



For Immediate Release

## Discovering the State of Transportation Infrastructure in Northern Ontario

**March 28, 2017** – What is the state of transport infrastructure in Northern Ontario? That is one of the questions answered by a new series of reports called *Getting from Here to There* by Julien Bonin.

The series is formed by three reports that directly address the inefficiencies of the transport network in the regions of Northern Ontario. The reports prescribe recommendations to improve these regions' transportation network, including "hot spots" and key areas where investments to improve transportation should be focused.

These reports come as an answer to the gaps in transportation infrastructure in the regions of Northern Ontario. These regions' large area, spread-out population, and relative geographic isolation pose challenges to putting in place an effective transportation infrastructure. However, the regions benefit from multiple opportunities for natural resource development and emerging industries, including critical minerals that can be used to support the country's transition to a greener economy. Transportation infrastructure is a key component to capitalize on what the regions of Northern Ontario have to offer. It is also a commitment made by the federal and provincial governments.

Among the multiple findings and recommendations proposed by these reports, the following stand out:

- A significant gap in the road network are remote First Nation communities;
- The Port of Algoma is an essential project that can have a large economic impact and improve the transportation of materials and goods in Northern Ontario;
- The Ring of Fire is another critical project for Northern Ontario for economic development but that can also be substantially beneficial to nearby First Nations;
- There is insufficient funding to do the necessary updates on transportation infrastructure in Northern Ontario;
- Transport Canada should continue to assess its transport policy in a multimodal approach rather than studying each transportation mode individually, and
- The decision-making process on whether to invest in infrastructure in Northern Ontario should be different than that of Southern Ontario, as it cannot be based simply on a cost-benefit approach, but also needs to consider its social purpose.



Therefore, to foster economic prosperity, it is critical that the lack of transportation infrastructure in Northern Ontario be addressed. "Transportation infrastructure is essential for social connections and to access natural resources," said Julien Bonin, author at Northern Policy Institute and master in Geography. "However, the transportation network in Northern Ontario is highly vulnerable to disruptions, which will continue to increase without much-needed upgrades," he said. According to Julien, "well-informed public policies are essential when making decisions," which is why this series of reports is an essential read for policymakers, researchers, community actors, and the population in general.

Want to learn more? Read the report [here](#).

**Media Interviews:** Northern Policy Institute President & CEO Charles Cirtwill is available for comment.

To arrange an interview, please contact:

**Charles Cirtwill**  
**President & CEO**

1-807-632-7999

[ccirtwill@northernpolicy.ca](mailto:ccirtwill@northernpolicy.ca)

### **About Northern Policy Institute:**

*Northern Policy Institute is Northern Ontario's independent think tank. We perform research, collect and disseminate evidence, and identify policy opportunities to support the growth of sustainable Northern communities. Our operations are located in Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, and Sudbury. We seek to enhance Northern Ontario's capacity to take the lead position on socio-economic policy that impacts Northern Ontario, Ontario, and Canada as a whole.*

### **About the Author:**

**Julien Bonin** was born and raised in Sudbury, and studied at Laurentian University, where he received a B.Sc. in Mathematics and a Bachelor's Degree in Geography. He also graduated from McMaster University with a Master's in Geography and has a Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) from Fleming College.