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NEWS LOCAL

Economy

Potential for growth in Northeast: Report

By Star Staff
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Fund to stimulate jobs

A new report released by Northern Policy Institute on the labour market in Northeastern Ontario details how the region is showing potential for growth in the face of several challenges.

According to the report, the Northeast is closely tied to the global and national economies, as changes in job numbers in the region closely correspond to changes in national GDP and the region appears more vulnerable to global market adjustments than the rest of the province.


Northeastern Ontario also faces a number of challenges including stagnant population growth, uncertain long-term employment growth, low participation rates, continued youth out-migration, and a lack of growth in goods-producing industries.

“When comparing year-over-year percentage changes in employment in Canada, Ontario and Northeastern Ontario, it is evident that fluctuations – especially during economic downturns – are considerably more pronounced in the Northeast,” wrote James Cuddy, the author of the report.

“Such volatility suggests that employment in the Northeast is much more vulnerable to the adverse employment effects induced by periods of economic decline.”

The report shows that employment growth in the Northeast has outpaced that of Ontario and the rest of Canada – although the proportion of adults working full-time jobs remains lower than provincial and national levels.

This is largely attributed to Greater Sudbury’s ability to retain and attract youth. Since 2001, the number of youth leaving the region has slowed. Roughly 500 youth left in each of the last two years compared with more than 2,500 in 2001.

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