

District of Nipissing  
Social Services  
Administration Board



Conseil d'administration  
des services sociaux  
du district de Nipissing

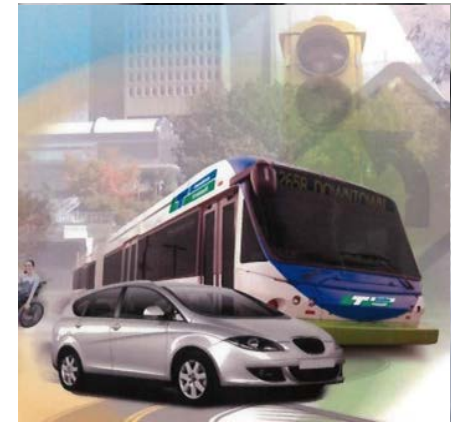
ROMA January 2017

# **SOCIAL SERVICES CHALLENGES IN NORTHERN ONTARIO**

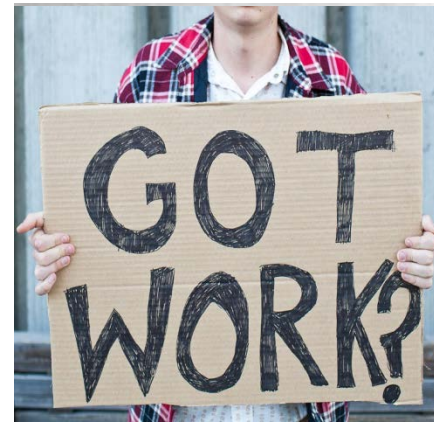
CHALLENGES IN  
NIPISSING  
DISTRICT



TRANSPORTATION  
IN RURAL &  
REMOTE AREAS



MENTAL HEALTH  
&  
ADDICTIONS



VOLATILE  
LABOUR  
MARKET

LOSS OF  
INDUSTRY



VAST  
GEOGRAPHICAL  
REGION/DIVERSE  
NEEDS





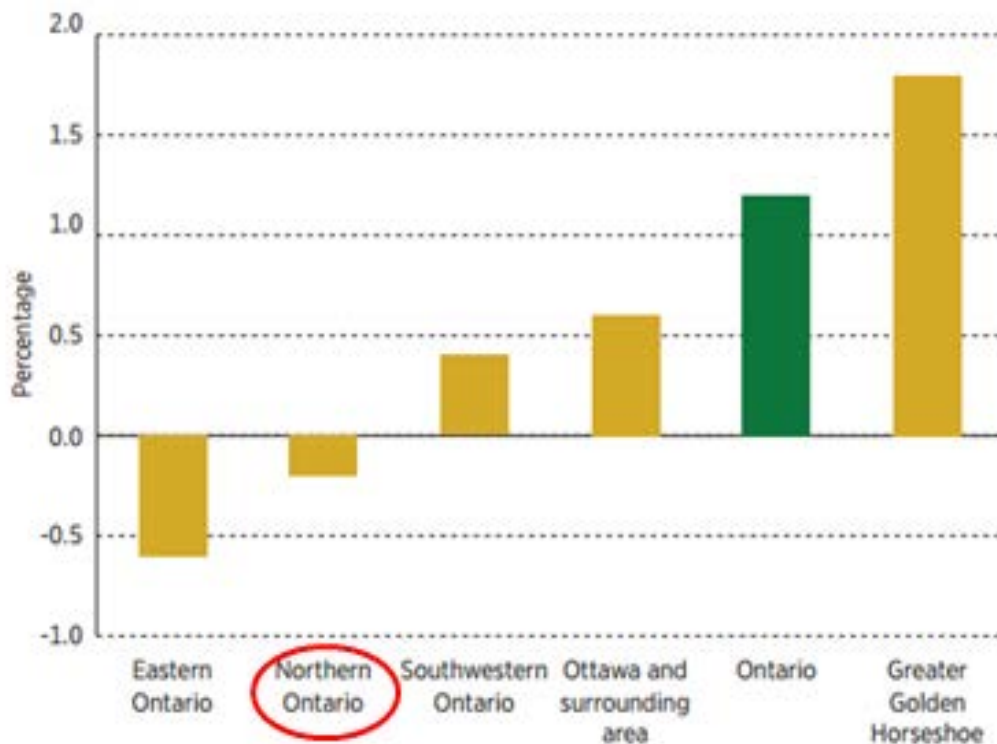
# VAST GEOGRAPHY



- Lack of public transportation for medicals or employment
- Higher fuel costs
- Higher heating costs
- No economy of scale with scattered concentrations of people
- Poor rural wireless infrastructure and high communications costs

# LABOUR MARKET PERFORMANCE SINCE 2009 POST-RECESSION

Figure 7: Average employment growth (%), 2010-2015



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016i.

## Northern Ontario:

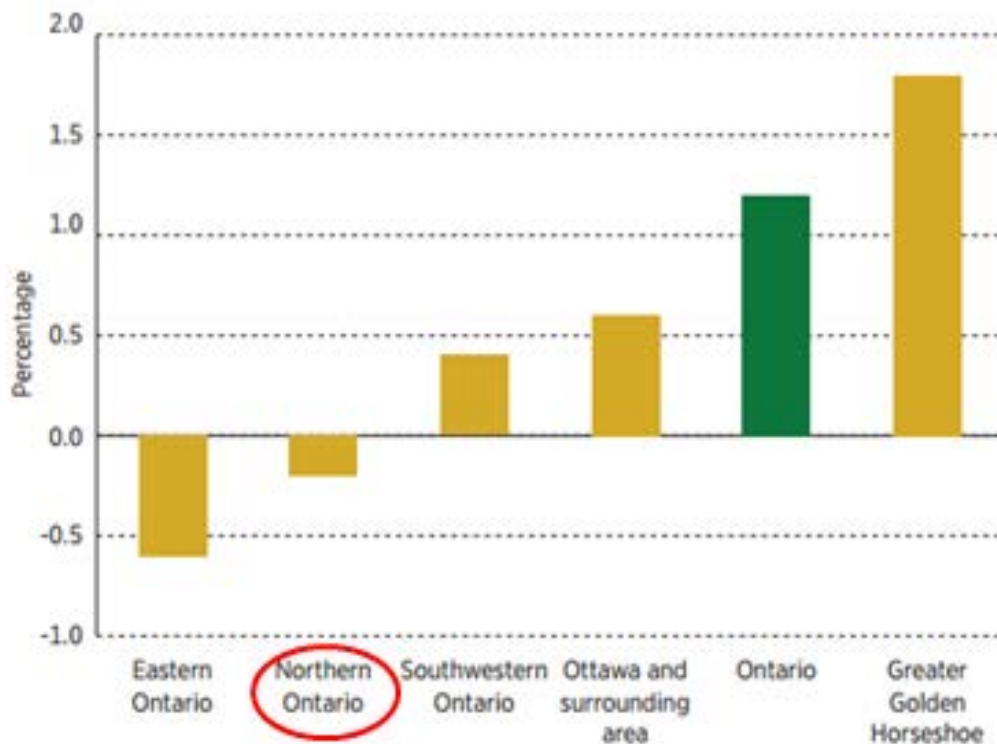
- Labour-force participation rates substantially lower than the provincial average
- Economic dependency ratios substantially higher between 2010 and 2015.

(source: The Five Solitudes of Ontario; Fraser Institute, Dec. 2016)



# LABOUR MARKET PERFORMANCE SINCE 2009 POST-RECESSION

Figure 7: Average employment growth (%), 2010-2015



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016i.

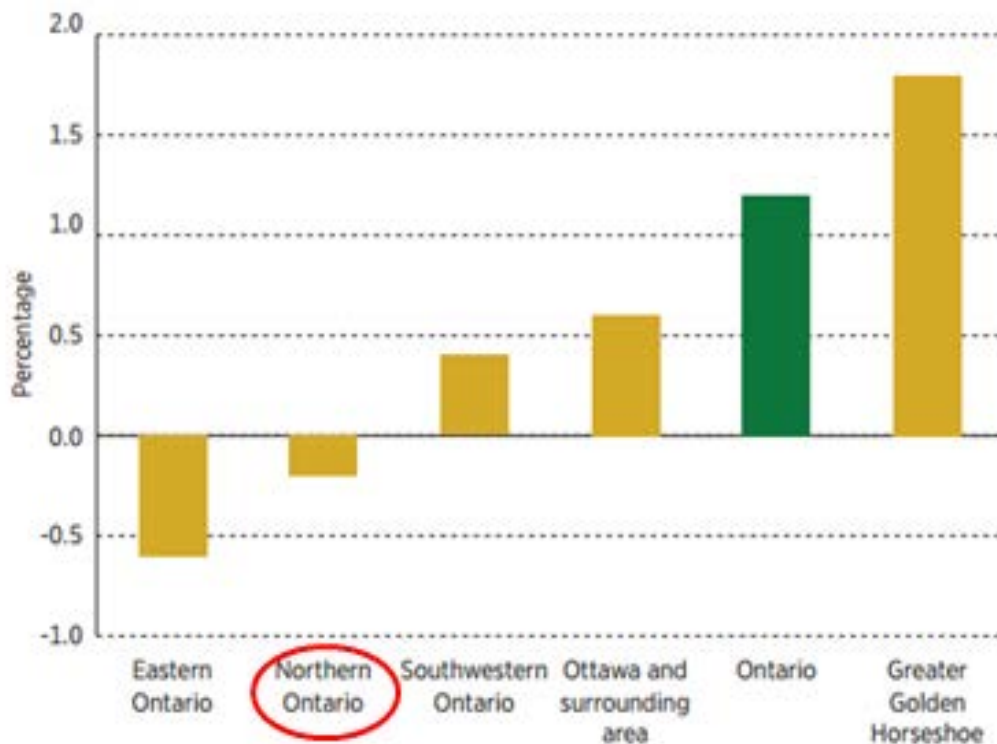
## Northern Ontario:

- Average annual net employment growth was negative... in Northern Ontario between 2010 and 2015 at 0.2 per cent.

(source: The Five Solitudes of Ontario; Fraser Institute, Dec. 2016)

# LABOUR MARKET PERFORMANCE SINCE 2009 POST-RECESSION

Figure 7: Average employment growth (%), 2010-2015



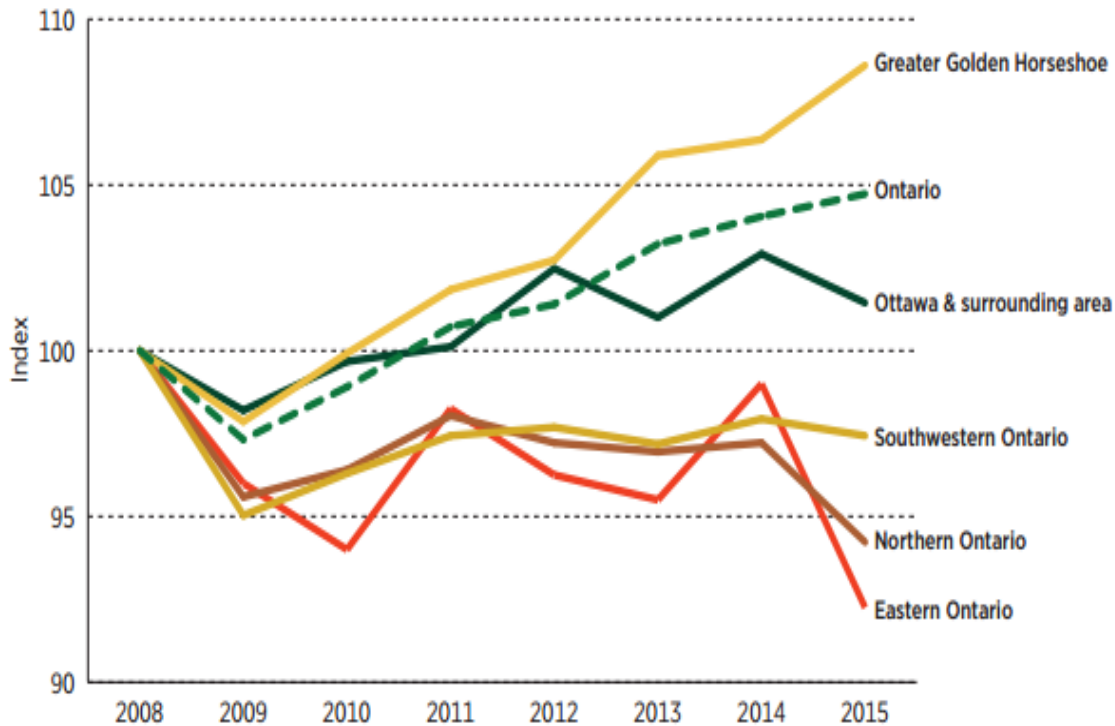
Source: Statistics Canada, 2016i.

There has been almost no employment growth at all in Ontario outside of the Greater Golden Horseshoe area during the province's "recovery" from the 2009 recession.

(source: The Five Solitudes of Ontario; Fraser Institute, Dec. 2016)

# LABOUR MARKET PERFORMANCE SINCE 2009 POST-RECESSION

Figure 8: Employment as an index of levels in 2008, 2008-2015



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016i.

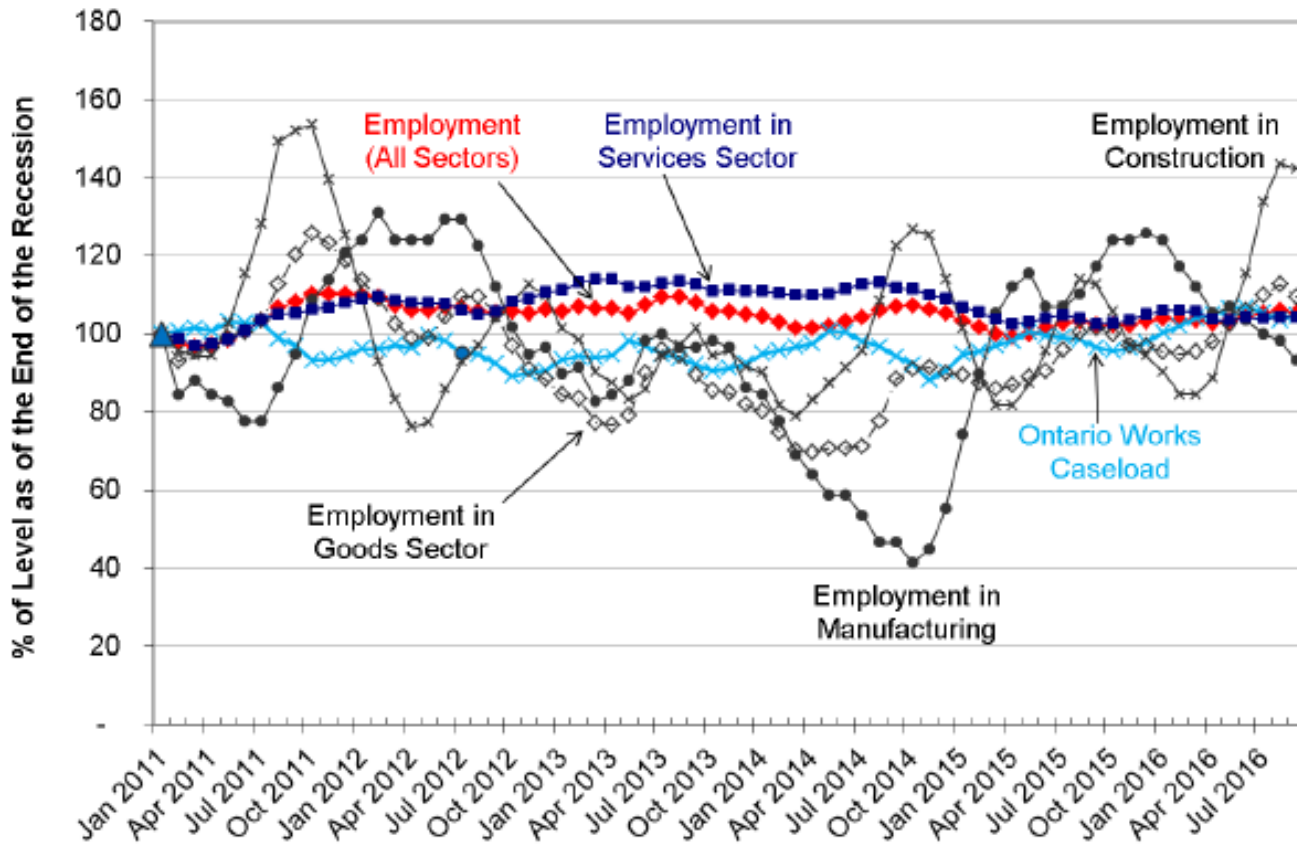
The North, which shed 21,000 jobs, dropped from a total employment figure of 367,000 in 2008 to 346,000 in 2015.

(source: The Five Solitudes of Ontario; Fraser Institute, Dec. 2016)



# EMPLOYMENT ECONOMICS

## Northern Region



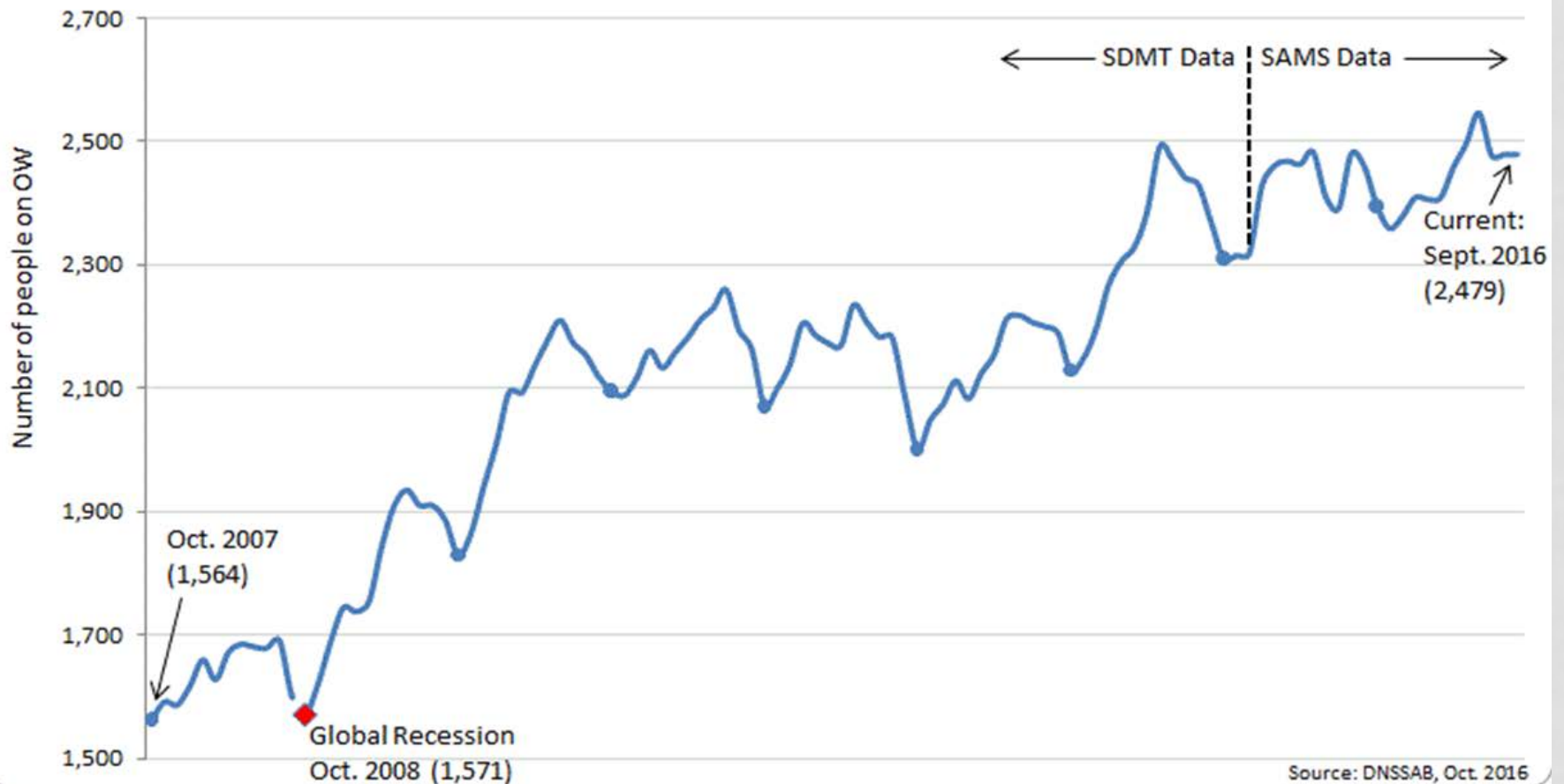
The volatile manufacturing sector in Northern Ontario is a key driver of social services costs.

—●—●—●—●—  
Manufacturing

—×—×—×—×—×—×—  
Ontario Works

# EMPLOYMENT LANDSCAPE

Nipissing District Ontario Works (OW) Caseload Growth,  
Post Global Recession: 2007 - 2016



# RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

Division of  
Caseload  
based on  
Employment  
Service  
Categories

Creation of  
an  
Employment  
Database

Changes to how  
clients are on-  
boarded to  
Ontario Works  
Program through  
Intake Processes



# CASELOAD DIVISION

## Stabilization

- For participants with significant barriers to employment
- Mental health/addictions
- Literacy and/or education needs
- Criminal records
- Medical deferrals
- Sole support parents with pre-school aged children

## Preparation

- For participants with minimal barriers to employment
- Stable health, housing and short term training/education requirements
- Minimal work experience or large gaps

## Job Ready

- For participants with no barriers
- Currently employed or underemployed
- Recent employment history
- Actively job searching
- Stabilized living environment.

# DATABASE OF TALENT

- ✓ Employment Services database stores participant information based on their employment readiness and skills.
- ✓ Database is searchable.
- ✓ Information used to match participants to employment opportunities and/or community placements.



# SOCIAL SERVICES INTAKE

- ✓ Employability assessments completed at the first point of contact.
- ✓ On-Board applicants through 3-prong approach
- ✓ Fast track the most employable into employment activities and better target services to all other Participants.





# CHILDCARE



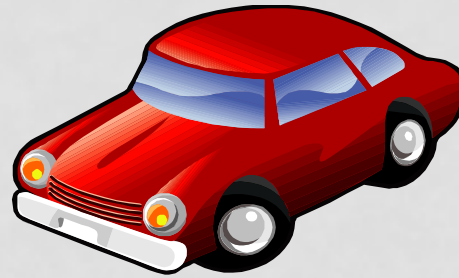
- Difficult and costly to maintain quality programs & services in rural / remote areas with low populations or fluctuating enrolment due to seasonal work
- Access to programs & services difficult due to lack of public transportation
- Lack of qualified staff can restrict enrolment
- Attraction and retention of qualified ECE's, especially French-speaking, in rural and remote areas

# HOUSING

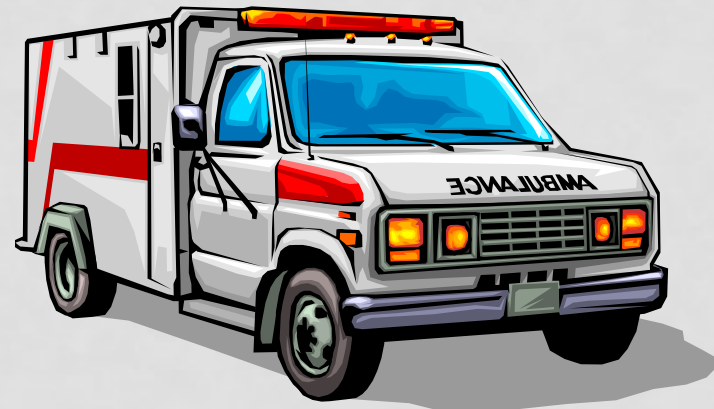
- End of operation agreements
- Location vs Demand – affordability available in rural areas but then transportation becomes a challenge
- Building condition assessments – built 30 to 50 years ago increasing capital deficits
- Waitlist vs Available Stock
- Little value outside of original purpose – not considered prime real estate



# SINGLE GREATEST CHALLENGE TO ACCESSING CARE



## TRANSPORTATION



# NORTHERN EMS CHALLENGES

- Limited tax base – Some Northern Ontario EMS stations are not staffed 24/7 or on weekends in some cases
- 911 services are not available everywhere in Northern Ontario.
- Non-urgent patient transfers are creating rural community risks. When a LHIN agency transfers a patient it ties up the local ambulance for hours and limits the ability to respond to sudden cardiac arrest calls in a time frame that supports life.
- Funding is not equitable for the provision of these transfers, large urban areas served by private transfer services funded through the LHINs, rural and remote rely on EMS funded through municipal taxpayers



# IMPROVING ACCESS TO CARE

- Transportation issues exacerbated by “Centres of Excellence Model”. Healthcare specialization makes access more difficult for rural citizens.
- Created a Two Tier Health System based on Distance to Care. This is driving requirement for care closer to home or improved transport options.
- Significantly high levels of mental health and addictions given social determinates of health. Only 174 mental health beds of the original 300 beds are left in Northeast Ontario alone, due to restructuring. Lack of access to mental health and addictions services will cost us more in the long run with social and criminal justice implications.

# NORTHERN EMS CHALLENGES

- Enhancements to services requires 100% municipal funding up front
- Access to medical care limited – affordability and available in rural areas challenging given little alternative public transportation options for people attending medical appointments. If your working poor, access to healthcare is the difference between food or healthcare if paying upfront.
- No capital funding for EMS stations. As a result many small rural EMS stations are sub-standard



# FUTURE PARAMEDIC SERVICES

- Paramedics recognized as a Regulated Health Profession. Will result in better rural services with scope of practice growth based on community needs.
- Dispatch control by Designated Delivery Agent (DSSAB, Regional Government, Single Tier) “control movement control costs”
- Improved Community Paramedicine Programs, 100% Provincial funded

# RESPONSE TO JOB CHALLENGES



**Hiring just got easier.**

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———— District of Nipissing ————



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QUESTIONS?

**Thank You**