

Poverty Fact Sheet—Nipissing District January 2010

POVERTY REDUCTION WORKING GROUP OF NIPISSING (PRWG)



INCOME

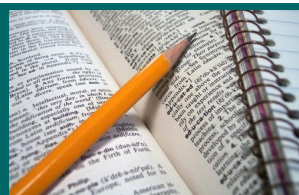
- Nipissing District's median income is approximately \$23,500 which is \$3,750 less (16%) than Ontario's median income. 16% of this income is from government transfer payments (vs. 10% for ON)¹
- Approximately 18.5% of the district's children ages 5 and under, are living in families that are below the Low Income Cut-off (after-tax).²
- 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.³

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.**⁴
- **The district's youth experience an unemployment rate of approximately 17%** which is over twice the rate of the general population.⁵
- **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.⁵

HOUSING

- **North Bay's average apartment vacancy rate is 1.1% which is one of the lowest rates in Ontario.**⁶ 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 \$732 /mo. which marks a 4.5% increase since the same time last year.⁶ 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 \$732 /mo. This leaves an affordability gap which starts at \$137/mo. (\$732 - \$595).
- **There are over 1,700 people on the waiting list for social housing in Nipissing District** (RGI /rent-g geared-to-income and market rent) – this represents a 6.5% increase over the year. Many of the people waiting for social housing are singles, seniors and lone-parents.⁷
- Nipissing's waiting list for social housing (above) represents just 1.5% of Ontario's total waiting list: at the beginning of 2009, there were approximately 129,000 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.⁸
- 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.⁹



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.¹⁰
- **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. +) with out a high school graduation diploma, experienced twice the unemployment rate of those with post secondary education.** ⁵

FOOD/NUTRITION

- The average weekly cost for a family of four to eat nutritiously is \$169.38 in the North Bay Parry Sound District. This calculates to a monthly food cost of \$733.42.¹¹
- 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.**¹¹

HEALTH

- In 2007, **over half (52.5%) of the population in the local health unit region, aged 18 and older, report being either overweight or obese with almost half (49.7%) of our population being physically inactive.**¹²
- Over the past 4 years, the local health region has seen **increasing rates of high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, smoking and heavy drinking.**¹²
- **The North East Region also has a significantly lower number of residents reporting having a family doctor, compared to Ontario.** 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.¹²

¹ Statistics Canada 2006 census

² Statistics Canada 2006 census

³ Poverty Fact Sheet 2009 / Statistics Canada 2006 census

⁴ Statistics Canada 2006 census; Nipissing District: A Socioeconomic Profile & Report (DNSSAB, 2006).

⁵ A Statistical Profile of Children & Youth in Nipissing District (2009)

⁶ CMHC, Rental Market Report Ontario Highlights (Fall 2009)

⁷ DNSSAB Central Registry-Coordinated Access

⁸ Ontario Non Profit Housing Association's (ONPHA) 2009 Report on Waiting List Statistics for Ontario (June 2009)

⁹ CMHC Housing in Canada Online (HiCO)

¹⁰ Ontario Works Service Plan Update, 2009-2010

¹¹ North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (2009). *The price of eating well in the North Bay Parry Sound District 2009.*

¹² North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (2009). *Population and health profile: January 2009.*



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For the dignity and health of all

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