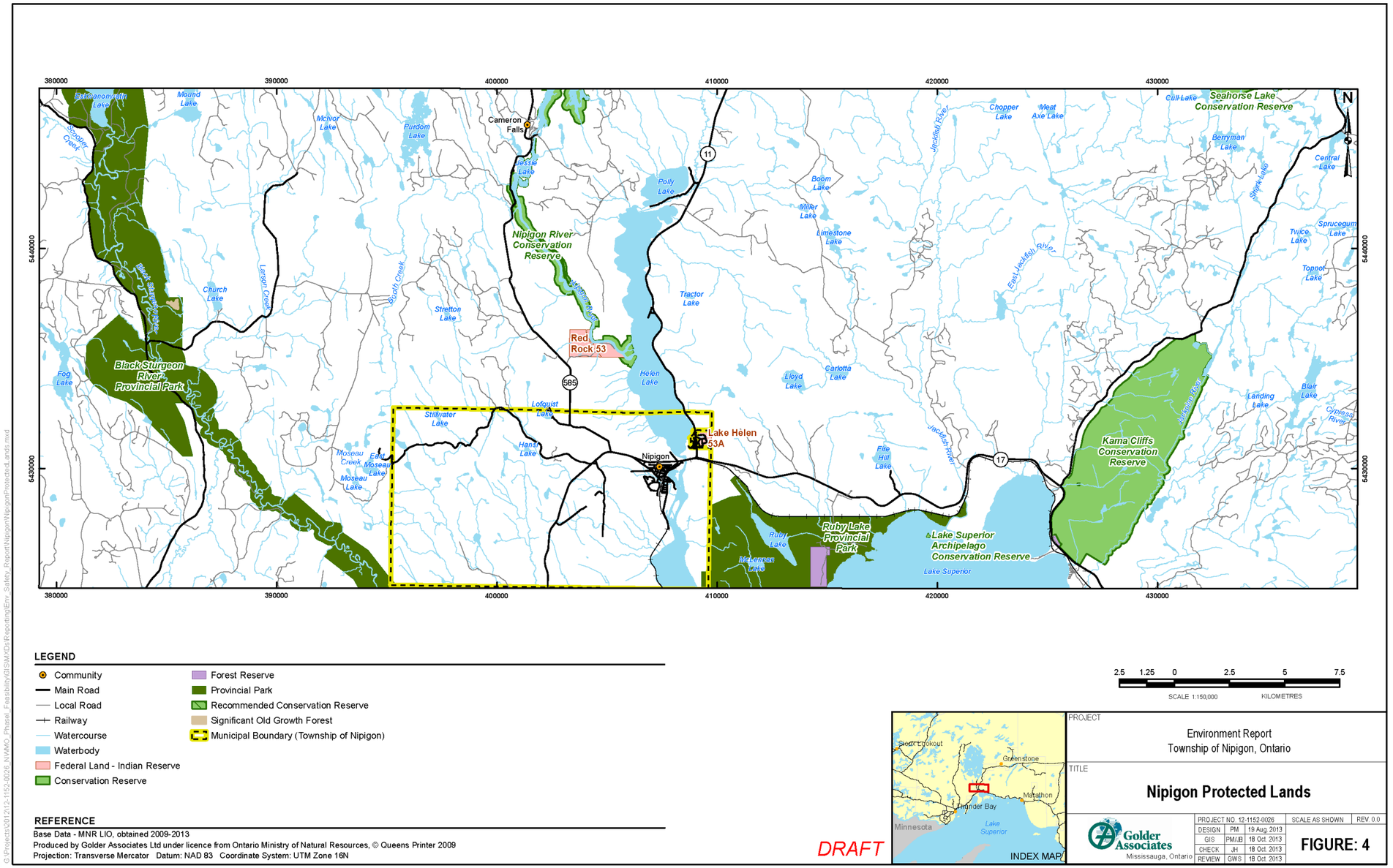
[265] Government of Ontario. 2014. *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006 Ontario Regulation 315/07 Designation of Conservation Reserves Schedule 20: Shook Lake Conservation Reserve.* Website: http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_070315_e.htm#BK258. Accessed: July 2014.

[266] According to Parks Canada, the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area is pending approval and as a result, the park's class and size cannot be confirmed.

[267] Parks Canada. 2014. *Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area – Visitor Information.* Website: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/amnc-nmca/on/super/visit.aspx. Accessed July 2014.

[268] Parks Canada. 2014. *Parks Canada in Ontario.* Website: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/amnc-nmca/on/super/visit/~/media/voyage-travel/pdf/Visitors-Guide_Ontario.ashx. Accessed: July 2014.

Figure 46: Parks and Protected Areas Surrounding Nipigon



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2.6.2 SUMMARY OF NATURAL ASSETS

This section summarizes the Natural Assets described above for Nipigon in terms of:

- Priorities and Key Issues;
- Community Aspirations; and
- Capabilities and Capacities within the Community.

2.6.2.1 PRIORITIES AND KEY ISSUES

The natural assets of Nipigon are highly valued by residents. Nipigon is surrounded by wilderness, lakes, and rivers that provide outdoor opportunities for residents and tourists. Features include Lake Nipigon, the Nipigon River/Nipigon Bay, Lake Superior (including the National Marine Conservation Area), a number of provincial parks and conservation reserves, and important aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Nipigon residents desire greater access to, and infrastructure in, the surrounding parks and protected areas. This would increase outdoor activities and further promote the tourism sector in the area.

Closer to the community, Nipigon's waterfront includes a series of trails and other amenities, and a plan is underway to further utilize this community asset. Nearby Stewart, Polly, and Lofquist Lakes are popular with residents for beaches and private camps. There are also a number of private camps along Lake Superior in the vicinity of Nipigon, and to the North on Cameron Falls Road along the Nipigon River. Lake Nipigon itself is used extensively, but has relatively few camps.

2.6.2.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

The protection and enhancement of the natural environment is a priority for the community. The Nipigon Bay Remedial Action Plan has spearheaded efforts to enhance the aquatic and terrestrial habitats around the Bay in response to hydroelectric development, forestry activities, and industrial/municipal effluents. The Lake Nipigon Forest Management Plan provides another mechanism for management of various uses of the Lake Nipigon Forest.

2.6.2.3 CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Given its importance to the community, there are a number of mechanisms available for individuals and organizations to participate in environmental protection/management activities, including initiatives such as the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area, the Nipigon Bay Remedial Action Plan, the development and maintenance of the local trail system. In addition, the recently updated Official Plan, the Waterfront Development Master Plan, Community Sustainability Plan and Strategic Plan all include a focus on the environment.

2.7 COMMUNITY PATTERNS WITH THE PROVINCE SUMMARY

The following section highlights some general trends when comparing Nipigon to the province of Ontario as a whole. The data indicate that while the populations of both the Census Division and Nipigon have been falling since 1996, Nipigon's population (as a percentage) has been falling more than the Census Division, while the province's population has steadily increased over this period. Similar age characteristics exist between Nipigon, the Census Division, and Ontario with only minor variations, with the largest cohorts being between the ages of 25 and 44 years, followed by a smaller cohort of 45 to 54 years. In comparison to the Census Division and Nipigon, Ontario had a higher percentage of population below age 44 in both 2006 and 2011, and a lower proportion of population aged 55 and over. Nipigon and the Census Division are experiencing an aging trend as is the province.

Nipigon experienced a decline in labour force participation rates between 2001 and 2006 to a greater degree than the Census Division and province. Nipigon's rate declined by 6.2 percentage points, compared to a 0.6 percentage point decrease for the Census Division, and 0.2 point drop for Ontario.

Ontario as a whole has higher levels of educational attainment than the Census Division or Nipigon. In 2006, Ontario had a slightly higher proportion of the population whose highest level of attainment was *high school certificate or equivalent* (26.8%) compared to either the Census Division (25.3%) or Nipigon (23.3%); conversely, Ontario had fewer whose highest level of attainment was *no certificate, diploma or degree* (22.2%) than the Census Division (26.7%) or Nipigon (39.2%).

In 2011, Ontario still had proportionately fewer residents than the Census Division whose highest level of educational attainment was *no certificate, diploma or degree*, *apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma* and *college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma*, and proportionately more residents with *high school certificate or equivalent* and *university certificate or diploma below the bachelor level* than the Census Division.

For Ontario as a whole, the distribution of labour force by industry changed little over the period from 2001-2006. Between 2001 and 2006, both Nipigon and the Census Division experienced greater changes to their labour force by industry than Ontario.

2.8 UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

This section of the profile outlines the unique characteristics of the Township of Nipigon. The key unique characteristics described for this community are:

- Community Character;
- Environmental Values;
- Community Goals; and,
- Community Action Plans.

2.8.1 COMMUNITY CHARACTER

Nipigon is a small northern Ontario town with a strong community character. Unique and valued characteristics described by community residents include:[269]

- Family-oriented;
- Very active community;
- Hunting, fishing, trapping;
- Local trails;
- Hockey-oriented;
- Ambitious;
- Location along the TransCanada Highway/Highway 11 junction;
- Friendly and safe;
- Small community;
- Accessible;
- Relationship with Red Rock Indian Band/Lake Helen First Nation;
- Supportive community;
- Relatively low cost of living;
- Close proximity to Thunder Bay (services, recreation, culture) and Thunder Bay International Airport;
- Full-service town;
- Access to health service in Nipigon and Thunder Bay;
- Resilient;
- Strong history;
- Sense of community;
- Strong quality of life;
- Healthy community;
- Love and care for the environment;
- Unique lakes and river amenities; and,
- Natural edge.

2.8.2 ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

The Township of Nipigon is surrounded by an abundance of natural features. There is an emphasis placed on the outdoors and environmental protection, given the community's waterfront location along the shores of the Nipigon River and Lake Superior (including the Lake Superior NMCA). The Township is home to wetlands and important habitat.

[269] MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture. January 23, 2013. *Draft Community Sustainability Plan – The Township of Nipigon*; this information was obtained in part from Nipigon community discussions in October 2013 and December 2013.

The Official Plan describes five goals associated with the natural environment for the community:

1) *To preserve and protect the Provincially Significant Wetlands, the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area and other natural environment in the Township as an ecosystem comprised of many related components;*
2) *To require that all development be planned and designed to protect, maintain and protect natural resources within the watersheds in the Township;*
3) *To protect, restore and improve water quality and hydrological characteristics, functions and processes of watercourses, lakes, aquifers, and wetlands;*
4) *To maintain and protect significant wildlife habitat areas and corridors and habitats of vulnerable and threatened species; and,*
5) *To ensure that natural resource activities, including forestry, mineral exploration and development, hunting and fishing and other recreational activities can continue in a manner that is sustainable.*[270]

2.8.3 COMMUNITY GOALS

The Township of Nipigon has a number of strategic documents that outline vision and mission statements for the community (also see Section 2.1.3). The mission statement of the Strategic Plan is as follows: *Nipigon will be a destination point for visitors, businesses and new residents while maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for the community*.[271]

There are eleven focused goals/objectives[272] identified in the 2012 Strategic Plan:

1) Business Development (Industry);
2) Tourism Development;
3) Knowledge Economy;
4) Nipigon Revitalization/Beautification;
5) Marina Development;
6) Tourism and Marketing;
7) Marketing;
8) Capital Infrastructure and Community Development;
9) Collaboration – On-going;
10) Volunteer – On-going; and,
11) Recreation – On-going.

[270] MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture. December 16, 2013. *Official Plan for the Township of Nipigon.*
[271] Township of Nipigon. January 2012. *Strategic Plan*.
[272] *Ibid.*

2.8.4 COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS

The Township has a number of strategic documents that outline vision and mission statements for the community, as well as objectives and community action plans. These are summarized in Section 2.1.3 and briefly discussed below:

- Official Plan 2013;
- Community Sustainability Plan 2013;
- Nipigon Waterfront Development Master Plan 2013;
- Asset Management Plan for the Township of Nipigon 2013;
- Strategic Plan 2012;
- Nipigon and the Red Rock Indian Band Marketing Action Plan 2008; and,
- Nipigon and the Red Rock Indian Band Economic Diversification Strategy 2008.

Official Plan

The Official Plan outlines the following mission statements:

- *Nipigon will be a prosperous, economically sustainable community;*
- *Nipigon will be a green, mindful and environmentally sustainable community;*
- *Nipigon will engage the community in being a healthy and socially sustainable community; and,*
- *Nipigon will be a creative and culturally sustainable community.*[273]

Nipigon Waterfront Development Master Plan 2013

The Township initiated the WDMP to identify ways to develop the local economy and expand access to the natural environment for residents and tourists.[274] The WDMP is a partnership between the public sector (the Township) and the private sector. Public sector improvements envisioned for the community include components such as:

- Waterfront boardwalk, lookout and park;
- A Multi-Use Centre that will be a focal point for waterfront development;
- Residential development;
- A camping area;
- A restaurant;
- Dock space and kiosk operations;
- Boat storage;
- An events park/area; and,
- Possible campus extension/satellite campus of a university or college.

[274] The Planning Partnership, et.al. August 2013. *Nipigon Waterfront Development Master Plan*.

Community Sustainability Plan 2013

The draft CSP provides the foundation for sustainable decision-making in the Township for the next 10 – 20 years. The objectives of the CSP are summarized below:

- Coordinate public and private actions;
- Incorporate social, cultural, environmental and economic sustainability objectives in community planning;
- Work with other municipalities and First Nations to achieve sustainability objectives; and,
- Engage Township residents to participate in developing a long-term vision for the community.[275]

In the Draft Community Sustainability Plan, residents identified specific action plans that the community should undertake in an effort to improve what is 'not working' in the Township. These suggested action items are to shop locally, retain employees, provide a greater range of housing for all residents in the community, and create new employment opportunities:

- Shop locally;
- Retain employees;
- Provide a greater range of housing; and,
- Create new employment opportunities.[276]

Asset Management Plan for the Township of Nipigon 2013

The Asset Management Plan for the Township of Nipigon was created in 2013 to meet the requirements outlined in: *Building Together Guide for Municipal Asset Management Plans*. The Asset Management Plan serves as a strategic, tactical, and financial document. It was created to ensure "*the management of the municipal infrastructure follows sound asset management practices and principles, while optimizing available resources and establishing desired levels of service*".[277]

Strategic Plan 2012

The Strategic Plan for Nipigon outlines community action plans (goals and objectives) as a result of a S.W.O.P. analysis conducted in the community. These action plans include: business development initiatives (i.e., tourism development, marina development, and capital infrastructure development), knowledge economy,

[275] MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture. January 2013. *Draft Community Sustainability Plan – The Township of Nipigon*.

[276] MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture. January 2013. *Draft Community Sustainability Plan – The Township of Nipigon*.

[277] Public Sector Digest. 2013. *The Asset Management Plan for the Township of Nipigon*. Website: http://www.nipigon.net/files/3513/8962/7456/Township_of_Nipigon_Asset_Management_Plan.pdf. Accessed: May 2014.

revitalization and beautification of the community, marketing strategies, and ongoing collaboration, volunteerism, and recreation programs in the Township.[278]

Nipigon and the Red Rock Indian Band Marketing Action Plan 2008

The 2008 Nipigon and the Red Rock Indian Band Marketing Action Plan was created to support and build upon the Economic Diversification Strategy and is currently being revised.[279] The analysis was based on the local economy and trends in the macro-economy, and used to develop marketing directions for economic growth in each community.[280]

Nipigon and the Red Rock Indian Band Economic Diversification Strategy 2008

The 2008 Nipigon and the Red Rock Indian Band Economic Diversification Strategy is currently being revised.[281] The main objectives were to develop an economic profile of the community, conduct an organizational investment readiness/willingness assessment, establish local competitive advantages/disadvantages, assess key criteria and focus on selected sectors, and understand more clearly the roles or local organizations/businesses.[282]

[278] Township of Nipigon. January 2012. *Strategic Plan*.
[279] This information was obtained during Nipigon community discussion in February 2014.
[280] Millier Dickinson Blais Inc. December 2008. *Final Report – Nipigon and Red Rock Indian Band: Marketing Action Plan*.
[281] This information was obtained during Nipigon community discussion in February 2014.
[282] Millier Dickinson Blais Inc. 2008. *Nipigon and Red Rock Indian Band: Economic Diversification Strategy*. Website: http://www.nipigon.net/files/8113/6197/4559/Nipigon_-_RRIB_Economic_Diversification_Strategy_final.pdf. Accessed: November 2013.

3.0 REGIONAL PROFILE

3.1 OVERVIEW

The definition of the regional context of a community is subjective. The regional boundaries of a community can be defined differently by various entities. For the purposes of this Community Profile, the regional context is left undefined, as further dialogue with community members and members in surrounding communities is required to best understand the broader regional context.

The Township of Nipigon is situated within the Thunder Bay District. Statistics are readily available for the District; for this reason and for the purposes of the profile, they will be used only for the purpose of setting context and comparison.

Nipigon also participates in regional economic development organizations and initiatives, described in this section of the profile. This includes the Superior North Community Futures Development Corporation (Superior North CFDC), which provides coordinated economic development activity to communities along the North Shore. The Township of Nipigon is also a member of the Northwestern Ontario Joint Task Force on Regional Economic Development.

The key components described in this section are:

- Location and List of Communities;
- Land Size and Uses; and,
- Expenditures – Where Residents Obtain Goods and Services.

3.1.1 LOCATION – LIST OF COMMUNITIES

3.1.1.1 THUNDER BAY DISTRICT

The Thunder Bay District land area is 103,719.51 km^2.[283] There are a number of communities within the Thunder Bay District, which is the provincially mandated administrative area within which Nipigon is located:

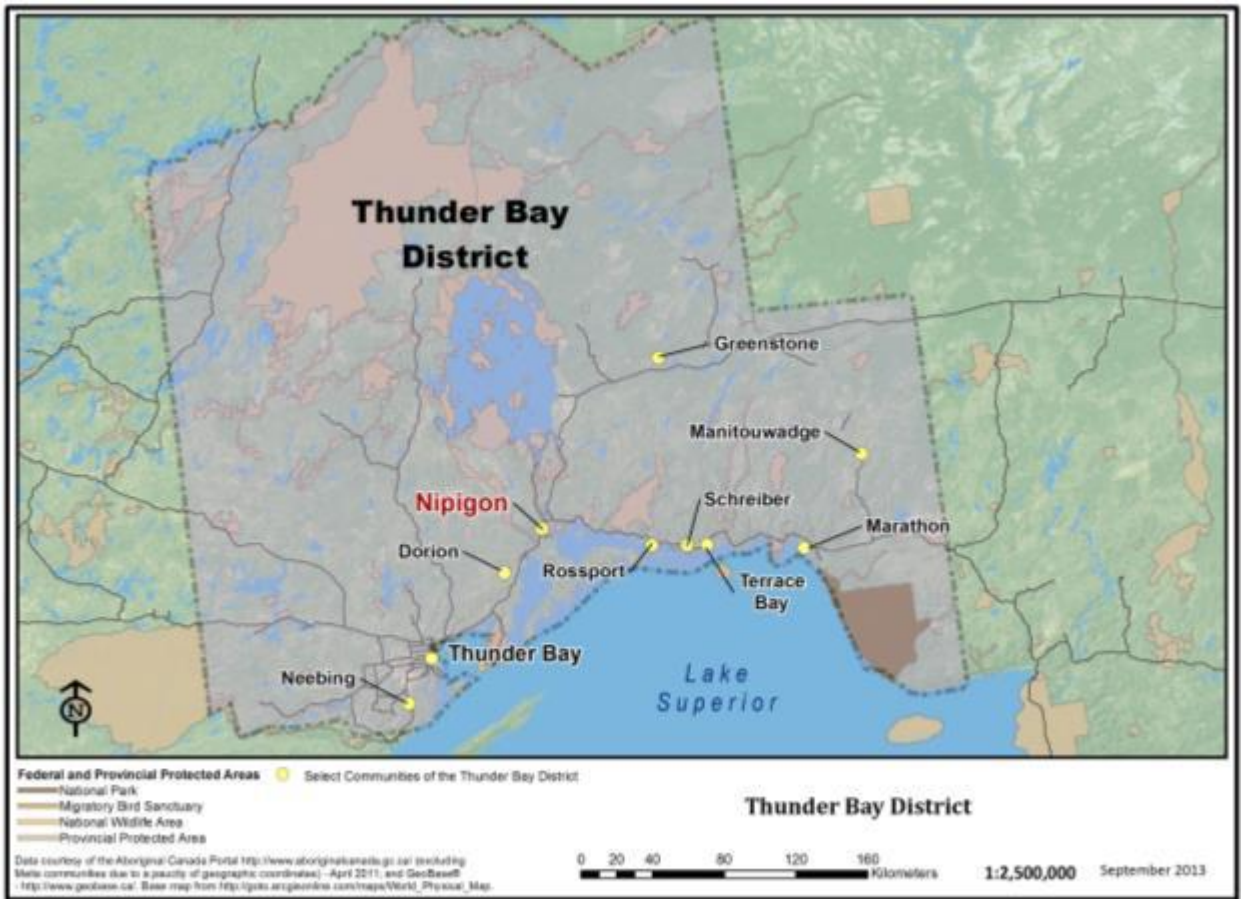
- City of Thunder Bay;
- Municipality of Greenstone;
- Town of Marathon;
- Township of Conmee;
- Township of Dorion;
- Township of Gilles;
- Township of Manitouwadge;
- Township of Nipigon;
- Township of O'Connor;
- Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge;
- Township of Red Rock;
- Township of Schreiber;
- Township of Shuniah; and,
- Township of Terrace Bay.

[283] Statistics Canada. 2011. *Thunder Bay District, Ontario Community Census Profile.*

- Municipality of Neebing;

Figure 48 shows Nipigon in relation to and within the Thunder Bay District. Also highlighted in the figure are selected communities within the Thunder Bay District as geographic reference points.

Figure 47: Thunder Bay District



Source: DPRA Canada. 2013.

3.1.1.2 SUPERIOR NORTH COMMUNITY FUTURES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Superior North CFDC is a community-based, non-profit organization that is run by a board of local volunteers that provide services to Northern Ontario communities (Figure 49) with shared interests in economic development. It supports community economic development initiatives to strengthen and diversify their economies. The objectives of the Superior North CFDC are:

- Provide assistance to member communities;
- Encourage economic growth and stability;
- Achieve diversified rural economies; and,

- Growing sustainable communities.[284]

Superior North CFDC has four main objectives:

1) *Fostering strategic community planning and socio-economic development;*
2) *Providing business development, counselling and training to small and medium business and social enterprises;*
3) *Providing access to capital to assist existing SME and social enterprises expand or to help create new enterprises; and,*
4) *Supporting community-based projects and special initiatives.*[285]

Communities included in the Superior North CFDC area (Figure 49) are:

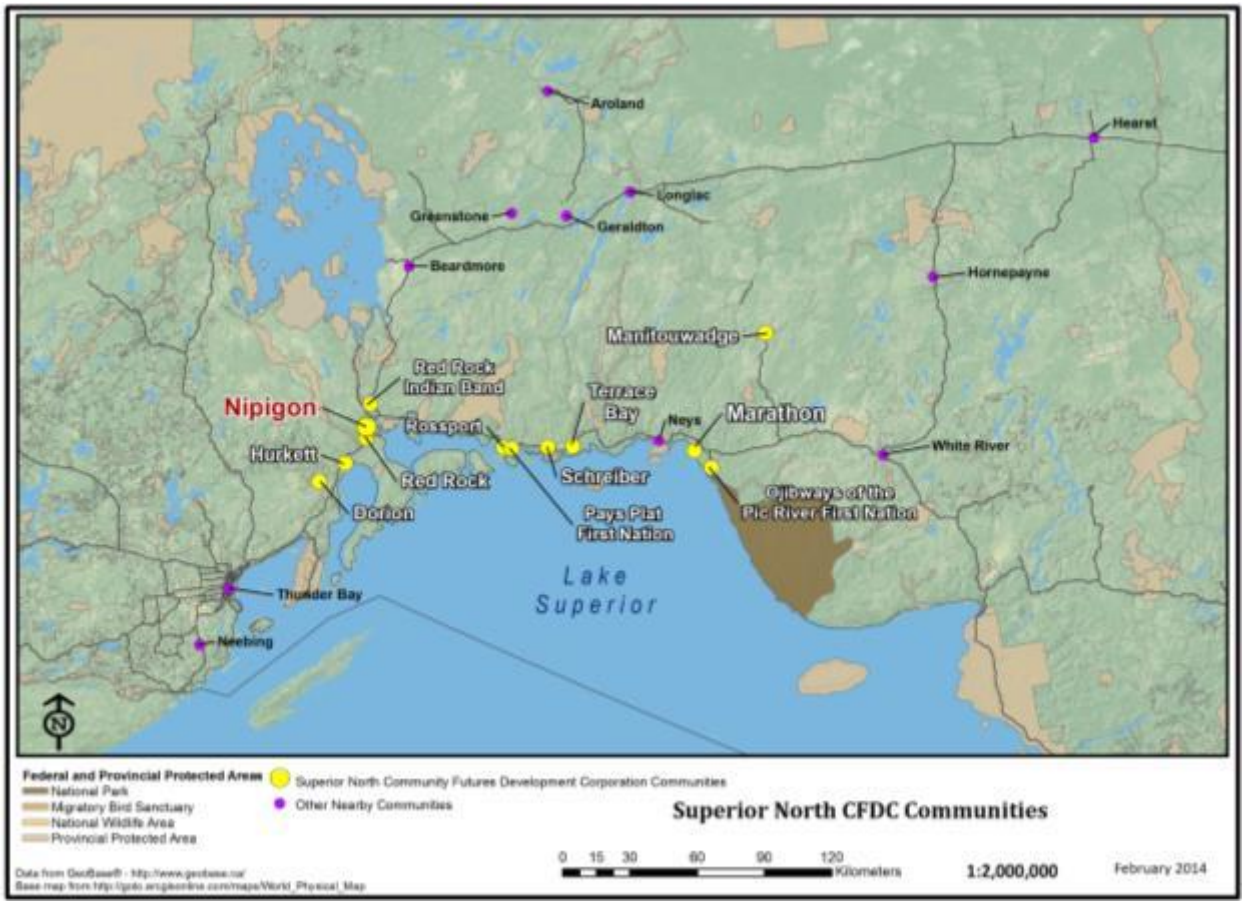
- Dorion;
- Hurkett;
- Manitouwadge;
- Marathon
- Nipigon;
- Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation;
- Pays Plat First Nation;
- Red Rock;
- Red Rock Indian Band;
- Rossport;
- Schreiber; and,
- Terrace Bay [286]

[284] Superior North Community Futures Development Corporation. n.d. *Superior North Community Futures Development Corporation.* Website: http://www.sncfdc.com/uploads/documents/SNCFDC_General_Info_EN.pdf. Accessed: January 2014.

[285] *Ibid.*

[286] Superior North Community Futures Development Corporation. 2010. *Resources and Links.* Website: http://www.sncfdc.com/?pgid=33. Accessed: January 2014.

Figure 48: Superior North Community Futures Development Corporation Area



Source: DPRA Canada. 2014.

3.1.1.3 OTHER MUNICIPAL FORUMS

The Nipigon Chamber of Commerce is a member of the Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce (NOACC). This organization represents the interests of over 2,000 local businesses throughout all the member chambers of commerce in Northwestern Ontario.[287] The NOACC encourages business development and growth in Northwestern Ontario.[288]

Nipigon is also a member of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and Thunder Bay District Municipal League.[289] Collectively, these organizations provide leadership in advocating regional interest on behalf of their membership.[290] These strategic planning activities seek to stabilize the communities and

[287] NOACC. 2008. *Who We Are*. Website: http://www.noacc.ca/default.asp?pgid=3. Accessed: July 2014.

[288] NOACC. 2008. *Mission and Vision*. Website: http://www.noacc.ca/default.asp?pgid=5. Accessed: July 2014.

[289] Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association. 2014. *Thunder Bay District Municipal League*. Website: http://www.noma.on.ca/article/thunder-bay-district-municipal-league-118.asp Accessed: May 2014.

[290] Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association. 2014. *NOMA Mission, Vision, Core Values & Guiding Principles*. Website: http://www.noma.on.ca/article/mission-vision-core-values-and-guiding-principles-155.asp. Accessed: May 2014.

position them for the prospect of growth partly based on the transportation infrastructure – the two major railroads (Canadian Pacific and Canadian National) and the TransCanada Highway.[291]

3.1.2 Land Size and Uses

Thunder Bay District encompasses a total land area of approximately 103,719.51 km^2.[292]

3.1.3 Expenditures – Where Residents Obtain Goods and Services

The cost of goods and services in Nipigon is thought by some residents to be relatively high - in particular the price of gas and groceries (although others point out that the cost of groceries is in fact competitive with Thunder Bay, for example). There are limited goods and services, such as a range of retail shops, offered in Nipigon. Residents often travel to Thunder Bay to purchase goods that are not available in the community (e.g., big ticket items such as vehicles, furniture, equipment, and appliances).[293] Being strategically located along the TransCanada Highway, Nipigon residents have a manageable drive to Thunder Bay to purchase goods and attend cultural/recreational events. Ongoing improvements to the highway have reduced travel time.

3.2 MUNICIPALITIES

3.2.1 Municipalities & Locations

Thunder Bay District consists of the municipalities noted in Section 3.1.1, as well as unorganized areas and Crown land. For the purposes of this profile, the three closest municipalities to Nipigon – Dorion, Red Rock, and Schreiber –are summarized.

Dorion

The Township of Dorion was officially declared open for settlement in 1893; just west of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) on the Wolf River.[294] In 1961, Dorion reached the peak of its population growth at 557 people, with a population of 338 in 2011. Since 2001, Dorion has been suffering, similar to many small towns in Northwestern Ontario, due to significant declines in the forestry industry.[295] Beginning in 2007, Dorion has made some concerted efforts to focus on economic development in the areas of mining exploration, tourism, agroforestry and wind energy in an effort to reverse or stem its economic hardships and population decline.

[291] Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association. 2012. *Thunder Bay Municipal League.* Website. http://www.noma.on.ca/article/thunder-bay-district-municipal-league-118.asp. Accessed: May 2014.
[292] Statistics Canada. 2012. *Thunder Bay District, Ontario Community Census Profile.*
[293] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions in December 2013.
[294] Township of Dorion. 2013. *History*. Website: http://www.doriontownship.ca/History.php. Accessed: October 2013.
[295] *Ibid.*

The Township is currently in the process of creating a five-year strategic plan.[296] Dorion is approximately 50 kilometres southwest of Nipigon and 70 kilometres east of Thunder Bay on the TransCanada Highway. A 'Quad Council' consisting of Nipigon, Dorion, Red Rock and the Red Rock Indian Band meets periodically to discuss matters of common interest to these communities.

Red Rock



The Township of Red Rock is located 8 kilometres south of the TransCanada Highway along the north shores of Lake Superior, adjacent to the Township of Nipigon. However, the two communities are approximately 18 kilometres apart (by road). In the early 1900s the community was only accessible by rail and residents had to walk to Nipigon for shopping and banking services. In 1940, the Canadian Government purchased an abandoned campsite in the community and turned it into a prisoner of war camp – Camp R – for German prisoners. During the early 1940's, the Brompton Pulp and Paper Company purchased property and construction of the Red Rock Mill began in 1944. The Mill brought development and expansion to the community with mill workers and their families settling in the community. Downsizing at the Mill began to take shape in the 1990's when the owner of the Mill – Domtar – reduced its workforce from 650 to 300 employees. In 1998, Domtar merged with Cascade Inc. and became known as Norampac. In 2006, the Red Rock Mill closed, affecting many people in the Township, as well as nearby communities such as Nipigon.[297] A 'Quad Council' consisting of Nipigon, Dorion, Red Rock and the Red Rock Indian Band meets periodically to discuss matters of common interest to these communities.

According to Statistics Canada census data, the population of Red Rock in 2006 was 1,063; in 2011 it decreased to 942.

Schreiber

The Township of Schreiber is approximately 90 kilometres east of Nipigon on the TransCanada Highway 17. Formerly known as Isbester's Landing, Schreiber was established between 1883 and 1884. Schreiber has a rich history with the CPR that dates back to the mid-1880s.[298] The area served as a construction camp for the CPR where preliminary work on the Lake Superior section of the railroad took place. Two years after the 200-mile Lake Superior preliminary work was completed in 1883, the last spike was driven into the transcontinental railway at Noslo near Jackfish,[299] and in 1886 the first train station was built in Schreiber.[300] The town itself was

[296] Township of Dorion. 2013. *Economic Development.* Website: http://www.doriontownship.ca/Economic_Development.php. Accessed: October 2013.
[297] Township of Red Rock. 2013. *History*. Website: http://www.redrocktownship.com/article/history--3.asp. Accessed: November 2013.
[298] DPRA Canada. October 2013. *Community Profile, Schreiber Ontario – Draft.* Prepared for the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. Website: http://www.nwmo.ca/uploads_managed/MediaFiles/2246_2013-11-14-cwba-schreiber_community_profile-draft-.pdf. Accessed: July 2014.
[299] *Ibid.*

named after Sir Collingwood Schreiber, chief engineer of government railways.[301] At the time, industries mainly consisted of mining, railway work, and forestry.

A general decrease in population took place between 1996 and 2011, along with a decrease in economic activity.[302] The 2011 census statistics indicate 1,126 people live in Schreiber; the population in 1996 was 1,778.

3.2.2 Historical Context

Historically, the Thunder Bay District was resource-based (mining and forestry), as well as transportation-based (CPR and CNR). The City of Thunder Bay is also the regional service centre (e.g., hospital, provincial services) and the location of post-secondary educational facilities such as Lakehead University and Confederation College.

3.3 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The information in this section reflects readily available information from publicly available sources and does not reflect conversations or dialogue with Aboriginal communities or organizations unless otherwise noted.

The Aboriginal communities included here in alphabetical order are those nearby to Nipigon.

- First Nations: The following First Nations are all part of the Robinson Superior Treaty area (see Figure 46, below):
    - Animbiigoo Zaagi'gan Anish (Lake Nipigon Ojibway) First Nation
    - Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishnabek (Rocky Bay) First Nation
    - Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (Sand Point) First Nation
    - Fort William First Nation
    - Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek (Gull Bay) First Nation
    - Opwaaganisining (Red Rock Indian Band / Lake Helen) First Nation
    - Pays Plat First Nation (Pawgwasheeng)
    - Whitesand First Nation

The Red Rock Indian Band (also known as the Lake Helen First Nation) reserve is located directly adjacent to Nipigon. Many members of Flying Post First Nation reside in Nipigon.

[300] *Ibid.*
[301] DPRA Canada. October 2013. *Community Profile, Schreiber Ontario – Draft.* Prepared for the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. Website: http://www.nwmo.ca/uploads_managed/MediaFiles/2246_2013-11-14-cwba-schreiber_community_profile-draft-.pdf. Accessed: July 2014.
[302] *Ibid.*

- Métis:
    - The Métis Nation Ontario Region 2 including:
        - Greenstone Métis Council (Geraldton and Area);
        - Superior North Shore Métis Council; and,
        - Thunder Bay Métis Council.
    - Jackfish Métis (a member of the Ontario Coalition of Aboriginal Peoples); and
    - Red Sky Métis Independent Nation.

The text that follows provides a brief introduction to these communities and organizations.

3.3.1 First Nations

3.3.1.1 Animbiigoo Zaagi'gan Anishinaabek (Lake Nipigon Ojibway) First Nation

The Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek (Lake Nipigon Ojibway) First Nation is a formerly landless First Nation located at Partridge Lake, approximately three hours north of Thunder Bay. The new reserve was established in 2008.[303]

According to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), the Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek First Nation had a registered population of 476 as of October 2014. AANDC also reported that 3 people live on own reserves, 6 people live on other reserves, 87 live on no band crown land, and 380 live off reserve.[304]

3.3.1.2 Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishnabek (Rocky Bay) First Nation

The Binjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishnaabek First Nation (BZAFN) is located between Lake Nipigon and the north shores of Lake Superior, northeast of Nipigon Rocky Bay 1 Indian Reserve in Greenstone, Ontario, bordering on the community of Macdiarmid.[305]

According to AANDC, the total BZAFN registered population in October 2014 was 715, with approximately 335 living on the Rocky Bay 1 Indian Reserve. Approximately 376 people were reported living off reserve and 4 people living on other reserves.[306]

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[303] EcoPlan International. 2013. *Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek Land Use Plan*. Website: http://www.ecoplan.ca/1035/tools/strategic-planning/animbiigoo-zaagiigan-anishinaabek-comprehensive-community-plan/. Accessed: July 2014.

[304] Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development. 2014. *Registered Population - Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek*. Website: http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/FNP/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=194&lang=eng. Accessed: November 2014.

[306] Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2014. *Registered Population – Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishnaabek.* Website: http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=197&lang=eng. Accessed: November 2014.

3.3.1.3 BINGWI NEYAASHI ANISHINAABEK (SAND POINT) FIRST NATION

The Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek First Nation (BNAFN) is located west of Highway 11 on the shores of Lake Nipigon.[307]

According to AANDC, the total registered population is estimated at 255 as of October 2014. The Sand Point First Nation has approximately 69 members living on the reserve, 20 people living on other reserves, and 165 living off-reserve.[308]

3.3.1.4 FORT WILLIAM FIRST NATION

The Fort William First Nation is located south of the City of Thunder Bay on the western portion of Lake Superior.[309]

The First Nation's total registered population as of October 2014 was 2,203. Approximately 955 live on the Fort William 52 Indian Reserve, another 22 live on other reserves, and about 1,222 people live off-reserve.[310]

3.3.1.5 KIASHKE ZAAGING ANISHINAABEK (GULL BAY) FIRST NATION

The Gull Bay First Nation (Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek) is located approximately 185 kilometres north of the City of Thunder Bay along the shores of Lake Nipigon.[311]

The total registered population of the Gull Bay First Nation was 1,327 in October 2014. Of those, approximately 359 live on the Gull Bay 55 Reserve, 945 live off the reserve, and 14 live on other reserves.[312]

[307] Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek. 2013. *Welcome.* Website: http://www.bnafn.ca/article/welcome-to-bingwi-neyaashi-anishinaabek-3.asp. Accessed: July 2014

[308] Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2014. *Registered Population – Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek*. Website: http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=196&lang=eng. Accessed: November 2014

[310] Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2014. *Registered Population – Fort William*. Website: http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=187&lang=eng. Accessed: November 2014

[312] Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2014. *Registered Population – Gull Bay.* Website: http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=188&lang=eng. Accessed: November 2014

3.3.1.6 OPWAAGANISININ (RED ROCK INDIAN BAND / LAKE HELEN) FIRST NATION

The Red Rock Indian Band (RRIB, also known as the Lake Helen First Nation) is located on the north shore of Lake Superior, approximately 2 kilometres east of Nipigon. There are two reserves – the Lake Helen 53A Reserve and the Red Rock 53 Reserve.[313]

According to AANDC, the total registered population in October 2014 was 1,772. Approximately 279 live on reserve; 1,481 live off-reserve; and 11 live on other reserves.[314] Many RRIB members live in the community of Nipigon.

3.3.1.7 PAYS PLAT FIRST NATION (PAWGWASHEENG)

Pays Plat First Nation (PPFN) is located on the shores of Lake Superior, east of Nipigon and west of Schreiber. PPFN membership is approximately 200, with about 70 people living on the reserve.[315]

According to Statistics Canada Census of Population data, the on-reserve population of PPFN increased by 21.5% between 2001 (65) and 2006 (79), and declined slightly (5.1%) to 75 in 2011.[316]

3.3.1.8 WHITESAND FIRST NATION

The Whitesand First Nation is located approximately 336km (by road) north of Nipigon. There are two reserves – the Armstrong Settlement and Whitesand.[317]

The total registered population as of October 2014 was 1,208. Approximately 837 people live off-reserve, 349 people live on-reserve, 18 live on other reserves, and 3 people live on Crown land.[318]

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[313] Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2014. *Registered Population – Red Rock Indian Band.* Website: http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNMain.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=193&lang=eng. Accessed: November 2014

[314] *Ibid.*

[315] Pays Plat First Nation. 2012. *About Us.* Website: http://www.ppfn.ca/about.html. Accessed March 19, 2014.

[316] Statistics Canada. 2006. *2006 Aboriginal Population Profile – Pays Plat First Nation*. Statistics Canada. 2012. *Pays Plat 51, Ontario* (Code 3558063) and Ontario (Code 35) (table). Census Profile. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Website: http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E. Accessed: March 2014. AANDC information on registered population is not available for Pays Plat First Nation.

[317] Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2014. *Reserves/Settlements/Villages – Whitesand.* Website: http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNReserves.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=190&lang=eng. Accessed: September 2014.

[318] Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2014. *Registered Population*. Website: http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=190&lang=eng. Accessed: November 2014.

3.3.2 MÉTIS ORGANIZATIONS

Métis citizens are represented at the local level through the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Charter Community Councils. The local Councils are a communication hub for MNO and play a role in fostering community empowerment and development for Métis citizens living within the geographic region of that Council. Community Councils operate in accordance with MNO Charter Agreements, which give Councils the mandate to govern, while ensuring accountability, transparency, and consistency.

Protocol Agreements are set up between the MNO and each of its regions. The MNO Lands, Resources and Consultation Committee is the initial contact in each Region and is the group with which discussion and involvement of local Councils begins.

Nipigon is within Region 2 of the MNO classification; community Councils within Region 2include:

- Greenstone Métis Council (Geraldton and Area);
- Superior North Shore Métis Council; and
- Thunder Bay Métis Council;

Other Métis organizations in the Nipigon area include:

- Jackfish Métis (a member of the Coalition of Aboriginal Peoples); and,
- Red Sky Métis Independent Nation.

3.3.3 TREATY AREAS

The following section outlines the Nishnawbe-Aski (Treaty 9) Treaty area and the Robinson Superior Treaty area. Figure 50 below illustrates the location of each treaty area in Ontario.

3.3.3.1 NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION (TREATY 9) TREATY AREA

The Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Treaty (Treaty 9) - also known as the St. James Treaty - was an agreement established between the Government of Canada and various First Nations in Northern Ontario in July 1905.[319] The nations who signed in 1905-06 included those people occupying the area south of the Albany River. Together with the area acquired by adhesions in 1929-1930, Treaty 9 covers almost two-thirds of the area that became Northern Ontario.[320] Treaty 9 was created in the summers of 1905 and 1906. The Treaty was signed by three Commissioners representing the Crown and fourteen Aboriginal leaders assembled at the then Hudson's Bay Company posts.[321] At the time of its creation, Treaty 9 included lands defined by James Bay and Albany River and encompassed lands at the edge of Northern Ontario.[322]

3.3.3.2 ROBINSON SUPERIOR TREATY AREA

The Robinson Superior Treaty (Figure 50) – also known as Treaty No. 60 – was signed in September 1850 in Sault Ste. Marie between the Crown and Ojibway Indians who occupied Northern Lake Superior from Pigeon River to Batchawana Bay.[323]

[319] Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. The James Bay Treaty - Treaty No. 9 (Made In 1905 And 1906) and Adhesions Made In 1929 and 1930. Website: http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100028863/1100100028864#chp3. Accessed: July 2014

[320] Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. Treaty Guide to Treaty No. 9 (1905-1906. Website. http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100028855/1100100028857. Accessed: July 2014

[321] Government of Ontario. 2012. *The Treaty No. 9 Expedition of 1906.* Website: http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/explore/online/james_bay_treaty/expedition_1905.aspx. Accessed: July 2014.

[322] Government of Ontario. 2012. *The Treaty No. 9 Expedition of 1906.* Website: http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/explore/online/james_bay_treaty/expedition_1905.aspx. Accessed: July 2014.

[323] Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. Copy of the Robinson Treaty Made in the Year 1850 with the Ojibway Indians of Lake Superior Conveying Certain Lands to the Crown. Website. http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100028978/1100100028982. Accessed: July 2014.

Figure 49: Northern Ontario Treaty Areas



Source: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. 2013. *Historic Treaties in Ontario*. Website. http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ-AI/STAGING/texte-text/mprm_treaties_th-ht_on_1371839599367_eng.pdf. Accessed: January 2014.

3.4 POPULATION DYNAMICS

This section of the profile outlines population dynamics for Nipigon, Thunder Bay District and Ontario. The key characteristics in this section are:

- Trends Over Time; and,
- Age Profile.

3.4.1 TREND OVER TIME

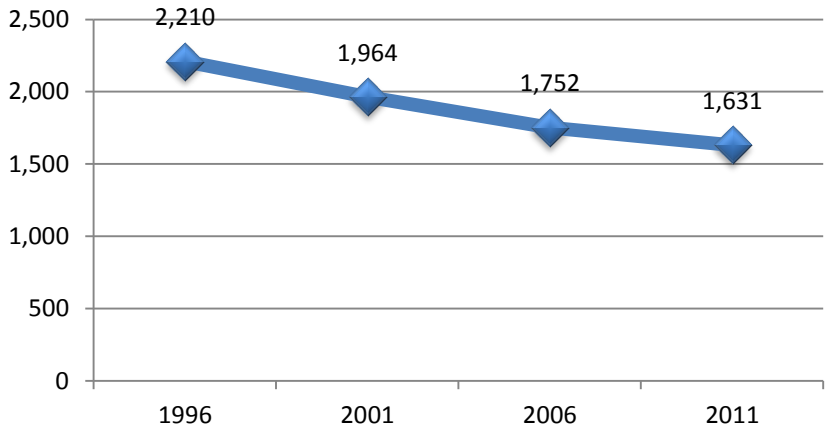
Table 16 and Figures 51 – 53 outline the Nipigon, Thunder Bay District and Province of Ontario population trends for census years 1996, 2001, 2006, and 2011. The Thunder Bay District population has been gradually declining since 1996, with the highest rate of decline in 2001 (4.3%). In other timeframes the rate of decline was smaller, ranging from 0.7% between 1991 and 1996 to 2.0% between 2006 and 2011. Ontario's population, in contrast, has steadily increased over the same period.

Table 16: Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, and Ontario Population Trends, 1996 – 2011

Time Period	Nipigon Population (Change from Previous Census)	Thunder Bay District Population (Change from Previous Census)	Ontario Population (Change from Previous Census)
1996	2,210 (-5.5%)	157,619 (-0.7%)	10,753,573 (6.6%)
2001	1,964 (-11.1%)	150,860 (-4.3%)	11,410,046 (6.1%)
2006	1,752 (-10.8%)	149,063 (-1.2%)	12,160,282 (6.6%)
2011	1,631 (-6.9%)	146,057 (-2.0%)	12,851,821 (5.7%)

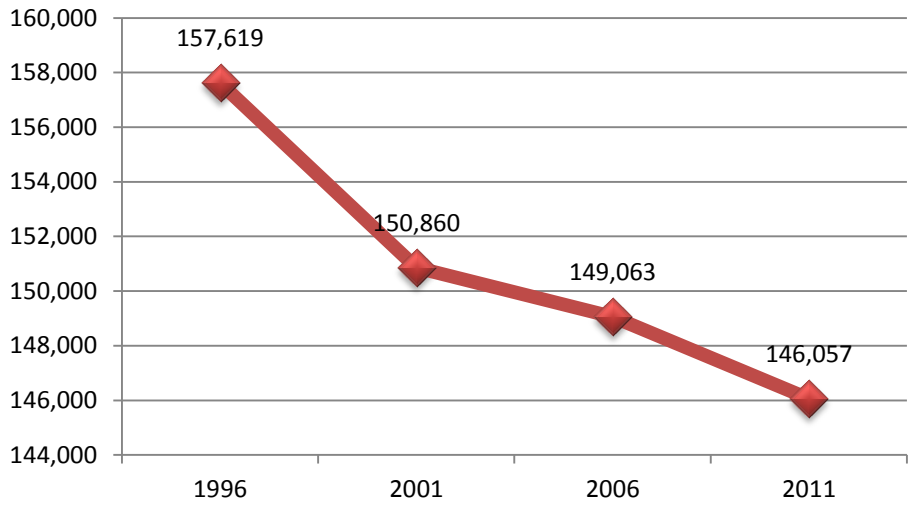
Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

Figure 50: Nipigon Population Trends, 1996 – 2011



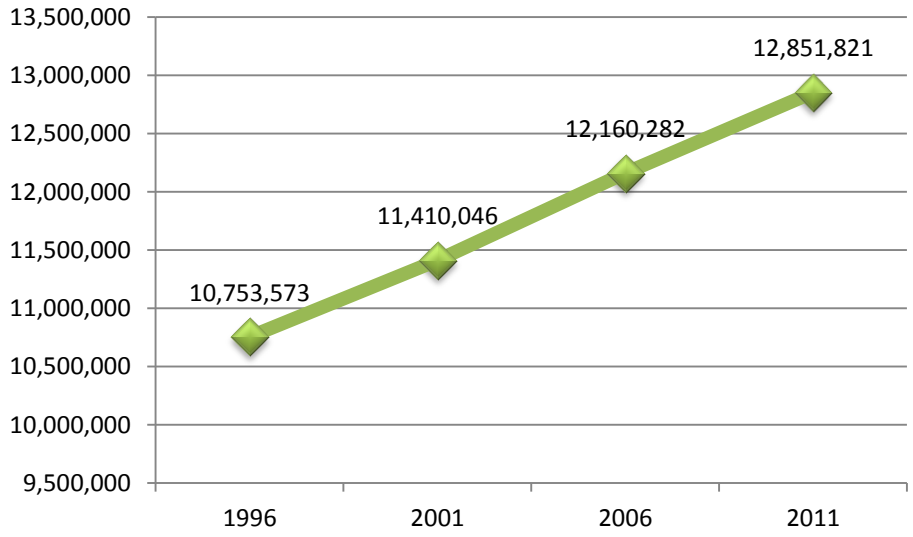
Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Nipigon, Township Community Profiles*.

Figure 51: Thunder Bay District Population Trends, 1996 – 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Thunder Bay District, Community Profiles*.

Figure 52: Ontario Population Trends, 1996 – 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012. *Ontario, Community Profiles*.

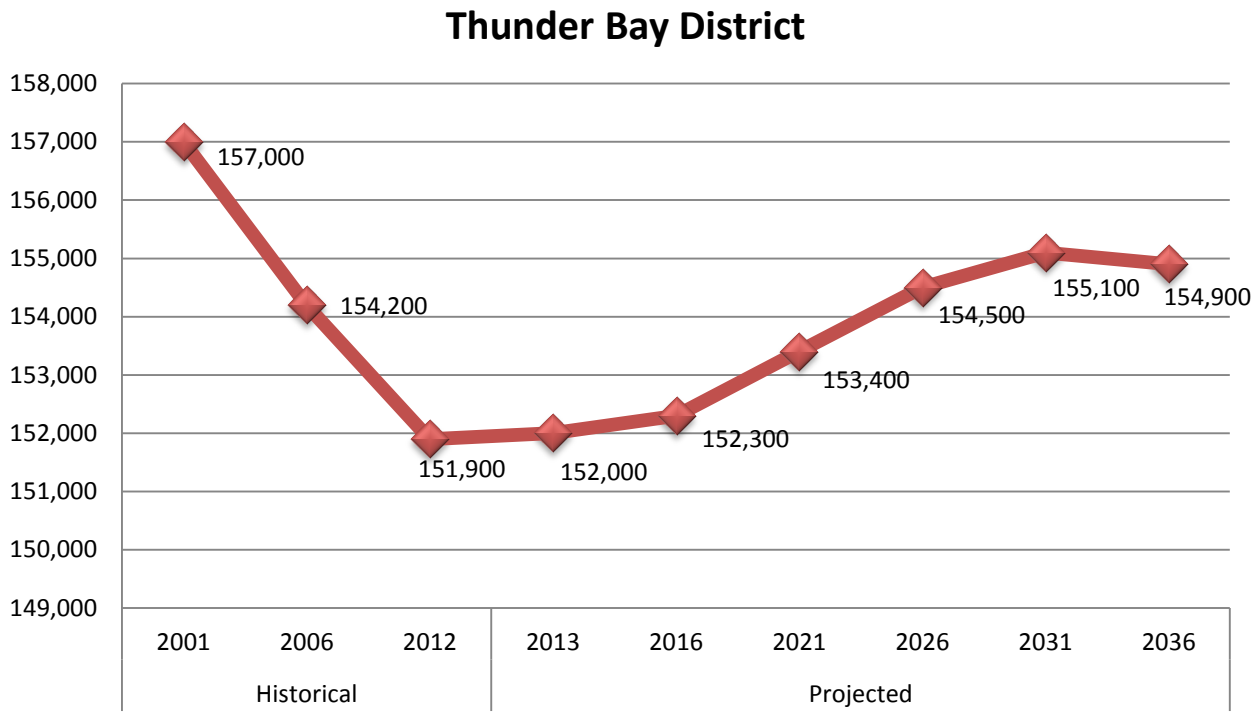
The Ontario Ministry of Finance developed the *Ontario Population Projections Update 2012-2036* – a report outlining population projections for the province of Ontario and its 49 Census Divisions by age and sex. This update report is based on new 2012 population estimates from Statistics Canada.

The population of Northern Ontario is estimated to be relatively stable over the projected period, with a slight increase of 0.5%, from 803,200 in 2012 to 807,100 by 2036. Within the North, the Northeast is projected to

experience a population decline of 5,600 (1.0%) from 562,200 to 556,600, while the Northwest (which includes the Thunder Bay District) is projected to grow by 9,400 people (3.9%).[324]

The population trend in the Thunder Bay District shows a steady decline from 2001 to 2012 and a gradual increase projected between 2013 and 2031 with a slight decrease between 2031 and 2036 (Figure 54). The population projection for Ontario (Figure 55) from 2001 – 2036 shows a steady increase from 13,632,400 in 2013 to 17,371,800 by 2036.

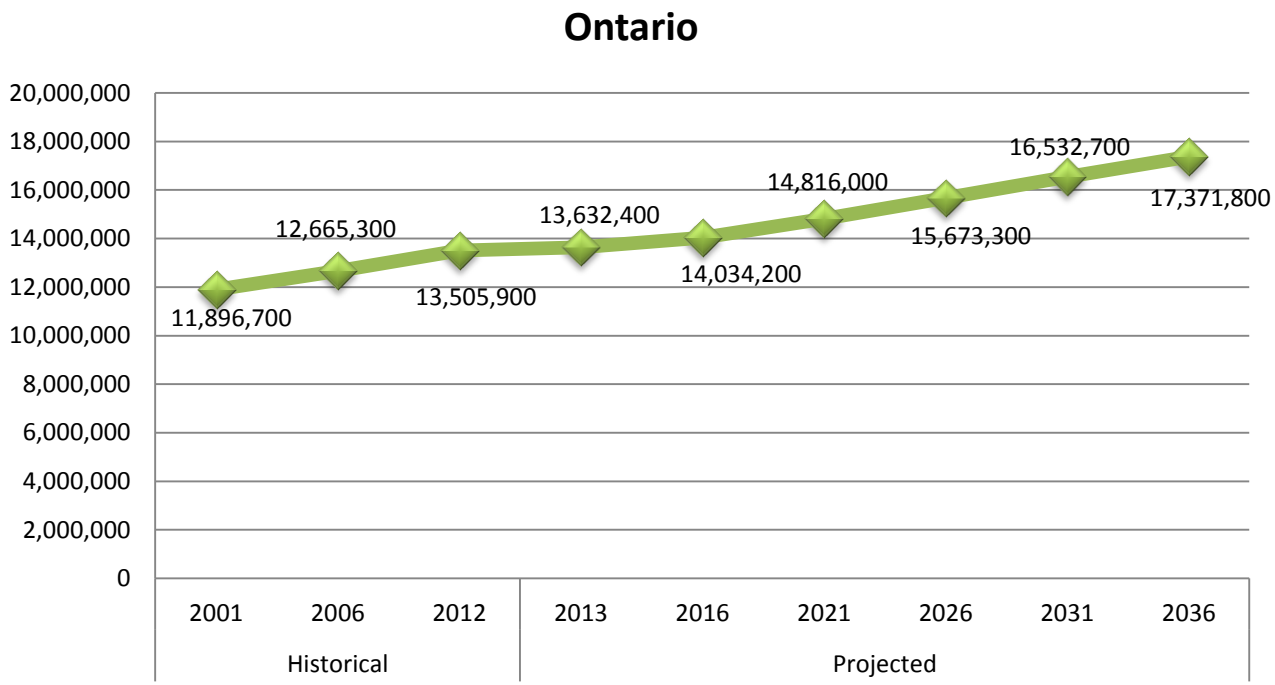
Figure 53: Thunder Bay District Population Projection



Source: Government of Ontario. Spring 2013. *Ontario Population Projections Update 2012-2036: Ontario and Its 49 Census Divisions.* Prepared by the Ministry of Finance. Website: http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/projections/projections2012-2036.pdf. Accessed: January 2014.

[324] Government of Ontario. Spring 2013. *Ontario Population Projections Update 2012-2036: Ontario and Its 49 Census Divisions.* Prepared by the Ministry of Finance. Website: http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/projections/projections2012-2036.pdf. Accessed: January 2014.

Figure 54: Ontario Population Projection

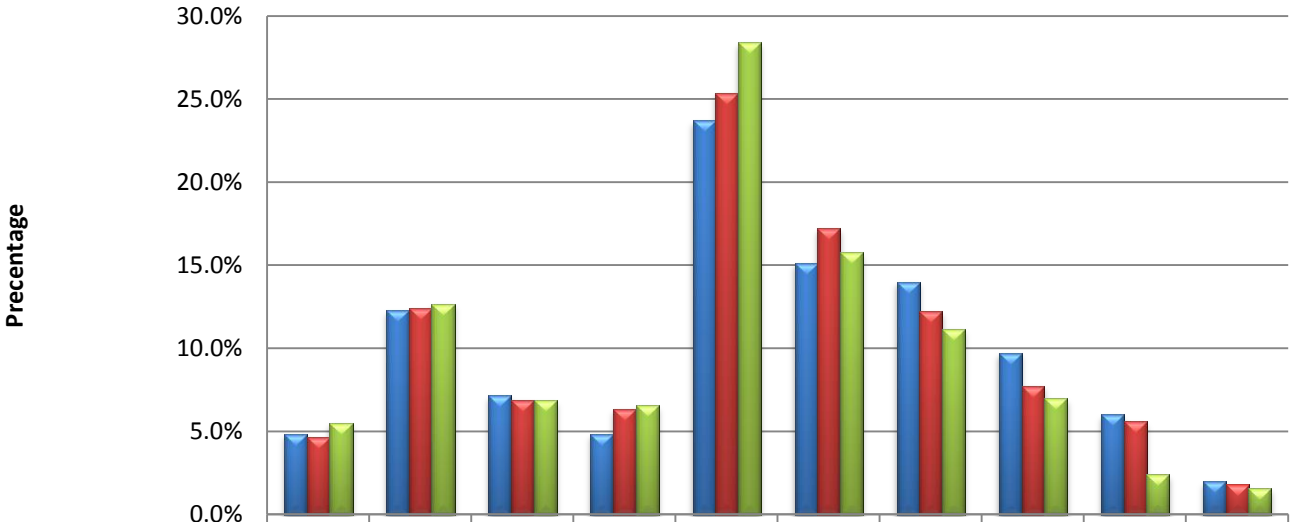


Source: Government of Ontario. Spring 2013. *Ontario Population Projections Update 2012-2036: Ontario and Its 49 Census Divisions.* Prepared by the Ministry of Finance. Website: http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/projections/projections2012-2036.pdf. Accessed: January 2014.

3.4.2 Age Structure

Figures 56 and 57 demonstrate the age distribution of Nipigon, the Thunder Bay District and Ontario for the 2006 and 2011 census years. These figures indicate that the population for the District is aging compared to Ontario as a whole: in 2011, the District had proportionally fewer children/youth in the 0 to 24 and 25 to 44 age groups in comparison to the province, and relatively more people in the categories aged 45 and over in comparison to the province.

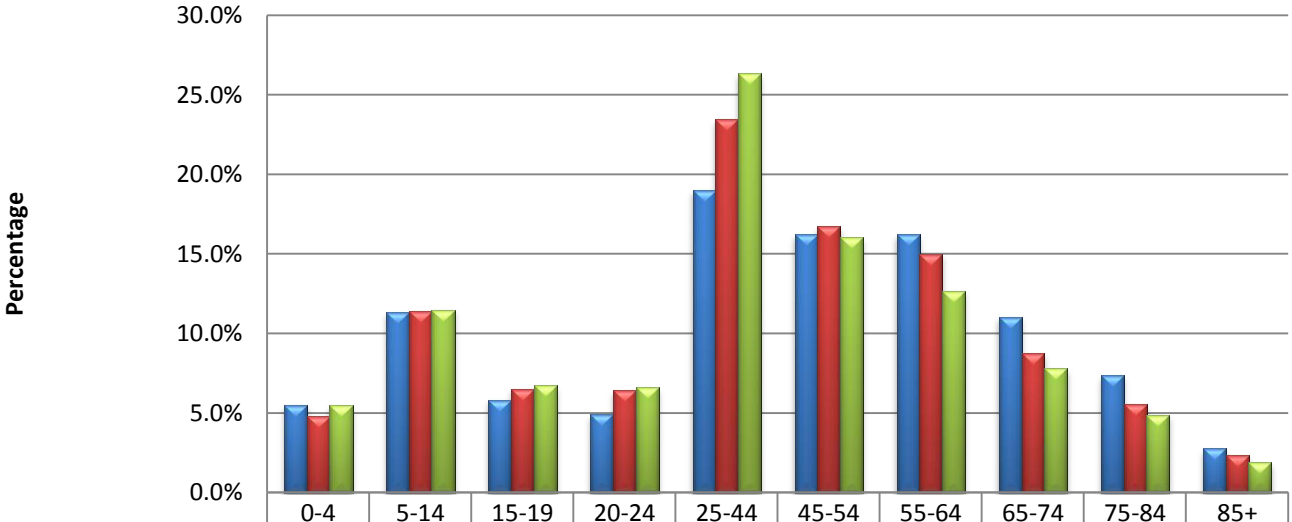
Figure 55: Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, and Ontario Age Structure, 2006



	0-4	5-14	15-19	20-24	25-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Nipigon	4.9%	12.3%	7.1%	4.9%	23.7%	15.1%	14.0%	9.7%	6.0%	2.0%
Thunder Bay District	4.7%	12.4%	6.9%	6.3%	25.4%	17.2%	12.2%	7.7%	5.6%	1.8%
Ontario	5.5%	12.7%	6.9%	6.6%	28.4%	15.8%	11.2%	7.0%	2.4%	1.6%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

Figure 56: Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, and Ontario Age Structure, 2011

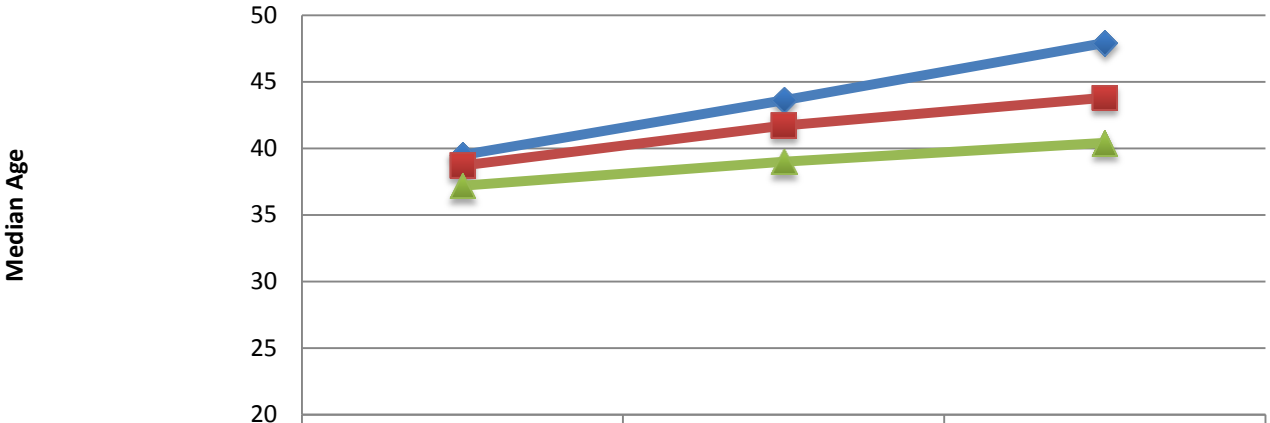


	0-4	5-14	15-19	20-24	25-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Nipigon	5.5%	11.3%	5.8%	4.9%	19.0%	16.3%	16.3%	11.0%	7.4%	2.8%
Thunder Bay District	4.8%	11.4%	6.5%	6.4%	23.5%	16.7%	15.0%	8.7%	5.6%	2.4%
Ontario	5.5%	11.5%	6.7%	6.6%	26.3%	16.0%	12.7%	7.8%	4.9%	1.9%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2012. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

Figure 58 shows the median age for Nipigon, Thunder Bay District and Ontario between the 2001 and 2011 census years. For the Thunder Bay District, the median age has increased steadily over the past decade. A similar trend is shown for Nipigon and the province, although both Nipigon and the District have higher median ages than the province in all census years.

Figure 57: Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, and Ontario Median Age, 2001 – 2011



	2001	2006	2011
Nipigon	39.5	43.6	47.9
Thunder Bay District	38.7	41.7	43.8
Ontario	37.2	39	40.4

Source: Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007, 2012. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

3.5 LABOUR FORCE

3.5.1 LABOUR PARTICIPATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Labour Force Participation

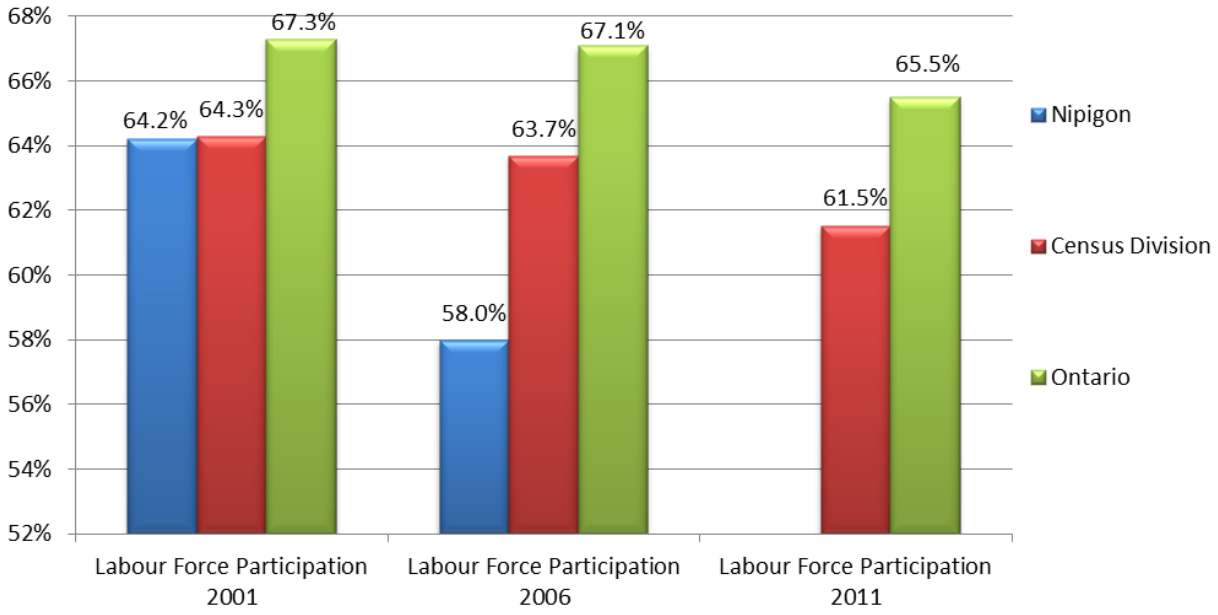
According to the 2001 Census of Population, Thunder Bay District had a labour force participation rate[325] of 64.3%, while in 2006, the District's total participation rate decreased slightly to 63.7% (Figure 59). The provincial labour force participation rate also decreased nominally over this period, (from 67.3% in 2001 to 67.1% in 2006. The District's labour force participation rate has been consistently lower than the province's – but higher than Nipigon's – during this period.

Both the District and the province's labour force participation rate decreased between 2006 and 2011. The 2011 NHS data on labour force participation for Nipigon is not available.[326]

[325] According to Statistics Canada, **participation rate** is those persons in the labour force in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day, expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over, excluding institutional residents. Statistics Canada. (2007). *2006 Census Dictionary – 2006 Census Year.* Website. http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/ref/dict/pdf/92-566-eng.pdf. Accessed: October 2013.

[326] 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) data for Nipigon has been suppressed by Statistics Canada.

Figure 58: Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, and Ontario Labour Force Participation Rate 2001 – 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. 2002, 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles;* Statistics Canada. 2013. *Thunder Bay District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile.* 2011 National Household Survey. *Note: 2011 NHS data is not available for Nipigon.*

Unemployment

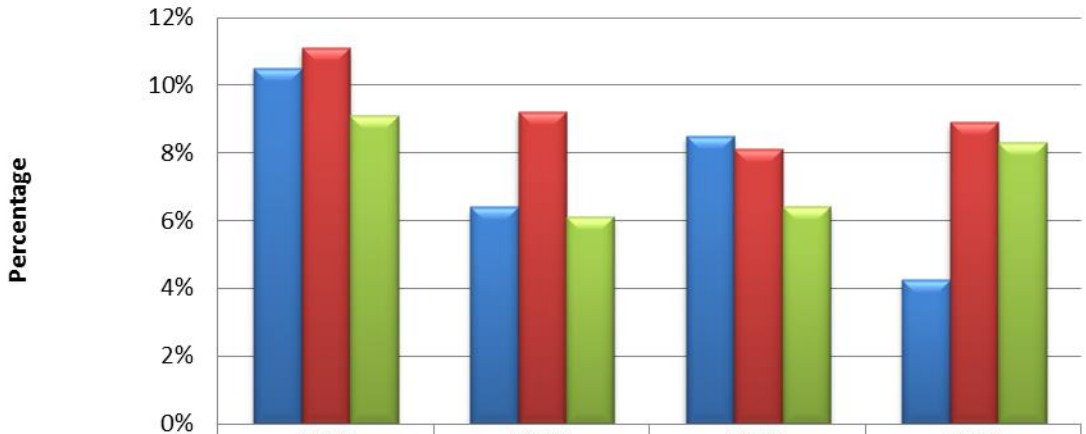
Historically (1996, 2001), Thunder Bay District's unemployment rate was relatively high, exceeding that of both Nipigon and Ontario as a whole; however, in 2006, the District's unemployment rate (8.1%) was less than Nipigon's (8.5%) (Table 17 and Figure 60). In all census periods from 1996 to 2011, the unemployment rate in Thunder Bay District was greater than Ontario, although the difference between the District and provincial unemployment rates have steadily declined since 2001.

Table 17: Nipigon, Thunder Bay District and Ontario Total Unemployment Rates, 1996 – 2011

Unemployment	Nipigon	Thunder Bay District	Ontario
1996	10.5%	11.1%	9.1%
2001	6.4%	9.2%	6.1%
2006	8.5%	8.1%	6.4%
2011	4.2%	8.9%	8.3%

Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*; Statistics Canada. 2013. *Thunder Bay District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile.* 2011 National Household Survey. Note: 2011 NHS data is not available for Nipigon.

Figure 59: Nipigon, Thunder Bay District and Ontario Total Unemployment Rates, 1996 – 2011



	1996	2001	2006	2011
Nipigon	10.5%	6.4%	8.5%	4.2%
Census Division	11.1%	9.2%	8.1%	8.9%
Ontario	9.1%	6.1%	6.4%	8.3%

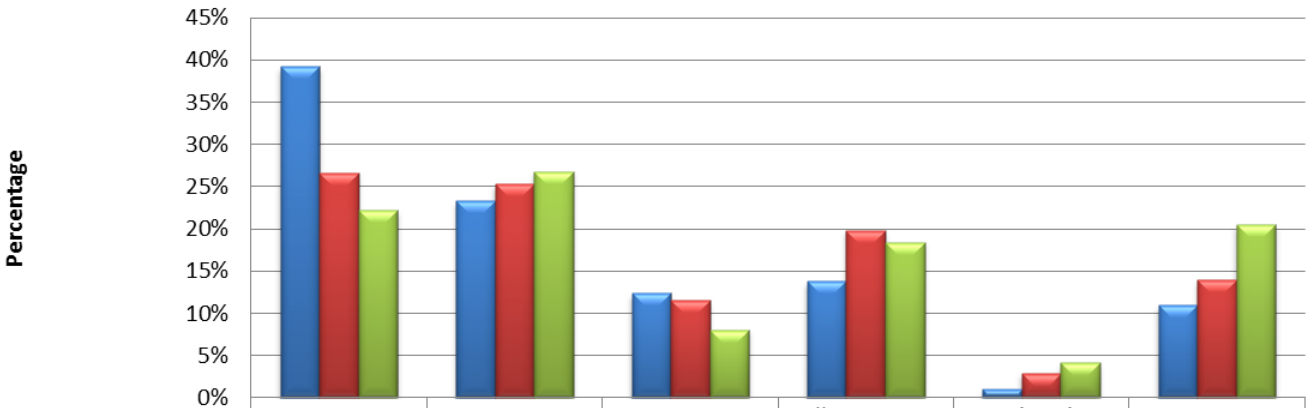
Source: Statistics Canada. 1997, 2002, 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*; Statistics Canada. 2013. *Thunder Bay District, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile.* 2011 National Household Survey.

3.5.2 Population by Education/Training Attainment

Educational Attainment

Compared to the province, in 2006 Thunder Bay District had a higher proportion of people with *no certificate, diploma or degree* (by 4.5 percentage points) *apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma* (by 3.5 percentage points) and *college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma* (by 1.4 percentage points). The District does, however, have a slightly smaller proportion of people with a *high school certificate or equivalent* (by 1.5 percentage points), *university certificate or diploma below the bachelor level* (by 1.2 percentage points), and *university certificate, diploma or degree* (by 6.6 percentage points) than Ontario (Figure 61).

Figure 60: Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, and Ontario Educational Attainment, 2006



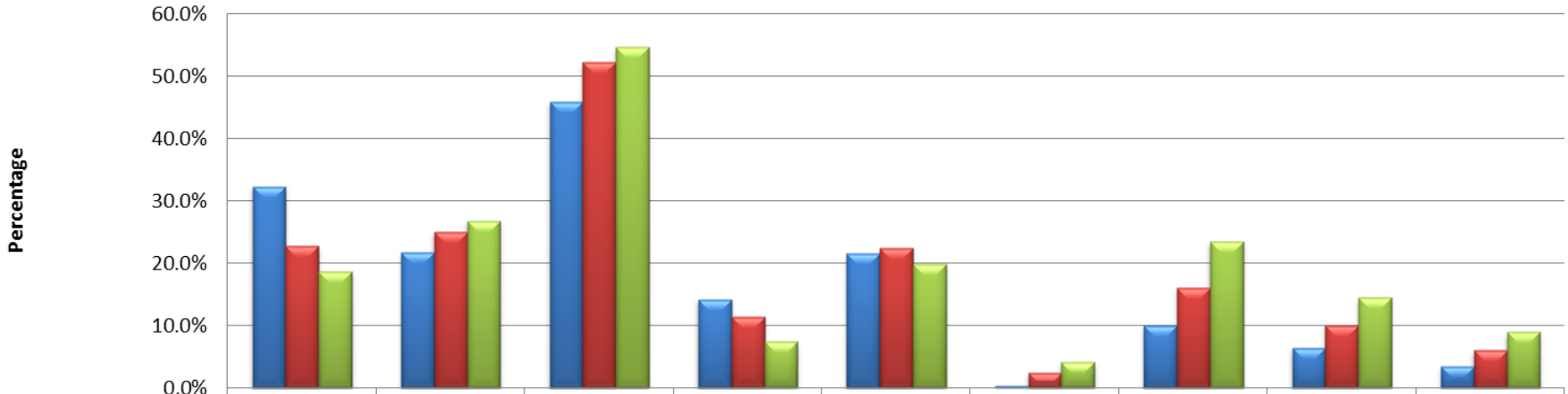
	No certificate; diploma or degree	High school certificate or equivalent	Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	College; CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	University certificate; diploma or degree
Nipigon	39.2%	23.3%	12.4%	13.8%	1.1%	11.0%
Thunder Bay District	26.7%	25.3%	11.5%	19.8%	2.9%	13.9%
Ontario	22.2%	26.8%	8.0%	18.4%	4.1%	20.5%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

In 2011, Thunder Bay District still had proportionately more residents with *no certificate, diploma or degree*, *apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma* and *college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma* than the province, and relatively fewer residents with *high school certificate or equivalent* and *university certificate or diploma below the bachelor level* (see Figure 62). The largest changes between the District's 2006 and 2011 educational attainment data were with respect to *no certificate, diploma or degree* (which declined by 4.0 percentage points, to 22.7% in 2011).

Nipigon residents have noted that even following the closure of the two mills in 2006/07, a number of skilled tradespeople still reside in Nipigon, but travel to work elsewhere in Ontario or Alberta.

Figure 61: Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, and Ontario Educational Attainment, 2011



	No certificate; diploma or degree	High school diploma or equivalent	Postsecondary certificate; diploma or degree	Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	College; CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	University certificate; diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	Bachelor's degree	University certificate; diploma or degree above bachelor level
Nipigon	32.3%	21.8%	45.9%	14.1%	21.5%	0.4%	9.9%	6.4%	3.5%
Thunder Bay District	22.7%	25.1%	52.2%	11.3%	22.4%	2.5%	16.1%	10.0%	6.0%
Ontario	18.7%	26.8%	54.6%	7.4%	19.8%	4.1%	23.4%	14.5%	8.9%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. *Thunder Bay, DIS, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile.* 2011 National Household Survey; Environics Analytics. 2014. *CensusPlus Enhanced Census + NHS*.

3.5.3 Employment by Activity and Sector

Occupation

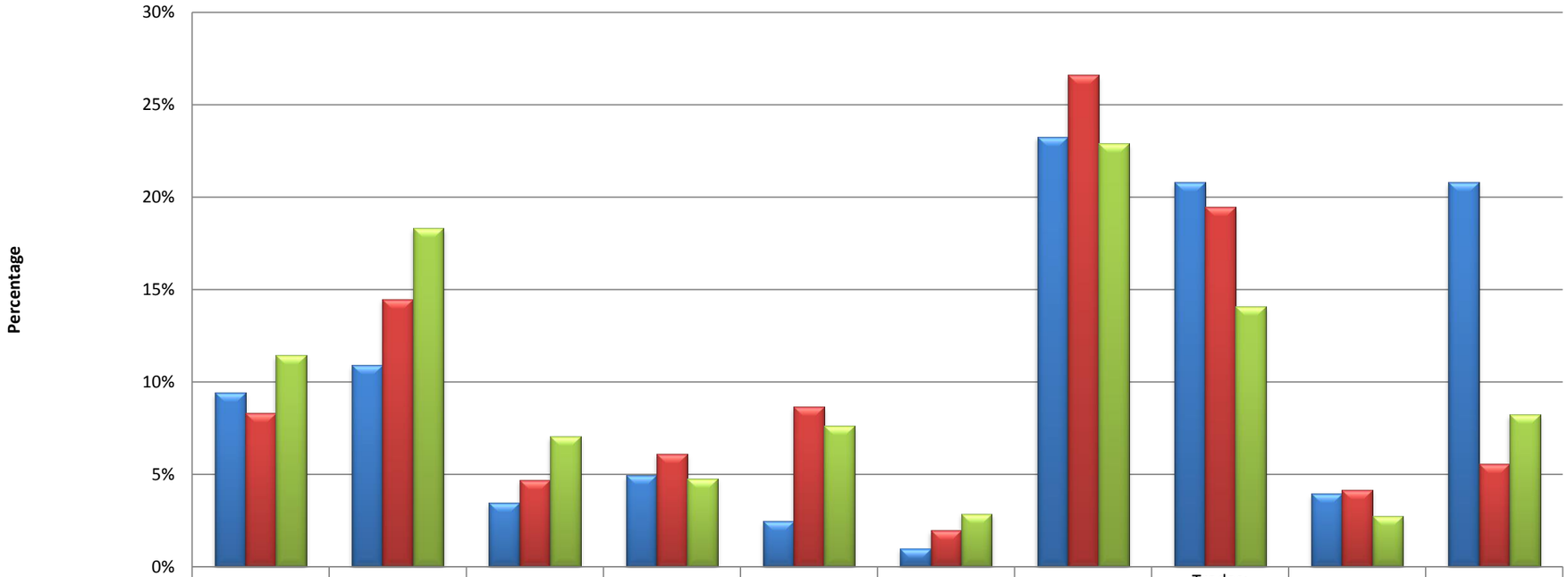
Figures 63 – 65 demonstrate the labour force activity by occupation for Thunder Bay District, Ontario and Nipigon for 2001, 2006, and 2011. In 2001 and 2006, the largest proportion of the Thunder Bay District labour force worked in *sales and service occupations* (26.6% in 2001 and 26.7% in 2006) – which was also the largest proportion for Ontario and Nipigon. It was still the largest occupation (for all three jurisdictions) in 2006. Other occupations with large proportions of the District's labour force in both 2001 and 2006 were *trades, transport and equipment operators* (19.4% in 2001 and 17.5% in 2006) and *business, finance and administration* (14.5% in 2001 and 16.0% in 2006). *Trades, transport and equipment operators* was also one of the "top three" occupations in Nipigon and Ontario in both 2001 and 2006. The District's labour force has therefore been fairly consistent in its proportion of occupations, as well as with the province and community of Nipigon.

The distribution of Thunder Bay District's labour force among the various categories has changed very little between 2001 and 2006.

Changes in Thunder Bay District's labour force by occupation between 2006 and 2011 largely mirrored those in Ontario and Nipigon (Figure 64 and Figure 65). The largest changes at the District level were *education, government*[327] (increased by 4.6 percentage points), *sales and service* (decreased by 2.8 percentage points), *business, finance and administration* (decreased by 2.0 percentage points) and *manufacturing and utilities* (decreased by 1.6 percentage points).

[327] The category also changed somewhat between 2006 and 2011 census years.

Figure 62: Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, and Ontario Labour Force by Occupation, 2001



	Management occupations	Business; finance and administration occupations	Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	Health occupations	Social science; education; government service and religion	Art; culture; recreation and sport	Sales and service occupations	Trades; transport and equipment operators and related occupations	Occupations unique to primary industry	Occupations unique to processing; manufacturing and utilities
Nipigon	9.4%	10.9%	3.5%	5.0%	2.5%	1.0%	23.3%	20.8%	4.0%	20.8%
Thunder Bay District	8.3%	14.5%	4.7%	6.1%	8.6%	2.0%	26.6%	19.4%	4.2%	5.6%
Ontario	11.4%	18.3%	7.1%	4.8%	7.6%	2.9%	22.9%	14.1%	2.7%	8.2%

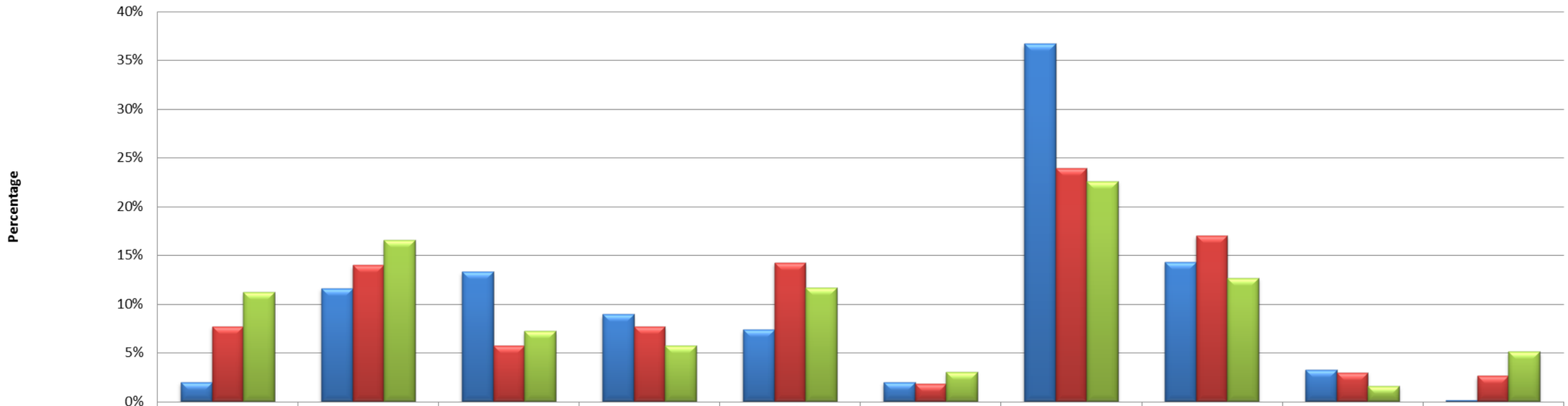
Source: Statistics Canada. 2002. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

Figure 63: Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, and Ontario Labour Force by Occupation, 2006

	Management occupations	Business; finance and administration occupations	Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	Health occupations	Occupations in social science; education; government service and religion	Occupations in art; culture; recreation and sport	Sales and service occupations	Trades; transport and equipment operators and related occupations	Occupations unique to primary industry	Occupations unique to processing; manufacturing and utilities
Nipigon	7.0%	9.5%	1.9%	5.1%	8.9%	2.5%	24.1%	19.0%	2.5%	19.0%
Thunder Bay District	7.7%	16.0%	5.0%	7.1%	9.6%	2.1%	26.7%	17.5%	4.0%	4.2%
Ontario	10.3%	18.6%	7.0%	5.3%	8.4%	3.1%	23.5%	14.1%	2.6%	7.2%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

Figure 64: Nipigon, Thunder Bay District and Ontario Labour Force by Occupation, 2011



	Management occupations	Business; finance and administration occupations	Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	Health occupations	Occupations in education; law and social; community and government services	Occupations in art; culture; recreation and sport	Sales and service occupations	Trades; transport and equipment operators and related occupations	Natural resources; agriculture and related production occupations	Occupations in manufacturing and utilities
Nipigon	2.0%	11.6%	13.3%	8.9%	7.4%	2.0%	36.7%	14.3%	3.3%	0.1%
Thunder Bay District	7.7%	14.0%	5.7%	7.7%	14.2%	1.8%	23.9%	17.0%	3.0%	2.6%
Ontario	11.2%	16.6%	7.2%	5.7%	11.7%	3.0%	22.6%	12.7%	1.6%	5.1%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. *Thunder Bay, DIS, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile.* 2011 National Household Survey; Environics Analytics. 2014. *CensusPlus Enhanced Census + NHS*.
Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to random rounding of the original data by Statistics Canada.

Industry

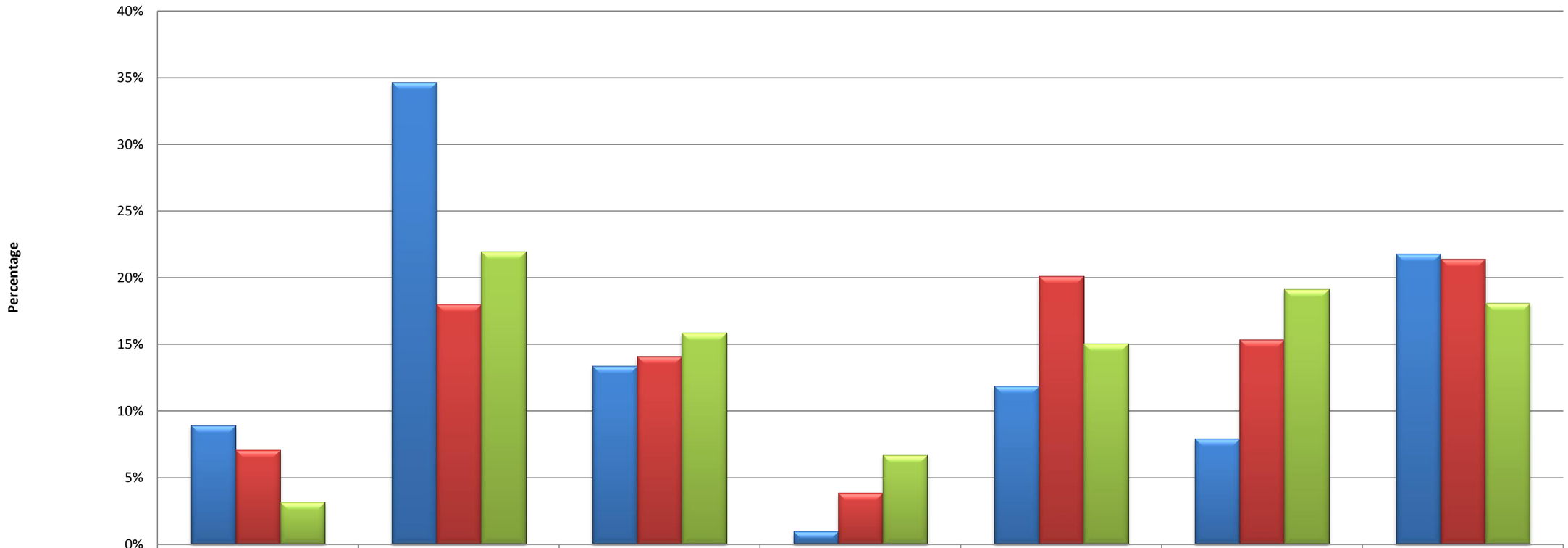
It is noted that the labour force industry categories used by Statistics Canada are slightly different between 2001 and 2006: the category *manufacturing and construction industries* (2001) was split into *construction* and *manufacturing* categories in 2006; *wholesale and retail trade* (2001) was split into *wholesale trade* and *retail trade* in 2006; similarly, *health and education* (2001) was split into *health care and social services* and *educational services*.

Figures 66 – 68 demonstrate the labour force activity by industry for Nipigon, Thunder Bay District and the province for census years 2001, 2006, and 2011 (major changes to the classification of data in labour force by industry for the 2011 census renders direct comparison with previous census years difficult).

The distribution of labour force by industry has changed over this period. For example, the "top three" industries in the District in 2001 were (in descending order) *other services* (21.4%), *health and education* (20.1%) and *manufacturing and construction* (18.0%) (Figure 66). By 2006, only two of the District's former "top three" were still dominant, but with their order changed, so that *health care and social services* and *education* (combined making 22.7%) was the largest industry and *other services* (21.9%) was the second largest. Unlike labour force by occupation, the labour force by industry among the three jurisdictions (Thunder Bay District, Ontario and Nipigon) were quite different in proportion in both 2001 and 2006.

In 2011, the largest proportion of individuals in the District (23.7%) worked in *health care and social assistance* and *education* combined (i.e., similar to 2006); the largest proportion of individuals in the province in 2011 (17.4%) also worked in *health care and social assistance* and *education* – this is in contrast to 2006 and 2001, where *manufacturing* and *construction* (combined) employed the largest number of individuals (Figure 68).

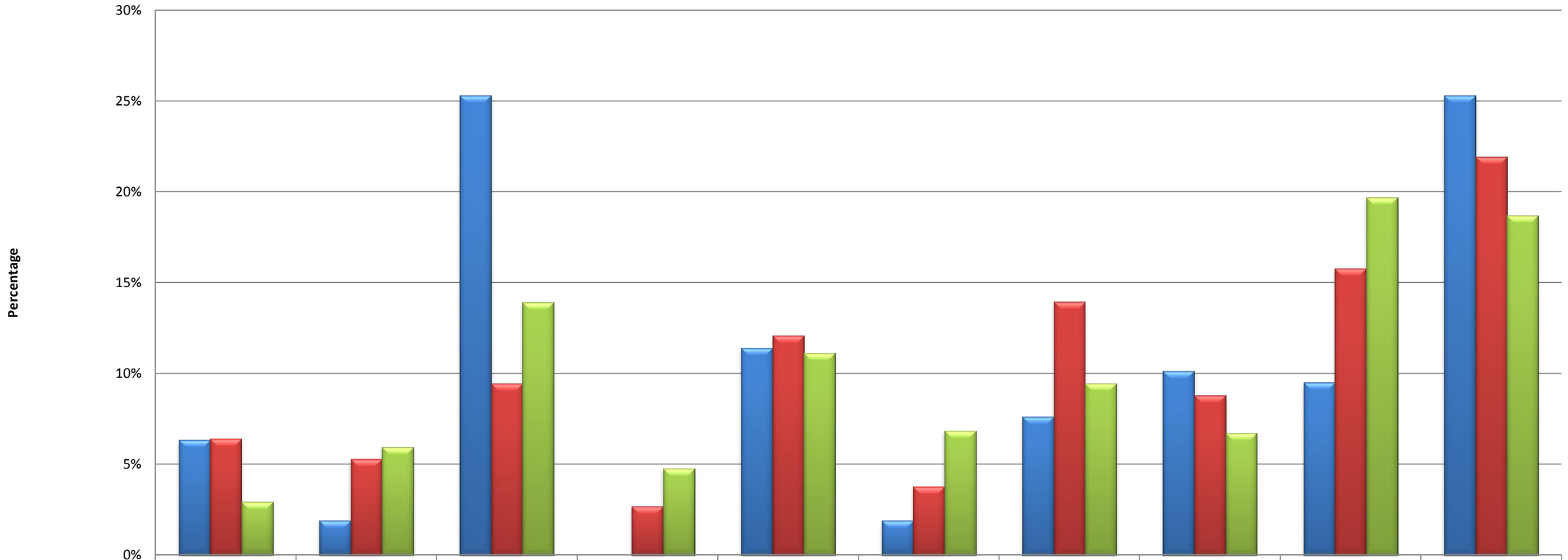
Figure 65: Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, and Ontario Labour Force by Industry, 2001



	Agriculture and other resource-based industries	Manufacturing and construction industries	Wholesale and retail trade	Finance and real estate	Health and education	Business services	Other services
Nipigon	8.9%	34.7%	13.4%	1.0%	11.9%	7.9%	21.8%
Thunder Bay District	7.1%	18.0%	14.1%	3.9%	20.1%	15.4%	21.4%
Ontario	3.2%	22.0%	15.9%	6.7%	15.1%	19.1%	18.1%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2002. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

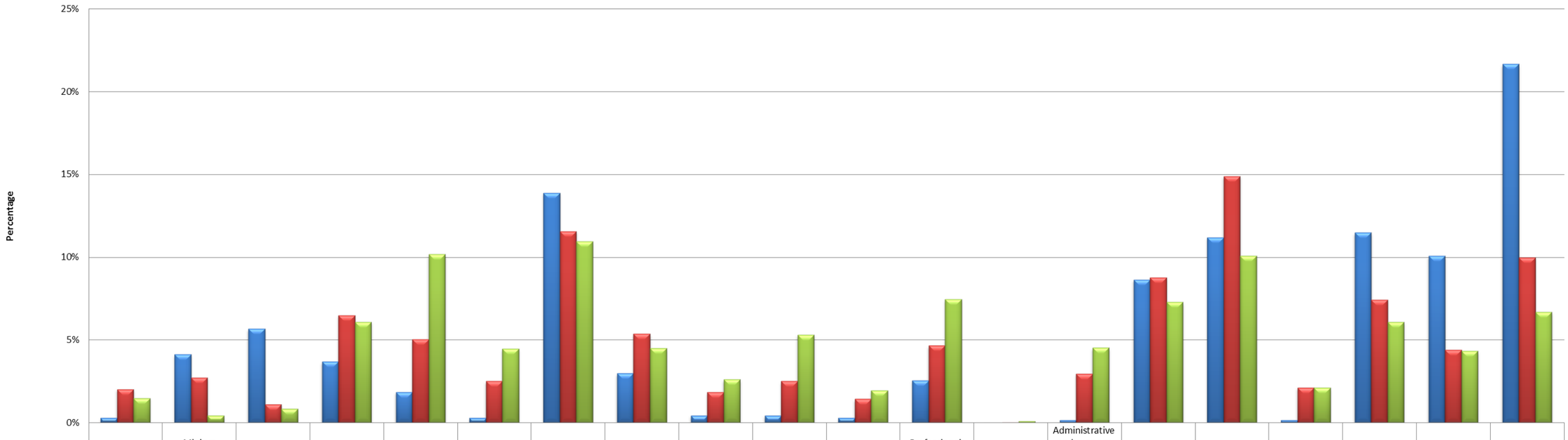
Figure 66: Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, and Ontario Labour Force by Industry, 2006



	Agriculture and other resource-based industries	Construction	Manufacturing	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Finance and real estate	Health care and social services	Educational services	Business services	Other services
Nipigon	6.3%	1.9%	25.3%	0.0%	11.4%	1.9%	7.6%	10.1%	9.5%	25.3%
Thunder Bay District	6.4%	5.3%	9.4%	2.7%	12.1%	3.8%	13.9%	8.8%	15.8%	21.9%
Ontario	2.9%	5.9%	13.9%	4.7%	11.1%	6.8%	9.4%	6.7%	19.7%	18.7%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Nipigon, Thunder Bay District, Ontario, Community Profiles*.

Figure 67: Nipigon, Thunder Bay District and Ontario Labour Force by Industry, 2011



	Agriculture; forestry; fishing and hunting	Mining; quarrying; and oil and gas extraction	Utilities	Construction	Manufacturing	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Transportation and warehousing	Information and cultural industries	Finance and insurance	Real estate and rental and leasing	Professional; scientific and technical services	Management of companies and enterprises	Administrative and support; waste management and remediation services	Educational services	Health care and social assistance	Arts; entertainment and recreation	Accommodation and food services	Other services (except public administration)	Public administration
Nipigon	0.3%	4.1%	5.7%	3.7%	1.8%	0.3%	13.9%	3.0%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	2.5%	0.0%	0.1%	8.6%	11.2%	0.1%	11.5%	10.1%	21.7%
Census Division	2.0%	2.7%	1.1%	6.5%	5.0%	2.5%	11.6%	5.4%	1.8%	2.5%	1.4%	4.7%	0.0%	2.9%	8.8%	14.9%	2.1%	7.4%	4.4%	10.0%
Ontario	1.5%	0.4%	0.8%	6.1%	10.2%	4.4%	10.9%	4.5%	2.6%	5.3%	2.0%	7.4%	0.1%	4.5%	7.3%	10.1%	2.1%	6.1%	4.3%	6.7%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. *Thunder Bay, DIS, Ontario. National Household Survey (NHS) Profile.* 2011 National Household Survey; Environics Analytics. 2014. *CensusPlus Enhanced Census + NHS*.

3.6 BUSINESS ACTIVITY

The following section provides a general overview of business activity in the Thunder Bay District and Ontario.

3.6.1 MAIN BUSINESSES

Historically, the main business sectors in the Thunder Bay District consisted of mining, forestry, and transportation. As the main economic hub in the district, the City of Thunder Bay maintains a variety of business sectors including: education, film, forestry, health sciences, manufacturing, mining, and transportation.[328]

The Joint Task Force on Northwestern Ontario Economic Development Planning (Northwest JTF) was created in 2010 to lead the role in developing a model and implementation plan for economic planning in the Northwestern Ontario region.[329]

In June 2012, the Northwest JTF submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines for the creation of the Northwestern Ontario Regional Economic Development Area (REDA) Pilot Project – funding requested for the operation of the REDA. A number of engagement sessions in the region took place in 2011 and 2012 in order to gather feedback for the proposal. A number of community-specific projects were identified, as well as projects represented by different groups of communities. If the proposal is approved, REDA will "*take on a leadership role in the development of specific projects"* identified throughout the region.[330]

3.6.2 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR

Within the Thunder Bay District, there are many businesses. The City of Thunder Bay is the largest municipality in the District. Table 18 identifies some of the major employers in the City of Thunder Bay in 2012.

[328] City of Thunder Bay. 2009. *Business Sectors*. Website: http://www.thunderbay.ca/CEDC/Business_Sectors.htm. Accessed: January 2014.
[329] Northwestern Ontario Joint Task Force on Regional Economic Development. June 2012. *Northwestern Ontario…Ready to Grow.* Submission re: Regional Economic Development Pilot Project for Northwestern Ontario. Submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. Website: http://www.nwoeconomiczone.ca/uploads/documents/JTF%20Submission.pdf. Accessed: January 2014.
[330] Northwestern Ontario Joint Task Force. June 2012. *On to the Next Phase*. Issue 7. Website: http://www.nwoeconomiczone.ca/uploads/documents/Newsletter-2012-21-June.pdf. Accessed: February 2014.

Table 18: City of Thunder Bay's Major Employers, 2012

Company	Industry Sector	Number of Employees
Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre	Acute Care Hospital	2,694
Lakehead District School Board	Elementary and Secondary Education	2,200
Lakehead University	Education	2,100
City of Thunder Bay	Municipal Government	*1,855
Government of Ontario	Provincial Government	1,849
St. Joseph's Care Group	Complex Care, Rehabilitation, Mental Health and Addictions Services, Long Term Care	1,700
Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board	Education	1,500
Bombardier Transportation	Mass Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	1,300
Confederation College	Education	785
*Employee numbers vary seasonally		

Source: City of Thunder Bay. 2009. *Business Sectors*. Website: http://www.thunderbay.ca/CEDC/Business_Sectors.htm. Accessed: January 2014.

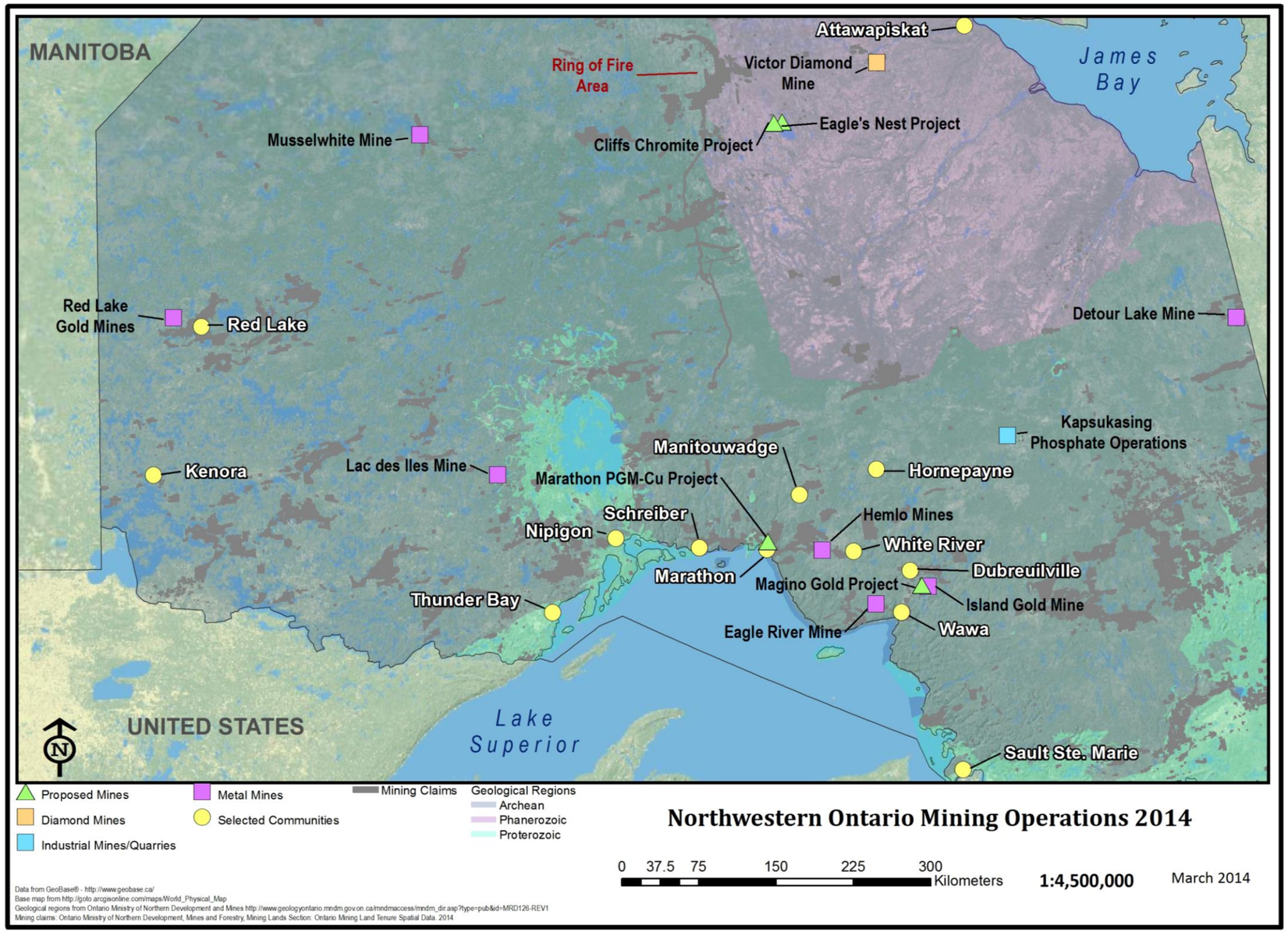
The following outlines operating and proposed mining projects, as well as the active mining claims located in the north shore area of Lake Superior between Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie. Community representatives have stated that there is no mining activity in or near Nipigon itself.[331]

Operating Mines – North Shore

Figure 69 depicts selected operating mines, proposed mines, and mining claims in Northern Ontario.

[331] This information was obtained during Nipigon community discussions in October 2013 and December 2013.

Figure 68: Mines in Northern Ontario



Source: DPRA Canada, 2014; Ontario Mining Association. 2012. *Ontario Mining Operations 2012*. Website: http://www.oma.on.ca/en/ontariomining/resources/mndm._ontario_mining_and_exploration_directory_2012.pdf. Accessed: March 2014; Stillwater Canada Inc. 2011. *Project Overview*. Website: http://www.marathonpgmproject.com/Project-Overview.html. Accessed: March 2014; Argonaut Gold Inc. n.d. *Magino Gold Project*. Website: http://www.argonautgold.com/gold_operations/magino/. Accessed: March 2014; Detour Gold. 2012. *At a Glance*. Website: http://www.detourgold.com/projects/at-a-glance/default.aspx. Accessed: March 2014; Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. 2013. *Cliffs Chromite Project*. Website: http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=63927. Accessed: March 2014; Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. 2013. *Eagles Nest Project*. Website: http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=63925. Accessed: March 2014; Noront. 2013.*Corporate Presentation – Vancouver Resource Investment Conference January 2013.* Website: http://www.norontresources.com/?pressreleases&pdf=Corporate-Presentation-Q2-2013-newtheme.pdf. Accessed: March 2014.

Proposed Mines – North Shore

Stillwater Canada Inc.'s proposed Marathon Platinum Group Metals and Copper Mine Project is located in close proximity to the North Shore of Lake Superior, near Marathon between Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie.[332] The proposed project wasundergoing environmental assessment, but the economics of the project have resulted in the project being placed on hold for the foreseeable future.

Active Mining Claims – North Shore

There is a substantial amount of mining exploration and development in the Ring of Fire area located approximately 500 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay.[333] The '*Advantage Northwest: Mining Readiness Strategy*' prepared in 2013 is an integrated economic development plan designed to help Northwestern Ontario municipalities, First Nations and businesses capitalize on the opportunities mining will bring to the region.[334] The Strategy contains over 45 recommendations related to supply chain, energy, transportation, infrastructure, health, labour, education and training, partnering and financing.

Forestry in Northwestern Ontario

Other resource development activities, particularly forestry-related, are also recognized as a priority by the Government of Ontario. The Northern Ontario Sustainable Communities Partnership (NOSCP) was created in 2006 in response to the forest industry crisis in Northern Ontario. Participants include individuals and organizations, municipalities, Aboriginal organizations, non-governmental organizations and academics. The forest industry crisis was seen as an opportunity to reassess the structure of the forest sector in Northern Ontario and focus on long-term sustainability of forests and Northern communities[335].

At one time, there were 21 mills located across the north shore of Lake Superior; in 2014, there are five mills operating between Wawa and Dryden.[336] Forestry in northern Ontario is currently undergoing revitalization with the re-opening of a number of mills.

[332] Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. 2012. Stillwater Marathon Project - Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry. Website: http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=54755 . Accessed: December 2013.

[333] 2012."Ring of Fire lights up Northern Ontario's mining industry". *Ontario Business Report.* Website: http://www.mri.gov.on.ca/obr/?p=1529. Accessed: September 2014.

[334] City of Thunder Bay, Fort William First Nation, and Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission. April 2013. *Advantage Northwest: Mining Readiness Strategy – An Integrated Regional Economic Development Plan*. Final Report. Prepared by SNC-Lavalin Inc. and Edward Hoshizaki Development Consulting, with the assistance of One World Brand Management, Marvin Pelletier and Generator. http://www.thunderbay.ca/Assets/CEDC/docs/Mining+Readiness+Strategy+-+opens+a+new+window.pdf. Accessed: July 2014.

[335] Northern Ontario Sustainable Communities Partnership. 2012. *NOSCP – Northern Ontario.* Website: http://noscp.ca/. Accessed: September 2014.

[336] This information was obtained from Nipigon community discussions October 2013.

3.6.3 Investment Trends and Projections

Northwestern Ontario has experienced devastating economic setbacks over the past decade as a result of declining resource-based industries (e.g., forestry and mining), declining population, and stagnated investment trends. To address these issues, the Common Voice Northwest organization was created in 2007 with the "*goal of Northwestern Ontario charting its own course within the Province and the Country by addressing regional challenges with realistic Northern solutions".*[337]

Economic diversification is taking place in Northwestern Ontario; however, a clear vision and rebranding strategy are required. Implementation of a strategic economic planning process that involves the participation by all area municipalities and performance indicators to measure success of the implementation plans is also required. A region-wide approach to economic development will encourage communication among the various municipalities which is a key factor in the success of economic development initiatives and goals.[338]

The *Places to Grow Growth Plan for Northern Ontario* identifies the forestry and minerals sectors as key components of the local economy in Northern Ontario communities. To encourage economic development, the *Places to Grow Growth Plan* encourage growth of the forestry and minerals sectors by encouraging innovation, value-added products and sustainable resource management.[339] Growth of the forestry and minerals sectors would enable new economic development and employment opportunities for Nipigon, as well as residents in the surrounding area.

The North Superior Workforce Planning Board notes that there are small but sure signs of departure from the challenging conditions that shaped the region's economy over the last decade, citing the retrofitting of the Terrace Bay mill, re-opening of a number of other mills, and increases in harvesting and transportation activities.[340] Mining exploration and operations continue in the eastern part of Thunder Bay District/western parts of Algoma District. In addition, there is a substantial amount of exploration and development in the Ring of Fire area located approximately 500 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay.[341] The '*Advantage Northwest: Mining Readiness Strategy*' prepared in 2013 is an integrated economic development plan designed to help Northwestern Ontario municipalities, First Nations and businesses capitalize on the opportunities mining will

[337] Northwestern Ontario Joint Task Force on Regional Economic Development. June 2012. *Northwestern Ontario…Ready to Grow.* Submission re: Regional Economic Development Pilot Project for Northwestern Ontario. Submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. Website: http://www.nwoeconomiczone.ca/uploads/documents/JTF%20Submission.pdf. Accessed: January 2014.

[338] Northwestern Ontario Joint Task Force on Regional Economic Development. June 2012. *Northwestern Ontario…Ready to Grow.* Submission re: Regional Economic Development Pilot Project for Northwestern Ontario. Submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. Website: http://www.nwoeconomiczone.ca/uploads/documents/JTF%20Submission.pdf. Accessed: January 2014.

[339] Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure and Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry. 2011. *Growth Plan for Northern Ontario 2011.*

[340] North Superior Workforce Planning Board. n.d. *Building a Superior Workforce: 2014-2015 Local Labour Market Plan*. Website: http://www.nswpb.ca/assets/files/NSWPB_LLMP_2014-2015_English-FINAL.pdf. Accessed: January 2014.

[341] Ontario Business Report. 2012. *Ring of Fire lights up Northern Ontario's mining industry.* Website: http://www.mri.gov.on.ca/obr/?p=1529. Accessed: July 2014.

bring to the region.[342] The Strategy contains over 45 recommendations related to supply chain, energy, transportation, infrastructure, health, labour, education and training, partnering and financing.

In 2012, the Government of Ontario announced the launch of the *Northern Policy Institute* (NPI). The NPI is an independent, not-for-profit organization based at Laurentian University in Sudbury and Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. Its creation was supported by an initial $5 million investment. The purpose of NPI is to develop and promote proactive, evidence-based and purpose-driven policy options that deepen understanding about the unique challenges and opportunities of Northern Ontario in addition to advancing the sustainable development and long-term economic prosperity of the north. A CEO was named in 2013; the Institute is guided by a 10-person Board of Directors.[343]

3.7 HEALTH INDICATORS

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit prepared *Pathway to Healthy Communities in the Thunder Bay District – A Summary of Community Recommendations 2011,* which is a report that was designed to help people in the Thunder Bay District find ways to work together for community change by providing recommendations gathered through community consultations.[344] Community responses were grouped by theme and were intended to provide community leaders with the necessary direction needed to develop specific initiatives if so desired.[345]

These recommendations are:

- ***Employment and Income*** *– Economic development strategies are key. Industry decline has eroded the tax base and fractured families as one parent is forced to move away to find work;*

- ***Culture*** *– Aboriginal people and Francophones are at risk for poorer health. Successful health outcomes for Aboriginal people require solutions that address severe social problems rooted in colonialism and systemic racism. Francophones require services and supports in French;*

[342] City of Thunder Bay, Fort William First Nation, and Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission. April 2013. *Advantage Northwest: Mining Readiness Strategy – An Integrated Regional Economic Development Plan*. Final Report. Prepared by SNC-Lavalin Inc. and Edward Hoshizaki Development Consulting, with the assistance of One World Brand Management, Marvin Pelletier and Generator. Website: http://www.thunderbay.ca/Assets/CEDC/docs/Mining+Readiness+Strategy+-+opens+a+new+window.pd. Accessed: October 2013.

[343] Sudbury Northern Life Staff. July 5, 2013. *Northern Policy Institute appoints founding president.* Website: http://www.northernlife.ca/news/localNews/2013/07/05-charles-cirtwill-policy-institute-sudbury.aspx. Accessed: March 2014.

[344] Thunder Bay District Health Unit. 2011. *Pathway to Healthy Communities in the Thunder Bay District: A Summary of Community Recommendations*. Website: http://www.healthythunderbaydistrict.ca/. Accessed: November 2013.

[345] Thunder Bay District Health Unit. 2011. *Pathway to Healthy Communities in the Thunder Bay District: A Summary of Community Recommendations*. Website: http://www.healthythunderbaydistrict.ca/. Accessed: November 2013.

- ***Access to Health Services*** *– Mental health and addiction services for all ages and cultures are limited in smaller district communities and First Nations communities;*

- ***Physical Environments*** *– Citizens value clean air and clean water. As well, safe and affordable housing is critical to addressing a variety of issues; and,*

- ***Transportation*** *– lack of transportation to grocery stores and leisure activities is a major barrier for seniors and people on limited income. Small communities have no public transportation system.*[346]

The Report also highlights 4 goals of well-being that were identified during consultations. These are:

1) All children and youth have optimal success and health;
2) All citizens are included and connected to their community;
3) All people have enough healthy, culturally appropriate food; and,
4) All people have a reduced risk of preventable injuries.[347]

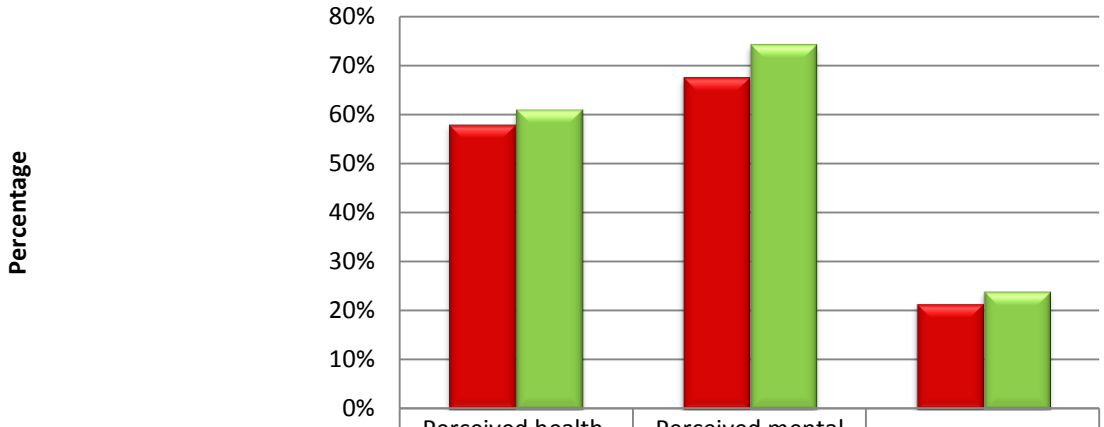
[346] *Ibid.*
[347] *Ibid.*

Health Care Systems and Perception of Health

Healthy communities require an efficient and accessible health care system. Dissatisfaction with the health system, poor access to primary care, and poor service delivery may cause people to delay or avoid medical treatment and/or underuse preventive health care services. The majority of residents (84.4%) in the Thunder Bay District Health Unit reported having access to a regular family doctor, which was lower compared to Ontario (91.1%). The proportion of residents who reported having visited a doctor within the last twelve months was only somewhat higher in Ontario (82.2%) compared to residents in the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (80.2%).[348]

Figure 70 indicates the perceived health status of Thunder Bay District Health Unit and Ontario residents. At the District level, 58.0% of people perceived their health as being *very good or excellent* when compared to the provincial level at 61.0%. 67.7% of District residents perceived their mental health as being *very good or excellent* compared to the province at 74.3%. Perceived life stress in the Thunder Bay District was less than reported provincially (Figure 66).

Figure 69: Health Perceptions in Thunder Bay District Health Unit and Ontario, January 2013



	Perceived health, very good or excellent	Perceived mental health, very good or excellent	Perceived life stress
Thunder Bay District Health Unit	58.0%	67.7%	21.5%
Ontario	61.0%	74.3%	24.0%

Source: Statistics Canada. 2013. *Thunder Bay District, Ontario Health Profiles*.

[348] Statistics Canada. 2013. *Thunder Bay District Health Profile*. *Statistics Canada Catalogue No. 82-228-XWE. Ottawa*. Website: http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/health-sante/82-228/index.cfm?Lang=E. Accessed: November 2013; Statistics Canada. 2013. *Ontario Health Profile*. *Statistics Canada Catalogue No. 82-228-XWE. Ottawa*. Website: http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/health-sante/82-228/index.cfm?Lang=E. Accessed: November 2013.

3.8 SUMMARY

The Township of Nipigon is situated within the Thunder Bay District. Residents of Nipigon travel to Thunder Bay to purchase big-ticket items, seek medical and other services not available in Nipigon, and participate in sporting and cultural activities. The closest communities to Nipigon are the Lake Helen First Nation, Dorion, Red Rock, and Schreiber.

In the Thunder Bay District, economic activity has historically been focused on mining, lumber and transportation. The City of Thunder Bay is a regional centre that provides a wide range of services that include post-secondary education, health care, higher-level retail, and manufacturing.

4.0 SUMMARY

For more than a century, Nipigon's economic engine has been stoked by transportation, tourism and resource development – primarily fisheries and forestry. Currently, Nipigon and the Thunder Bay District are in a downturn period. This has led Nipigon to re-evaluate their efforts to maintain the community and find economic activities that can contribute to stability, sustainability and growth.

Community representatives report that the current population is about 1,600 and while significantly lower than the 1996 population of approximately 2,200, the population has stabilized in the last couple of years.[349] Anecdotal reports are that the population was approximately 5,000 in the 1950s/1960s. The population is aging at a higher rate than either the District or Ontario as a whole. Many residents have been forced to leave the community to seek employment following the closure of the mills in Nipigon (2007) and Red Rock (2006), or to work at jobs that are lower than their skill level. Community representatives have noted that there seems to be little unemployment; those who cannot find work locally move, or may commute elsewhere in the region (e.g., to mines in Northwestern Ontario) or beyond (e.g., to Alberta), while choosing to keep their families in Nipigon. However, a number of people commute to Nipigon from Thunder Bay to work at the schools, Ontario Power Generation, and provincial government offices (e.g., Ministry of Natural Resources, and Transportation). There are no large industrial employers in Nipigon. Many residents have expressed a desire for local employment opportunities to retain existing workers, provide employment opportunities for future generations, and attract new people to the community. Entrepreneurship is viewed as necessary to grow Nipigon's economy in the future.

Unique and valued characteristics described by community residents include:

- Friendly, safe, and family-oriented;
- Active/healthy community (sports, recreation);
- Location along the TransCanada Highway;
- Relationship with Red Rock Indian Band/Lake Helen First Nation;
- Relatively low cost of living;
- Natural environment features – lakes, rivers, trails, parks and protected areas;
- Close proximity to Thunder Bay (services, recreation, culture) and Thunder Bay International Airport;
- Resilient;
- Strong history;
- Sense of community;
- Quality of life; and,
- Hospital and other services.

The vision stated in the Official Plan reflects the community's aspirations: "Nipigon will become a destination for travelers, regional focus for services, recreation and culture and a sustainable, healthy and complete community." Many residents note a desire to increase the number of families and children in the community. This would contribute to the ongoing viability of infrastructure, services and programs, including schools, the hospital/medical services, and community organizations. While the volunteer base in the community remains strong, there are challenges recruiting new people to provide ongoing support for the many activities and organizations in Nipigon.

[349] Information obtained from community discussions October 2013.

Nipigon serves as a regional service hub for the smaller surrounding communities. Although forestry activity is returning to the larger region, its role in the local and regional economy has diminished compared to years ago. Many of the existing businesses are in the service sector. Today, Nipigon is looking to strengthen existing economic sectors (e.g., tourism) and to diversify into new areas (e.g., light industry (including those related to forestry), and residential development that may attract retirees). Nipigon's proximity to Thunder Bay can make it difficult for existing and new businesses due to 'out-shopping' and competitive markets.

Nipigon's economic and strategic planning objectives seek to stabilize the community and economy, positioning them for the prospect of growth. In looking to the future, Nipigon has completed a number of recent initiatives to articulate goals and actions for achieving them. These include the adoption of an updated Official Plan, a Waterfront Development Master Plan, a Community Sustainability Plan and a Strategic Plan. Nipigon highly values the natural amenities that contribute to both the quality of life for residents, and tourism potential.

APPENDIX A: BIBLIOGRAPHY

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