



RURAL
COMMUNITY
WELLBEING

SEPTEMBER

20
24

COMMUNITY WELLBEING REPORT

TIMISKAMING, UNORGANIZED, WEST PART



PREPARED BY:

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INSTITUTE

PREPARED FOR: **TIMISKAMING HEALTH UNIT**



RURAL COMMUNITY WELLBEING

ROI has developed a dashboard that displays wellbeing indicators for communities across Ontario. The dashboard was developed in collaboration with project partners, including the Ontario Ministries of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness and Rural Affairs, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and EcoCanada.

Dashboard development and indicator selection were informed through engagement with a focus group of rural data champions whose involvement was integral to this process.

ROI's Community Wellbeing Dashboard improves access to data and evidence for local decision making. The information on the dashboard and in this report can help communities:

- establish baselines
- identify priorities for change and research
- share stories and celebrate successes
- reveal data gaps for decision making
- monitor progress over time in future reports

This report was prepared using indicators and data from ROI's Community Wellbeing Dashboard. See the [website](#) for definitions, data sources, and references.

For context and comparison, indicator values are also presented for two of this community's regional neighbours (Kirkland Lake and Temiskaming Shores) along with overall values for rural Ontario.



Building
**vision, voice
& leadership**



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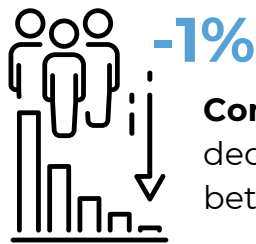
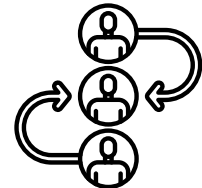
SUMMARY

In 2021, this community had the **3rd largest population size in the Timiskaming District**, with 10% of the regional population and 77% of the regional land area.



68:100

In 2021, there were 68 **economically-dependent** people per 100 working age people.



-1%
Community population decreased by 1% between 2016-2021.

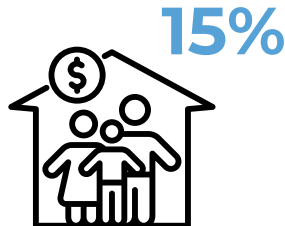
Median Age

51

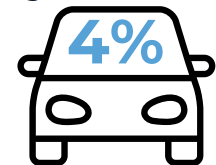


In 2021, this community had the **oldest median age in the district**.

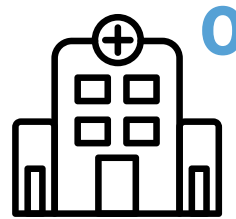
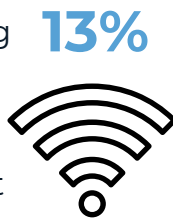
15% of households in Timiskaming Unorganized West earned a low income in 2021.



In 2021, only **4%** of residents in Timiskaming Unorganized West **commuted to work locally**.



In 2023, only **13% of households** in Timiskaming Unorganized West had **access to high speed internet** and 30% of households had no internet service at all.



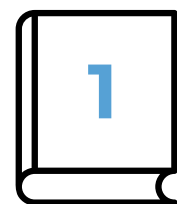
There are **no health facilities** located in the community, however, services are available from 52 facilities in the district.



81%

In 2021, **81% of people aged 25-64 had a high school diploma**, which is the same as the region, and slightly lower than rural Ontario at 86%.

Opportunities to participate in arts & culture activities may be limited because there is only **1 library in the community**.





TIMISKAMING, UNORGANIZED, WEST COMMUNITY CONTEXT

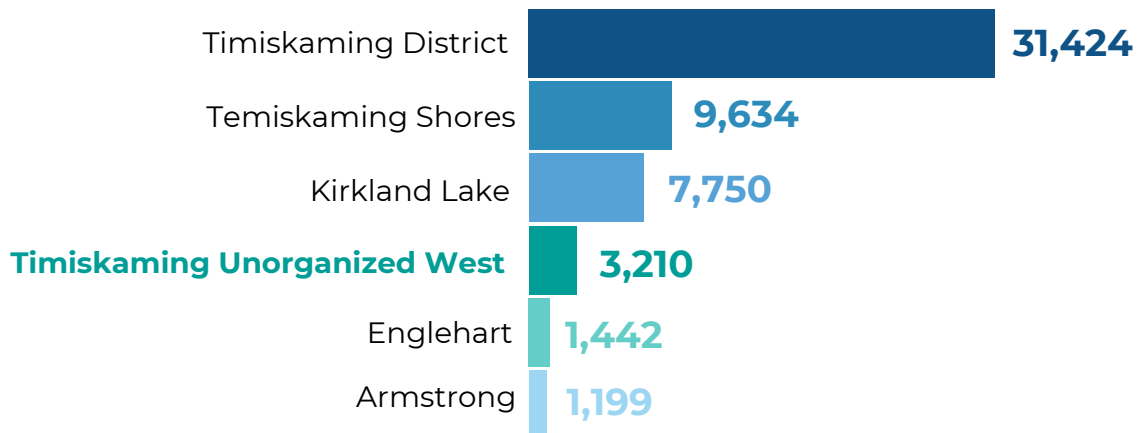
COMMUNITY LOCATION, TYPE AND CLASSIFICATION

The census subdivision of Timiskaming, Unorganized, West is located in northeastern Ontario and is part of the Timiskaming District. This community is made up of many small townships that are unincorporated and not governed by any municipal organization. Local services are delivered through the [District of Timiskaming Social Services Board](#).

This community classified as rural, which means it is not part of a census metropolitan area. All communities in the Timiskaming District are classified as rural.

POPULATION

In 2021, there were 3,210 people living in Timiskaming Unorganized West. This community has the 3rd largest population size in Timiskaming District, with 10% of its population.



0.3 people per km²



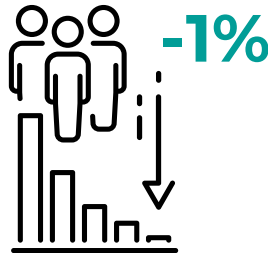
POPULATION DENSITY

In 2021, the population density of Timiskaming Unorganized West was 0.3 people per square kilometre. While this community has the 3rd largest population in the region, it also has the largest land area, so its population density is very low. Timiskaming Unorganized West makes up 77% of the regional land area and has 10% of the regional population.



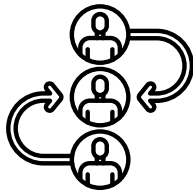
POPULATION CHANGE

Between 2016 and 2021, the population of Timiskaming Unorganized West decreased by 1%. In contrast the population of Timiskaming District declined by 3% while the population of rural Ontario grew by 5%.



- 3%** Timiskaming District
- 3%** Temiskaming Shores
- 3%** Kirkland Lake
- +5%** Rural Ontario

68:100



POPULATION DEPENDENCY RATIO

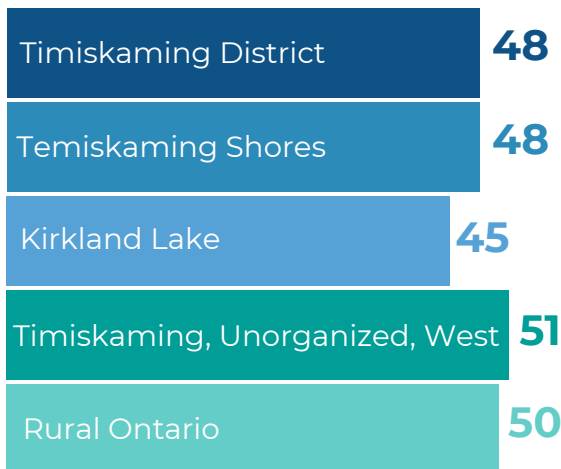
In 2021, the population dependency ratio for this community was 68. This is the same as the regional ratio, but is lower than Temiskaming Shores which is the most populated community in the region. The ratio for rural Ontario is 66.



This is a ratio of the number of people who are not working versus the number of people who are of working age. A low dependency ratio is desirable because it would mean that there are proportionally more people who can support the young and elderly population.

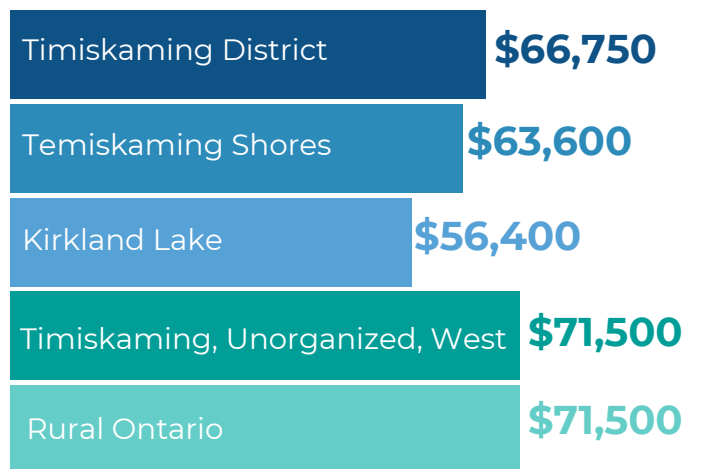
MEDIAN AGE

In 2021, people in Timiskaming Unorganized West had a median age of 51, which is the oldest median age in the region but is close to the median age for rural Ontario at 50.



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

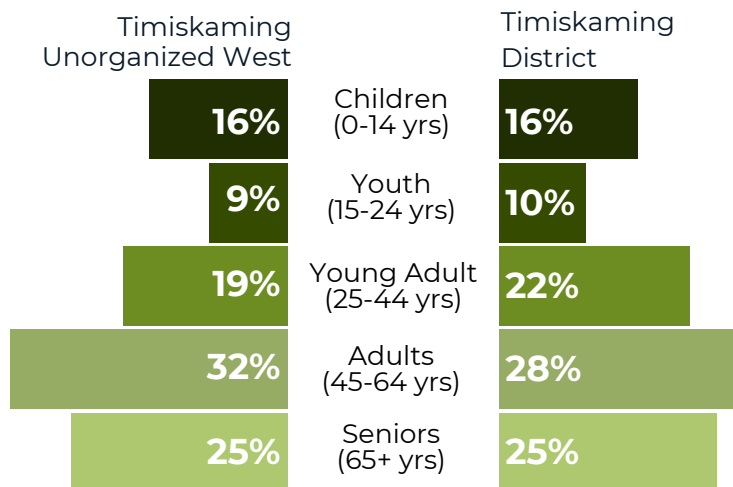
The median, after-tax household income for Timiskaming Unorganized West was \$71,500 in 2020, which is higher than the broader regional value of \$66,750. This community also had a higher median household income than more populated communities.





AGE DISTRIBUTION

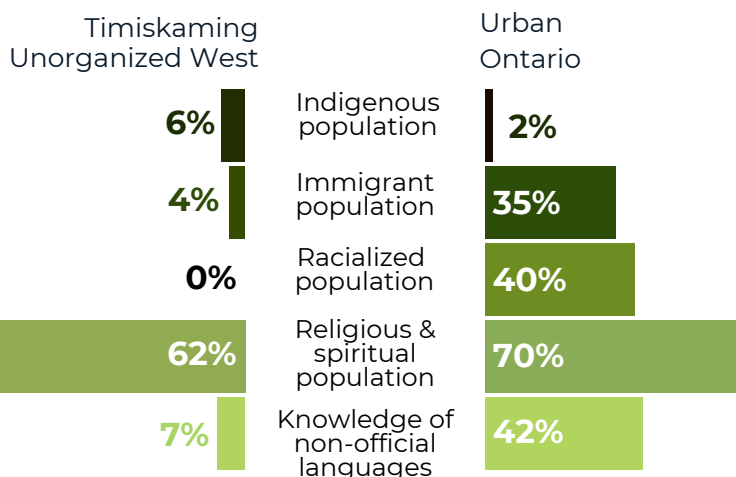
32% of people in Timiskaming Unorganized West Part were adults aged 45-64 years in 2021. This compares to 28% of people in the same age group for the region. This community had fewer people in the young adult age group than the broader region where 22% of people are aged 24-44. The proportions of Children, Youth, and Seniors were similar between this community and the region.



POPULATION DIVERSITY

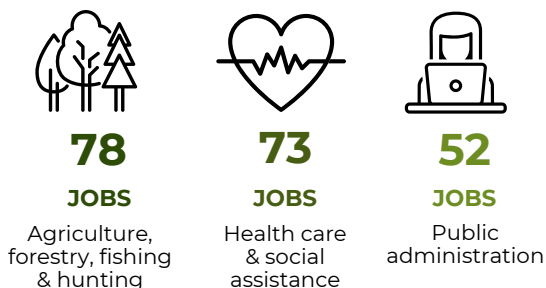
In 2021, Timiskaming Unorganized West had low population diversity, which is consistent with communities in the region and with rural communities in general. In contrast, urban communities in Ontario had much higher levels of population diversity.

LOW
Population diversity

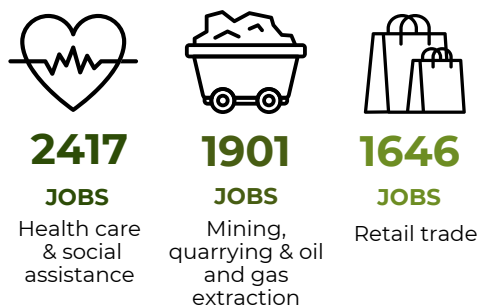


TOP EMPLOYMENT INDUSTRIES

Timiskaming Unorganized West



Timiskaming District



The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry was the top employer for this community in 2022. The top employer for the region was the health care and social assistance industry, which is the second highest employment industry for Timiskaming Unorganized West.

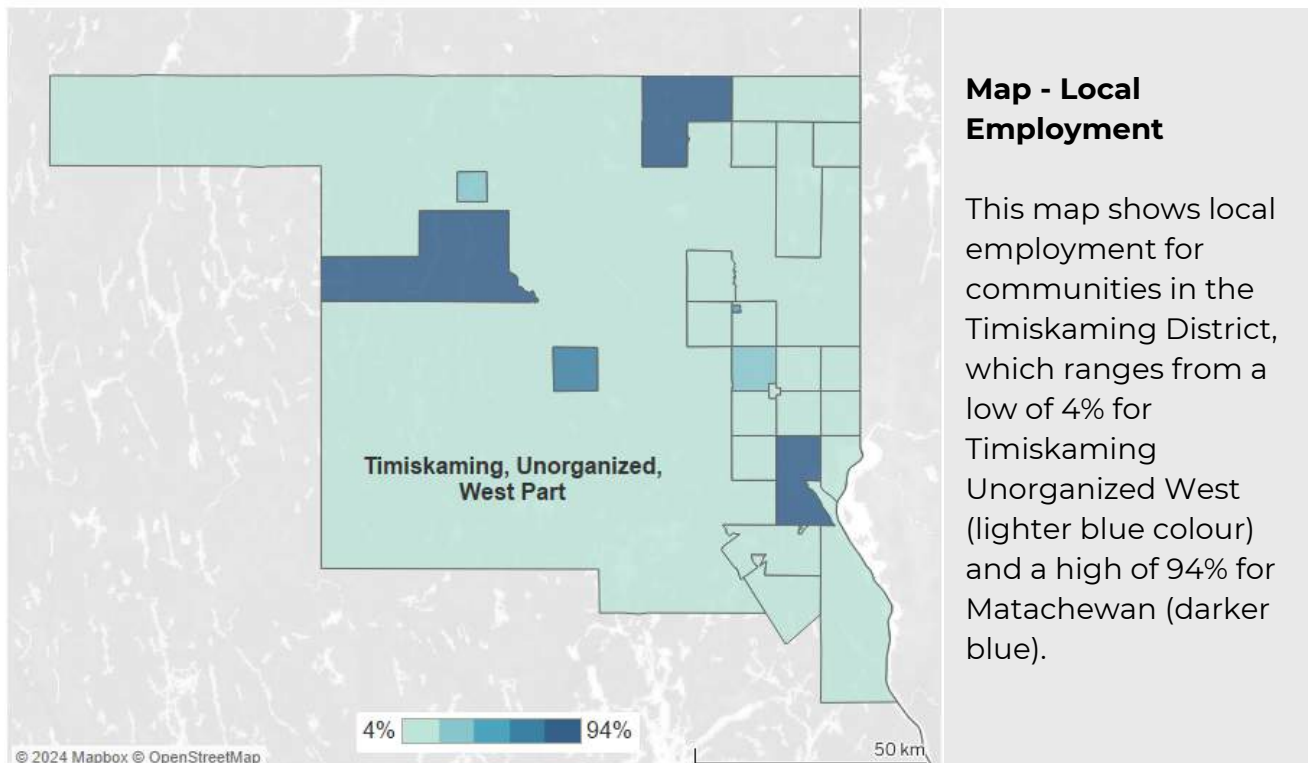
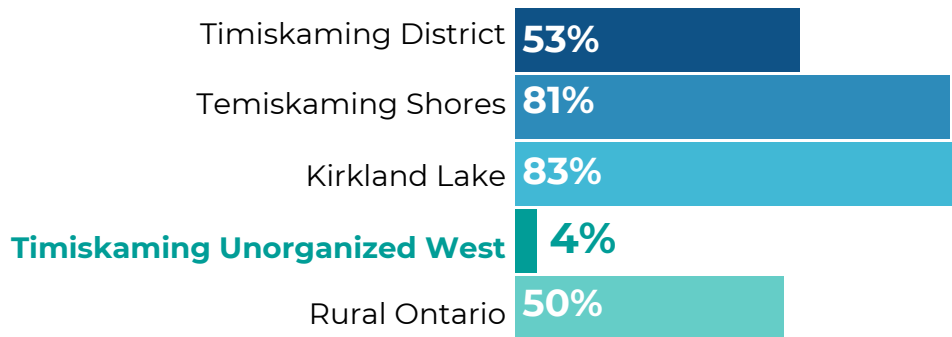




ECONOMICS

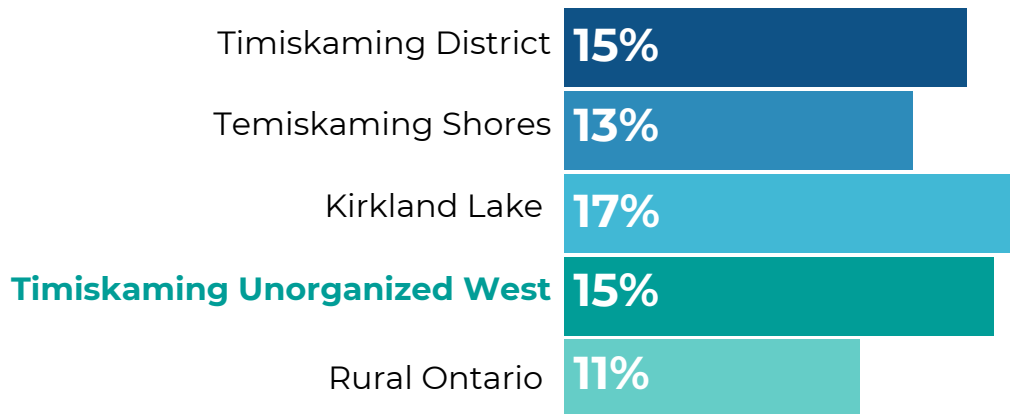
LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

In 2021, only 4% of residents in Timiskaming Unorganized West commuted to work within this census subdivision. This community has the lowest level of local employment in the Timiskaming District, which could be partly attributed to its large land area and partly to where the jobs are located. About 50% of residents are employed by the resource or health care sectors, who probably have offices in the more populated communities. About half of the people in the region are locally employed, which is consistent with the overall value for rural Ontario of 50%.



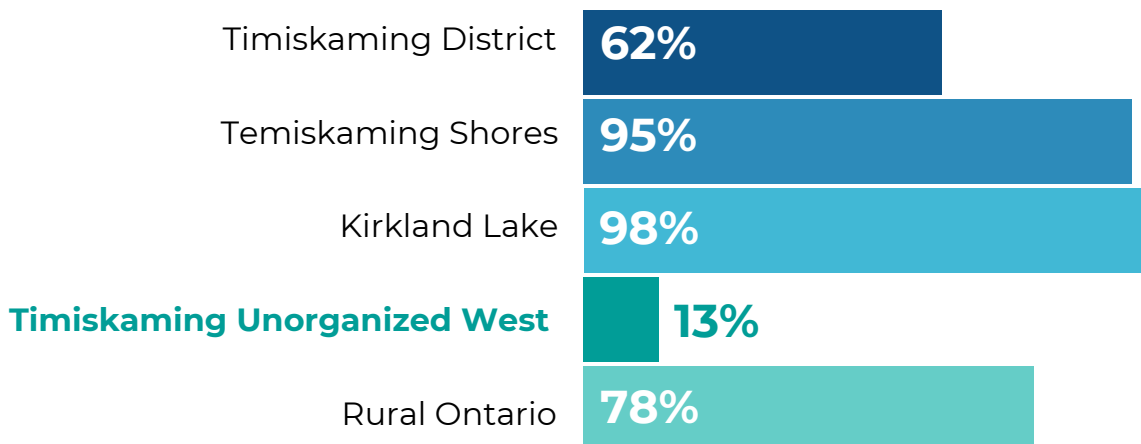
LOW-INCOME MEASURE

In 2020, 15% of households in Timiskaming Unorganized West earned a low income. This is similar to the proportion of households for the region and for most communities within the Timiskaming District. However, this is higher than the average value for rural Ontario of 11%.



INTERNET

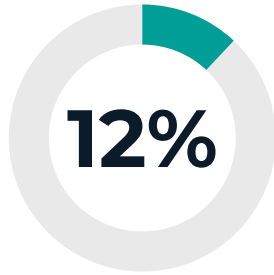
In 2023, only 13% of households in Timiskaming Unorganized West had access to broadband internet with 50/10 Mbps. This is much lower than the regional average of 62% for households in the Timiskaming District, and lower than the value for rural Ontario at 78%. About 30% of households in Timiskaming Unorganized West have no internet service at all. In contrast, almost all the households in smaller and more populated communities, like Temiskaming Shores and Kirkland Lake, have access to 50/10 Mbps broadband.





HOUSING

CORE HOUSING NEED

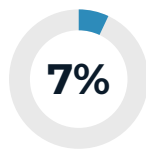


In 2021, 12% of households in Timiskaming Unorganized West were in core housing need, which is slightly higher than the regional proportion of 9%. This is also higher than the overall value for rural Ontario at 7%.

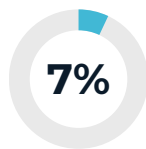
Households are in core need if their housing falls below at least one of the thresholds for housing adequacy, affordability or suitability.



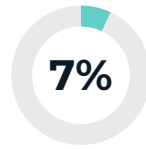
Timiskaming District



Temiskaming Shores



Kirkland Lake

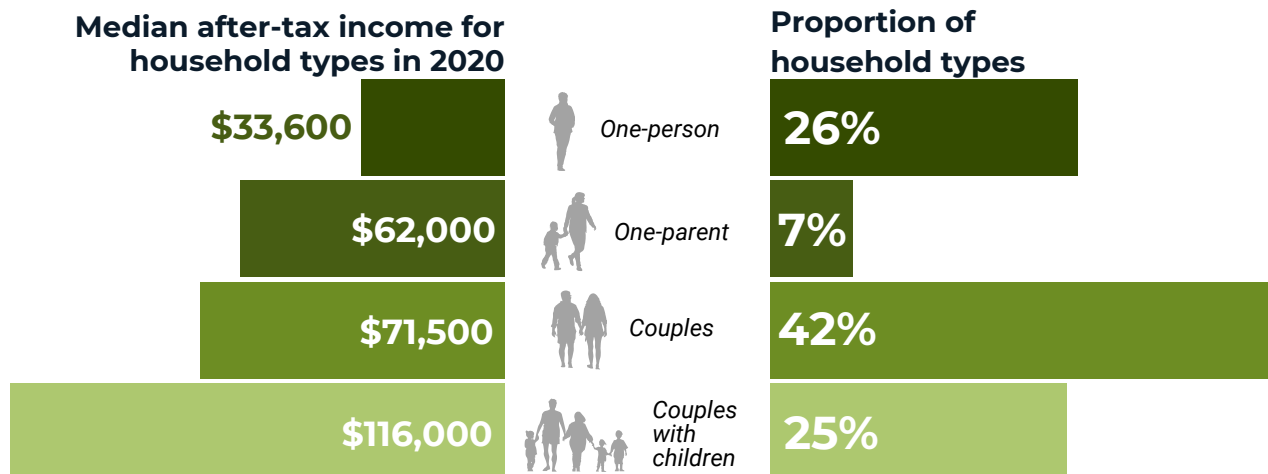


Rural Ontario



HOUSEHOLD TYPE

In 2021, couples households made up 42% of household types in Timiskaming Unorganized West, which is more than the regional value of 31%. There are more couples households in this community and fewer one-person households when compared to the region. One-person households make up 25% of households in this community but have the lowest income and may struggle to keep up with the cost of living. Incomes for household types in this community are similar to regional income levels.



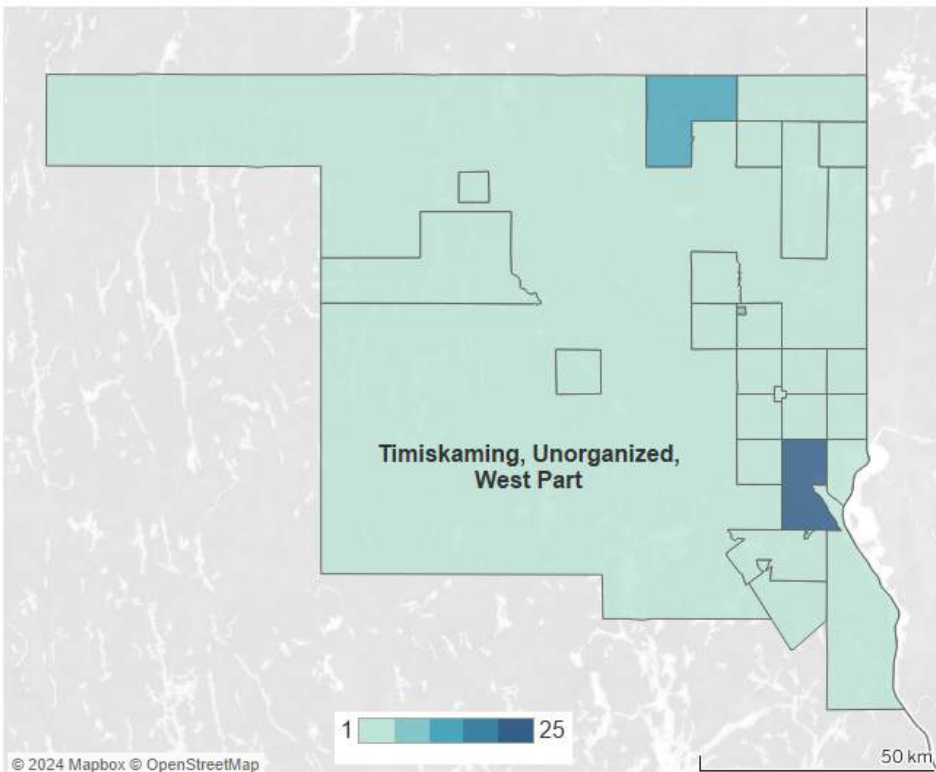
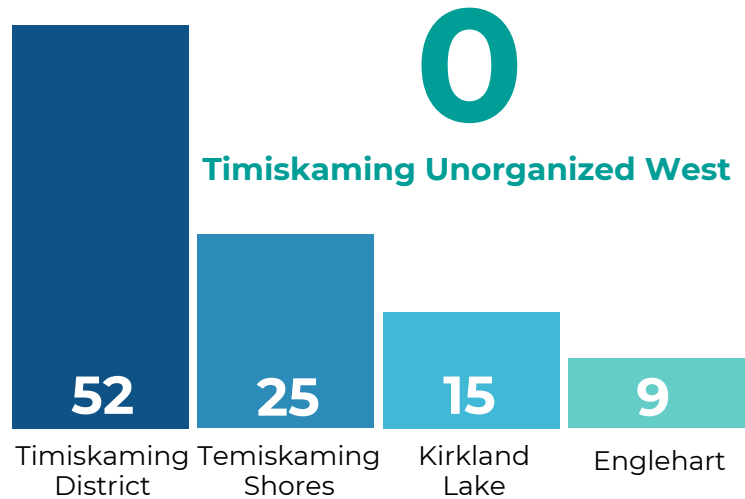


HEALTH

HEALTH FACILITIES

There are no health facilities located in the community of Timiskaming Unorganized West. Most of the health facilities in this region are concentrated in Temiskaming Shores and Kirkland Lake.

Pharmacies make up most of the health facilities in the region. Residents in this community must travel to other communities to buy medications and access health care services.



Map - Health facilities

This map shows the number of healthcare facilities for all communities in the Timiskaming District, ranging from a low of 1 facility in the communities of Larder Lake, Cobalt, and Armstrong to a high of 25 facilities in Temiskaming Shores (darkest blue).

TYPES OF HEALTH FACILITIES IN TIMISKAMING DISTRICT



WAIT TIMES FOR LONG TERM CARE

There are no long-term care homes in Timiskaming Unorganized West. Most of the long term care spaces are in the more populated communities of Temiskaming Shores and Kirkland Lake. In 2020-2021, people waited an average of 309 days for a long term care space in the region, which represents a 63% increase from the previous year. In this region, there are 40 long term care spaces for every 100 people aged 85 and over, which is higher than the ratio for rural Ontario of 29 to 100.

No Data: Timiskaming Unorganized West



2022 2023

-5% 

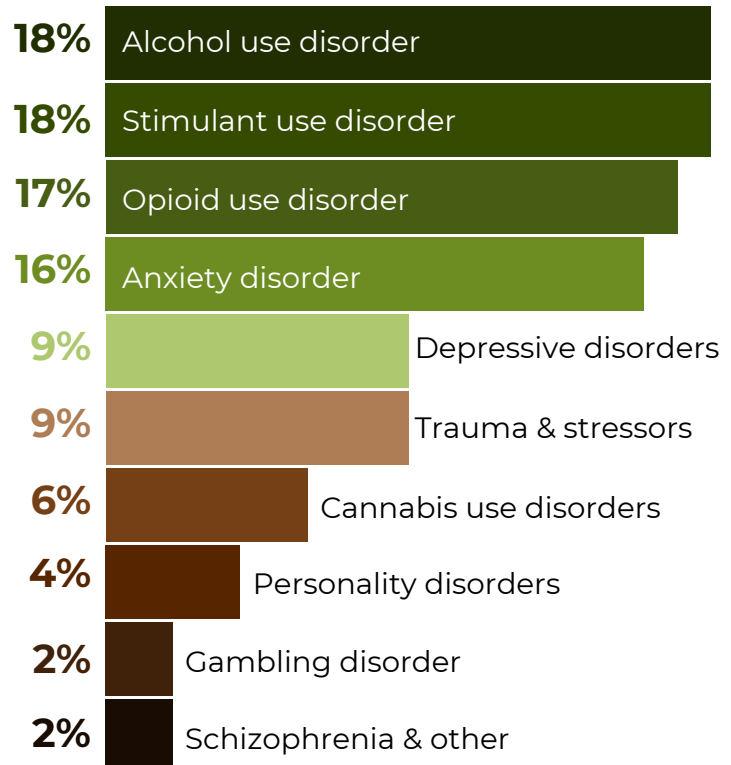


NUMBER OF CALLS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES & REASONS FOR CALLING

ConnexOntario is a government agency that improves access to services for mental health and substance use. People may call [ConnexOntario](#) for themselves, or on behalf of someone else, such as a family member, friend, or patient.

In 2023, 3 calls for anxiety and trauma disorders were made to ConnexOntario from this community, which is fewer than 12 calls in 2022. Calls decreased by about 5% across the region between 2022 and 2023. In the region, the most common reasons for calling were substance use disorders, followed by mental health disorders.

MOST COMMON REASONS FOR CALLING CONNEXONTARIO IN 2023 IN TIMISKAMING DISTRICT

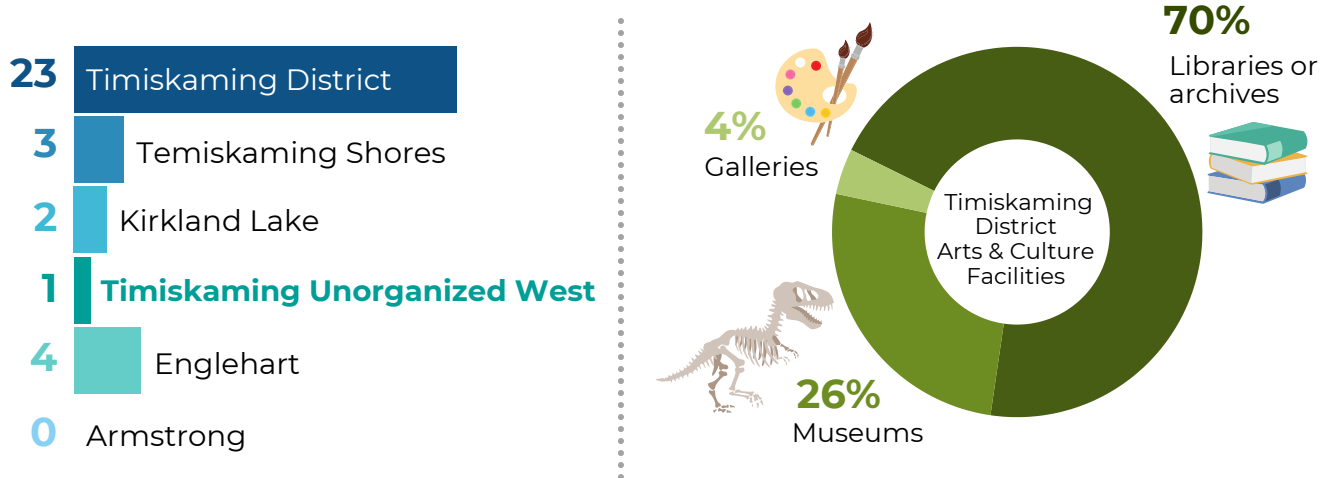




SOCIETY

NUMBER & TYPES OF ARTS & CULTURE FACILITIES

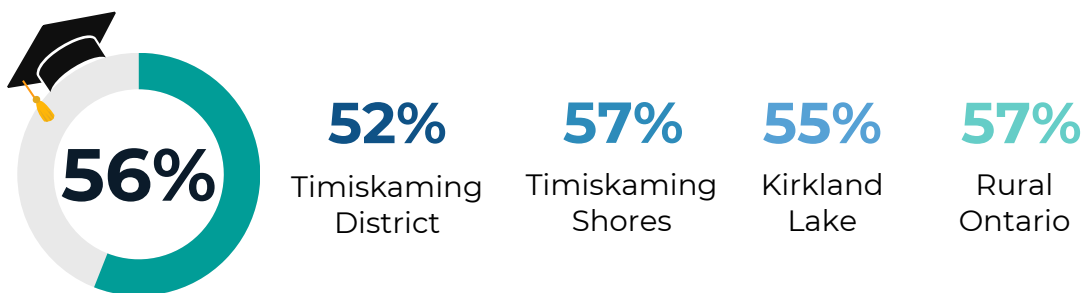
In 2020, there was one library in Timiskaming Unorganized West, which is the only arts & culture facility in the community. There are 23 facilities in the region. The community of Englehart has the most facilities at 4.



HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION ACHIEVED

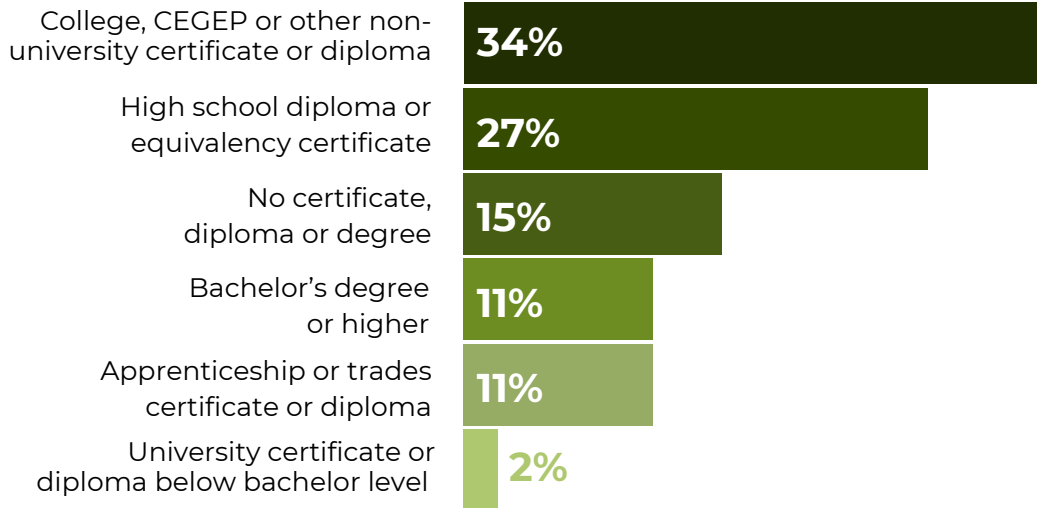
In 2021, 56% of people aged 25-64 had achieved some post-secondary education (i.e., college diploma, bachelor’s degree or higher, or apprenticeship), which is very close to the regional value of 52% and the value for rural Ontario at 57%. However, this is lower than the value for Ontario overall at 65%. In this community, 81% of people have a high school diploma, which is consistent with 86% in rural Ontario communities.

For people with post secondary education, the most common field of study was architecture, engineering and related trades at 32%, followed by health and related fields, and then business, management and public relations. The top 3 major fields of study for Timiskaming District and rural Ontario are the same as the community’s top 3.

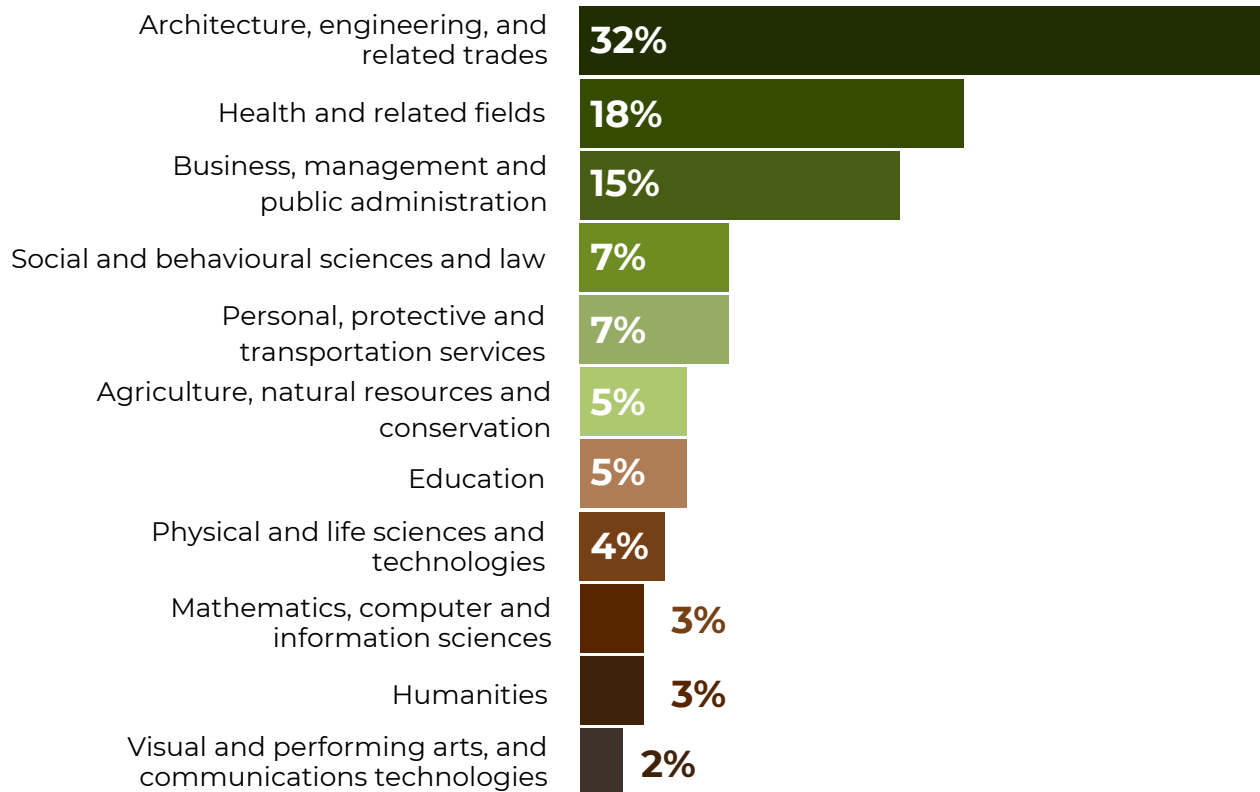




HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION ACHIEVED FOR PEOPLE AGED 25-64



MAJOR FIELD OF POST-SECONDARY STUDY FOR PEOPLE AGED 25-64



ENVIRONMENT



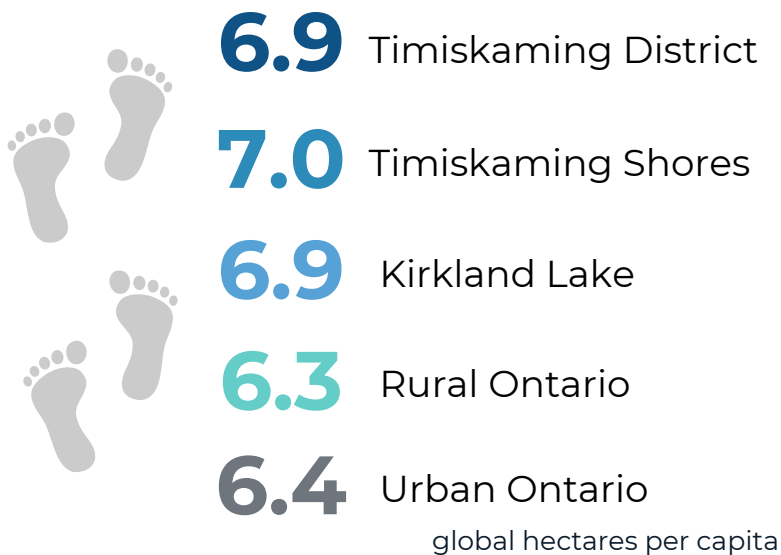
ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

Ecological Footprint is the area needed to support the human consumption of ecosystem goods and services. The Ecological Footprint for people in Timiskaming Unorganized West is 7.4 global hectares per capita, which is higher than the regional value of 6.9 and the value for rural Ontario at 6.3.

Ecological Footprint is influenced by many factors including population, population change, dwelling types and sizes, income, and commuting patterns. This community has a small population, high median income, and a large land area.



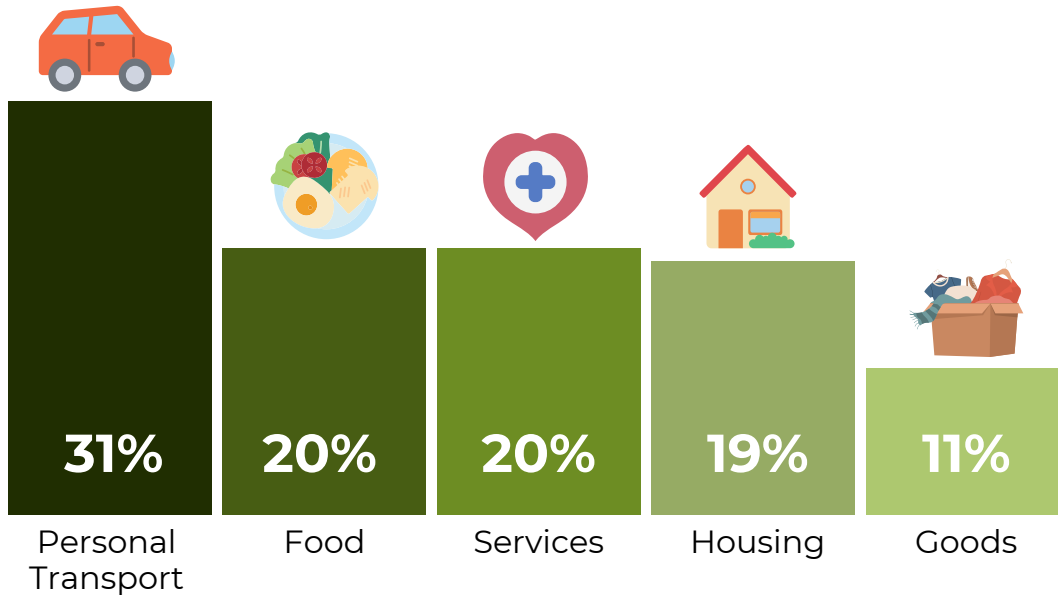
7.5 Timiskaming Unorganized West



31%
of the Ecological Footprint can be attributed to consumption associated with personal transport.

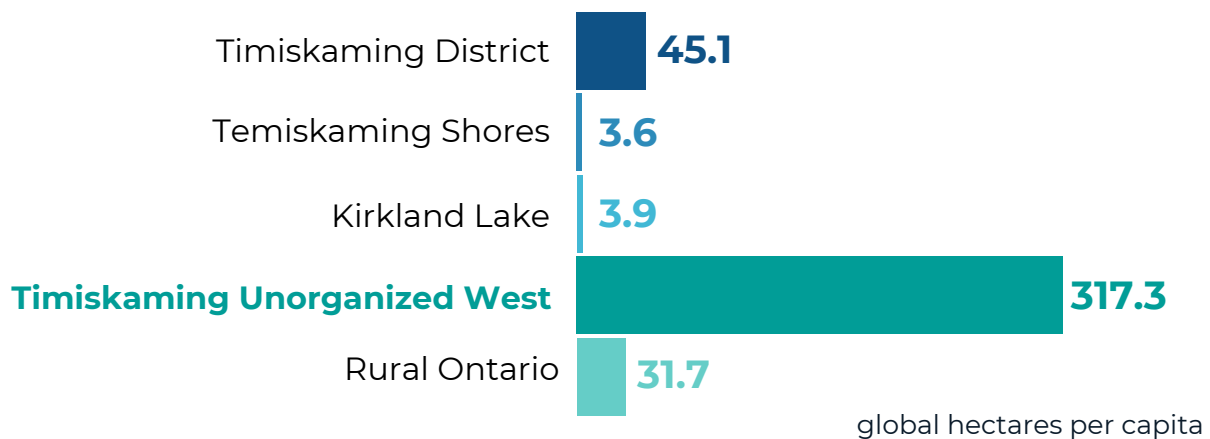


HOUSEHOLD SUBCATEGORIES OF CONSUMPTION

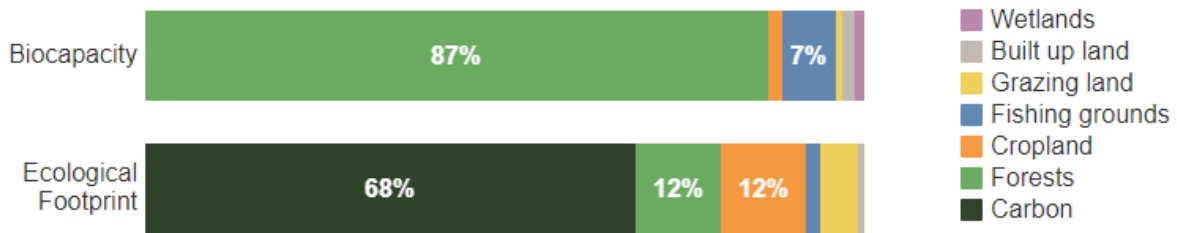


BIOCAPACITY

Biocapacity is the ecosystem supply of goods and services in the community. Timiskaming Unorganized West has significantly more Biocapacity than other communities in this region and in Ontario because of its large land area and extensive natural features. Communities with a small land area will usually have low Biocapacity. Indeed, the Biocapacity for urban Ontario is 0.8 global hectares per capita.



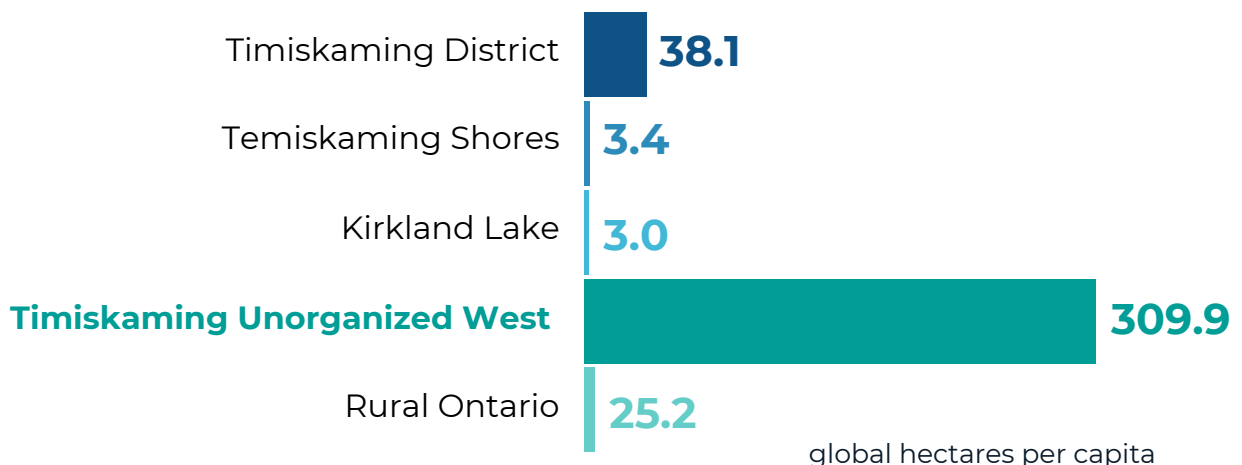
COMPONENTS OF ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT & BIOCAPACITY



Biocapacity and Ecological Footprint accounts are made up of components that reflect different land uses. Rural areas have most of Ontario’s natural land cover and accordingly, most of Ontario’s productive ecosystems. Forests make up most of the ecosystems in this community and account for 87% of the community’s Biocapacity. This community has a small Ecological Footprint when compared to its Biocapacity. But as with most communities in Ontario, the carbon component comprises most of this community’s Ecological Footprint.

BIOCAPACITY BALANCE

Biocapacity balance is calculated as the difference between a community’s biocapacity and its Ecological Footprint. Timiskaming Unorganized West has a biocapacity balance of 309.9 global hectares per capita, which is significantly greater than other communities in this region and for rural Ontario more broadly at 25.2. A positive biocapacity balance indicates that levels of consumption are sustainable. However, communities that are already consuming resources sustainably can still reduce their Ecological Footprint by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to help with climate change mitigation.





DURATION OF COMMUTE

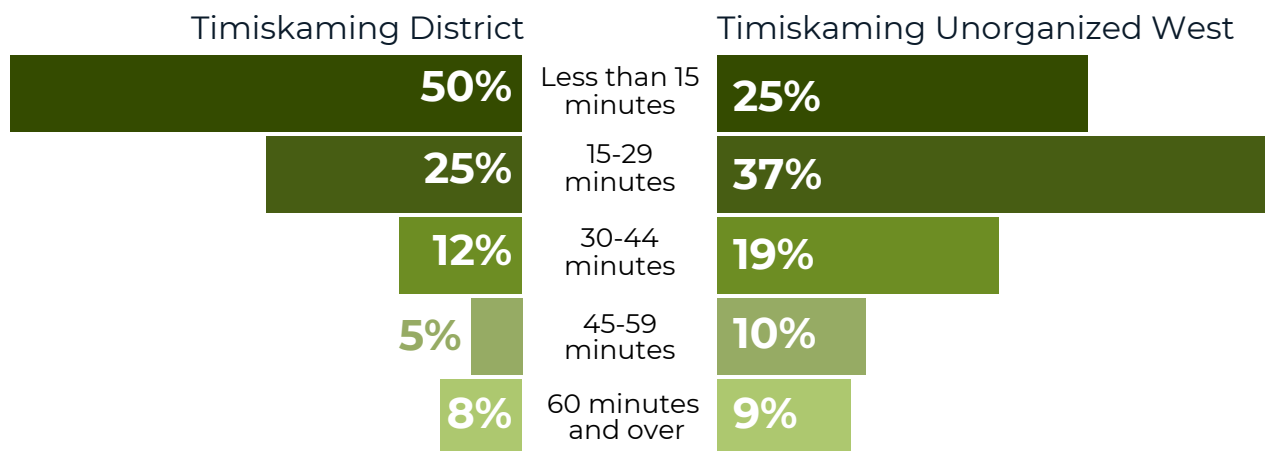
In 2021, 91% of commuters who live in Timiskaming Unorganized West drove to work in a car, truck, or van. Most commuters drove less than 30 minutes. But almost 20% of commuters drove longer than 45 minutes to get to work, which makes sense given the large land area and limited opportunities for local employment. 13% of commuters in the region had a long commute, which is close to the value for rural Ontario of 16%.

Long Commute



- 13%** Timiskaming District
- 10%** Temiskaming Shores
- 12%** Kirkland Lake
- 16%** Rural Ontario

Duration of Commute





COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

Perspectives of the Timiskaming Health Unit

Timiskaming Unorganized West, while lacking a centralized governance structure, is home to a diverse array of vibrant communities, such as Boston Creek, Dane, Gowganda, Kenabeek, Kenogami Lake, King Kirkland, Lorrain Valley, Marshall's Corners, Mowat Landing, Paradis Bay, Savard, Sesekinika, Tarzwell, Tomstown, and Zeta. Each of these communities has varying levels of cohesiveness and involvement.

The data in this report highlights areas for potential improvement and development.



Economic Development

Support local businesses and skill development through workshops and partnerships.



Housing Improvements

Address housing quality and affordability with repair programs and housing support.



Social Cohesion

Strengthen community ties through local events and volunteer opportunities.



Broadband Internet Coverage

Advocate for internet access or find solutions to help more people gain access.

Though Timiskaming Unorganized West lacks a centralized body, this report provides a foundation for meaningful community action. By addressing local needs and leveraging existing resources, residents can drive positive change and improve the wellbeing of their diverse communities.


Since this is the first Community Wellbeing Report for Timiskaming Unorganized West, it can serve as a baseline against which future progress on policies or programs can be tracked.





CONTACT US

Questions and Comments?

Contact the Rural Ontario Institute for more information.

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