

Poverty Fact Sheet—Nipissing District January 2011

POVERTY REDUCTION WORKING GROUP OF NIPISSING (PRWG)



INCOME

- Nipissing District's median income is approximately \$23,800 which is \$3,450 less (16%) than Ontario's median income. 16% of this income is from government transfer payments (vs. 10% for ON).¹
- Approximately 18.5% of the district's children ages 5 and under, are living in families that are below the Low Income Cut-off (after-tax).¹
- Over the past 10 years, the gap between the Low Income Cut-off (LICO) point and minimum wage has increased from \$4,346 in 1997 to \$6,057 in 2006 – **at no point during the past 10 years has a person working full-time earning minimum wage, reached the LICO.** In 2006, a single person earning minimum wage would have to work over 45 hours a week just to reach the LICO.²

LABOUR FORCE

- In 2006, Nipissing District's labour force participation rate was 60% which is significantly lower than that of Ontario's (67%) – and Nipissing's unemployment rate was 8.3% vs. 6.4% for ON. The research shows that historically, **these labour force disparities have existed for quite some time.**³
- **The district's youth experience an unemployment rate of approximately 17%** which is over twice the rate of the general population.⁴
- **42% of the district's labour force does not have a post-secondary education.** 27% of this group has a high school certificate or equivalent while the other 15% has less than high school.⁴

HOUSING

- **North Bay's average apartment vacancy rate is 2.1% compared to 2.9% for the province.**⁵ This makes for an exceptionally tight housing market where low income households - which include students, people with disabilities, people on social assistance, seniors and low wage earners – end up competing with each other for a limited number of housing units.
- Combined with low vacancy rates are **rising rents** - the average rent in North Bay is \$759 /mo. which marks a 27\$ increase since the same time last year.⁵ Based on household incomes, this leaves **housing affordability gaps:** For example, the median income in North Bay is approximately \$23,800. Based on the national affordability standard, housing should cost \$595 /mo. or less for rent & utilities. The average rent in North Bay however – excluding utilities – is \$759 /mo. This leaves an affordability gap which starts at \$164/mo. (\$759 - \$595).
- **There are approximately 1,000 people on the waiting list for social housing (RGI) in Nipissing District** – this represents a 6% decrease over the year. Many of the people waiting for social housing are singles, seniors and lone-parents.⁶
- Nipissing's waiting list for social housing (above) represents less than one percent of Ontario's total waiting list: at the beginning of 2010, there were approximately 141,600 people waiting for social housing in Ontario, and the 47 provincial Service Managers all have waiting lists – **this shows the tremendous need for affordable housing** across the province.⁷
- In 2006 (the last period for which data is available) there were approximately 2,900 renters in the North Bay area who were in core housing need: this means **they were living in housing that is unacceptable** – i.e., it's unaffordable, unsuitable or inadequate. These renters are spending close to 50% of their income on housing.⁸



EDUCATION

- **Over 50% of the present recipients of OW (Ontario Works /social assistance) have not completed high school.** Lower education levels usually mean lower wages, which helps to perpetuate the cycle of poverty.⁹
- **Approximately 27% of Nipissing District's population ages 15 and over do not have a High School Diploma or greater** (compared to 22% for Ontario). Many of the municipalities in the District have rates that go well above this - for example, 46% in Mattawa.¹
- **In 2006, people in Nipissing District (ages 15 yrs. +) without a high school graduation diploma, experienced twice the unemployment rate of those with post secondary education.** ⁴

FOOD/NUTRITION

- The average weekly cost for a family of four to eat nutritiously is \$168.34 in the North Bay Parry Sound District. This calculates to a monthly food cost of \$728.91.¹⁰
- To eat nutritiously, a family of four earning a median income in Ontario needs to spend approximately 13% of its household income on food. Additionally, **a family of four with one parent working 40 hours per week at minimum wage needs to spend roughly 32% of their income on food.**¹⁰

HEALTH

- In 2009 **over half (66.7%) of the population in the North Bay Parry Sound District health unit region, aged 18 and older, reported being either overweight or obese (significantly higher than Ontario at 51.4%).** Only 56.1% of the population report being either active or moderately active.¹¹
- **The North East Region (86.1%) also has a significantly lower number of residents reporting having a family doctor, compared to Ontario (91.5%).**¹² Furthermore, **the health region also has a hospitalization rate 1.7 times higher than Ontario,** including higher rates for cancers, circulatory system diseases, digestive system diseases, and respiratory diseases.¹¹
- In 2009, students in Northern Ontario reported significantly higher rates of smoking, binge drinking, and cannabis use, compared to Ontario.¹³

¹ Statistics Canada 2006 census

² Poverty Fact Sheet 2009 / Statistics Canada 2006 census

³ Statistics Canada 2006 census; Nipissing District: A Socioeconomic Profile & Report (DNSSAB, 2006).

⁴ A Statistical Profile of Children & Youth in Nipissing District (2009)

⁵ CMHC, Rental Market Report Ontario Highlights (Fall 2010)

⁶ DNSSAB Central Registry-Coordinated Access

⁷ Ontario Non Profit Housing Association's (ONPHA) 2010 Report on Waiting List Statistics for Ontario (June 2010)

⁸ CMHC Housing in Canada Online (HiCO)

⁹ Ontario Works Service Plan Update, 2009-2010

¹⁰ North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (2010). *The price of eating well in the North Bay Parry Sound District 2010.*

¹¹ North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (2009). *Population and health profile: January 2009.*

¹² Statistics Canada 2010

¹³ Paglia-Boak, A., Mann, R.E., Adlaf, E.M., & Rehm, J. (2009). *Drug use among Ontario students, 1977-2009.*



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For the dignity and health of all

Box 901 Stn. Main
North Bay, ON P1B 8K1
Tel: 705-474-4000, ext. 351
Email: prwg@northbayspc.com