



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Rural Ontario Institute releases 2019 Foresight Papers**

**November 12, 2019** – The Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) recently released the Rural Ontario Foresight Papers 2019 at an event in Cobourg. Following the success of the 2017 edition, the 2019 Papers tackle a variety of rural development challenges and trends. As with the first set of Papers, ROI partnered with the Northern Policy Institute to provide Northern Commentary as well as French translation.

Each Foresight Paper explores a particular topic affecting rural and Northern Ontario. The authors were encouraged to look ahead to what directions various stakeholders, governments or nonprofits might follow in order to foster vital rural development in light of the trends the authors foresee. The 2019 Papers offer an opportunity for rural stakeholders to be informed by the perspectives of these authors and to consider the implications for their own work or their own communities.

“There is so much value in the Foresight Papers released this month. Each of them provides research, analysis and evidence-based perspectives on issues that are challenges for municipalities,” says Robin Jones, Mayor of Westport. “Our carbon footprint in rural Ontario, storm water management, workforce development, servicing an aging population are all real issues that are discussed in every Council Chamber. Smaller municipalities lack the resources to contract consultants to develop possible solutions and the Foresight Papers help to fill that gap. Thank you to ROI for facilitating this important work.”

It is ROI’s intent that the Papers help catalyse further dialogue and discussion which in turn may lead to various agencies in civil society, levels of government and/or rural citizens to consider actions or strategies that will improve rural vitality over the long term. Included with each of the Papers is a corresponding northern commentary prepared by NPI Policy Analysts Hilary Hagar and Amanjit Garcha. The topics for the 2019 Rural Ontario Foresight Papers are:

**Access to Quality Medical and Health Services: Examples from Northern Ontario**  
**New Approaches to First Nations Infrastructure Development**  
**Energy Use and the Rural Homeowner**  
**Services for an Aging Rural Population**  
**Water, Water Everywhere – When the Storm Water Flows**  
**Workforce Development in Rural Ontario – A Snapshot**

The Rural Ontario Foresight Papers are available on the Rural Ontario Institute's website: [www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/knowledge-centre/foresight-papers](http://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/knowledge-centre/foresight-papers) as well as the Northern Policy Institute's website: [www.northernpolicy.ca/roi-2019](http://www.northernpolicy.ca/roi-2019).

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For more information, please contact:

Tanya Stuart

ROI Communications and Project Manager

[tstuart@ruralontarioinstitute.ca](mailto:tstuart@ruralontarioinstitute.ca) | 519-826-4204

About ROI:

The Rural Ontario Institute is a non-profit organization committed to developing leaders and facilitating collaboration on issues and opportunities facing rural Ontario.

Project Partner Northern Policy Institute:

[Northern Policy Institute](http://www.northernpolicy.ca) is Northern Ontario's independent think tank. The organization performs research, collects and disseminates evidence, and identifies policy opportunities to support the growth of sustainable Northern communities. Their operations are located in Thunder Bay and Sudbury. NPI seeks 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.