



NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

Draft Community Profile

TOWNSHIP OF IGNACE, ONTARIO



APM-REP-06144-0015

JULY 2013

This report has been prepared under contract to the NWMO. The report has been reviewed by the NWMO, but the views and conclusions are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the NWMO.

All copyright and intellectual property rights belong to the NWMO.

For more information, please contact:

Nuclear Waste Management Organization

22 St. Clair Avenue East, Sixth Floor

Toronto, Ontario M4T 2S3 Canada

Tel 416.934.9814

Toll Free 1.866.249.6966

Email contactus@nwmo.ca

www.nwmo.ca

COMMUNITY PROFILE: **IGNACE**

July 2013



Prepared For:
Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO)

Prepared By:
SENES Consultants



DRAFT

**COMMUNITY PROFILE:
TOWNSHIP OF IGNACE, ONTARIO**

Prepared for:

Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO)

Prepared by:

SENES Consultants
121 Granton Drive, Unit 12
Richmond Hill, Ontario
L4B 3N4

July 2013

Printed on Recycled Paper Containing Post-Consumer Fibre



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
ACRONYMS	AC-1
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1-1
2.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE	2-1
2.1 Overview	2-1
2.1.1 Location	2-1
2.1.2 Land Size and Uses	2-1
2.1.3 Vision and Strategic Plan	2-1
2.1.3.1 Community Sustainability Vision 2012	2-3
2.1.3.2 Ignace Strategic Plan 2009 – 2012	2-3
2.2 Human Assets	2-4
2.2.1 Human Asset Indicators	2-4
2.2.1.1 Population Size and Demographics	2-4
2.2.1.2 Skills and Labour	2-6
2.2.1.3 Education	2-9
2.2.1.4 Health and Safety Facilities and Services	2-11
2.2.2 Summary of Human Assets	2-12
2.2.2.1 Priorities and Key Issues	2-12
2.2.2.2 Community Aspirations	2-14
2.2.2.3 Capabilities and Capacities within the Community	2-14
2.3 Economic Assets	2-16
2.3.1 Economic Asset Indicators	2-16
2.3.1.1 Employment	2-16
2.3.1.2 Business Activity	2-17
2.3.1.3 Income	2-20
2.3.1.4 Tourism	2-21
2.3.1.5 Economic Development Services	2-23
2.3.1.6 Governance and Municipal Finances	2-24
2.3.2 Summary of Economic Assets	2-27
2.3.2.1 Priorities and Key Issues	2-27
2.3.2.2 Community Aspirations	2-29
2.3.2.3 Capabilities and Capacities within the Community	2-30
2.4 Infrastructure	2-32
2.4.1 Physical Asset Indicators	2-32
2.4.1.1 Land Use	2-32
2.4.1.2 Housing	2-33
2.4.1.3 Municipal Infrastructure and Services	2-35
2.4.1.4 Transportation Infrastructure	2-36
2.4.2 Summary of Physical Assets	2-36
2.4.2.1 Priorities and Key Issues	2-36
2.4.2.2 Community Aspiration	2-37

		2.4.2.3 Capabilities and Capacities within the Community.....	2-38
2.5	Social Assets		2-40
	2.5.1 Social Assets Indicators		2-40
		2.5.1.1 Diversity of Population Composition	2-40
		2.5.1.2 Cultural Heritage Resources	2-42
		2.5.1.3 Community Facilities and Programs.....	2-42
		2.5.1.4 Social Services and Organizations.....	2-45
	2.5.2 Summary of Social Assets		2-47
		2.5.2.1 Priorities and Key Issues.....	2-47
		2.5.2.2 Community Aspirations	2-48
		2.5.2.3 Capabilities and Capacities within the Community.....	2-48
2.6	Natural Environment.....		2-50
	2.6.1 Natural Assets Indicators		2-50
		2.6.1.1 Parks and Protected Areas	2-50
		2.6.1.2 Natural Areas/Features of Significance	2-54
	2.6.2 Summary of Natural Assets		2-54
		2.6.2.1 Priorities and Key Issues.....	2-54
		2.6.2.2 Community Aspirations	2-54
		2.6.2.3 Capabilities and Capacities within the Community.....	2-55
2.7	Unique Characteristics		2-56
	2.7.1 Community Character.....		2-56
	2.7.2 Environmental Values.....		2-56
	2.7.3 Community Goals		2-57
	2.7.4 Community Action Plans To Date and Expected		2-57
3.0	CENSUS DIVISION PROFILE		3-1
	3.1 Overview.....		3-1
		3.1.1 Expenditures – Where do Residents Purchase Goods and Services?	3-1
		3.1.2 Location – List of Communities	3-2
		3.1.3 Land Size and Uses	3-2
	3.2 Communities.....		3-7
		3.2.1 Community Names and Locations.....	3-7
		3.2.2 Non-Aboriginal Historical Context.....	3-9
	3.3 Aboriginal Communities And Organizations		3-10
		3.3.1 First Nations.....	3-10
			3-10
		3.3.1.1 Wabigoon Lake First Nation.....	3-10
		3.3.1.2 Lac Seul First Nation	3-10
		3.3.1.3 Seine River First Nation.....	3-11
		3.3.1.4 Grand Council of Treaty #3	3-11
		3.3.2 Métis	3-12
	3.4 Population Dynamics (by Community)		3-12
		3.4.1 Trend Over Time.....	3-12
		3.4.2 Age Profile	3-13
	3.5 Labour Force (Regional as a whole).....		3-14
		3.5.1 Population by Education/Training Attainment	3-16
		3.5.2 Employment by Activity/and Sector.....	3-17

3.6	Business Activity	3-18
3.6.1	Main Businesses – Past and Current.....	3-18
3.6.2	Number of Employees	3-19
3.6.3	Investment Trends and Projections.....	3-20
3.7	Regional Profile Summary.....	3-21
4.0	COMPARISON OF THE COMMUNITY PATTERNS WITH THE DISTRICT OF KENORA AND THE PROVINCE	4-1
4.1	Population Dynamics	4-1
4.1.1	Trend Over Time.....	4-1
4.1.2	Age Profile	4-2
4.2	Labour Force	4-4
4.2.1	Population by Education/Training Attainment	4-5
4.2.2	Employment by Activity and Sector.....	4-6
4.3	Community Patterns with Region and Province Summary	4-7
5.0	REFERENCES	5-1

LIST OF TABLES

	<u>Page No.</u>
Table 2.2-1	Population Change from 1971 to 2011 2-5
Table 2.2-2	Population by Age Cohort (1996-2011) 2-6
Table 2.2-3	Change in Population by Age Cohort (1996-2011) 2-6
Table 2.2-4	Total Labour Force by Occupation (1996-2006) 2-7
Table 2.2-5	Total Labour Force by Industry (1996-2006) 2-8
Table 2.2-6	Educational Levels in Ignace (1996 and 2006)..... 2-10
Table 2.3-1	Ignace Labour Force Activity (1996-2006) 2-16
Table 2.3-2	Local Private Businesses in Ignace..... 2-18
Table 2.3-3	Local Private Services in Ignace..... 2-20
Table 2.3-4	Median Household Income in Ignace, District of Kenora and Ontario (2000 and 2005) 2-20
Table 2.3-5	Summary of Cultural Tourism Resources in the Project Area 2-23
Table 2.3-6	Ignace Property Taxation (2002-2011)..... 2-26
Table 2.3-7	Ignace Projected 5-year Debt Repayment Schedule (2012-2016)..... 2-27
Table 2.4-1	Ignace Dwellings by Type (1996 and 2006)..... 2-33
Table 2.4-2	Ignace Number of Dwellings by Tenure (1996-2006)..... 2-34
Table 2.4-3	Ignace Property Assessment Values 2-35
Table 2.5-1	Aboriginal, Non-Aboriginal, Immigrant and Non-immigrant Population in Ignace (1996-2006)..... 2-41
Table 2.5-2	Aboriginal to Non-Aboriginal, Immigrant to Non-immigrant Population in Ignace (1996-2006)..... 2-41
Table 2.5-3	Ignace Community Programs 2-43
Table 2.5-4	Ignace Community Facilities 2-44
Table 2.5-5	Ignace Community Special Events 2-44
Table 2.5-6	Social Services and Organizations in Ignace 2-45
Table 2.6-1	Provincial Parks in Ignace and its Periphery 2-52
Table 2.7-1	Community Sustainability Vision for the Township of Ignace 2-58
Table 3.4-1	Population Trend (2001-2011) – Non-Aboriginal Communities in the District of Kenora..... 3-13
Table 3.4-2	Gender and Age Profile (2011) – Non-Aboriginal Communities in the District of Kenora..... 3-13
Table 3.5-1	Labour Force Activity (2006) – Non-Aboriginal Communities in the District of Kenora..... 3-14
Table 3.5-2	Labour Force Activity (2001-2006) – Non-Aboriginal Communities in the District of Kenora 3-15
Table 3.5-3	Labour Force Estimates (2012) – District of Kenora..... 3-15
Table 3.5-4	Population by Education/Training Attainment (2006) – Non-Aboriginal Communities in the District of Kenora..... 3-16
Table 3.5-5	Employment by Activity and Sector (2001-2006) – Non-Aboriginal Communities in the District of Kenora..... 3-17
Table 3.6-1	Number of Employees by Industry, District of Kenora..... 3-20

LIST OF TABLES (Cont'd)

	<u>Page No.</u>
Table 4.1-1 Population Trend (1996-2011) – Ignace, the District of Kenora and the Province of Ontario.....	4-1
Table 4.1-2 Gender and Age Profile (2011) – Ignace, the District of Kenora and Province of Ontario.....	4-4
Table 4.2-1 Labour Force (2006) – Ignace, District of Kenora and Province of Ontario	4-4
Table 4.2-2 Population by Education/Training Attainment 2006 – District of Kenora and Province of Ontario	4-5
Table 4.2-3 Employment by Activity and Sector (2006) – District of Kenora and Province of Ontario.....	4-6
Table 4.2-4 Distribution of Businesses in the District of Kenora Economy as Compared to Ontario (2010).....	4-7

LIST OF FIGURES

	<u>Page No.</u>
Figure 2.1-1 Ignace and Surrounding Lands	2-2
Figure 2.2-1 Ignace Population Trend (1971-2011)	2-5
Figure 2.2-2 Ignace Enrolment Trends	2-10
Figure 2.3-1 Revenues and expenditures of the Township (2002-2011).....	2-25
Figure 2.3-2 Ignace Property Taxation (2002-2011).....	2-26
Figure 2.6-1 Ignace Parks and Conservation Reserves	2-51
Figure 2.6-2 Number of Visitors to Sandbar Lake Provincial Park	2-53
Figure 2.6-3 Camper Origin, Sandbar Lake Provincial Park (2011).....	2-53
Figure 3.1-1 Primary Reasons for Out-shopping.....	3-3
Figure 3.1-2 Out-shopped Products	3-4
Figure 3.1-3 Method of Out-shopping.....	3-5
Figure 3.1-4 District of Kenora, Ontario	3-6
Figure 4.1-1 Percentage Change in Population Over Time, Compared to 1996 Population, Ignace, District of Kenora and Province of Ontario.....	4-2
Figure 4.1-2 Age Profile (2011) – Ignace.....	4-3
Figure 4.1-3 Age Profile (2011) – District of Kenora	4-3
Figure 4.1-4 Age Profile (2011) – Province of Ontario.....	4-3

ACRONYMS

APM	Adaptive Phase Management
BIA	Business Improvement Association
CPR	Canadian Pacific Railway
EDC	Economic Development Committee
ICE CAP	Ignace Citizen Encouraged Community Adjustment Committee
ICNLC	Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee
masl	Metres above sea level
MNR	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
MTO	Ministry of Transportation
NTAB	Northwest Training and Adjustment Board
NWMO	Nuclear Waste Management Organization
NWOHU	Northwestern Ontario Health Unit
OPP	Ontario Provincial Police
PACE	Patricia Area Community Endeavours

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This community profile has been prepared as part of the Township of Ignace's participation in the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) *Learn More* program. This program is offered to communities interested in exploring and potentially hosting the Adaptive Phased Management project, the deep geological repository and centre of expertise which is required as part of Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

This document brings together information about the community, its history, its aspirations, and current conditions. The information contained in this report is not an assessment of any kind; instead it is intended to paint a picture of the community as it stands today. Such a picture can be a helpful starting point for community discussions about how future projects might be implemented in the community, and the extent to which a project might contribute to the well-being of the community over the long term, including the Adaptive Phased Management project. The Adaptive Phased Management project will only be implemented in a community that has reflected upon whether the project will contribute to community well-being and, after a series of detailed studies have been completed to confirm the safety and appropriateness of a site, has expressed an informed willingness to host the project. Over time, communities in the surrounding area will also need to become involved in the learning process.

This profile is organized to describe the characteristics of the community through five different perspectives or 'lenses':

- Human: Skills, knowledge and essential services supporting the well-being of the community;
- Economic: Monetary or financial resources supporting the well-being of the community;
- Infrastructure: Basic physical infrastructure supporting the well-being of the community;
- Social: Social and community activities in which people participate and the resources drawn upon to support well-being; and,
- Natural environment: Nature and the natural environment important to well-being.

The characteristics of the community are referred to as "assets" throughout the report. This is intended to highlight their importance and pave the way for a broad and holistic discussion of how the community may be affected by the Adaptive Phased Management project, or other large project which the community may consider. This discussion of the characteristics of the community which support community life may also help the community identify other important aspects which should also be considered.

The information and data used to compile this profile was derived from a combination of sources, including:

- Publicly available documents and statistics;
- Data and information provided by the community; and,
- Insights derived from discussion with the community liaison committee and through interviews with community leaders.

Although this profile contains references to other communities within the region, these references are intended only as a means to round out the community profile and provide some context for discussion.

The NWMO Learn More program encourages collaboration and shared learning involving the NWMO and the community throughout all stages of reflection and decision-making. NWMO efforts to learn about and understand the community, its aspirations and current conditions will continue throughout the duration of the Township of Ignace's involvement in the Learn More program.

2.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE

2.1 OVERVIEW

2.1.1 Location

The Township of Ignace (hereafter referred to as Ignace) is located in the District of Kenora, in northwestern Ontario. It is a small community, located on the TransCanada highway, approximately 250 km west of Thunder Bay and 450 km east of Winnipeg. Ignace is situated in the heart of Ontario's "sunset country" and is the starting point of Ontario's most northerly highway, Highway 599. Named after Ignace Mentour, by Sir Sandford Fleming, Ignace was founded in 1879 and incorporated 29 years later in 1908.

2.1.2 Land Size and Uses

Ignace is located in the Canadian Shield physiographic region; a low-relief, dome-like, gently undulating land surface, at an altitude of 446 metres above sea level (masl). The surface elevation is approximately 150 m above sea level in the north and increases to approximately 450 masl in the south.¹

The land area of the Township of Ignace is 93.2 km² and consists of a smaller settlement area and a larger rural area.² The settlement area, which comprises residential, commercial and industrial land uses, is predominately located along the north shore of Agimak Lake and along the lands north and south of Highway 17.³ Located within the Boreal Forest Region, the Township's rural area is largely forested with Jack Pine identified as a dominant species.⁴ The soil is mostly sandy with very little overburden. An abundance of lakes and rivers are also found in the Township. Substantial holdings of Crown Land exist within the Township. Figure 2.1-1 provides a map of Ignace and its surrounding lands.

2.1.3 Vision and Strategic Plan

Ignace has a community vision; it is articulated in documents such as the *Community Sustainability Vision 2012*⁵ and the *Township of Ignace Strategic Plan 2009-2012*.⁶ Some of the common elements found in these vision statements are:

- the importance of promoting Ignace's lands, resources and natural beauty;
- fostering strong economic prosperity and growth; and,
- preserving community values.

¹ Golder Associates 2011. Prepared for the NWMO.

² Township of Ignace 2009a.

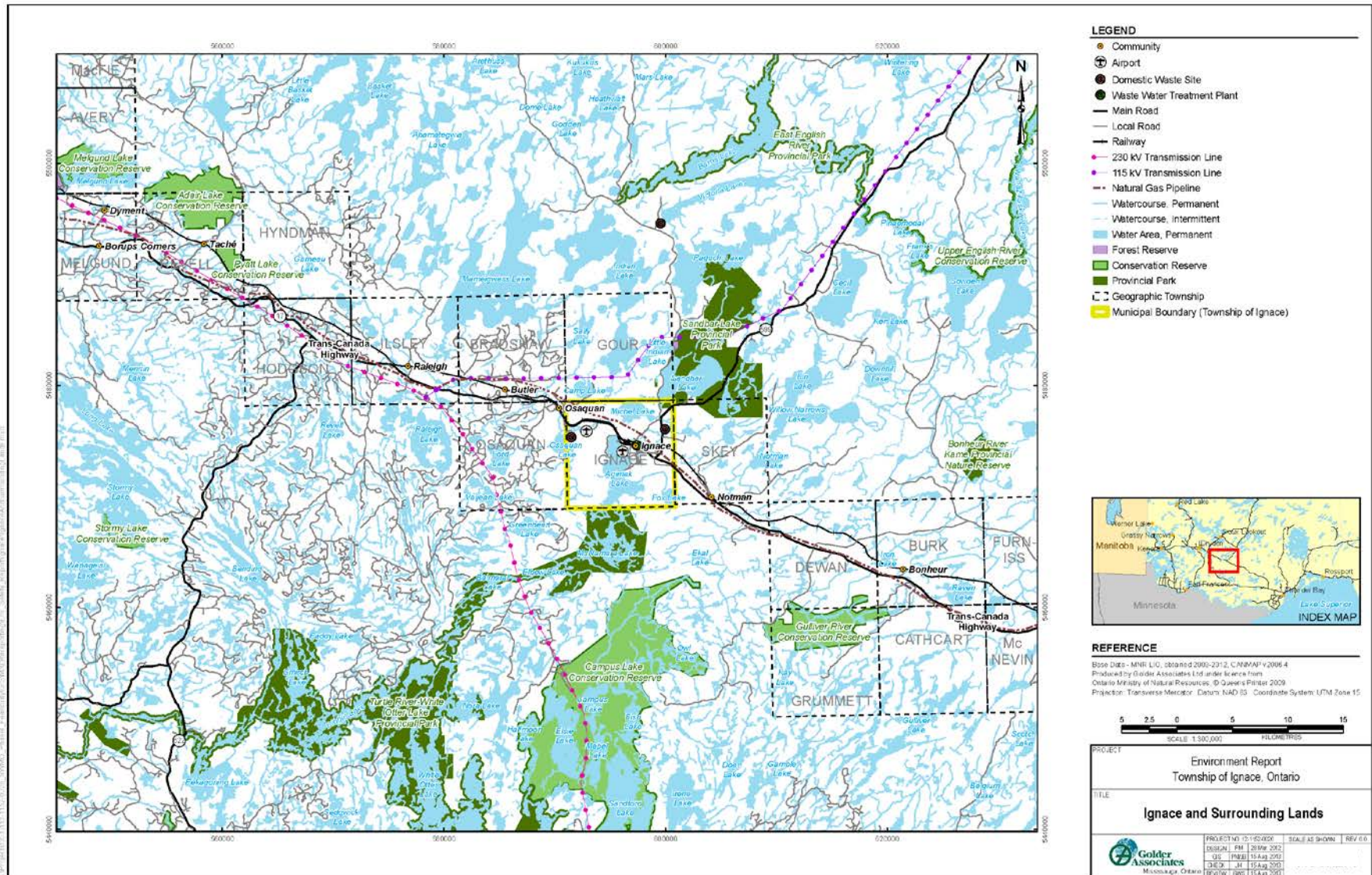
³ The Corporation of the Township of Ignace 2010.

⁴ Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee (ICNLC). May 2012.

⁵ gck Consulting 2012.

⁶ Township of Ignace 2009b.

Figure 2.1-1 Ignace and Surrounding Lands



2.1.3.1 Community Sustainability Vision 2012

The Community Sustainability Vision 2012⁷ specifically states its vision as follows:

“Ignace will embrace its lands and resources to provide a quality of life for all people unsurpassed in any municipality in Northern Ontario”

Founded on a four pillar model of sustainability, the vision includes environmental responsibility, economic health, social equity and cultural vitality.

The Community Sustainability Vision 2012⁸ report identified five key priorities as being integral to the long term economic sustainability of Ignace, namely:

1. Position Ignace for growth;
2. Aggressively pursue recent industrial announcements;
3. Municipal organizational review;
4. Supporting community infrastructure and assets; and,
5. Affordable senior housing.

2.1.3.2 Ignace Strategic Plan 2009 – 2012

The Township of Ignace Strategic Plan 2009-2012⁹ acts as a guide for Council and staff in the allocation of resources and as a framework for decision-making on priorities in the short-term and long term. The vision as stated in this Plan is:

“Ignace is an attractive, safe and caring community that engages all residents in striving toward developing and maintaining a desirable lifestyle with equal opportunity for all, and a business economy that is based on sustainable principals and diversification”

The overall strategy as stated in the Plan is to:

“build on strengths, shore up weaknesses, position for opportunities and mitigate risks/threats”

⁷ gck Consulting 2012.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Township of Ignace 2009b.

To this end, the Township of Ignace¹⁰ identified four strategic objectives:

1. **Capital Investment** – Ignace will ensure that infrastructure needs are identified and priorities established on an ongoing basis so that assessments and planning steps are in place to guarantee flexibility and responsiveness to government funding programs and to support economic development initiatives.
2. **Business Investment Readiness** – Ignace will encourage a diversified approach to business development, support entrepreneurship and promote the notion that local associations and the private sector must drive the development process with the assistance of municipal staff.
3. **Tourism and Community Development** – Ignace will offer tourism-industry support, and pursue community development initiatives such as beautification, recreational and cultural programming and events, and youth-focused initiatives.
4. **Adopt Sustainable Development Principles** – Municipal sustainability planning is an opportunity to proactively address challenges of participative governance that protects ecological integrity, and moves the community towards cultural and social cohesion.

2.2 HUMAN ASSETS

2.2.1 Human Asset Indicators

The Human Assets within a community include the skills and knowledge inherent in a community and the ability of a community to provide its residents with access to other skills, knowledge and essential services that are fundamental to maintaining community well-being, quality of life or a desired standard of living. Some of the more specific indicators within the category for Human Assets include:

- Population Size and Demographics;
- Skills and Labour;
- Education; and,
- Health and Safety Facilities and Services.

These indicators are described in this section, within the context of the Human well-being of Ignace. A photo exhibit of Human Assets is provided at the end of the section.

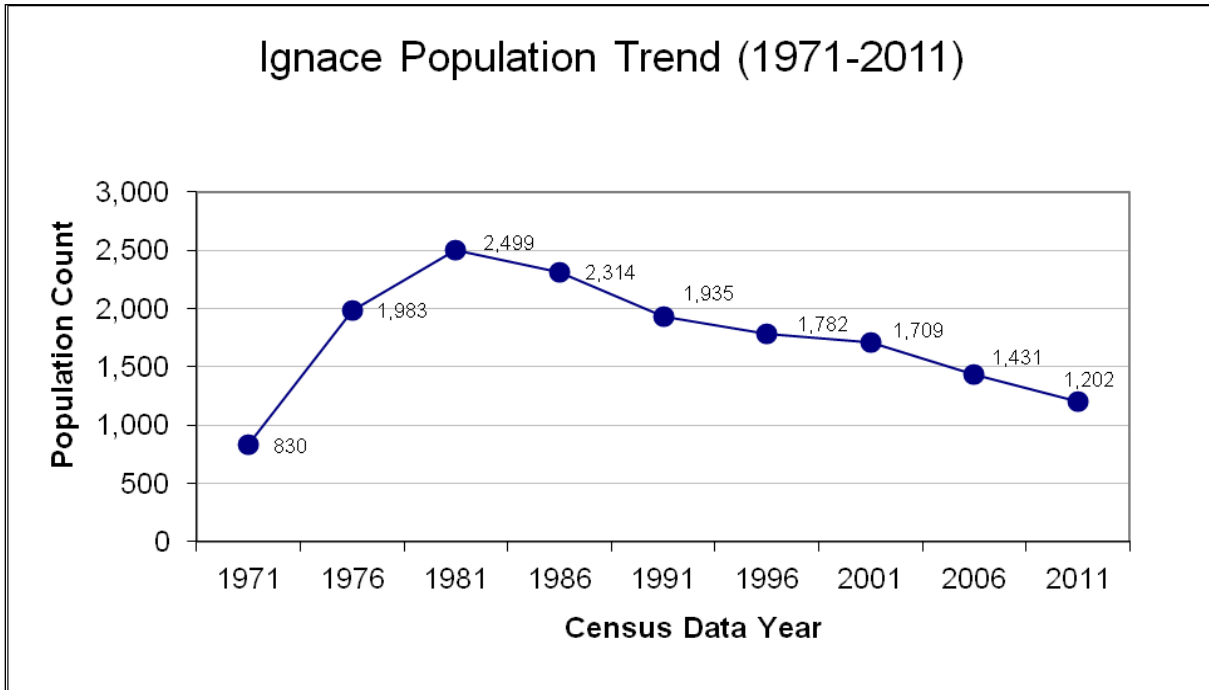
2.2.1.1 Population Size and Demographics

Over the past 40 years, the population of Ignace has varied greatly. Records show that the population grew rapidly between 1971 and 1981, as a result of new mining developments. The population peaked in 1981 at 2,499 permanent residents and has gradually declined since then due to the closure or downsizing of forestry and mining operations in the early 1990's. Ignace's

¹⁰ Township of Ignace 2009b.

population between 1971 and 2011 is tabulated and presented in Figure 2.2-1 and Table 2.2-1. As illustrated in Table 2.2-1, the population declined 16% between 2006 and 2011. It was noted by members of the ICNLC¹¹ that approximately 10 to 15% of the population are seasonal cottagers that mainly live along Agimak Lake during the summer season.

Figure 2.2-1 Ignace Population Trend (1971-2011)



Source: Statistics Canada (1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012a)

Table 2.2-1 Population Change from 1971 to 2011

Time Period	Population Change
1971-1976	138.9%
1976-1981	26.0%
1981-1986	-7.4%
1986-1991	-16.4%
1991-1996	-7.9%
1996-2001	-4.1%
2001-2006	-16.3%
2006-2011	-16.0%

Source: Statistics Canada (1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1998, 2002, 2007, 2012a)

¹¹ ICNLC May 2012.

According to the 2011 census data, the median age of the population was 48.1 years with a total female population of 600 and a male population of 600.

Table 2.2-2 provides the total population by age from 1996 to 2011. Table 2.2-3 provides the change in population by age as a percentage. Generally, the table illustrates that the population is aging with declines in all age cohorts under 64 years, and an increase in the age cohorts over 65 years.

Table 2.2-2 Population by Age Cohort (1996-2011)

Age Cohort	1996	2001	2006	2011
Total Population	1,782	1,709	1,431	1,202
0 to 14 years	395	345	260	185
15 to 24 years	270	250	150	115
25 to 44 years	580	490	370	235
45 to 64 years	410	450	480	460
65 to 84 years	130	155	170	195
85 years and over	5	5	5	10

Source: Statistics Canada 2012a

Table 2.2-3 Change in Population by Age Cohort (1996-2011)

Age Cohort	1996-2001	2001-2006	2006-2011
0 to 14 years	-12.7%	-24.6%	-28.8%
15 to 24 years	-7.4%	-40.0%	-23.3%
25 to 44 years	-15.5%	-24.5%	-36.5%
45 to 64 years	9.8%	6.7%	-4.2%
65 to 84 years	19.2%	9.7%	14.7%
85 years and over	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

Source: Statistics Canada (1997, 2002, 2007, 2012a)

2.2.1.2 Skills and Labour

Forestry was strong in the 1940's and 1950's and this played an important role in the economic development of Ignace. The labour force of Ignace in the 1980's was predominately employed within the mining, in addition to forestry industries. In 1986, Noranda Inc. mining and Canadian Pacific Forest Products accounted for 37% of Ignace's total labour force. The decrease in production in both these industries resulted in corresponding decreases in the labour force. Other industry downsizing and closures such as the TransCanada Pipeline station outside Ignace, the

Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) switching station and forestry operations resulted in additional losses to the labour force in Ignace.¹²

Declines in the labour force were also experienced as a result of changes to government services in the late 1990's primarily due to self-regulating policies, centralization, and the downsizing of provincial funds and programs. For example, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) employed 45 full-time and 90 seasonal staff in 1991. The relocation of the fire centre to Dryden, and self-regulation of the local area resource management boundary led to a staff decline of 15 full-time and 40 seasonal staff by 2008.¹³ Community interviews suggest that at present this number has further decreased to only 10 people being employed at the MNR office in Ignace.¹⁴

The distribution of total labour force by skill/occupation over the period of 1996 to 2006 is provided in Table 2.2-4. In 1996, the largest segment of the total labour force worked in sales and services, which became second to the segment of people in trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations in 2001. By 2006, the sales and services sector surpassed all other occupations as the largest segment of the labour force.

Table 2.2-4 Total Labour Force by Occupation (1996-2006)

Total Labour Force by Occupation - Skills Profile	1996	2001	2006
Total experienced labour force 15 years and over	965	885	780
Management occupations	100	75	45
Business, finance and administration occupations	115	105	100
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	25	25	0
Health occupations	0	15	0
Occupations in social science, education, government service and religion	75	60	30
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	10	0	0
Sales and service occupations	295	240	245
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	195	255	190
Occupations unique to primary industry	100	65	115
Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	40	40	40

Source: Statistics Canada 2012a

Note: The most recent census data (2011) are not published at this time.

¹² Lederer 2009.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Community Interviews 2012.

Ignace has an older labour force across all its occupations as compared to Ontario¹⁵ as a whole; however, the community has been noted as possessing skills which are directly transferable between industries, such as supervisors/managers, skilled machine operators, mechanics, equipment operators and labourers.¹⁶ It was also noted that a large portion of the population is now self-employed, running local businesses such as gas stations, giftware stores, clothing outlets and a number of restaurants and motels.¹⁷

Ignace saw a slight increase in agriculture and other resource-based industries and wholesale trade sectors over the 1996-2006 time period as shown in Table 2.2-5. A larger growth is evident in the construction, finance and real estate, and business services sectors. The manufacturing, retail trade and educational services sectors have witnessed a notable decline in employed personnel from 1996-2006, while the number of people working in the health care and social services sector remains unchanged over this time period (Table 2.2-5).

Table 2.2-5 Total Labour Force by Industry (1996-2006)

Total Labour Force by Industry	1996	2006
Total experienced labour force 15 years and over	965	780
Agriculture and other resource-based industries	185	190
Construction	10	30
Manufacturing	85	65
Wholesale trade	10	15
Retail trade	105	80
Finance and real estate	0	30
Health care and social services	40	40
Educational services	90	55
Business services	10	85
Other services	420	185

Source: Statistics Canada (1997, 2007; 2012a)

Note: Data for 2001 are not provided in Table 2.2-5 as the labour force by industry is categorized differently than provided for 1996 and 2006.

Note: The most recent census data (2011) are not published at this time.

¹⁵ Lederer 2009.

¹⁶ Township of Ignace 2009a.

¹⁷ Lederer 2009.

2.2.1.3 Education

As reported in the Socioeconomic Impact Assessment prepared for the Ignace Citizen Encouraged Community Adjustment Program (ICE CAP), enrolment trends from 1988 to 2008 are provided in Figure 2.2-2. School enrolment for elementary students has decreased throughout this time period with the exception of the years 1993 and 2006. A large decrease of 17% occurred between September 1990 and September 1991, which was directly attributed to mine closures and the subsequent relocation of some residents. Interestingly, the largest decreases were evident in the elementary enrolment as opposed to the secondary enrolment. The Socioeconomic Impact Assessment suggests that since the majority of Noranda Inc. and Bowater employees were between the ages of 25 and 35, their children were likely to be enrolled in elementary school as opposed to secondary school; thus the decrease in elementary enrolment. The secondary enrolment numbers were also affected by these industries; however, this occurred at a disproportionate rate. Secondary effects, such as loss of other service jobs, were also a factor for the decrease in enrolment.¹⁸

Staff complements have decreased 37% from 48 staff (in 1998) to 30 staff (in 2008);¹⁹ however, regardless of the decline in staff, the school is still perceived as a strength within the community.

The Ignace Elementary and Secondary School has a population of approximately 200 junior kindergarten to Grade 12 students, 18.5 full-time equivalent teachers, three education assistants, two administrative assistants, one librarian, a Vice-Principal and a full-time Principal. The school relies on a core group of five or six volunteers and an active Parent Council to assist with fund raising, implementation of the breakfast program, “Pipeline for literacy”, and other programs. According to community interviews the school has a positive working relationship with the health centre, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), and with the community, in general.

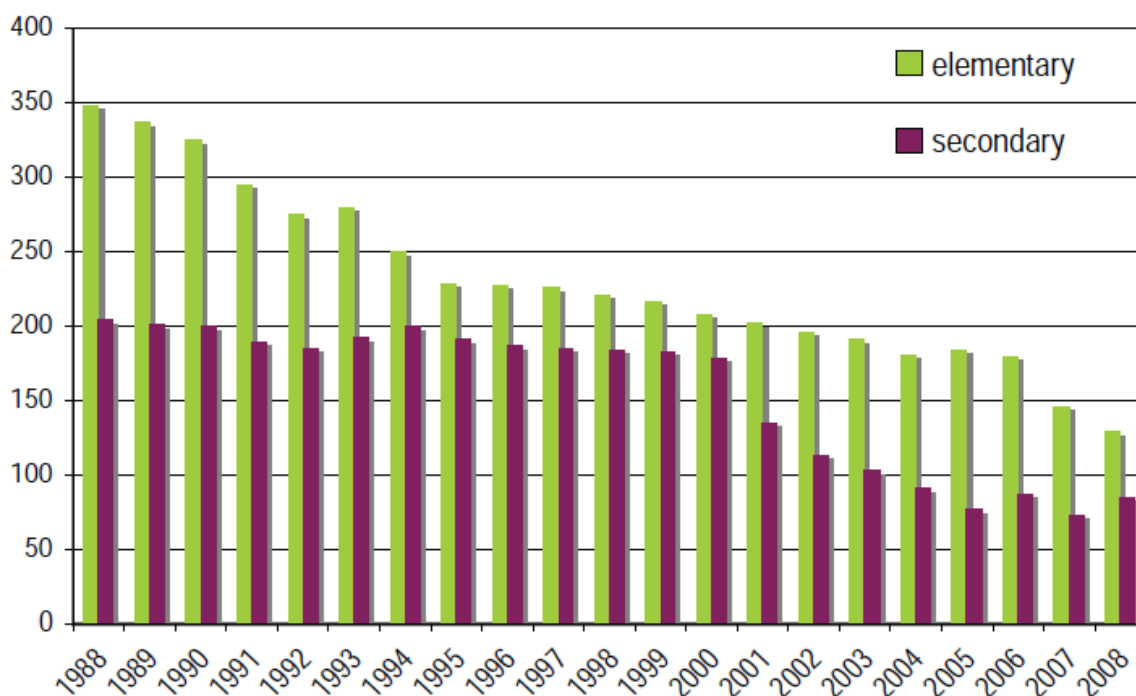
The French Catholic school in Ignace, the École Immaculée Conception, offers instruction from kindergarten to Grade 8. The current enrollment and staffing is approximately 18 students and seven staff.²⁰

¹⁸ Lederer 2009.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Township of Ignace n.d.

Figure 2.2-2 Ignace Enrolment Trends²¹



Education levels for Ignace in 2006 are provided in Table 2.2-6. Noteworthy is that although there is a large decrease in population over the 1996 to 2006 period, the number of those with a university certificate, diploma or degree has increased from 50 to 55. The number of people with a high school certificate or equivalent has also risen from 230 to 335 over the same time period.

Table 2.2-6 Educational Levels in Ignace (1996 and 2006)

Educational Levels in Ignace	1996	%	2006	%
Total population 15 years and over	1,415		1,195	
No certificate, diploma or degree	665	47.0%	475	39.7%
High school certificate or equivalent	230	16.3%	335	28.0%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	60	4.2%	135	11.3%
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	285	20.1%	160	13.4%
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	30	2.1%	30	2.5%
University certificate, diploma or degree	50	3.5%	55	4.6%

Source: Statistics Canada 2012a

Note: The most recent census data (2011) are not published at this time.

²¹ Dyden Board of Education as reported in Lederer 2009.

There are a number of educational facilities available to the community, which offer varying levels of educational programs, ranging from nursery school to university. These facilities include:

- Ignace Elementary and Secondary School;
- Ignace Best Start Hub Nursery School;
- École Immaculée Conception, a French Catholic elementary school;
- Kids' Care, a school age child care;
- Contact North and Confederation College, which offer distance education programs; and,
- Continuing Education and Distributed Learning and Advanced Technology and Academic Centre, which are made available through Lakehead University.²²

2.2.1.4 Health and Safety Facilities and Services

Health Care

The Mary Berglund Community Health Centre (located in the Ontario Government Building) provides medical services through two nurses and three rotating doctors. The Centre also offers a part-time dental hygienist, a prescription service, a mental health therapist, massage therapist and a physiotherapist.

The facility houses the Northwestern Health Unit and Dryden Mental Health and Addiction services. Major medical services are located in Dryden and Thunder Bay (which provide acute and chronic health care services for the region).²³

A variety of programs are offered through the Community Health Centre either by utilizing the Telehealth Ontario Network, or by rotating health care professionals. Programs include diabetic education, smoking cessation, Teens in Motion, Aging at Home, and blood pressure screening, to name a few.

The North West Community Care Access Centre with an office at the Community Health Centre, provides a variety of services to the community. Firefly, based in Dryden, provides a variety of services for children such as speech language pathology, supervised access services, child development, foster care support, and youth justice services. Firefly also provides support directly at the Ignace Elementary and Secondary School.

²² Township of Ignace 2009a.

²³ Ibid.

Ambulance

The Kenora District Service Board (KDSB) is responsible for the provision of ambulance services in Ignace. This ambulance service has one vehicle, and is staffed with four full-time, one part-time and several casual relief paramedics.

Ontario Provincial Police

The OPP has a detachment service that covers an 8,000 km² area²⁴ and has been in operation since 1956. The patrol area in Ignace is 16,041 km² (1,124 km of roads and 708 km of highway) and includes waterways, trails, remote areas and tourism camps. The detachment supervises the New Saugeen First Nation located 160 km away, and as far as Highway 599²⁵. There is one overnight jail cell at the police station.

The OPP unit includes one sergeant and ten officers (three of which are female), who are employed on a three-year contract. Many of the officers live in town. The OPP have a contract with the Township of Ignace to provide policing services.²⁶

Fire Department

The Ignace volunteer Fire Department consists of a Fire Chief, four Officers, and 12 volunteer firefighters. The Fire Chief and Officers receive modest annual stipends in addition to the pay for answering calls that all firefighters receive. There is also a part-time fire clerk. The Fire Department covers an area defined by English River, Savant Lake and Turtle River. The Department responds to approximately 50 motor vehicle accident calls annually. According to the Fire Chief, the Department has a mutual aid agreement with Dryden and the Chief attends two meetings annually of the District of Kenora Mutual Aid organization.²⁷

The Fire Chief indicated that other training the Department receives is from the MNR to fight bush fires, and from the CPR to respond to railway related incidents. CPR also provides funding to the Department for the purchase of necessary equipment.²⁸

2.2.2 Summary of Human Assets

2.2.2.1 Priorities and Key Issues

Ignace's Human Assets are strongly tied to its resource-based economy. The downsizing and closure of major employers within the mining and forestry sectors have resulted in a decline in employment opportunity and a parallel downturn in population since 1981. The downturn in

²⁴ Township of Ignace 2009a.

²⁵ Interview with OPP Sergeant 2012.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Interview with Fire Chief 2012.

²⁸ Ibid.

employment opportunity has precipitated a number of effects including out-migration of the labour force, households and youth.

Information gathered from community interviews suggest that many youth leave Ignace to go to college and university, and of these, few return due to lack of job prospects in the community. Additionally, youth in the community who possess university degrees frequently leave in search of job opportunities that are relevant to their area of study. It is noted that most of those with university degrees were in the medical and education fields. Therefore, a substantial challenge to the maintenance and growth of the Human Assets base in Ignace at this time is to stem out-migration through the retention of youth and the attraction of others with employment opportunities.

The community of Ignace is also characterized by an aging population. The increased number of seniors is partly attributed to the out-migration of younger workers and their families (particularly in the 25 to 44 age cohort) and partly due to Ignace being an attractive destination for seniors to retire to. Seniors choose Ignace as a retirement location because of its natural setting and the quality of life Ignace has to offer. Personal communication with community members suggest that many seniors looking to retire in Ignace are from Thunder Bay.²⁹

There is currently no social housing or not-for-profit housing in Ignace. Residents have noted that there may be a need for this type of housing in the community. The KDSB, however, does provide a rent supplement fund in Ignace.³⁰

Ignace is dealing with an older labour force; however, the population has been noted for possessing skills that are directly transferable between industries such as supervisors/managers, skilled machine operators, mechanics, equipment and labourers. The community has also shifted to one where a large proportion of the labour force is self-employed, which is an indication of the entrepreneurial nature of the local population.

The school system has experienced a pattern of declining enrolment naturally associated with industry closures and population decline. Declining enrolment has also resulted in decreased government funding for teachers and programs. Community interviews have suggested that the decrease in enrolment numbers has been gradual, as opposed to an abrupt drop.

Health care services in Ignace are considered good³¹, if not excellent³², by the residents of Ignace; a sentiment echoed by many of the community members interviewed for the purpose of developing this Community Profile. However, although healthcare is perceived as a strong

²⁹ Community Interviews 2012.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

community attribute, in the community, Ignace is challenged with finding and keeping full-time doctors.³³ Residents have also identified improved care and services for seniors as a priority in Ignace.³⁴

2.2.2.2 Community Aspirations

Despite the data that show a declining population and the associated challenges that are imposed on the community, a sense of optimism and hope for the future was expressed by several residents during the 2012 community visits in May, June, August and September 2012.

The community vision, as discussed in Section 1.1.3, identified positioning Ignace for growth as its number one priority. There is a sense of nostalgia in the community, with residents expressing their vision of Ignace returning to its former activity level when the population was around 2,000 people. Personal communication with members of the community indicated a feeling that the optimal population size would be in the range of 2,500 to 5,000 people although one interviewee thought 8,000 would be ideal. Overall, there appears to be willingness for the community to grow and be proactive and entrepreneurial. Concomitant with this is a strong evidence of passion for the community and its well-being.

In order to grow, Ignace will need to build its Human Assets by creating a range of job opportunities that will attract skilled and non-skilled labour and professionals. This can only be accomplished through the diversification and expansion of its economy. To this end, the municipality is actively looking for economic development opportunities within the forestry, mining, and tourism sectors.

2.2.2.3 Capabilities and Capacities within the Community

Ignace exhibits a number of strengths in terms of Human Assets. Relative to the past a larger number of residents are completing secondary level education and more people are also attaining post-secondary degrees and diplomas. The residents of Ignace like their community and want to stay by choice. Several community members noted that youth and other residents would return to Ignace if employment opportunities were available.

Although some downsizing has been experienced with regard to healthcare in Ignace, an acceptable level of service has been maintained and many residents regard healthcare as being “very good”. Similarly, personal communication and the Community Sustainability Vision exercise in 2012³⁵ identified the further Human Asset strengths for the community as:

- its people;

³³ Community Interviews 2012.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ gck Consulting 2012.

- good work ethic;
- a safe place to live;
- small-town community lifestyle;
- people are attached to the community;
- everybody knows each other by name; and,
- friendliness, welcoming nature of its population.

In summary, Ignace is a township with solid core strengths in its Human Assets. The residents take pride in themselves, their education, healthcare, sense of community, and cohesion and friendliness.

HUMAN ASSETS PHOTO EXHIBITS



Mary Berglund Community Health Centre



CNIB Mobile Service



Ignace Public School



Ambulance Base

2.3 ECONOMIC ASSETS

2.3.1 Economic Asset Indicators

The Economic Assets within a community include the monetary or financial related resources that people use to achieve their livelihood objectives. It includes cash or equivalents to individuals and/or the community, and availability of financial and economic resources that allow residents to manage their finances and wealth. Some of the more specific indicators within the category for Economic Assets include:

- employment;
- business activity;
- income;
- tourism;
- economic development services; and,
- governance and municipal finances.

These indicators are described in this section, within the context of the Economic well-being of Ignace. A photo exhibit of Economic assets is provided at the end of the section.

2.3.1.1 Employment

Table 2.3-1 provides Ignace's labour force activity between 1996 and 2006. In 2001, the unemployment rate for Ignace was 20.9%. This was much higher than the unemployment rate reported in Ontario (6.1%) and the District of Kenora (11.1%). By 2006, Ignace's unemployment rate had declined to 10.6%; in part attributable to increased activities at the AbitibiBowater sawmill and Ricci Trucking operations,³⁶ and in part due to an out-migration of skilled residents seeking jobs elsewhere.

Table 2.3-1 Ignace Labour Force Activity (1996-2006)

Labour force activity	1996	2001	2006
Total population 15 years and over	1,415	1,355	1,195
Employed	810	720	720
Participation Rate	68.9%	66.4%	66.9%
Employment Rate	n/a	52.6%	60.3%
Unemployment rate	16.9%	20.9%	10.6%

Source: Statistics Canada (1997, 2002, 2007)

Note: The most recent census data (2011) are not published at this time.

³⁶ Lederer 2009.

In 2006, the complete shut-down of the AbitibiBowater sawmill operations, Marci Logging offices and layoffs in Ricci Trucking and Raleigh Falls Timber resulted in community job losses of approximately 200 workers.³⁷ As a result, the unemployment rate rose dramatically and has remained elevated ever since. As of February, 2009 unemployment was estimated to be approximately 27%.³⁸

Of the Ignace labour force that is employed there is a contingent that works outside the community. In 2006, it was estimated that 115 workers worked outside the community, predominately at remote fly-in mines and forestry-based operations (within the Thunder Bay-Kenora region and parts of Northern Manitoba).³⁹

2.3.1.2 Business Activity

Historically the key economic sectors for the Ignace labour force have been forestry, tourism and transportation.⁴⁰ In the 1990's, Ignace had sizeable employment in rail operations, forestry operations (harvesting and milling) and mining. However, today the rail line operations of CPR have been reduced to a switching station and a crew layover point, the AbitibiBowater sawmill closed in 2006, and the trucking and harvesting operations have declined with the recent economic downturn.

Major Employers – Private Sector

Raleigh Falls Timber - Raleigh Falls Timber employs 48 people and remains the top private employer in the community. Raleigh Falls Timber and Ricci's Trucking are two integrated companies which form a 'stump to dump forestry' operation. Raleigh Falls Timber "plans the operations, locates access roads, does the layout for the operating areas, fells the timber, forwards the wood to roadside and processes chips and various log products." Ricci's Trucking "builds and gravels forest access roads, installs water crossings and bridges, maintains primary and secondary road systems and transports all the equipment to and from the operations and work sites." Combined, the company is the largest Forest Products Contractor in Northwest Ontario.⁴¹

A construction company (with a staff of 45), once the second largest private sector employer in Ignace, was sold and has since closed down.

³⁷ Pronger. n.d.

³⁸ Lederer 2009.

³⁹ Pronger n.d.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ricci's Trucking Raleigh Falls Timber 2011.

Major Employers – Public Sector

Public sector employers include the Township, the OPP, the local MNR field office, and the School Board. Together these constitute a major portion of the overall employment base in the community at the current time.

Business and Services

Table 2.3-2 and Table 2.3-3 provide an inventory of local private businesses and services currently operating in Ignace. Most of these businesses demonstrate a strong service orientation within the community.

Table 2.3-2 Local Private Businesses in Ignace

Business Type	Name of Business
Accommodations	Ignace White Otter Inn Lone Pine Motel Northwoods Motor Inn Sunset Resort Westwood Motel Trading Post Motel
Restaurants	Ignace Tavern New Shanghai Restaurant Roxanne's, Northwoods Motor Inn Tower Hill Truck Stop The Burger Scoop/ Robins Express (seasonal) Subway Wayfare
Hunting, Fishing, Tourism related	Agimak Lake Resort Harris Bay Resort Cozy Camp Resort Cobb Bay Lodge Young Lake Lodge Raleigh Lake Resort Ignace Outposts Breezy Point Camp Dreamcatcher Tours Davy Lake Campground Press Lake Camp Agimac River Outfitters Run Silent Dog Sled Trips Lone Pine Motel Rousseau's Landing

Table 2.3-2 Local Private Businesses in Ignace (Cont'd)

Business Type	Name of Business
Retail	<p><u>Groceries</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shop Rite Fine Foods • Grandma's Supermarket • Ignace Village Mart <p><u>Liquor / Beer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCBO <p><u>Clothing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bragg's <p><u>Antiques and Gifts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglers Gifts • Antique Unique & All Things Curious • Bragg's • Grandma's Supermarket <p><u>Hardware</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grandma's Supermarket & Hardware <p><u>Computers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grandma's Supermarket & Hardware <p><u>Automotive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hugh Broughton Auto • Taddeo's Garage and Towing • Hertz's Repairs <p><u>Towing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C Me Hauler • Taddeo's Garage • Hertz's Repairs <p><u>Financial Institutions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIBC • Northern Lights Credit Union <p><u>Real Estate</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latitude 50 • No Realty Fee

Source: Township of Ignace 2008 and Community input

Table 2.3-3 Local Private Services in Ignace

Service Type	Name of Service
Transportation	Ignace Taxi
Service Stations	Esso K & S Petro-Canada Petro-Pass (Card Lock) Taddeo's Garage Tower Hill Truck Stop
Construction, Carpentry	Ignace Carpentry RJ's Home Improvements Sunset Carpentry
Road/Landscape Construction	K&M Construction
Heating and Ventilation	Central Ventilation (CVS) & Heating Systems
Community Newspaper	Ignace Driftwood
Sewage Disposal	Northwest Sewage

Source: Township of Ignace 2008 and Community input

2.3.1.3 Income

The median income of the population (over 15 years of age) in 2000 and 2005 was \$17,238 and \$20,602, respectively. These values are lower than the median income reported for Ontario (\$24,816 in 2000; and \$27,258 in 2005) and the District of Kenora (\$20,291 in 2000; and \$23,667 in 2005).⁴² These data tend to illustrate that wealth creation per capita in Ignace is lower compared to its region and the Province.

The median household income in Ignace in 2000 and 2005 was \$45,973 and \$57,250, respectively. These values are consistent with values for the District of Kenora, which are lower than those of the Province of Ontario (Table 2.3-4).

Table 2.3-4 Median Household Income in Ignace, District of Kenora and Ontario (2000 and 2005)

Median Household Income – All Households	2000	2005
Ignace	\$45,973	\$57,250
District of Kenora	\$46,131	\$52,750
Ontario	\$53,626	\$60,455

Source: Statistics Canada (2002, 2007)

⁴² Statistics Canada 2002, 2007.

Gender seems to play an important role when it comes to employment and income. Community interviews suggested that there are more job opportunities for men than women in Ignace and the surrounding area. Additionally, males, on average, make twice as much as females as reported by Statistics Canada:⁴³

- Median income in 2005 of males 15 years and over – \$33,598
- 2006 male labour force (2006) – 620
- Median income in 2005 of females 15 years and over – \$14,894
- 2006 female labour force (2006) – 570

Note: The most recent census data (2011) are not published at this time.

Social Assistance

Before 1995, the average number of welfare recipients was 18. Since then, the number has climbed to an average of 38 recipients per month between 1995 and 2008. This escalation is in part attributable to changes in government policy, rising unemployment and in-migration of welfare recipients from other jurisdictions. The changes in policy are associated with the Ontario Works Program that was introduced by the Conservative Government in 1997.⁴⁴ The changes in employment discussed earlier also drove increases in social assistance.

2.3.1.4 Tourism

Tourism has, and continues to play an increasingly important role in the local economy of Ignace. The tourism ‘season’ is generally considered to be May through October. It is reported that there are over 50 facilities associated with tourism in the area ranging from remote fly-in hunting and fishing to all-inclusive resorts.⁴⁵ Tourism in Ignace is largely focused on its natural resources and serves year round recreational and tourism activities. Key winter activities include snowmobiling, ice fishing and dog sledding.

To further build its tourism economy, Ignace has implemented local development projects such as a Regional Tourist Attraction Centre and the Heritage Highway Corridor. Both of these projects facilitate the continuing diversification of tourism that are intended to enhance economic opportunities for local business.⁴⁶

⁴³ Statistics Canada 2007.

⁴⁴ Lederer 2009.

⁴⁵ Township of Ignace 2009a.

⁴⁶ Lederer 2009.

Public Beaches

There are two public beaches with picnic shelters, change rooms and washrooms and excellent sandy beaches. The Agimak Beach is located at the south end of West Street. West Beach, on West Beach Drive also has a floating dock providing an enclosed area for swimmers and a boat launch.⁴⁷

Camping

Camping facilities are provided in the Town by the Davy Lake Campground, Agimak's Lakeview Cabins and Born to Fish. Within a few minutes of Ignace on Highway 599 are Sandbar Lake Provincial Park and Rousseau's Landing.⁴⁸

Fishing and Hunting

Ignace offers anglers a variety of fish species including yellow pickerel (walleye), northern pike, lake trout, smallmouth bass, perch and stocked speckled trout. Hunting opportunities include moose, deer, black bear, grouse and waterfowl.⁴⁹

Adventure Tours

Several tour operators offer canoe, motorboat and dog sled trips in the area. In many instances as part of these tours opportunities are afforded to visit pictograph (rock paintings) found throughout the area. Float plane services give anglers, hunters and adventurers access to remote lakes.⁵⁰

TransCanada Highway

Ignace is positioned on the TransCanada Highway and as such many of its restaurants and accommodations provide convenient service to the traveling public and consequently year-round business to Ignace.

Cultural Tourism

A recent study worthy of noting is the District of Kenora Resource Mapping Project 2011, which was commissioned by the Dryden Development Corporation. This project "...formed the groundwork for regional economic diversification" and flagged cultural tourism as the leading strategy element.⁵¹ The project identified and mapped cultural tourism resources in the region and provided access to this data base through a designated website.⁵² Ignace was one of the communities that participated in this work. Table 2.3-5 was extracted from the Mapping Project report and shows the summary of cultural tourism resources within close proximity to Ignace.

⁴⁷ Township of Ignace 2009a.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Insights Northwest 2011.

⁵² www.culturaltourismmapping.ca

Table 2.3-5 Summary of Cultural Tourism Resources in the Ignace Area

Cultural Tourism Resources	Ignace
Creative Cultural Industries	6
Community Organizations	5
Spaces and Facilities	0
Cultural Heritage	9
Natural Heritage	7
Festivals and Events	2
Additional Resources	80
Total	109
Cultural Occupations	17

Source: Insights Northwest 2011

2.3.1.5 Economic Development Services

The focus on tourism is intended to both leverage the area’s renewable natural resources in an environmentally responsible manner and to alleviate Ignace’s past dependence on non-renewable, resource-based activities (i.e. mining and forestry); however, it is understood that while tourism makes a fair contribution toward the local economy, Ignace cannot survive on this industry alone. According to community interviews, tourism operations are heavily dependent on the US market, which is neither reliable nor sustainable. Bearing this in mind, both community officials and residents are actively seeking diversification strategies.

Economic Development Committee

The Economic Development Committee (EDC) was reactivated in 2003. This committee is tasked with pursuing economic development opportunities that will help resolve some of the current social and economic challenges facing the community.

Business Improvement Association

The Ignace Business Improvement Association (BIA) membership consists of local businesses.

Ignace Citizen Encouraged Community Adjustment Committee

The Ignace Citizen Encouraged Community Adjustment Program (ICE CAP) Committee was set up as a Committee of Council under the auspices of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Adjustment Advisory Program. ICE CAP was given the mandate to help “develop action plans and strategic direction for the socioeconomic welfare of the community”. Working alongside Ignace’s EDC, a number of initiatives/proposals have been and continue to be

investigated and researched; e.g. Bending Lake mining exploration and cottage lot development.⁵³

Patricia Area Community Endeavours

Patricia Area Community Endeavours (PACE) is committed to “promoting economic growth within the Patricia Region of northwestern Ontario.” Their purpose is to encourage “local community and economic development through provision of small business loans, non-profit funding, counseling and support to entrepreneurs and community groups”. Ignace is part of the Patricia Area and is covered by the PACE program.⁵⁴

The Northwestern Ontario Joint Task Force

The Northwestern Ontario Joint Task Force released its *Regional Economic Development Planning Zones Pilot Project (March 2012 - Final Draft)*, with the aim to further regional economic planning via the application of best practices and frameworks of strategic economic development. A key objective of the Task Force’s Report was to provide communities in the region with a focused and collaborative approach to economic growth.⁵⁵ Project findings pointed out the need for:

- A clear and consistent vision for the region;
- A strategy to rebrand northwestern Ontario;
- Rebalancing decision making and control to occur more at the local level;
- Building on area strengths around unique resources and capabilities; and,
- Continuing the progress of economic diversification.

Northwest Business Centre

The Northwest Business Centre also provides a number of services focused on youth entrepreneurs, start-up businesses and business growth. A range of support is offered including: business planning, business education and training, business registration, e-business resources, grant and funding assistance, marketing research and marketing skills, and staff hiring. The Centre’s website acts as a portal for various government programs, resources and tools. Offices for the Centre are located in Kenora City and Dryden.

2.3.1.6 Governance and Municipal Finances

Ignace is governed by a Town Council, consisting of a Mayor and four councillors. A municipal election was held in November 2010 which resulted in a newly elected Mayor and three new councillors. One Councillor from the previous Council was re-elected. The Council meets on

⁵³ Lederer 2009.

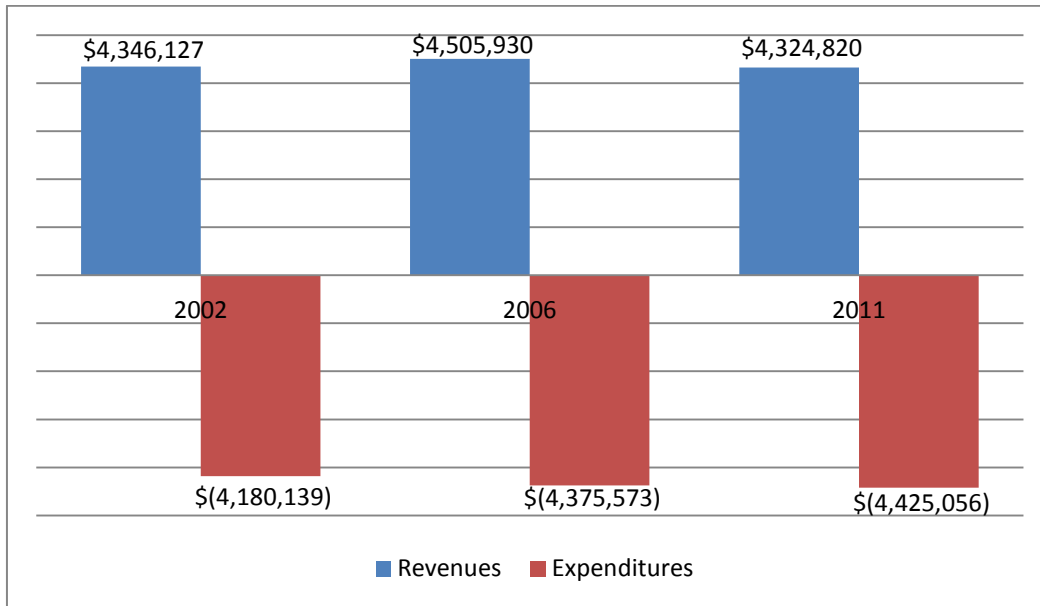
⁵⁴ PACE n.d.

⁵⁵ Northwestern Ontario Joint Task Force (NWOJTF) 2012.

the second and last Thursday of every month. Meetings are held in the Ignace Multipurpose Room, which is located at 34 Highway 17.⁵⁶

The revenues and expenditures of the Township over the period 2002 to 2010 are shown in Figure 2.3-1.

Figure 2.3-1 Revenues and expenditures of the Township (2002-2011)

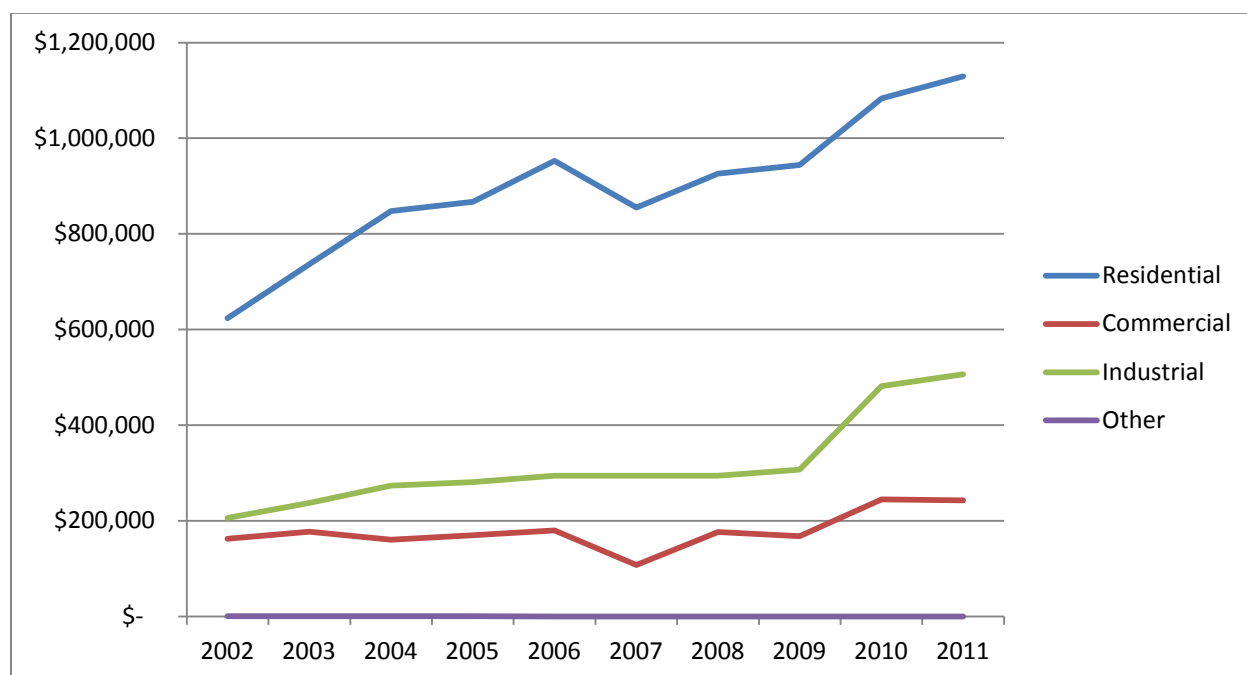


Operating expenditures have remained relatively flat, in the neighbourhood of \$4.2 to \$4.4 million. Revenues over the same time period show a minor increase from \$4.3 million to \$4.5 million in 2006 and a decrease from 2006 to 2011 from \$4.5 million to \$4.3 million thereby creating a minor deficit in 2011.

Over the same time frame the property tax base of the municipality has risen from just under \$1 million to over \$1.5 million (Table 2.3-6). As the graph below indicates there has been a jump in the tax base since 2009 with noticeable increases in the money derived from residential and industrial uses (Figure 2.3-2).

⁵⁶ Township of Ignace n.d.

Figure 2.3-2 Ignace Property Taxation (2002-2011)



The total assessment base for 2011 was approximately \$67 million.⁵⁷

Table 2.3-6 Ignace Property Taxation (2002-2011)

Year	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Other	Total
2002	\$623,611	\$162,465	\$205,960	\$316	\$992,352
2003	\$736,504	\$177,392	\$237,639	\$353	\$1,151,888
2004	\$847,868	\$160,260	\$273,763	\$403	\$1,282,294
2005	\$867,002	\$169,920	\$280,972	\$413	\$1,318,307
2006	\$953,025	\$180,045	\$294,432	\$121	\$1,427,623
2007	\$855,091	\$107,728	\$294,432	\$199	\$1,257,450
2008	\$926,263	\$176,708	\$294,134	\$199	\$1,397,304
2009	\$944,346	\$167,706	\$306,717	\$120	\$1,418,889
2010	\$974,973	\$168,898	\$327,332	\$123	\$1,471,326
2011	\$1,023,803	\$172,834	\$352,193	\$123	\$1,548,953

Source: MMAH FIR (2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011)

⁵⁷ Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Financial Information Return (MMAH FIR) 2012.

Taxes owing at the end of 2011 represented approximately 25% percent of the monies levied.

According to the 2011 Financial Information Return (FIR), long term liabilities of the municipality stood at approximately \$3.4 million. Going forward over the next five years the projected debt repayment schedule is shown in Table 2.3-7. In mid-2012, \$917,500 of the principal shown in the table below was converted into long term debt requiring annual repayments of \$56,993 for 25 years.

Table 2.3-7 Ignace Projected 5-year Debt Repayment Schedule (2012-2016)

	Principal	Interest	Payment
2012	\$1,018,692	\$112,855	\$1,131,547
2013	\$104,918	\$125,786	\$230,704
2014	\$108,783	\$121,045	\$229,828
2015	\$112,793	\$116,125	\$228,918
2016	\$116,952	\$111,020	\$227,972
Total	\$1,462,138	\$586,831	\$2,048,969

2.3.2 Summary of Economic Assets

2.3.2.1 Priorities and Key Issues

Looking back at the information in this section there are a number of observations that can be made. The labour force within the community has been steadily declining since 1996. This decline mirrors the closure of major resource based industries in the mining and forestry sectors.

Community interviews suggest that the lack of employment opportunities is an issue in Ignace.⁵⁸ Unemployment in the community was running at 20% at the start of the millennium and there was a slight lowering of this rate in 2006 but with the closure of companies such as AbitibiBowater operations in the middle of the decade the unemployment rate has again increased and in 2009 it was estimated to be in the order of 27%.

While the majority of the Ignace labour force works within the community there is a contingent that works beyond the community in remote fly-in mining and forestry operations in northern Ontario and Manitoba. Based on 2006 statistics this was true for an estimated 16% of the labour force.

⁵⁸ Community Interviews 2012.

The traditional key employers were businesses associated with mining, forestry and rail but these have waned in recent years. The dominant private employer in Ignace is Ricci Trucking and Raleigh Falls Timber, which caters to the forestry industry in the Region with trucking, road building and chipping services. Of note is the fact that the company has their head office in Dryden and a branch office in Ignace.

The remaining private sector employers are largely in the tertiary service part of the economy. Food services and retailing, accommodation, tourist outfitters, general merchandise retailers and automotive service stations characterize the commercial fabric for this part of the economy.

The public sector employers of note in the community include the Township itself, the OPP, the MNR field office, Mary Berglund Community Health Centre and the School Board. Household incomes in the community were in the order of \$57,000 in 2005. Corresponding figures for the Province and Region were respectively in the order of \$60,000 and \$53,000, but average per capita income is lower in Ignace.

The social assistance figures for the community show a rise in claims counterpointing the downturn in the economy. In more buoyant times in the 1990s the average number of monthly unemployment recipients was 18. The most recent figure from 2008 was in the order of 38 recipients per month. Although the economic slide is a key factor in this escalation it needs to be pointed out that it is not the only reason. Changes in government policy and in-migration of welfare recipients from other jurisdictions have also contributed to the rise in recipients.

Ignace is well situated with immediate access to natural resources that are attractive to tourists, and to this end, the community recognizes the importance of tourism to their economy. While tourism contributes to the local economy, Ignace cannot survive on this industry alone. Tourism operations are susceptible to fluctuations in the US market.

The Township has been engaged in economic development with the primary focus being on bringing economic enterprises to the community. There is a strong recognition that a healthy economy will help drive a healthy community. A number of economic development strategies have been done for the community itself and across the broader region.

Community interviews suggest that a reoccurring concern among residents is the limited retail opportunities available in Ignace. In general, residents frequent Dryden on a weekly to bi-weekly basis for provision from stores including, but not limited to, Wal-Mart and Canadian Tire. It is not uncommon for people to keep a running list of items they need to purchase from Dryden which are unavailable in Ignace. On a less frequent basis residents also visit Thunder Bay and to a lesser degree Winnipeg; however, these are visited not solely for shopping but also

for medical and leisure purposes.⁵⁹ Out-shopping is an issue in Ignace and is a challenge faced by all local retailers.

The Township is governed by a four-member Council and Mayor. In 2011, revenues totaled \$ 4.3 million and expenditures \$ 4.4 million. One of the big expenditures (\$1.7 million) in 2011 was paying for an upgrade to the water treatment plant. Although the Council tries to allocate money for needed infrastructure improvements, it has not been without challenge given the economic circumstances of the community and the lack of a significant industrial tax base.⁶⁰

Long term debt carried by the municipality is in the order of \$3.5 million which amounts to approximately \$4,460 per household. The annual debt carrying capacity of the municipality is in the order of \$582,000 and according to the projected schedule of payment over the next five years, all but 2011 are below this ceiling.

The tax base of the municipality currently stands at \$1.8 million with 70% of the monies being generated by residential uses. Industrial uses account for 22% of the tax base followed by commercial uses at 8%. Since 2009, there has been a noticeable spike in the tax revenues derived from the aforementioned. Although not as yet confirmed, this may be attributable to the provincial shift to market value assessment.

At the end of fiscal year 2011 taxes owing amounted to 25% of the monies levied. Although this figure has come down from 2010 levels this is still a significant sum and suggests that taxes in arrears require ongoing attention.

Municipal finance issues facing Ignace include tax collection, long term debt repayment and a major expenditure may need to be incurred to upgrade the sewage treatment plant (a sum of \$3.9 million is estimated⁶¹).

2.3.2.2 *Community Aspirations*

Ignace fully recognizes that economic growth is essential to its well-being. To this end the community leadership is actively seeking to attract new business investment to the community. Mining and forestry represent “Big Ticket” opportunities but they are somewhat beyond the control of the municipality. Although Ignace and the surrounding area have an abundance of natural resources, national and world markets conditions need to be correct for investment to be realized in these spheres. Tourism on the other hand has more modest investment requirements and it is less influenced by the same pressures that affect commodity markets. While there are a

⁵⁹ Community Interviews 2012.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

number of tourism businesses in and around the community, market fluctuations and economic conditions also affect this sector. From an economic development perspective it is recognized that tourism is an important industry; however, it is not sufficient to stabilize and grow the economy of Ignace.

The community does have aspirations to grow and diversify their tax base; however, without commercial investment and jobs this will be difficult. Seventy percent of the municipal tax base is currently premised on residential properties. The industrial tax base which is largely attributable to TransCanada pipeline facilities accounts for 22%.

Ignace is well aware that infrastructure and services are important conditions for industry and their workforce but without the guarantee of growth it is difficult for the municipality to make these investments itself. As a consequence, Ignace is in a maintenance mode with respect to its facilities and services. They support their existing infrastructure and associated services as best they can in hopes that they can be maintained until economic conditions improve.

Positioning the Township for growth is a central focus of their Sustainability Plan. Within this Plan, aside from the direct pursuit of business, the community also has identified the need to acquire some sophistication in business marketing including investment readiness training, the formulation of investor attraction packages and the drafting of an Ignace specific economic development strategy.

Opportunities that are on the horizon include: the reopening of the Ignace sawmill by Resolute Forest Products (formerly Great Lakes Paper) will see construction and start-up in 2013 and full operations in 2014 and the opening of a mine by the Bending Lake Iron Ore Group.

2.3.2.3 Capabilities and Capacities within the Community

At the present time, as acknowledged previously, the community wants growth and knows that it has to be proactive in “making it happen”. The municipal leadership, under strong and supported guidance from the Mayor, has expressed a willingness to pursue investment opportunities and to facilitate their implementation.

The infrastructure capabilities of the Municipality are good with respect to water supply but constrained for handling sewage. The Township offers superior road and rail access and its airport (currently unmanned) has the ability to be further developed if it is warranted.

With respect to existing businesses in the community the municipality has undertaken a study with funding from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to identify ways and means of supporting and retaining existing community businesses.

ECONOMIC ASSETS PHOTO EXHIBITS



Retail



Retail along Highway 17



Resolute Sawmill



Tourism Camps and Outfitters

2.4 INFRASTRUCTURE

2.4.1 Physical Asset Indicators

The Infrastructure or Physical Assets within a community include the basic infrastructure needed to support livelihoods and the tools or equipment that people use to function more productively. Infrastructure is a public good and improved access to it increases community well-being, human health and quality of life. Some of the more specific indicators within the category for Physical Assets include:

- Land Use;
- Housing;
- Municipal Infrastructure and Services; and,
- Transportation Infrastructure.

These indicators are described in this section, within the context of the Physical well-being of Ignace. A photo exhibit of Physical assets is provided at the end of the section.

2.4.1.1 Land Use

The primary settlement area of Ignace consists of a built-up area along the north shore of Agimak Lake encompassing approximately 795 ha of land. Extensions are occurring along the east and west shore of Agimak Lake where current recreational development is transitioning into permanent residential use. Commercial, industrial and institutional land uses are concentrated along either side of Highway 17 and extend northerly. Residential lands occur north and south of Highway 17 and as mentioned previously, along the shores of Agimak Lake. There are also several large underutilized parcels of land as well as vacant land areas comprised of wetlands and watercourses, located within the built up area.⁶²

Most of the area within the municipal boundaries, but outside the urban built up area, is Crown Land. The Rural Area includes lands utilized for local services and infrastructure including both land and seaplane airport sites, and a municipal landfill facility. Private and public recreation activities are also located in this area, as well as a variety of diverse resource based activities including pits and quarries, hunting and fishing enterprises and forestry operations.⁶³

⁶² Township of Ignace 2010.

⁶³ Ibid.

2.4.1.2 Housing

Census data for 2011 reports the total number of private dwellings as 680, with the majority (65%) of these being less than 30 years old.⁶⁴

Table 2.4-1 provides data regarding dwellings by type for 1996 and 2006. These data indicate that the number of occupied private dwellings has decreased from 1996 to 2006, likely in parallel with the decrease in population. Housing is predominately low density, with few multi-residential units and no high rise apartment-style dwellings. The mix of dwelling types, for the most part, has not changed from 1996 to 2006, and since the number of occupied dwellings has decreased, it is a fair conclusion that the overall residential landscape of Ignace has not changed much over that same time period.

Table 2.4-1 Ignace Dwellings by Type (1996 and 2006)

Illustrative Indicators	1996	2006
Total private dwellings occupied by usual residents	640	590
Single-detached houses - as a % of total occupied private dwellings	78.9%	78.8%
Semi-detached houses - as a % of total occupied private dwellings	2.3%	3.4%
Row houses - as a % of total occupied private dwellings	0.0%	0.0%
Apartments, duplex - as a % of total occupied private dwellings	0.0%	0.0%
Apartments in buildings with fewer than five storeys - as a % of total occupied private dwellings	5.5%	5.1%
Apartments in buildings with five or more storeys - as a % of total occupied private dwellings	0.0%	1.7%
Other dwellings - as a % of total occupied private dwellings	13.3%	9.3%

Source: Statistics Canada 2012a

Note: The most recent census data (2011) are not published at this time.

⁶⁴ Statistics Canada 2012.

Property Sales and Rentals

Table 2.4-2 provides dwellings (total number and percentage) by tenure data, for 1996, 2001 and 2006.

Table 2.4-2 Ignace Number of Dwellings by Tenure (1996-2006)

Number of dwellings by tenure	1996	%	2001	%	2006	%
Number of owned dwellings	545	85.2	505	78.3	485	82.9
Number of rented dwellings	95	14.8	140	21.7	100	17.1
Total	640		645		585	

Source: Statistics Canada 2012a

Note: The most recent census data (2011) are not published at this time.

Starting in the late 1980’s and through the early 1990’s, the number of homes sold increased; averaging approximately 40 homes per year at \$40,000. These sales occurred during the downsizing and closure of the Noranda Inc. mining operations between 1990 and 2000. During this time an agreement between the Township of Ignace, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, and Noranda Inc. was finalized and implemented, with the intent to manage the divestiture of Noranda’s housing stock in an orderly manner to prevent a disruption in the local housing market. Mortgage financing was made available to prospective purchasers of Noranda’s housing stock. The majority of purchasers were government and woodland employees. Retirees coming to Ignace from larger urban centres also purchased a number of homes during this time. Into the early part of the millennium, the local housing market stabilized. The number of properties on the market declined but those that were for sale had a higher price than properties previously listed. By the mid-2000’s, increasing employment opportunities in trucking and woodland operations began to underpin housing demand and house prices.⁶⁵

At present there are 82 rental units which range from \$425 to \$500 month. There are 50 vacant serviced lots and 45 vacant non-serviced lots and approximately 75 houses for sale.⁶⁶

According to the Thunder Bay Real Estate Board, property sales in Ignace have more than doubled from 13 residential sales in 2010 to 27 sales in 2011.⁶⁷ Sale prices in 2011 ranged from \$7,800 to \$165,000, with the high end represented by the sale of three waterfront properties. In

⁶⁵ Lederer 2009.

⁶⁶ Township of Ignace 2009a; Lederer 2009.

⁶⁷ Pronger 2012.

2010, property sale prices ranged from \$11,500 to \$184,000 and included two waterfront properties.⁶⁸

Property Assessment

Table 2.4-3 provides property assessment values every two years from 2002 to 2011.

Table 2.4-3 Ignace Property Assessment Values

Property Type	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2011
Residential	39,415,886	41,531,909	44,516,185	44,518,848	46,638,433	45,664,912
Commercial	5,686,729	5,674,461	5,892,989	5,923,622	5,525,767	5,375,474
Industrial	11,827,385	12,415,830	12,680,930	12,950,930	15,011,800	14,412,648
Other	80,000	80,000	22,500	22,500	23,000	22,079

Source: MMAH FIR (2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2011)

Based on the property value assessment numbers set out in the table above, it is apparent that the municipal assessment base is dominated by residential uses. The contribution of industry and commercial uses in combination is only 30%. In order for the community to grow in a sustainable manner this balance will need to be adjusted so the latter play a stronger role in the tax mix going forward.

Building Permits

The 2011 FIR reports that building permits in the municipality amounted to \$300,450 with residential construction and other respectively accounting for 33% and 67% of this total. The residential portion was spread over 13 properties.

2.4.1.3 Municipal Infrastructure and Services

Electric power distribution and natural gas is provided by Ontario Power Generation and Union Gas, respectively. A new water treatment plant was constructed in 2009, which receives water from Michel Lake located to the north of the town. The water treatment plant uses a membrane filtration process, with a capacity of 2 million liters, which is sufficient to meet the needs of a population of 5,000. It is able to provide up to 100 liters per second of treated water to the municipality for residential and firefighting purposes. Ignace also has a sewage treatment plant, located adjacent to the Agimak River;⁶⁹ however, unlike the water treatment plant it is outdated and needs upgrading.

⁶⁸ Pronger 2012.

⁶⁹ Township of Ignace 2009a; Lederer 2009.

Residential waste pick-up occurs weekly in the summer and bi-weekly in the winter. Commercial waste is picked up bi-weekly in Ignace. There are currently no municipal recycling services offered. The municipal landfill site is located 2 km north of Highway 17 on Highway 599.⁷⁰ The waste disposal site has an 80-year life-span at current disposal rates.

2.4.1.4 Transportation Infrastructure

The Ignace airport is an unmanned airport with a 1,080 m runway and no scheduled service. The primary users tend to be hunting and fishing camp operators. There is also a float plane base located on Agimak Lake (at 162 Lakeshore Drive). It too serves the local hunting and fishing camp operators as well as government agencies such as the MNR. The Dryden airport is located 100 km west of Ignace and provides scheduled air service; it functions as an airport of entry for international flights.

The Ignace settlement area straddles the TransCanada Highway and it is also the starting point of Highway 599. The CPR runs through the Township (freight only). Dryden is the closest freight station. Sudbury is the closest Via Rail passenger station.⁷¹ Ignace is a change over point for CPR freight rail crews and the CPR bunk houses have a total of 28 rooms.⁷² At the present time, CPR employs 10 to 12 individuals in the community.

Greyhound provides a daily bus service to the community. In town, local transportation is provided by Ignace Tavern and Taxi. They are available on a 24-hour basis. There are also a number of trucking and transportation firms which provide services in Ignace⁷³ but these firms are not based in the community.

2.4.2 Summary of Physical Assets

2.4.2.1 Priorities and Key Issues

The Township of Ignace is comprised of a settlement area and a surrounding rural area that is largely owned by the Crown. The settlement area occupies the northern shore of Agimak Lake. In the Crown land areas, typical uses include hunting and fishing camps, aggregate extraction and forestry operations.

⁷⁰ Township of Ignace 2009a.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² ICNLC 2012.

⁷³ Township of Ignace 2009a.

There are currently 50 serviced and 50 un-serviced lots in the settlement area that can be used for residential development; however, at the moment the market that would enable development is limited. Approximately, 11% of the existing housing stock in the community is for sale and turnover is best for properties priced below \$100,000. At the moment, the construction activity in the residential sector in terms of new builds or renovations is very modest.

Rental units in the community account for 12% of the housing stock with rents being in the order of \$425 to \$500 per month. The CPR owns a 28 room bunkhouse for crew changeovers but this facility is not fully utilized and there may be potential to use it for other purposes such as general rental accommodation. The built up area straddles the TransCanada Highway and also serves as the southern junction for Highway 599. The CNR mainline runs through the community but freight and passengers are not handled in Ignace. Greyhound provides inter-community bus service and local passenger needs are met through an in-town taxi service. Commercial truck services are provided to the Township by companies based in other communities (principally Dryden).

Ignace has an unmanned airport that is predominately used by the hunting and fishing camp owners. There is also a float plane facility outside the settlement area on Lake Agimak which is again used by hunting and fishing camp operators as well as the MNR. The nearest commercial airport is in Dryden.

Power is provided to the community by Ontario Power Generation and Union Gas. The community has a new water treatment plant with capacity to serve 5,000 residents. The story is different however for the sewage treatment plant, which needs to be upgraded.

The Township is very mindful that its tax base and therefore its revenue stream is limited; thus expenditures are carefully monitored. To this end the municipality has developed further strategies to manage their budget.

2.4.2.2 Community Aspiration

The overriding aspiration of the community is to foster strong economic growth. This provides the catalyst for future prosperity. Economic growth will shape the community physically, socially and financially. It enables real estate development and this in turn builds the tax base which enables the municipality to maintain and grow its infrastructure and services. Economic growth is seen as an engine whose energy can touch all parts of the community.

Growth makes the community attractive to outside investors, housing prices stay strong and there is a better, more diversified, portfolio of housing stock available to existing residents and new comers.

Highway 599 provides a possible corridor to the Ring of Fire development area through Pickle Lake; however, it is not the proponent's preferred option at the moment. It was hoped that if this development came to fruition Ignace might play a role as a service centre and logistics node for goods and people moving in and out of the project area.

Notwithstanding all of the above, the residents and leadership of Ignace have high regard for the natural environment in which they are located. They are mindful that development, if it occurs, must be done with careful consideration for the environment and the quality of life it affords. For most residents, the surrounding natural environment is a key source of "brand" and pride for Ignace.

2.4.2.3 Capabilities and Capacities within the Community

Ignace has sufficient water treatment and landfill capacity to support substantial growth. However, an upgraded sewage treatment plant is required to support the growth.

There are 50 serviced lots and approximately 50 un-serviced lots ready to accommodate development and the Ignace Official Plan has also been framed to enable additional lands to be opened up for new development purposes should the market present itself. Ignace is a community that wants to grow and is planning for it.

The Township has excellent transportation access afforded by the TransCanada Highway, Highway 599 and the CPR mainline. The presence of a CPR switch yard in the community is an added advantage for rail service. The Township has land and water facilities to support air traffic but they are rudimentary relative to the road and rail infrastructure and would need to be upgraded to accommodate more frequent usage and larger aircraft.

INFRASTRUCTURE PHOTO EXHIBITS



TransCanada Highway (17)



CP Rail Yard



Water Treatment Plant



Housing



Ignace Airport



Real estate

2.5 SOCIAL ASSETS

2.5.1 Social Assets Indicators

The Social Assets within a community include the social and community activities in which people participate and the resources that they draw upon in pursuit of their livelihood objectives. These activities and resources create networks within and between communities, enhance cohesion, and generate trusting relationships and community pride. Some of the more specific indicators within the category for Social Assets include:

- Diversity of Population;
- Cultural Heritage Resources;
- Community Facilities and Programs; and,
- Social Services and Organizations.

These indicators are described in this section, within the context of the Social well-being of Ignace. A photo exhibit of Social assets is provided at the end of the section.

2.5.1.1 Diversity of Population Composition

While the overall population in Ignace has been decreasing over time, the Aboriginal population has increased from 1996 to 2006 and the immigrant⁷⁴ population has increased from 1996 to 2001. As shown in Table 2.5-1, the Aboriginal identity population has more than doubled, an increase from 90 individuals in 1996 to 200 individuals in 2006. This suggests that the decrease in Ignace's population from 1996 to 2006 has not been related to changes in the immigrant or Aboriginal populations.

The Aboriginal to non-Aboriginal identity population and immigrant to non-immigrant population ratios are provided in Table 2.5-2, both illustrate a steady increase between 1996 and 2006, due partly to the overall increase in Aboriginal and immigrant populations and also due to the concentrating effect of a decreased total population.

⁷⁴ Statistics Canada (2012) defines "immigrants" as persons residing in Canada who were born outside of Canada, excluding temporary foreign workers, Canadian citizens born outside Canada and those with student or working visas.

Table 2.5-1 Aboriginal, Non-Aboriginal, Immigrant and Non-immigrant Population in Ignace (1996-2006)

	1996	2001	2006
Aboriginal identity population	90	175	200
Non-Aboriginal identity population	1,690	1,535	1,235
Immigrant population	120	145	145
Non-immigrant population	1,655	1,555	1,285

Source: Statistics Canada 2012a

Table 2.5-2 Aboriginal to Non-Aboriginal, Immigrant to Non-immigrant Population in Ignace (1996-2006)

	1996	2001	2006
Aboriginal to Non-Aboriginal Identity Population ratio	0.05	0.11	0.16
Immigrant to Non-immigrant population ratio	0.07	0.09	0.11

Source: Statistics Canada 2012a

Note: The most recent census data (2011) are not published at this time.

While more detailed data from the 2011 Statistics Canada Census are not available, data from the 2006 census indicate that the vast majority of the population in Ignace do not consider themselves to be a visible minority (only 10 of 1,430, or less than 1%)⁷⁵. In 2006, approximately 10% (140) of the population reported having a mother tongue other than English or French and 0% (0) of the population reported having no knowledge of either of the official languages.⁷⁶ Through observation in the community, the immigrants within the community appear to be mostly of European heritage. The lack of immigration from 2001 to 2006 also indicates that immigrants within the area have been there for some time, and that new immigrants are not settling within Ignace. However, with the absence of more recent (2011) data from Statistics Canada, this trend cannot be confirmed to the present.

⁷⁵ Statistics Canada 2007.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

The Aboriginal population in Ignace has been increasing from 1996 to 2006, and dialogue with leaders in the community indicates a strong and positive relationship between Ignace and the Wabigoon First Nation.

2.5.1.2 Cultural Heritage Resources

As provided in the Ontario Archaeological Services Database, there are 45 known archaeological and historical sites in the Ignace Area. Of these, seven are located within the Township and 38 are located at the periphery of the Township. There are no National Historical Sites in the area.⁷⁷ However, it is expected that within the region, there are likely many Aboriginal heritage sites that contribute to the cultural fabric of Ignace and area.⁷⁸

2.5.1.3 Community Facilities and Programs

The community facilities and programs in Ignace are a source of pride and in many cases are the social hubs of the community for all age groups, particularly for youth and for senior citizens. Youth recreational programs are integral avenues for social activity for many families in the area. These facilities provide a social focal point not only for the local community, but they also help to foster relationships and ties with the surrounding communities. Figure skating competitions, summer hockey camps and other recreational tournaments are supported by the availability of recreational facilities that are vital to the social fabric of the community.

Another major source of pride is the local Senior Citizen's centre, the Silver Tops, has a membership of between 50 and 60 and recently celebrated its 20th anniversary in the community. This centre provides a wide range of activities and services for seniors in the area and two of its founders were recognized as "Seniors of the Year" in 2012. It is recognized as a social focal point of the community and demonstrates close connections with and great pride in the senior community in Ignace.

These and some of the other key community programs and facilities available to the community of Ignace are provided in Table 2.5-3 and Table 2.5-4. Community special events are also presented in Table 2.5-5.

⁷⁷ Golder Associates 2011. Prepared for the NWMO.

⁷⁸ More on this topic is forthcoming from the NWMO.

Table 2.5-3 Ignace Community Programs

Programs	Description
Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children	Aboriginal program
Friends of White Otter Castle	Tourist attraction. A three-storey castle which was hand built in 1903 by Jimmy McOuat on the shores of White Otter Lake.
Girl Guides	Invites girls to challenge themselves, meet friends and make a difference in the world. Includes Brownie, Guide/Pathfinder and Spark units.
Hockey	Multiple hockey leagues including Ladies, Oldtimers, and Minor. During July a summer hockey program is offered by the Northwestern Hockey Sports Camp to girls and boys of all ages.
Ignace Lions Club	Empowers volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs and encourages peace.
Ignace Soccer Club	Founded in 2004 by volunteers to bring a fun, healthy and safe activity to the community. Includes adult and younger generation divisions. The primary division in the community is Ignace Youth Soccer (IYS). Also includes a 'mini' league for children as young as 3.
Kenora Area Health Access Centre	Classified under Aboriginal programs.
Otters Snowmobiling Club	Local club that maintains a local trail network as part of the Ontario Snowmobile Association.
Royal Canadian Legion Branch #168	Serves veterans, including military and RCMP members and their families to promote remembrance and to serve the community and country by supporting programs for seniors, housing, long term care, education, sports etc.
Silver Tops	Community group for seniors.
Skating Club	Skate Canada program offered.
Teens in Motion	Program for youth aged 11-19.
Youth Baseball	Summer league.

Table 2.5-4 Ignace Community Facilities

Facilities	Description
Golf and Country Club	The Golf & Country Club has a nine-hole golf course, driving range, resting area and clubhouse. It is run by a private club on municipality owned land NE of the Town off Highway 599.
Network of snowmobile trails	Associated with the Ontario Snowmobile Association network.
Public Library and Museum	The Library has a collection of over 17,000 materials; a large selection of adult, teen and children's magazines, video collection, music CD collection, DVD movie collection, 2 public internet computers and 1 public computer. It has a selection of pre-school programming for literacy, seasonal craft programs for children and library tours for groups such as Nursery School, Brownies, and school children. It is operated by 1 chief librarian and 1 circulation clerk.
Recreation Complex	The Complex is used for hockey, skating and community events. The arena has a seating capacity of 1000. The former upstairs community hall has been converted into a four-lane bowling alley. It also houses the Ignace Fitness Centre and outdoor tennis courts.
Royal Canadian Legion Branch #168	Facility includes two meeting rooms, kitchen and bar, historical artifacts, memorabilia and epitaph.
Walking trails (e.g. Ignace Town Walk, Trans Canada Trail)	A variety of trails are available including the world's longest network of trails. Provides an excellent path for various outdoor activities, e.g., skiing, hiking, snowmobiling etc.

Table 2.5-5 Ignace Community Special Events

Community Special Events	Description
Adventure Tours (float plane, canoe, motorboat and dog sled trips through numerous rivers and lakes)	Tour operators offer canoe, motor boat and dog sled trips through numerous lakes and rivers, visiting the innumerable rock paintings in the area.
Ignace Winter Carnival	Ignace hosts winter festivities such as the Snowmobile Club's Poker Derby and dance, Polar Bear 5K Cross Country Ski Race, Health Fair, skating, a soup and chowder cook-off, predator hunt competition, and various other winter events.
Tourist Attraction Centre	The Centre is located at 32 Highway 17 West, and offers a wide variety of local brochures and information on a variety of surrounding communities. The centre also has indoor public bathrooms that are open year round for public convenience.
White Otter Days	Each year, during the month of July, Ignace hosts its White Otter Days celebrations which include the White Otter Days Men's Hockey Tournament, the John Ricci Memorial Music Festival, Show & Shine Car Show, among others. These activities are organized by The White Otter Days Committee and the Township Recreation Department, in partnership with numerous community groups.

Despite this wide range of available facilities and programs, Ignace is currently facing reductions or temporary closures due to lack of funding. For example, the ice time at the Recreation Complex has been decreased and the ice season shortened, prompting some families to make use of resources in neighbouring communities. The Curling Club is not presently operating and decreased access to the Recreation Complex may negatively affect the social resources for the families in the area.

2.5.1.4 Social Services and Organizations

Ignace has several social services and organizations that serve various interests in the community. These serve to bolster the social fabric within the community and help to foster the sense of closeness and community support, which Ignace has expressed pride in.

There are several social services and organizations available to the community of Ignace. These services are provided in Table 2.5-6.

Table 2.5-6 Social Services and Organizations in Ignace

Services	Description
Alzheimer Society	A not-for-profit health organization working nationwide to improve the quality of life for Canadians affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and advance the search for the cause and cure (located in every province across Canada in over 150 local communities).
Alcoholics Anonymous	A fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.
Block Parents	A registered charity and Canada's largest volunteer-run child safety organization, which gather volunteers from coast to coast to help make communities safer.
Canadian Red Cross Society	A leading humanitarian organization which run programs and activities that are guided by the fundamental principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.
Canadian Cancer Society	A national, community-based organization of volunteers, whose mission is the eradication of cancer and the enhancement of the quality of life of people living with cancer.
Community Care Access Centre	Provides a single point of access for people of all ages to Ontario's Home Care and Long Term Care facilities.

Table 2.5-6 Social Services and Organizations in Ignace (Cont'd)

Services	Description
Crime Stoppers	A civilian, non-profit, charitable organization that brings together in a tripartite relationship, the police services of a community, the media and the community in the fight against crime. Crime Stoppers provides citizens with a vehicle to anonymously supply the police with information about a crime or potential crime of which they have knowledge.
Best Start Hub	Functions as a family centre, offering children and their families a place to learn, play and socialize.
Crossroads Employment and Training	An employment and training resource centre.
Ignace Food Bank	A charitable organization which aims to meet the short-term need for food.
Ignace Nursery School	Child daycare service.
Integrated Services Northwest	Provides service coordination for children's services and support to adults with development disabilities.
Job Connect	Assists community members with finding and retaining jobs.
Legal Aid Ontario	Provides legal services to those who meet eligibility guidelines.
Loonie Lunch Program	Provides nutritious, inexpensive lunches for students at the Ignace school.
Ontario Disability Support Programs	Provides income to persons with disabilities.
Ontario Works	Provides social and employment assistance.
Service Ontario	Provides residents and businesses with fast, friendly, easy access to the many services provided by the Ontario government.
Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Care & Treatment Program	A team of nurses and physicians are on call 24 hours, 7 days a week through the emergency department so that victims of a sexual assault can receive specialized medical and emotional care.

There are five churches in Ignace:

- Emmanuel Anglican/United Church;
- Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church;
- Faith Lutheran Church;
- New Life Church; and,
- Redemption Baptist Church.

Some of these services have a strong presence in the community, such as the Ignace Food Bank, which runs a local community garden and the Best Start Hub, Ignace Nursery School and Emmanuel Church which run a range of community fundraisers. Together, these social service organizations provide a valuable series of events that bind the community residents by enabling networking.

Media and communication services also help to strengthen the social ties within the community. They communicate information from within the community and information on a regional scale. Some of these media and services include:

- Township of Ignace Website – maintained and operated by the town;
- Ignace Driftwood – weekly local newspaper;
- The Northern Sun News – regional newspaper serving northwestern Ontario;
- The Dryden Observer – local paper focused on Dryden, Ontario;
- The Chronicle Journal – regional newspaper serving northwestern Ontario; and,
- CKDR 92.7 FM Dryden – Dryden local radio station, with rebroadcast in Ignace.

There is also a local Facebook page, which posts updated community events and photographs.

2.5.2 Summary of Social Assets

2.5.2.1 Priorities and Key Issues

Youth sports, particularly hockey and figure skating are important resources to the local community and families with young children. Reductions in these services, as has already been experienced by the shortened ice season at the Recreational Complex, may have negative repercussions to the social assets and fabric of the community. Maximizing and fostering the recreational and community opportunities for youth is a priority for the community, as articulated in their Strategic Plan. Providing these recreational opportunities locally is an opportunity to engage and retain youth and draw new families to the area.

Ignace Public Library has rebalanced operations in accordance with budget resources.

Notwithstanding the cut-backs outlined above, personal communication with members of the community indicates that many residents remain impressed with the number of organizations and services available to them.⁷⁹

⁷⁹ Community Interviews 2012.

2.5.2.2 Community Aspirations

The community of Ignace recognizes the contribution of recreational opportunities and community events to the quality of life and social fabric of the community. Youth-focused initiatives and community programs are key priorities for Ignace. Allowing for increased recreational opportunities through increased funding will allow not only young residents to participate in sports and other activities, but also for young talent to be fostered and highlighted. These are important sources of community pride that also serve to foster community cohesion.

2.5.2.3 Capabilities and Capacities within the Community

There are a wide range of existing recreational facilities and programs, as well as services and organizations to support the social life of the community. Many of these organizations (i.e., The Silver Tops, Best Start Hub, Ignace Nursery School, Ignace Food Bank and local churches) are supported by strong partnerships within the community, leaders and volunteers. Ignace's commitment to its people is evident in its social resources which support local needs and fosters pride.

The community's social ties also extend to the Wabigoon First Nation, with which they have a positive working relationship. This relationship, along with the strong internal community ties to volunteers, seniors and youth are definite strengths within the social assets of the community.

SOCIAL ASSETS PHOTO EXHIBITS



Community Garden



Ignace Golf Course



Recreation Centre



Silver Tops Seniors Centre



School Playground



Snowmobile Trail

2.6 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

2.6.1 Natural Assets Indicators

The Natural Environment or Natural Assets within a community include the stock of natural resources from which livelihoods are derived. There is potentially a wide range of such resources from intangible public goods (e.g. air quality and biodiversity) to resources that are “used” by people (e.g. water, trees, land and wildlife). Some of the more specific indicators within the category for Natural Assets include:

- Parks and Protected Areas; and,
- Natural Areas/Features of Significance.

These indicators are described in this section, within the context of the Natural Assets well-being of Ignace. A photo exhibit of Natural assets is provided at the end of the section.

2.6.1.1 Parks and Protected Areas

Ignace is surrounded by abundant wildlife and a beautiful natural setting, which are draws for both local and international visitors. As discussed in earlier sections of this Community Profile, the natural setting provides economic opportunities for tourism, fishing and hunting. In addition to these active recreational and tourism pursuits, the area also provides opportunities for more passive appreciation of the natural environment, mainly through the four Provincial Parks and two Conservation Reserves in Ignace and its periphery. The two Conservation Reserves in the Ignace Area are namely the Campus Lake Conservation Reserve (approximately 194 km²) and the Gulliver River Conservation Reserve (approximately 27 km²).⁸⁰ Table 2.6-1 provides a brief description of each of the Provincial Parks. Figure 2.6-1 provides a map of the Parks and Conservation Reserves within Ignace and its periphery.

⁸⁰ Golder Associates 2011. Prepared for the NWMO.

Figure 2.6-1 Ignace Parks and Conservation Reserves

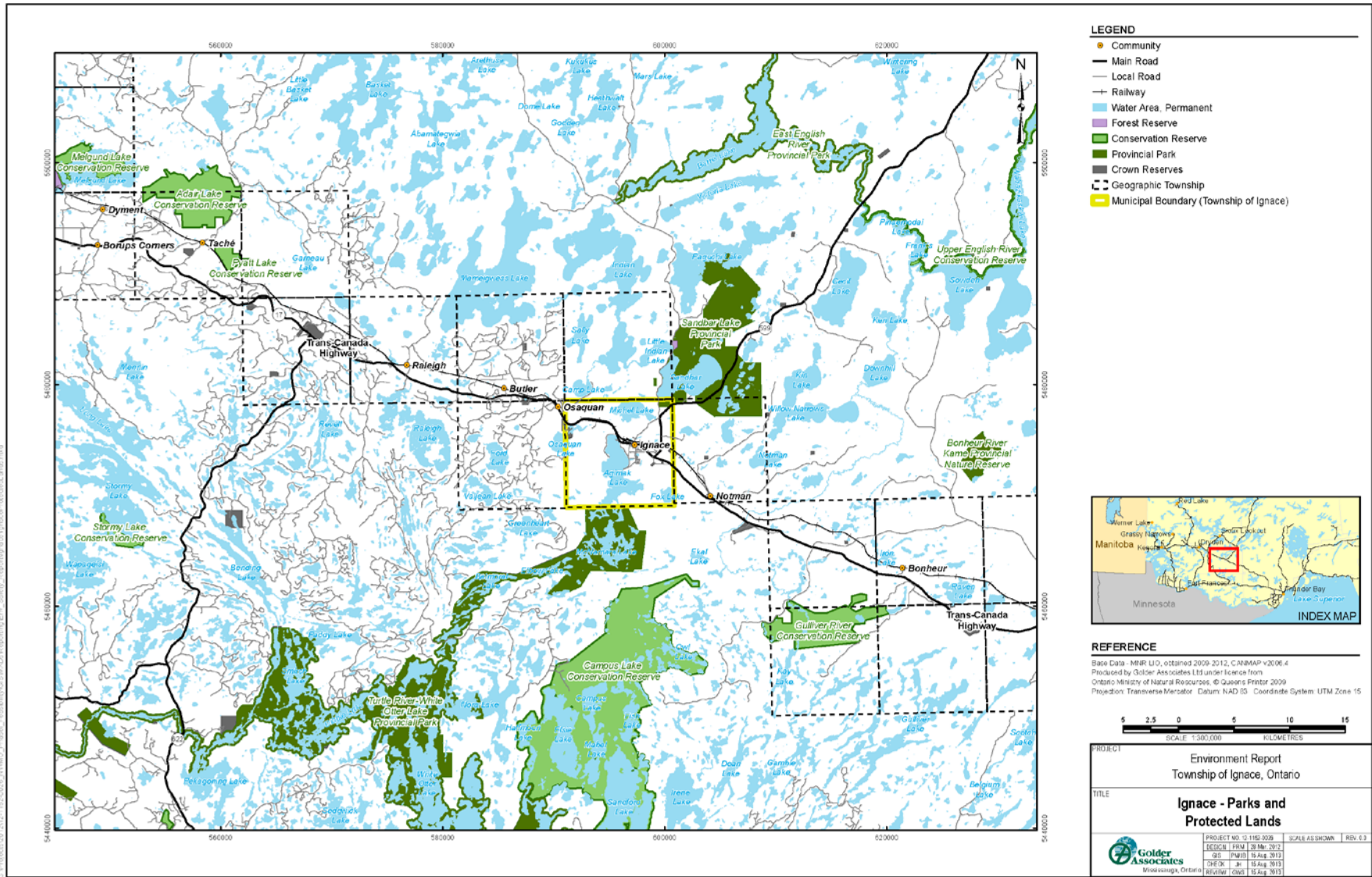


Table 2.6-1 Provincial Parks in Ignace and its Periphery

Park	Area in Hectares	Description
Bonheur River Kame Provincial Park	800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Reserve • No visitor facilities or amenities • Access by air only
East English River Provincial Park	17,513	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterway • Camping and fishing opportunities
Sandbar Lake Provincial Park	8,053	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Environment • Wide range of facilities including serviced campsites, boat launch, store, restrooms and day use areas • Activities include swimming, fishing, boating, wildlife viewing, canoeing and hiking
Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park	49,294	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterway • No visitor facilities • Backcountry canoeing and fishing • Access by water only

Source: Ontario Parks (2011, 2012); Ontario's Living Legacy 2002.

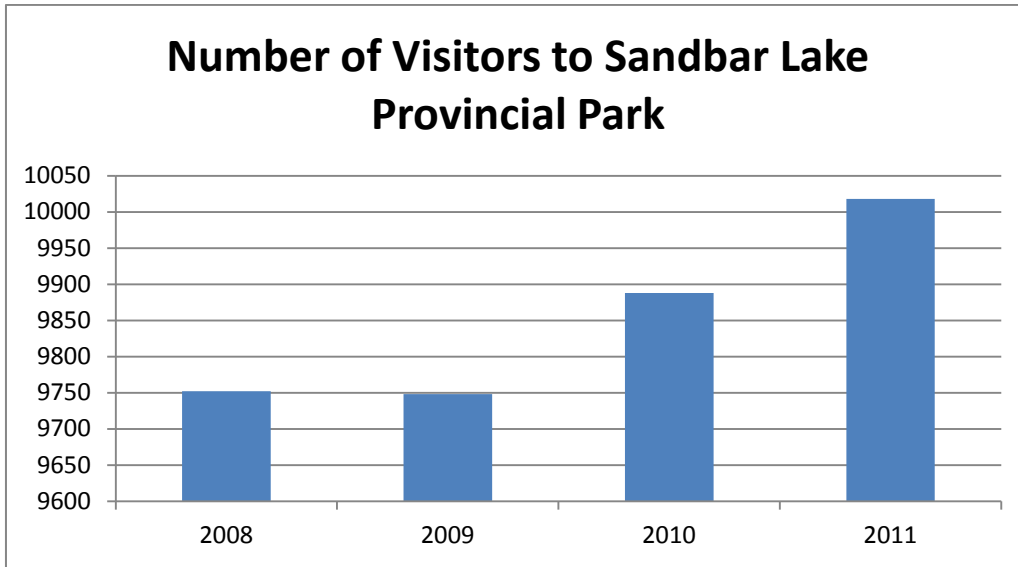
Sandbar Lake Provincial Park is the only Park that offers visitors serviced facilities, and attracts visitors and locals in the Ignace area. In 2011, the Park received 10,018 visitors, with the majority of visitors being overnight campers as opposed to day visitors.⁸¹ Figure 2.6-2 summarizes the visitor trends from 2008-2011, according to number of visitors.

It is worthy to note that the Provincial Parks attract a different segment of the tourism market than the Tourism lodges and outfitters. While the latter is experiencing a decline and is dependent on the US market, the Provincial Parks are not, hence the increase in visitation.

Figure 2.6-2 demonstrates that visitation has increased from 2009 to 2011, indicating that Sandbar Lake Provincial Park continues to be a draw for visitors to the area and highlights the natural assets of the region. In 2011, while most of the visitors originated from within the Province, visitors to the Park also came from elsewhere in the Province and from International origins. These statistics are summarized in Figure 2.6-3.

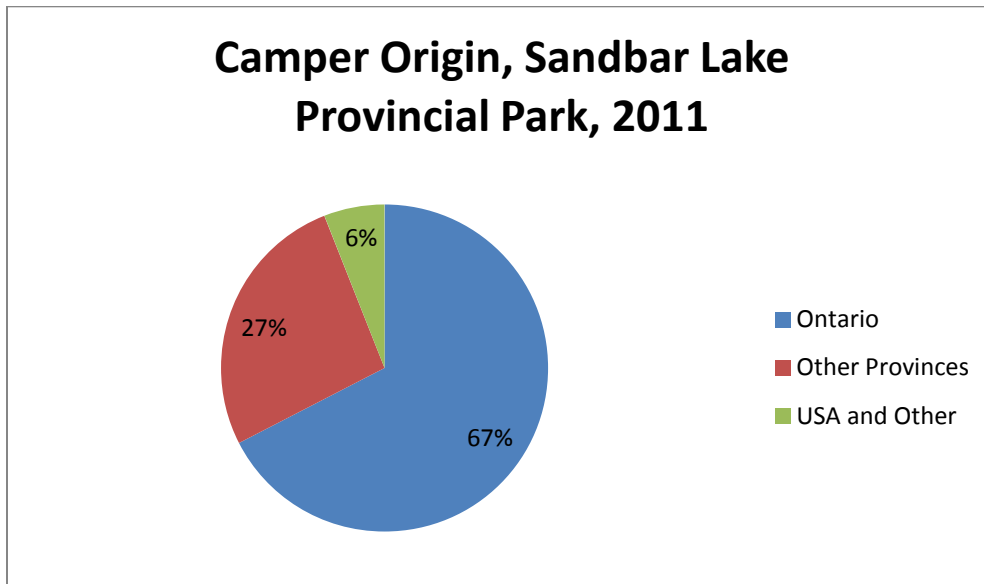
⁸¹ Ontario Parks 2011.

Figure 2.6-2 Number of Visitors to Sandbar Lake Provincial Park



Source: Ontario Parks (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011)

Figure 2.6-3 Camper Origin, Sandbar Lake Provincial Park (2011)



Source: Ontario Parks 2011

Visitor statistics are not available for the other three Parks in the area, though they do offer both passive recreation opportunities and more active wilderness activities.

These Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves are indications of the abundance of natural assets in the Ignace area, which are a source of pride and economic opportunity for residents and local tourist operators.

Hearsey Park was recently created on the old Roman Catholic church site located on East Street. The park honours the Hearsey brothers, Joe and Archie, who served in the Korean War. A number of private and government entities provided funds and manpower to facilitate transforming the old church property into a green space.

2.6.1.2 Natural Areas/Features of Significance

Ignace is located in the heart of Ontario's "sunset country" and is home to a very picturesque landscape. According to community interviews, moose counts are very high in the area; it is said to be an area with one of the largest moose populations in Ontario. Historical sites such as White Otter Castle built by Jimmy McOuat on White Otter Lake make Ignace a beautiful and interesting place to visit and reside in. It is also home to popular birding trails near Ignace such as Lilypad Lake Trail, Silhouette Trail, Rock Cliff Trail, South Beach Trail to Red Pine Loop, Gulliver River Water Trail.⁸²

2.6.2 Summary of Natural Assets

2.6.2.1 Priorities and Key Issues

Ignace's Natural Assets provide an economic platform for tourism. It is a source of pride and adds to the sense of place and quality of life in the community. The community's natural environment has been identified as important in its Community Sustainability Vision and Strategic Plan. Ignace hopes to promote its Natural Assets in an environmentally responsible way to enhance the quality of life for all people.

According to community interviews, there is concern about loss of remoteness due to mining and logging encroachment, as some consider Ignace to be one the last "pockets" in Ontario capable of offering a true remote fly-in experience. With regard to tourism it is noteworthy that the market demographic is changing with increasing patronage by younger adults and families and a decline in older more traditional hunting/fishing groups. There are also fewer visitors from the US due to decline in the US economy and changes to US tax laws.

2.6.2.2 Community Aspirations

Through its ready access to passive and active recreational opportunities, parks, reserves and trails, Ignace hopes to optimize its Natural Assets by realizing tourism opportunities alongside its natural resource industries (mining and forestry). Community members have great pride in the surrounding natural environment and Ignace is well suited to further develop its Natural Environment in a manner that balances environmental protection with economic opportunity.

⁸² Township of Ignace 2009a; Township of Ignace n.d.

2.6.2.3 Capabilities and Capacities within the Community

The community of Ignace has a wide range of established Provincial Parks, trails, Conservation Reserves and other Natural Assets. There are also a number of businesses and establishments aimed at drawing visitors to the area to experience these elements. The community has an appreciation for the Natural Assets in the region, and is committed to fostering environmental stewardship in balance with economic growth.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PHOTO EXHIBITS



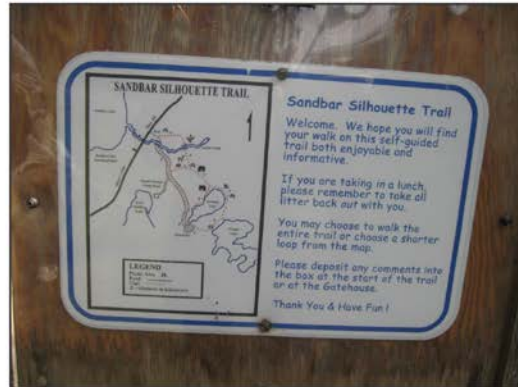
Agimak Lake



Sandbar Provincial Park



Trails



Trails

2.7 UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

2.7.1 Community Character

The community of Ignace has a small town feel and is surrounded by an abundance of natural resources in the heart of “sunset country”. Residents highlight the importance of the natural environment in their lives. Ignace is characterized by its history in resource development and in the present day is an attractive place for retirement in a natural setting.

Residents also describe the Ignace community as being close knit, safe and supportive of its municipal leadership and its citizens. Many residents express a strong attachment for the area and the community as a whole.

The cultural mapping project undertaken for the District of Kenora offers the following applicable observation:

“Northwestern Ontarians are fiercely proud of the elements that compose this unique lifestyle: pioneering attitudes, strong community volunteerism, severe winter weather, wildlife viewing from the car on the highway (and in urban areas), friendly neighbourhoods, family oriented communities, high school sports teams, the distance and autonomy from Toronto, and most importantly, their deep connection to the rugged and beautiful wilderness of the boreal forest that is at their doorstep⁸³.”

2.7.2 Environmental Values

The community of Ignace is surrounded by conservation reserves and Provincial Parks that offer not only active recreational pursuits, but also abundant opportunities to enjoy wildlife. The abundance of trails, nature viewing opportunities and also recreational and economic pursuits that are tied to the natural environment underscore the importance of Natural Assets in the area. To this point it is directly noted that being good stewards of the environment is important to the residents of Ignace.⁸⁴

⁸³ Insights Northwest 2011.

⁸⁴ gck Consulting 2012.

2.7.3 Community Goals

Ignace is a community that has undergone extensive planning, visioning and goal setting exercises over the years. Most recently, a community visioning exercise was conducted in 2011⁸⁵, where the residents identified and categorized their community goals into short, medium and long term priorities around the key pillars of Economy, Society, Environment, Culture and Operations. A summary of this exercise is provided in Table 2.7-1.

The sequence of priorities shows the municipality's desire to immediately attract investment and stimulate economic growth. This growth will in turn enable the supply of infrastructure and services to expand and develop, and give the town a platform for more structured land use and green planning. Throughout the timeframe of their mandate the Council seeks to be actively involved in shaping the community by providing leadership and facilitating input and communication with residents.

2.7.4 Community Action Plans To Date and Expected

A community Strategic Plan is discussed in Section 2.1.3.

⁸⁵ gck Consulting 2012.

Table 2.7-1 Community Sustainability Vision for the Township of Ignace

Pillar	Community Priorities	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Economic	Investment Readiness Training	EDO				
	Investment Attraction Package		EDO			
	Pursue Industry	Council & Administration				
	Economic Development Strategic Plan	EDO				
	Supporting Existing Infrastructure and Assets	Council & Administration				
	Positioning the Town for Growth	Council & Administration				
Social	Housing & Services for Seniors	Council & Administration				
	Health Care	Council & Administration				
	Recreation & Leisure Plan		EDO & Rec Staff			
	Youth Retention & Attraction Program		EDO			
	Accessibility	Council & Administration				
Environmental	Local Food Program			Community		
	Green Community			Council & Administration		
Cultural	Volunteer Program & Community Engagement			EDO		
	Land Use Planning		Senior Admin			
Operational	Municipal Communications Plan & Website	EDO				
	Organizational Review	EDO				
	Municipal Accountability & Transparency Policy		Senior Admin & Council			

Source: gck Consulting 2012

3.0 CENSUS DIVISION PROFILE

3.1 OVERVIEW

The definition of the regional context of a community is subjective. The regional boundaries of a community, such as Ignace, are defined differently by various entities. For the purposes of this Community Profile, the regional context is left undefined, as further dialogue with community members and members in surrounding communities is required to best understand Ignace's regional boundaries.

For statistical purposes, the Township of Ignace is situated within the District of Kenora. Therefore, these regional statistics are presented as a means of context setting and comparison.

3.1.1 Expenditures – Where do Residents Purchase Goods and Services?

Residents of a community can either purchase goods and services within their own community or they can obtain goods and services outside of their community. When a resident purchases goods and services outside of their community this is referred to as out-shopping or market leakage. Out-shopping, if prolific can affect retailers in small, rural communities, and as such can pose a threat to the long term economic stability of the community as a whole.

In 2011, PACE initiated the “Measuring Retail Market Gravitation” study (2011)⁸⁶ in various communities in the District of Kenora to determine out-shopping habits. Participating communities included Dryden, Ignace, Sioux Lookout and Machin. The intent of the study was to answer questions such as: who out-shops, what are they purchasing, what motivates consumers to out-shop, where do consumers out-shop, and how are they shopping. Surveys, focus groups and one-on-one interviews were conducted to gather data for the analysis.

The result of the survey showed the frequency of shopping outside the Patricia Area Region⁸⁷ to be:

- 46.6% Twice yearly;
- 38.6% Once a month;
- 6.8% Yearly;
- 0.0% Weekly; and,
- 2.0% Never.

⁸⁶ PACE 2011.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

Based on the survey results, Figure 3.1-1, Figure 3.1-2 and Figure 3.1-3 illustrate, respectively, the following:

- the primary reasons for out-shopping;
- what products are generally out-shopped; and,
- the method of out-shopping (purchases in large city centres, on-line shopping and catalogue shopping).

3.1.2 Location – List of Communities

Statistics Canada defines Ignace as being situated in the larger census division of Kenora District. This section of the Community Profile provides an overview of Kenora District, so that in the subsequent section (Section 3.0), a comparison of Ignace to its larger census division can be made to understand the community within a larger context.

3.1.3 Land Size and Uses

Located in northwestern Ontario, the District of Kenora has a land area of 407,213 km², which covers almost 45% of the land area of the province of Ontario.⁸⁸ Figure 3.1-4 provides an outline of the District.

⁸⁸ Statistics Canada 2012b.

Figure 3.1-1 Primary Reasons for Out-shopping
What is/are your primary reason(s) for out-shopping?

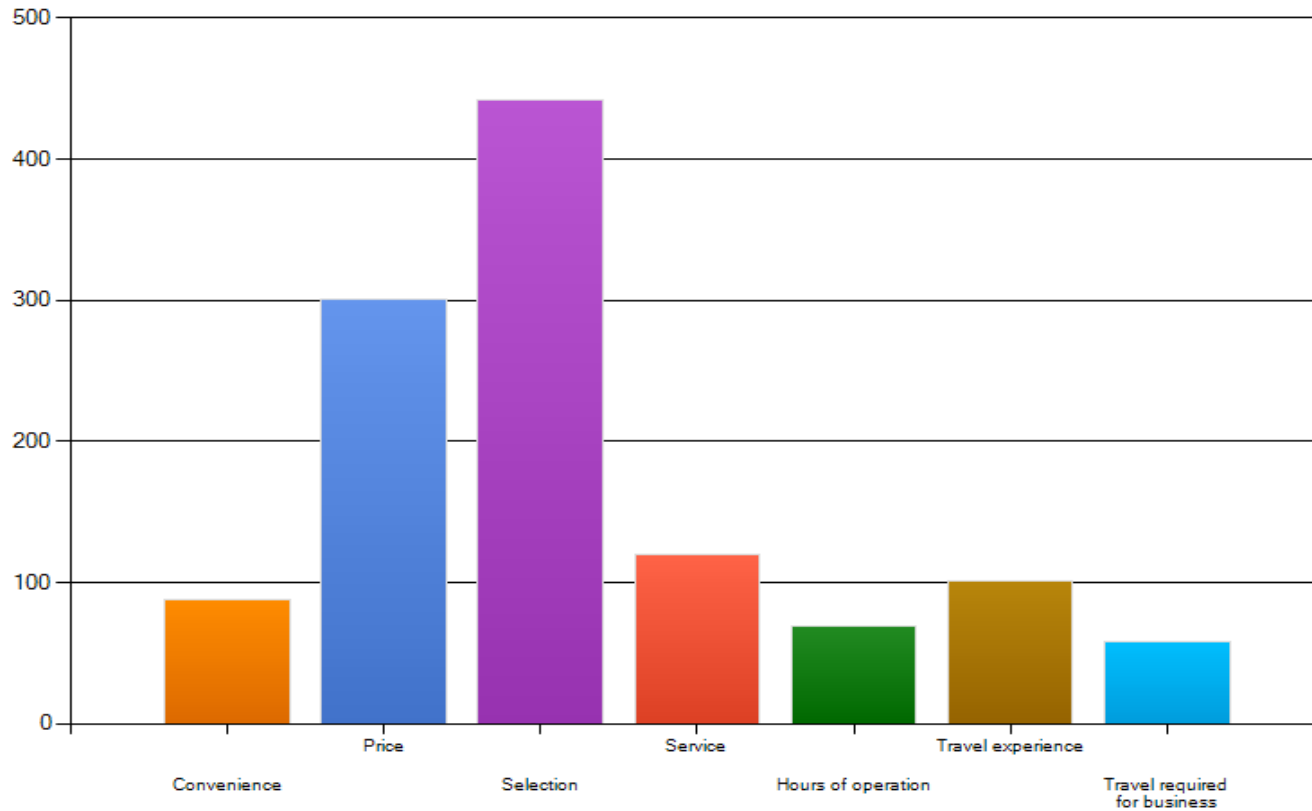


Figure 3.1-2 Out-shopped Products

What product(s) do you generally out-shop for?

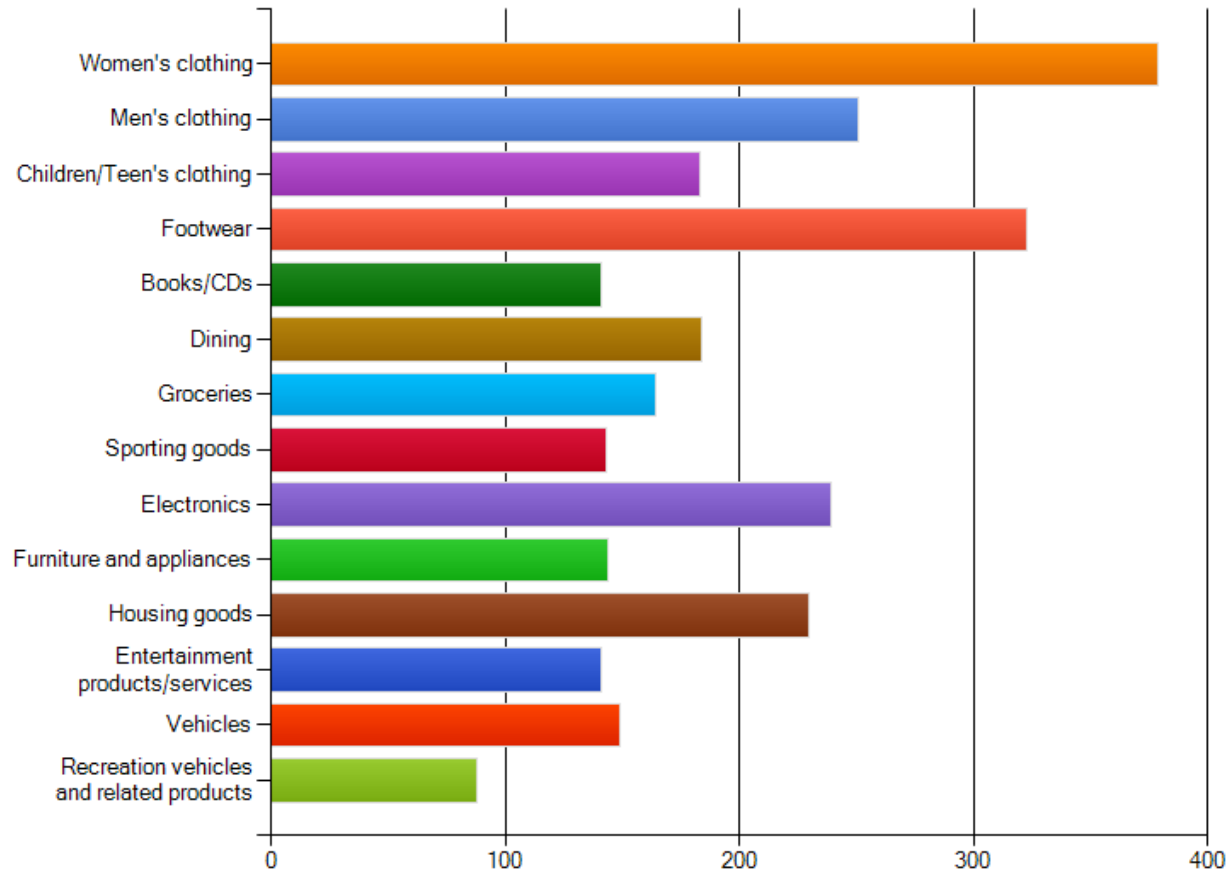


Figure 3.1-3 Method of Out-shopping

When shopping outside the Patricia Area Region, what shopping method(s) do you most commonly use?

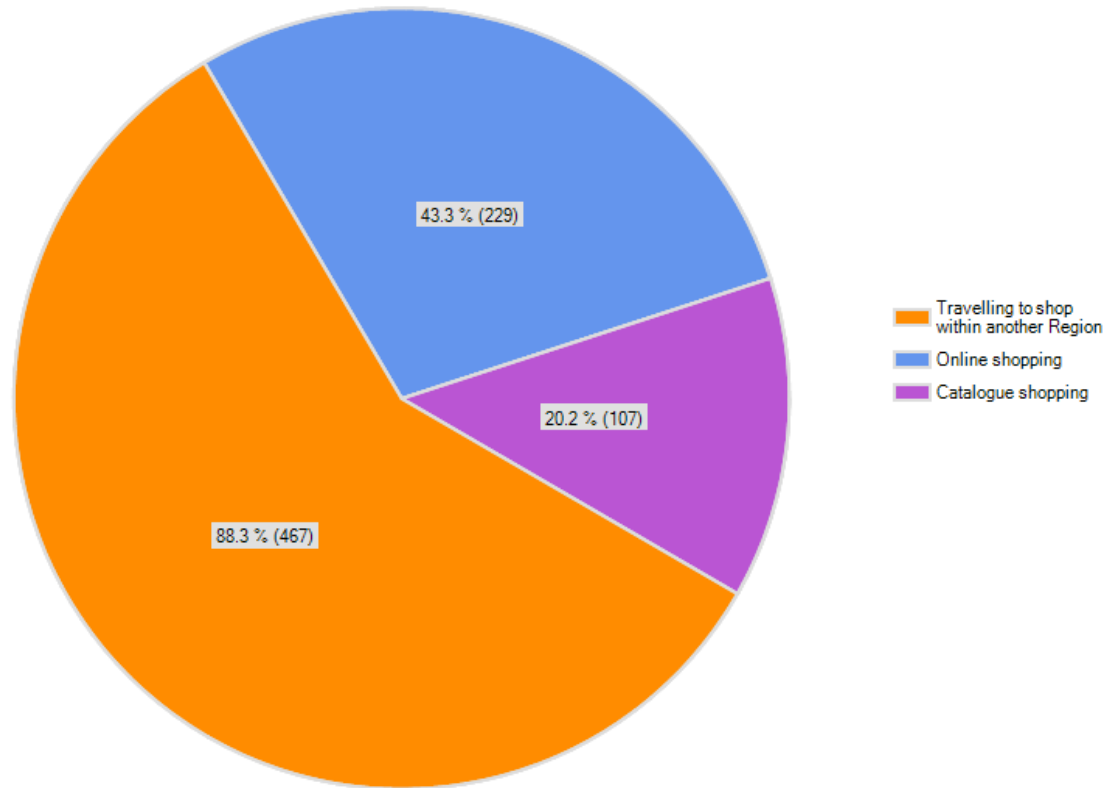
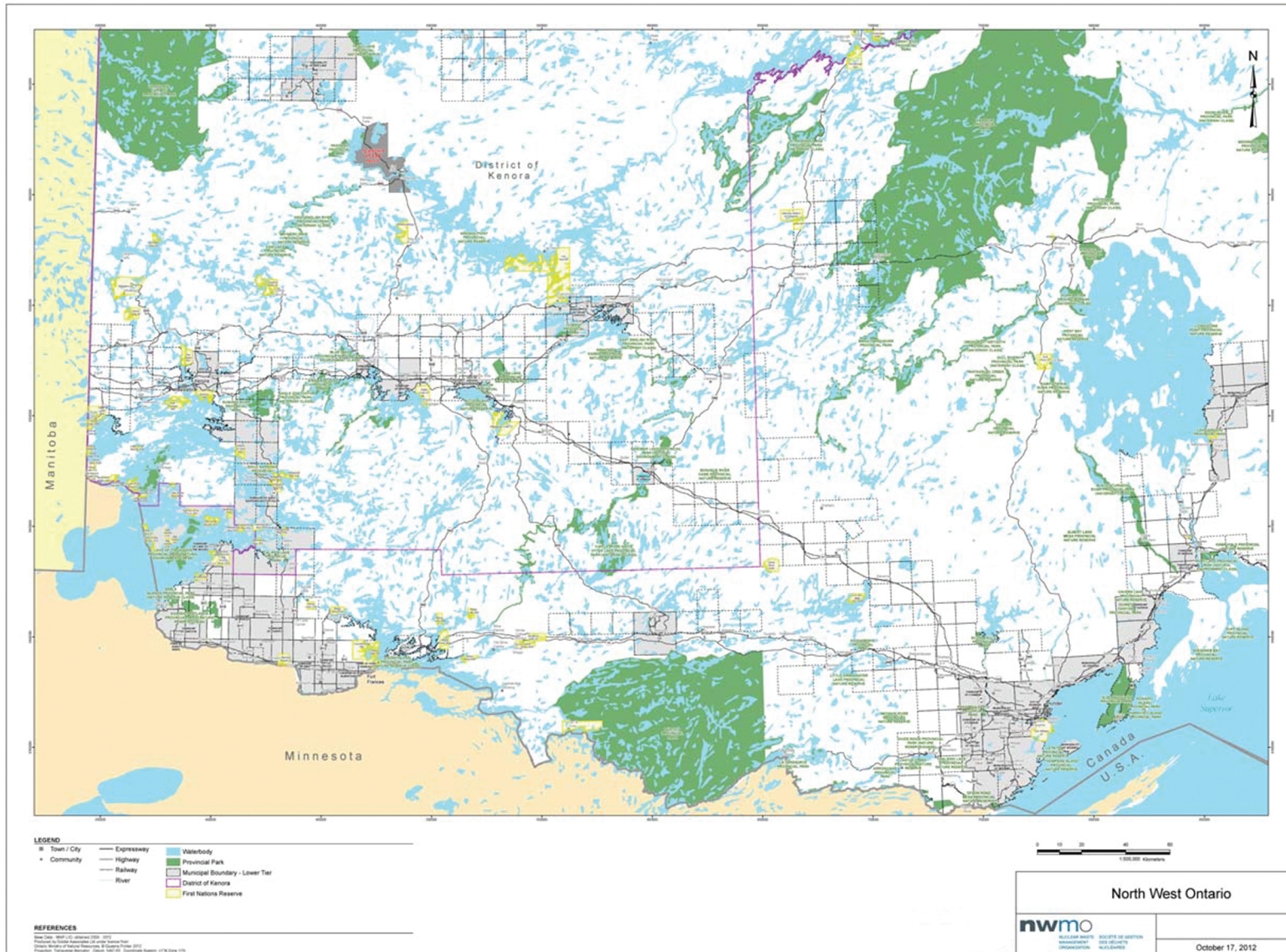


Figure 3.1-4 District of Kenora, Ontario



3.2 COMMUNITIES

The District of Kenora, includes the non-Aboriginal communities of: Dryden, Ear Falls, Machin, Kenora City, Pickle Lake, Red Lake, Sioux Lookout, and Sioux Narrows.⁸⁹ Statistics Canada data are used as the primary data source for each of these communities; however, in instances where other regional definitions are useful, or may add to the discussion to provide a more complete picture of Ignace, these data are also presented and included in the discussion.

3.2.1 Community Names and Locations

As previously discussed, the District of Kenora is located in northwestern Ontario, and comprises a large portion of Ontario. Figure 3.1-4 provides a map of the district and also highlights the nine non-Aboriginal communities within it.

The following is an introduction to each of the other communities, with respect to their location within the District of Kenora.

Dryden

The City of Dryden is located on the TransCanada Highway (Highway 17) midway between Winnipeg and Thunder Bay. Dryden has a large retail and service sector. It is known for its culture and outdoor adventures and boasts one of the most dynamic economies in Northern Ontario⁹⁰. Dryden is located 107 km to the west of Ignace on the TransCanada Highway.

Dryden is also a service centre for health care and some social services in addition to more extensive retail and other business enterprises.

Ear Falls

The Township of Ear Falls is situated in the District of Kenora, in northwestern Ontario, 251 km from Ignace. It is located on Highway 105 at the northwestern end of Lac Seul, 65 km southeast of Red Lake, and 98 km northwest of Vermillion Bay (which is at the intersection of Highway 17 and Highway 105).⁹¹

Kenora City

The City of Kenora is a two hour drive east of Winnipeg on the TransCanada highway and a three hour drive north of the Canada-U.S. border via Highway 71. The city is prominent in the industries of tourism, lumber, mining, milling and commercial fishing.⁹² The City of Kenora is located 243 km to the west of Ignace.

⁸⁹ Note that the District of Kenora also includes a number of Indian Reserves, which are not included in this regional profile.

⁹⁰ KDSB 2012.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² Ibid.

Machin

The Municipality of Machin is made up of three communities, all located on Eagle Lake: Eagle River, Minnitaki and Vermillion Bay. Machin is located 143 km from Ignace. Tourism, forestry and mining are the main industries in this municipality. Vermillion Bay is located 306 km east of Winnipeg on the TransCanada highway and 45 km west of Dryden.⁹³

Pickle Lake

The Township of Pickle Lake is located at the end of Highway 599, 750 km from Winnipeg, 540 km from Thunder Bay, and 295 km from Ignace. The Township of Pickle Lake was traditionally founded as a gold mining community, but has evolved into a distribution centre for goods and services to the many First Nation communities to the North.⁹⁴

Red Lake

The Municipality of Red Lake, home to the Woodland Caribou Provincial Park (one of the best-kept ecotourism sites in the world), is located on the north end of Highway 105, and is the most northwesterly municipality in Ontario.⁹⁵ Red Lake is located 322 km from Ignace. The Red Lake Gold Mine is Canada's largest gold mine, and it is also one of the world's richest gold mines.

Sioux Lookout

The municipality of Sioux Lookout is half-way between Thunder Bay and Winnipeg, north of the TransCanada highway. It is nestled on the lakeshores of Pelican, Abram and Lac Seul. Sioux Lookout is renowned as a year-round tourist destination and boasts a culturally diverse population of over 5,300.⁹⁶ Sioux Lookout is located 137 km from Ignace.

Sioux Narrows

The Township of Sioux Narrows is situated on Highway 71 North, midway between the border town of Fort Frances and Kenora City. Sioux Narrows is located on the eastern shores of Lake of the Woods which is one of the world's largest inland, freshwater lakes with over 14,000 islands and 104,607 km of shoreline.⁹⁷ Sioux Narrows is located 278 km from Ignace.

Beyond the District of Kenora, 250 km to the south east of Ignace lies the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) of Thunder Bay. This is the dominant urban area in northwestern Ontario and as such it exerts an influence on multiple communities including Ignace. The 2011 population of the Thunder Bay CMA is in the order of 146,000. Thunder Bay is the key central place for commercial businesses and services, health care, higher education and transportation (including,

⁹³ KDSB 2012.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

road, rail, marine and air). It is also the key location for a number of Provincial Government Agencies with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines being of particular note.

3.2.2 Non-Aboriginal Historical Context

The 17th century saw European exploration and for the next two centuries the history of northwestern Ontario was marked by fur trade and missionaries. By the 1860s, the fur trade gave way to mining and logging as the major economic activities. Shortly thereafter, in 1877, gold was discovered in northwestern Ontario. Exploration for gold, silver, other precious metals and iron continued over the next 30 years. This opened the northwestern region to settlement and development.⁹⁸

One of the major developments during the 1870s was the construction of the CPR. The railway required millions of ties and bridge timbers to span miles of bedrock and swamp. The railway opened the northwestern region to the development of timber, fish and mineral resources.⁹⁹

Throughout the First World War and into the 1920's, mining and pulpwood remained the region's engines for growth; however, the Great Depression (1930s) hit the milling industry hard, and employment and mill production plummeted to only a fraction of what it was in previous decades.¹⁰⁰

With the ban of export of raw sawlogs in 1987 (Ontario's legislature amended the *Crown Timber Act*), and then two years later a similar ban for pulpwood, the sawmilling industry (processing) within northwestern Ontario expanded exponentially. The same era also heralded the start of the northwest pulp and paper industry, propelling the rapid development of northwestern communities.¹⁰¹

During the final construction stages of the TransCanada pipeline, new resource development projects started to emerge across the region. This was particularly true for mining and forestry activities, which then became the primary industries that fueled subsequent growth in the northwestern region.¹⁰²

⁹⁸ KDSB 2012.

⁹⁹ Runesson 2011; Township of Ear Falls n.d.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ Runesson 2011.

¹⁰² Lederer 2009; Runesson 2011.

3.3 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The information in this section reflects readily available information from publicly available sources and does not reflect conversations or dialogue with Aboriginal communities or organizations unless otherwise noted.

The Aboriginal communities included here are those which have been provided information by the NWMO and in some cases meetings have been held to provide additional information.

- First Nations: (The following First Nations are all part of the Grand Council Treaty 3) - Wabigoon Lake First Nation, Lac Seul First Nation, Seine River First Nation.
- Métis: Ignace borders the Métis Nation Ontario Regions 1& 2. MNO Region 1 includes Kenora Métis Council, Northwest Métis Nation of Ontario Council, Sunset Country Métis Council, Atikokan and Surrounding Area Métis Council. MNO Region 2 includes Thunder Bay Métis Council, Greenstone Métis Council (Geraldton and Area) and Superior North Métis Council.

The text which follows provides a brief introduction to these communities and organizations.

3.3.1 First Nations

3.3.1.1 Wabigoon Lake First Nation

The Wabigoon Lake First Nation is an Ojibwe First Nation that descends from the signatories of Treaty #3, signed in October 1873. The total registered population in the Wabigoon Lake First Nation as of May 2012 is 626, of which 187 live on-reserve, 435 are off-reserve and 3 live on other reserves. The reserve is the closest Aboriginal community to Ignace. Band membership varies from 499¹⁰³ to 564.¹⁰⁴ The Wabigoon Lake First Nation has a Band Administration Office, health centre, school, recreation centre, utilities, and water and sewage facility on-site, which the police detachment and fire hall are located off-site.

3.3.1.2 Lac Seul First Nation

Lac Seul (Obishikokaang) is a signatory of Treaty #3. The reserve is bounded to the north and east by Lac Seul Lake. The reserve is made up of three communities, Kejick Bay, Whitefish Bay, and Frenchman's Head.

¹⁰³ http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/abdt/apps/connectivitysurvey.nsf/vAllCProfile_en/452.html

¹⁰⁴ INAC.

The total registered population as of May 2012 is 3,154, of which 811 are on-reserve, 2291 are off-reserve and 27 are on other reserves. Band membership varies from 499¹⁰⁵ to 564.¹⁰⁶

According to the 2011 census, the number of housing units is 305.¹⁰⁷ Lac Seul First Nation has its Band Administration Office, health centre, school, police department, recreation centre and utilities located on-site, while the garbage facility and fire hall are located off-site.

3.3.1.3 Seine River First Nation

Seine River First Nation is an Ojibwe First Nation located south of Trans-Canada Highway 11. The Seine River First Nation has several land areas. According to the AANDC web site there are three areas of land:

- Seine River 23A - east of Rainy Lake on both shores of Wild Potato Lake in Seine.
- Seine River 23B - east of Fort Francis.
- Sturgeon Falls 23 - on north bank of Seine River south east of Dryden.

The total registered population as of May 2012 is 727, of which 328 are on-reserve, 390 are off-reserve and 9 are on other reserves. Seine River First Nation has a Band Administration Office, health care, police detachment, recreation centre, utilities, garbage and sewer facilities and fire hall located on-site. The Seine River First Nation is a member of the Fort Frances Chiefs Secretariat, a regional governing body comprised of the seven First Nations¹⁰⁸ of the Rainy River District.

3.3.1.4 Grand Council of Treaty #3

The three communities identified above are members of the Grand Council of Treaty #3. The organization serves the communities in northwestern Ontario that were signatories of Treaty #3 in 1873. The Grand Council of Treaty #3 represents 27 First Nation communities across Treaty #3 areas of northern Ontario and southeastern Manitoba and an additional four First Nations in specific regards to their Treaty rights. The organization's technical and administrative staff assist the member communities and citizens by supporting policy analysis, strategic planning, policy design, governance revitalization, law making, historical research, issue identification, program development and the co-ordination of technical and political working groups.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁵ http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/abdt/apps/connectivitysurvey.nsf/vAllCProfile_en/452.html

¹⁰⁶ INAC.

¹⁰⁷ Statistics Canada 2012.

¹⁰⁸ Couchiching, Lac La Croix, Mitaanjigamiing, Naicatchewenin, Nigigoonsiminikaaning, Rainy River, Seine River; and the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation.

¹⁰⁹ Grand Council of Treaty #3. "Mandate." <http://www.gct3.net/grand-chiefs-office/gct3-info-and-history/mandate/>

3.3.2 Métis

Métis citizens are represented at the local level through the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Charter Community Councils. The local Councils are a communication hub for MNO and play a role in fostering community empowerment and development for Métis citizens living within the geographic region of that council. Community Councils operate in accordance with MNO Charter Agreements, which give councils the mandate to govern, while ensuring accountability, transparency, and consistency.

Protocol Agreements are set up between the MNO and each of its regions. The MNO Lands, Resources and Consultation Committee is the initial contact in each Region and is the group with which discussion and involvement begins. Through this Committee involvement of local Councils occurs.

Ignace borders within Regions 1& 2 of the MNO classification. There are four Métis councils within Region 1, namely:

- Northwest Métis Nation of Ontario Council;
- Kenora Métis Council;
- Atikokan and Surrounding Area Métis Council; and,
- Sunset Country Métis Council.

There are three Métis Councils within Region 2, namely:

- Thunder Bay Métis Council;
- Greenstone Métis Council (Geraldton and Area); and,
- Superior North Shore Métis Council.

3.4 POPULATION DYNAMICS (BY COMMUNITY)

3.4.1 Trend Over Time

Table 3.4-1 presents the population trend of the non-Aboriginal communities within the District of Kenora over the past decade. As shown in Table 3.4-1, from 2001 to 2006, four of the nine communities showed a decrease in population, while three showed an increase in population; two communities had populations that stayed neutral, neither decreasing nor increasing. However, by 2011, seven of the nine communities showed a decrease in population, with the exceptions being the City of Kenora and Sioux Narrows, which saw increases in population of 1.1% and 7.1% respectively. Overall, the District of Kenora experienced an increase in population from 2001 to 2006 and a decrease from 2006 to 2011.

Table 3.4-1 Population Trend (2001-2011) – Non-Aboriginal Communities in the District of Kenora

Community	2001	2006	% Change (2001-2006)	2011	% Change (2006-2011)
<i>District of Kenora</i>	61,802	64,419	4.2	57,607	-10.6
Dryden	8,198	8,195	0.0	7,617	-7.1
Ear Falls	1,150	1,153	0.3	1,026	-11
Ignace	1,709	1,431	-16.3	1,202	-16
Kenora City	15,838	15,177	-4.2	15,348	1.1
Machin	1,143	978	-14.4	935	-4.4
Pickle Lake	399	479	20.1	425	-11.3
Red Lake	4,233	4,526	6.9	4,366	-3.5
Sioux Lookout	5,336	5,183	-2.9	5,037	-2.8
Sioux Narrows	577	672	16.5	720	7.1

Source: Statistics Canada (2007, 2012a).

The wider region as a whole has experienced similar economic conditions and population trends as Ignace.

3.4.2 Age Profile

Table 3.4-2 provides the gender and age profile of non-Aboriginal communities in the District of Kenora.

Table 3.4-2 Gender and Age Profile (2011) – Non-Aboriginal Communities in the District of Kenora

Community	Male	Female	% Population Over 15 yrs	Median Age
<i>District of Kenora</i>	28,930	28,680	79.5	38.6
Dryden	3,660	3,965	84.2	45
Ear Falls	505	520	78.8	39.2
Ignace	600	600	84.7	48.1
Kenora City	7,545	7,805	84.3	44.4
Machin	475	460	84.7	47
Pickle Lake	225	200	76.5	28.5
Red Lake	2,235	2,130	82.1	38.1
Sioux Lookout	2,460	2,580	79.9	36.1
Sioux Narrows	365	355	88.6	52.7

Source: Statistics Canada 2012a

Generally speaking, Northern Ontario has been faced with a declining population, as well as an aging population. The Northwest Training and Adjustment Board (NTAB)¹¹⁰ suggest that this aging workforce has a downside as it may herald the imminent contraction of the workforce as people leave it to retire. On a more positive note, older workers leaving the workforce opens up opportunities for younger workers; if the older workers can be engaged in knowledge transfer before leaving this would give a jump start to new entrants.

NTAB notes that young people are leaving the area largely due to the perception that there are few job opportunities. However, they suggest that there is clear evidence of employment opportunities, particularly in skilled trades, where knowledge and skills are transferable between sectors. Highlighting the importance of succession planning to employers as well as programs like apprenticeship and cooperative education were viewed as critically important strategies to address youth out-migration. Equally important is the need to market local employment opportunities to both those currently living in the region as well as those who have left.¹¹¹

3.5 LABOUR FORCE (REGIONAL AS A WHOLE)

Labour force activity in the District of Kenora is presented in Table 3.5-1 and Table 3.5-2 including a comparison of the participation, employment and unemployment rates between 2001 and 2006. These numbers indicate that participation and employment rates have increased from 58.6% to 64.1% and 45.3% to 58.5%, respectively, over the 2001 to 2006 time period. Additionally, within this time period, unemployment rates dropped by more than half, from 22.7% to 8.8%.

Note: The most recent census data (2011) are not published at this time.

Table 3.5-1 Labour Force Activity (2006) – Non-Aboriginal Communalities in the District of Kenora

Labour Force Activity	2006
Total population 15 yrs and over	48,865
In labour force	31,340
Employed	28,595
Unemployed	2,745

Source: Statistics Canada 2007

¹¹⁰ NTAB 2011a.

¹¹¹ Ibid.

Table 3.5-2 Labour Force Activity (2001-2006) – Non-Aboriginal Communities in the District of Kenora

Labour Force Activity	2001	2006
Participation rate %	58.6	64.1
Employment rate %	45.3	58.5
Unemployment rate %	22.7	8.8

Source: Statistics Canada (2002, 2007)

More recent data for the District of Kenora are available from the Financial Post Markets Canadian Demographics 2012 data set. These Labour Force Estimates are summarized in Table 3.5-3.

Table 3.5-3 Labour Force Estimates (2012) – District of Kenora

Labour Force Activity	2012
Male In the Labour Force	17,326
Female In the Labour Force	16,135
Male Participation Rate	65.8
Female Participation Rate	60.9
Male Unemployment Rate	13.5
Female Unemployment Rate	9.4

Source: FPmarket data 2012

While these estimates are not directly comparable to Statistics Canada (2006) data, they do indicate that in the region, unemployment rates have increased from 2006 to 2012 and that participation rates have likely decreased for the same time period. This would indicate that the region as a whole is experiencing similar economic conditions as Ignace.

Based on the Northwest Training and Adjustment Board's (NTAB's) 2011 Trends Opportunities Priorities Report, "In 2001, 49% of the Aboriginal population was under the age of 25 suggesting Aboriginal people now make up a large part of the workforce" in the District of Kenora.

3.5.1 Population by Education/Training Attainment

Table 3.5-4 provides the education attainment of those 15 years and over in the District of Kenora for 2006.

Note: The most recent census data (2011) are not published at this time.

Table 3.5-4 Population by Education/Training Attainment (2006) – Non-Aboriginal Communities in the District of Kenora

Education/Training Attainment (15 yrs and Over)	2006	%
Total population 15 years and over	48,860	
No certificate, diploma, degree	18,875	38.6
High school certificate or equivalent	11,665	23.9
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	5,040	10.3
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	7,765	15.9
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	1,320	2.7
University certificate, diploma or degree	4,195	8.6

Source: Statistics Canada 2007

According to NTAB¹¹² “Retention of young people from small urban and rural communities within post-secondary education programs appears to present a challenge.” This statement is echoed in other publications as well as by individuals residing in the northwestern communities. It is also a similar issue expressed in Ignace.

A study by the University of Ottawa tracked 10,000 students between 2006 and 2009, and found that students from rural or small urban areas of between 10,000 and 100,000 are more likely to leave post-secondary education before completion. They also found that more than 28% from small urban areas and 21% of rural students would leave college before completion, while 12% and 8% of students from small urban areas and rural areas would leave university before completion, respectively. These numbers are almost double the 15.8% of students from cities who leave college before completion and 4% of students from cities who leave university before completion. One of the main reasons for this behaviour is attributed to dislocation from family and friend support encountered by those who leave rural and small urban areas for schooling.¹¹³

¹¹² NTAB 2011a.

¹¹³ Ibid.

3.5.2 Employment by Activity/and Sector

Many communities in rural Canada are economically dependent on various forms of natural resource extraction. According to Natural Resources Canada, it is estimated that more than 300 First Nation and non-First Nation communities are dependent on the forestry industry, up to as much as 50% of their economic function.¹¹⁴

The number of persons employed by sector for 2001 and 2006 are provided in Table 3.5-5. The District of Kenora has seen an increase in the number of people employed in: agriculture and other resource-based industries; wholesale and retail trade; finance and real estate; and to a lesser extent in business services. The manufacturing and construction industries have seen a decrease of approximately 17% in the number of employees within the sector.

The number of individuals working in the health and education sector has also increased; however, due to categorization difference in the Statistics Canada data between 2001 and 2006 (the latter also including social services) it is difficult to predict the increase in the number of people employed in the health and education sector only.

Table 3.5-5 Employment by Activity and Sector (2001-2006) – Non-Aboriginal Communities in the District of Kenora

	2001	2006
Total experienced labour force (15 years and over)	29,635	30,660
Agriculture and other resource-based industries	2,610	2,720
Manufacturing and construction industries	4,840	4,020
Wholesale and retail trade	4,030	4,435
Finance and real estate	830	930
Health and education	5,875	7,095*
Business services	3,430	3,480
Other services	8,035	7,990

* includes health care, social services and educational services
Source: Statistics Canada (2002, 2007)

Note: The most recent census data (2011) are not published at this time.

¹¹⁴ Wozniczka, Koster & Lemelin 2010.

3.6 BUSINESS ACTIVITY

3.6.1 Main Businesses – Past and Current

In the past, the region's growth has been driven by resource-dependant industries dominated by extraction companies head quartered outside the region.¹¹⁵

Forestry

As of June 2010, there were 118 businesses in the District of Kenora operating in the forestry and logging industry. Approximately 85% of these businesses employ less than five people with 70 (59%) being single-person enterprises. There are two businesses which employ between 100 and 199 individuals. It is estimated that there are 465 people working in forestry and logging businesses in the District of Kenora that employ less than 100 people in addition to the two businesses that employ between 100 and 199 people. There are 15 additional businesses in the District of Kenora that support forestry and agriculture employing an estimated 98 people.¹¹⁶

Paper and wood products manufacturing is also important to the District of Kenora economy. There is one paper manufacturer that employs more than 500 people and 9 wood product manufacturing businesses with the employee size between 1 and 200. The estimated employment in wood products manufacturing in the District of Kenora is 119 people in companies employing less than 100 in addition to two enterprises that employ between 100 and 199.¹¹⁷

The forestry industry has been in decline over the last decade, due to a combination of circumstances including a decreased demand for paper, the global recession, the downturn in the United States housing market and increased competition from lower-cost producers in the international market. Noteworthy; is that late 2009 and early 2010 showed signs of improvement with some mills reopening and more jobs created than lost.¹¹⁸

Mining

As of June 2010, in the District of Kenora, there are four businesses directly related to mining with two employing between 200 and 499 people. The remaining two smaller operations employ between 5 and 9. There are seven smaller businesses engaged in activities supporting the mining industry which employ an estimated 40 people. There are six businesses engaged in the manufacturing of non-metallic mineral products, employing approximately 100 people.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁵ NTAB 2011d; Schmallegger & Carson 2010.

¹¹⁶ NTAB 2011a.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

Agriculture

There are ten businesses operating in the crop production sector with 80% owner-operated in the District of Kenora. There are 12 additional enterprises focused on animal production with 9 or 75% owner-operated. Agricultural activity is concentrated in the south with crops including barley, wheat, oats, corn, soybeans, potatoes, alfalfa and other hay crops. There are also some vegetable and fruit crops. Animal production in the region includes beef, dairy, sheep, goats, pigs, bison, deer/elk, llama/alpaca and an increasing number of horses.¹²⁰

The agricultural sector supports about 100 on-farm jobs, which is down approximately 50% from the total in 2001. The proportion of off-farm employment in the District of Kenora increased from 45% to 58% between 1995 and 2005. It is noted that the proportion of farmers working off the farm may result in an under-reporting of labour activity within the agricultural sector.¹²¹

Tourism

There are 548 businesses operating in the tourism sector in the District of Kenora. Of these, 368 (67%) are accommodation services and 109 (20%) are classified as food and beverage services. This industry is a key employer within the region; with an estimated 4,052 people working in businesses that employ less than 100 people and an additional two food services businesses employing between 100 and 199 people.¹²²

Health Care

The health care industry in the northwest region (which comprises the District of Kenora and the District of Rainy River), accounted for 11% of the total employment, compared to 8% across Ontario in 2006. 82% of health care workers are female in this region. Ambulatory care subsectors offer the most employment opportunities. 77% of the workers in this subsector are considered prime working age; between 25-54 years of age, 52% have attained either a college diploma or university degree, while the median income is \$41,798. From 2005 to 2010, employment has grown 10% and is the largest employer in the Northwest economic region.¹²³

3.6.2 Number of Employees

Small and Medium-sized businesses play an important role in the economy of the District of Kenora. As such, with the exception of Manufacturing and Education, Health Care and Social Assistance, 99% of all businesses employ less than 100 people.¹²⁴

¹²⁰ NTAB 2011a.

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² Ibid.

¹²³ NTAB 2011b.

¹²⁴ NTAB 2011a.

NTAB provides estimated employment numbers for various industries in 2010 within the District of Kenora (Table 3.6-1). These numbers are provided below.¹²⁵

Table 3.6-1 Number of Employees by Industry, District of Kenora

Industries	Estimated Employment Numbers
Agriculture and Forestry Industries	619
Mining and Heavy Construction	1,657
Manufacturing	522
Retail/Wholesale Trade and Transportation	5,294
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate (F.I.R.E.), Professional and Scientific	2,644
Education, Health Care and Social Assistance	2,237
Tourism, Arts, Culture and Recreation	4,052
Personal Services	1,154
Government Services	1,549

Source: NTAB 2011a

3.6.3 Investment Trends and Projections

The *Places to Grow Plan for Northern Ontario* was developed under *The Places to Grow Act*, 2005, to provide a strategic framework to growth and investment in Northern Ontario. The Plan identifies a number of objectives and policies around key themes: the economy, people, communities, infrastructure, environment and Aboriginal peoples.¹²⁶ The Plan is a strategic framework to help guide decision making over the next 25 years. Places to Grow outline a Vision for Northern Ontario as follows:

*Northern Ontario has a skilled, educated, healthy and prosperous population that is supported by world-class resources, leading edge technology and modern infrastructure. Companies scan the world for opportunities to create jobs, attract investment and serve global markets. Communities are connected to each other and the world, offering dynamic and welcoming environments that are attractive to newcomers. Municipalities, Aboriginal communities, governments and industry work together to achieve shared economic, environmental and community goal.*¹²⁷

¹²⁵ NTAB 2011a.

¹²⁶ Ministry of Infrastructure/Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry, 2011.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

The Plan identifies a number of growth priorities for the economy in Northern Ontario including, but not limited to:

- Advanced Manufacturing;
- Agriculture, Aquaculture and Food Processing;
- Arts, Culture and Creative Industries;
- Digital Economy;
- Forestry and Value-Add Forestry-Related Industries;
- Health Sciences;
- Minerals Sector and Mining Supply and Services;
- Renewable Energy and Services;
- Tourism;
- Transportation, Aviation and Aerospace; and,
- Water Technologies and Services.¹²⁸

This Plan “is a fundamental guiding document for economic development activities in the District of Kenora. Connecting plans and projects to policies within the Plan is vital if funding from the government of Ontario is required for project implementation”.¹²⁹

Northern Ontario aims to invest in opportunities to grow strategically over the next 25 years to attract economic growth and provide employment opportunities and infrastructure development to help retain youth and build its urban, rural, remote and Aboriginal communities.

3.7 REGIONAL PROFILE SUMMARY

The District of Kenora, much like other areas in Northern Ontario, is experiencing a declining population as people out-migrate, generally to realize economic opportunities. To attract more growth and retain its youth and young families, Northern Ontario, including the District of Kenora is attempting to transition its economy from heavy dependence on resource extraction to a more diversified economy inclusive of tourism opportunities, energy developments and other technology projects.

¹²⁸ Ministry of Infrastructure/Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry, 2011.

¹²⁹ Insights Northwest 2011.

4.0 COMPARISON OF THE COMMUNITY PATTERNS WITH THE DISTRICT OF KENORA AND THE PROVINCE

4.1 POPULATION DYNAMICS

4.1.1 Trend Over Time

Over the past 15 years, the populations of Ignace and the District of Kenora as a whole have seen a decline, while the Province of Ontario has experienced population growth. Population growth in the Province has been steady, as presented in Table 4.1-1. Correspondingly, the District of Kenora witnessed a decrease in population from 1996-2001, a recovery from 2001 to 2006 (growth of 4.2%), and then a steeper decline of 10.6% between 2006 and 2011.

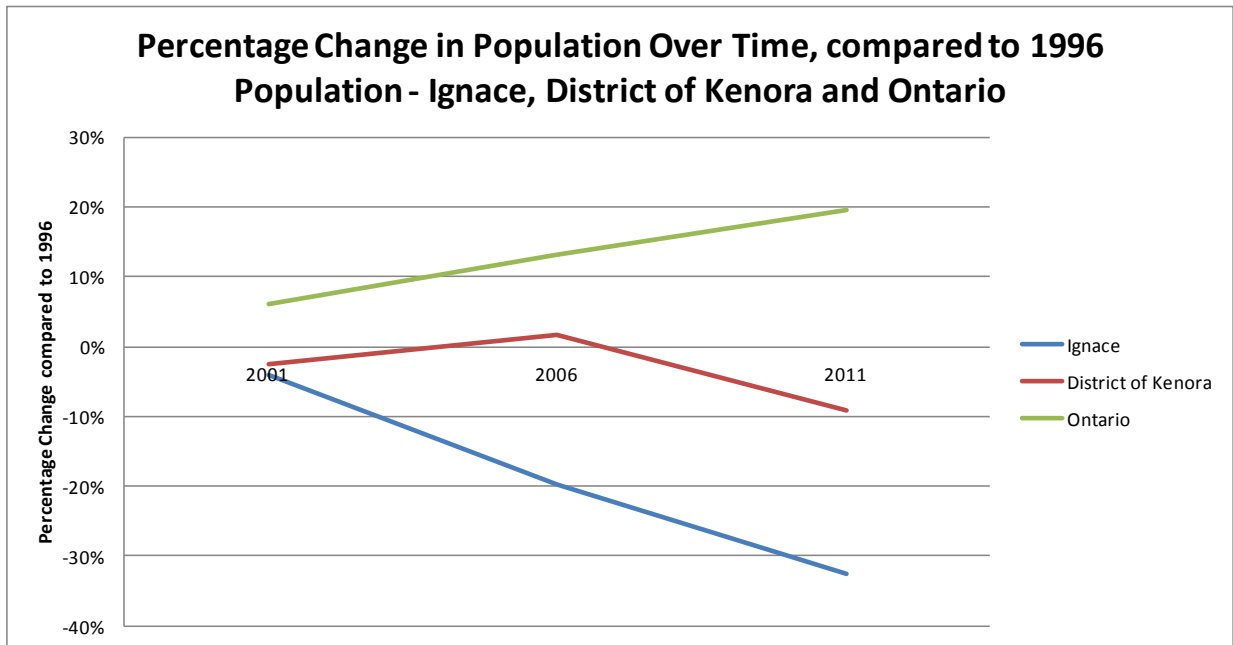
Table 4.1-1 Population Trend (1996-2011) – Ignace, the District of Kenora and the Province of Ontario

	1996	2001	% change (1996-2001)	2006	% change (2001-2006)	2011	% change (2006-2011)
Ignace	1,782	1,709	-4.1	1,431	-16.3	1,202	-16
District of Kenora	63,360	61,802	-2.5	64,419	4.2	57,607	-10.6
Ontario	10,753,573	11,410,046	6.1	12,160,282	6.6	12,851,821	5.7

Source: Statistics Canada (1997, 2002, 2007, 2012a)

When compared to 1996 population levels (see Figure 4.1-1), it is clear that the Province of Ontario has experienced strong growth from 1996 to 2011 (20% growth), while the District of Kenora has experienced a decline for the same period (-9%) and Ignace has been marked with an even steeper decline in population (-33%). Therefore, while the population of Ontario is growing at a rapid rate, the District of Kenora and to a greater extent, Ignace, are both experiencing rapid decline.

Figure 4.1-1 Percentage Change in Population Over Time, Compared to 1996 Population, Ignace, District of Kenora and Province of Ontario

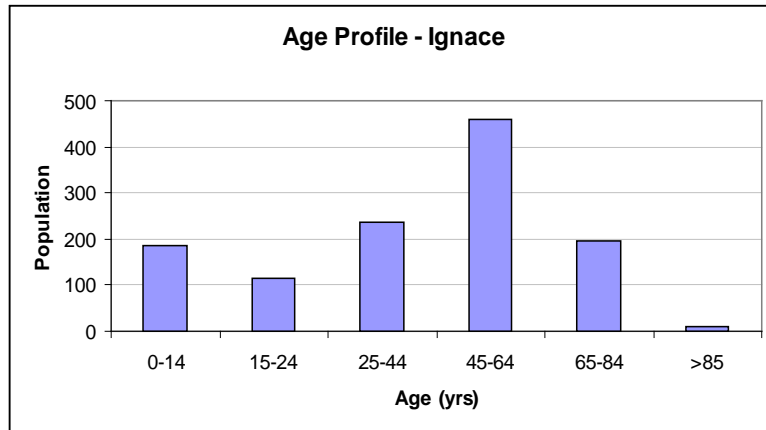


Source: Statistics Canada (1997, 2002, 2007, 2012a)

4.1.2 Age Profile

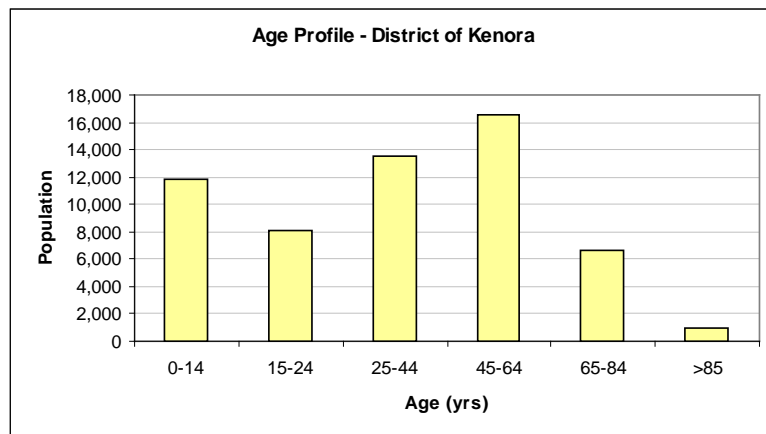
Overall, the comparison of the age profile of Ignace with the District of Kenora and the Province of Ontario depicts a similar population distribution pattern (Table 4.1-2 and Figure 4.1-2, Figure 4.1-3 and Figure 4.1-4); however, noteworthy is the 25-44 year age cohort in Ignace, which is relatively higher (38% of the total population) compared to the same age cohort in the District of Kenora and Ontario. This age cohort is approximately 29% of the total population in both the District of Kenora and Ontario.

Figure 4.1-2 Age Profile (2011) – Ignace



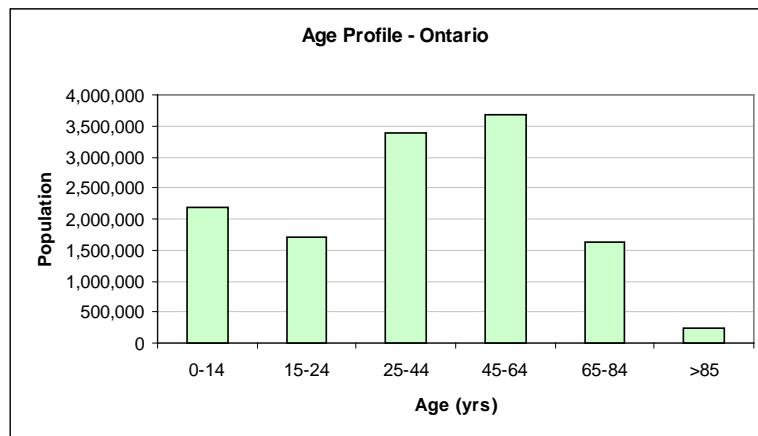
Source: Statistics Canada 2012a

Figure 4.1-3 Age Profile (2011) – District of Kenora



Source: Statistics Canada 2012a

Figure 4.1-4 Age Profile (2011) – Province of Ontario



Source: Statistics Canada 2012a

The median age and the percent population 15 years and over in 2011 is also higher in Ignace than in the District of Kenora and Ontario, suggesting that Ignace has an older population relative to the Region and the Province (Table 4.1-2).

Table 4.1-2 Gender and Age Profile (2011) – Ignace, the District of Kenora and Province of Ontario

Community	Total population	Male	Female	Median Age	Population 15 years and older
Ignace	1,205	600	600	48.1	84.7%
District of Kenora	57,605	28,930	28,680	38.6	79.5%
Ontario	12,851,820	6,263,140	6,588,685	40.4	83.0%

Source: Statistics Canada 2012a

4.2 LABOUR FORCE

Table 4.2-1 indicates that in 2006, Ignace had an unemployment rate (10.6%) in comparison to the District of Kenora (8.8%) and Ontario (6.4%).

Table 4.2-1 Labour Force (2006) – Ignace, District of Kenora and Province of Ontario

Labour Force Activity	Ignace	District of Kenora	Ontario
Total population 15 yrs and over	1,195	48,865	9,819,420
In labour force	800	31,340	6,587,580
Employed	720	28,595	6,164,245
Unemployed	85	2,745	423,335
Participation rate	66.9%	64.1%	67.1%
Employment rate	60.3%	58.5%	62.8%
Unemployment rate	10.6%	8.8%	6.4%

Source: Statistics Canada 2007

Note: The most recent census data (2011) are not published at this time.

4.2.1 Population by Education/Training Attainment

The percentages of people with no certificate, diploma or degree in Ignace (39.7%) and the District of Kenora (38.6%) are higher than that in Ontario (22.2%) (Table 4.2-2).

The proportion of people holding a high school certificate or equivalent; apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma; college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma; and, university certificate or diploma below the bachelor level, are roughly comparable across the community of Ignace, the District of Kenora and Ontario.

Table 4.2-2 Population by Education/Training Attainment 2006 – District of Kenora and Province of Ontario

Education/Training Attainment (15 years and over)	Ignace	%	District of Kenora	%	Ontario	%
Total population 15 yrs and over	1,195	-	48,865	-	9,819,420	-
No certificate, diploma, degree	475	39.7	18,875	38.6	2,183,625	22.2
High school certificate or equivalent	335	28.0	11,665	23.9	2,628,575	26.8
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	135	11.3	5,040	10.3	785,115	8.0
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	160	13.4	7,765	15.9	1,804,775	18.4
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	30	2.5	1,320	2.7	405,270	4.1
University certificate, diploma or degree	55	4.6	4,195	8.6	2,012,060	20.5

Source: Statistics Canada 2007

Note: The most recent census data (2011) are not published at this time.

4.2.2 Employment by Activity and Sector

According to the 2006 census data provided in Table 4.2-3, the community of Ignace has a higher percentage (24.4%) of people working in agriculture and other resource-based industries compared to the District of Kenora (8.9%) and Ontario (2.9%).

Table 4.2-3 Employment by Activity and Sector (2006) – District of Kenora and Province of Ontario

Employment by Activity and Sector	Ignace	%	District of Kenora	%	Ontario	%
Total experienced labour force (15 years and over)	780	-	30,660	-	6,473,730	-
Agriculture and other resource-based industries	190	24.4%	2,720	8.9%	190,000	2.9%
Construction	30	3.8%	1,730	5.6%	384,775	5.9%
Manufacturing	65	8.3%	2,290	7.5%	899,670	13.9%
Wholesale trade	15	1.9%	455	1.5%	307,465	4.7%
Retail trade	80	10.3%	3,980	13.0%	720,235	11.1%
Finance and real estate	30	3.8%	930	3.0%	442,610	6.8%
Health care and social services	40	5.1%	4,505	14.7%	611,740	9.4%
Educational services	55	7.1%	2,590	8.4%	433,485	6.7%
Business services	85	10.9%	3,480	11.4%	1,274,345	19.7%
Other services	185	23.7%	7,990	26.1%	1,209,390	18.7%

Source: Statistics Canada 2007

Note: The most recent census data (2011) are not published at this time.

NTAB¹³⁰ uses the Canadian Business Pattern data, and provides a comparison of the economy of the District of Kenora and Ontario in terms of the number of businesses operating in each industry sector (see Table 4.2-4). The term “distribution” in Table 4.2-4 refers to the number of businesses operating in a sector locally as a percentage of the total number of businesses operating in the area. This percentage is then compared to industry activity at the provincial level to provide an indicator of the importance of that industry locally.

¹³⁰ NTAB 2011a.

Table 4.2-4 Distribution of Businesses in the District of Kenora Economy as Compared to Ontario (2010)

Industry	Kenora Total	Distribution (%)	Ontario Total	Distribution (%)
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	160	4.8	33,772	3.8
Mining and Heavy Construction	395	12.0	101,530	11.5
Manufacturing	61	1.9	33,570	3.8
Wholesale & Retail Sales & Transportation	775	23.5	172,001	19.5
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate (F.I.R.E.), Professional & Scientific	760	23.0	357,090	40.6
Education, Health Care & Social Assistance	238	7.2	53,879	6.1
Tourism, Culture and Recreation	548	16.6	49,890	5.7
Personal Services	305	9.2	77,279	8.8
Government Services	61	1.9	1,347	0.2
Total	3,303	100.0	880,358	100.0

Source: NTAB 2011a

4.3 COMMUNITY PATTERNS WITH REGION AND PROVINCE SUMMARY

The available data indicate that overall, when compared to the District of Kenora and the Province of Ontario, Ignace's population has been in more rapid decline and shows a higher age profile. The unemployment rates are higher in Ignace. Ignace's Labour Participation and Employment rates are higher than the District of Kenora, and Ignace also has a higher proportion of people with an education at the high school level or equivalent or a trades certificate or diploma. Ignace's labour force also shows a higher experience base in agriculture and other resource-based industries.

5.0 REFERENCES

Community Tour 2012. Tour of the Ignace Community. May 2012. Ignace.

Fire Chief, Ignace. *Personal Communication*. June 6, 2012. Ignace.

gck Consulting 2012. *2012 Community Sustainability Vision for the Township of Ignace*.

Golder Associates 2011. *Prepared for NWMO. Summary Report. Initial Screening for Siting a Deep Geological Repository for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel*. The Corporation of the Township of Ignace. March.

Hardy Stevenson and Associates 2010. *Learn More Project – Technical and Safety Dimension of the Adaptive Phased Management System*. Report to the Township of Ignace. Funded by the NWMO. October.

Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee (ICNLC) 2012. Meeting with ICNLC in May 2012.

Insights Northwest 2011. *Kenora District Resource Mapping Project*. Final Report for Dryden Development Corporation. June 24, 2011.

Kenora District Service Board (KDSB) 2012. *Kenora District Communities*.
<http://www.kdsb.on.ca/communities.htm>

Lederer, J. 2009. *Socioeconomic Impact Assessment*. Prepared for the Ignace Citizen Encouraged Community Adjustment Committee (ICE CAP). University of Waterloo School of Architecture. Edited by Victoria Beltrano and Renderings by Heather Brown. May.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. *2010 Financial Information Return*. Ignace Tp.
<http://cskonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/View/FI106001%20Copy.pdf>. Posted May 23, 2012.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. *2011 Financial Information Return*. Ignace Tp.
<http://cskonramp.mah.gov.on.ca/fir/View/FI106001%20Copy.pdf>. Posted May 27, 2013.

Ministry of Natural Resources 2002. Ontario's Living Legacy.
<http://www.ontla.on.ca/library/repository/mon/3000/10303575.pdf>

- Northwestern Ontario Joint Task Force (NWOJTF) 2012. *Regional Economic Development Planning Zones Pilot Project*. March 2012.
- Northwest Training and Adjustment Board 2011a. Trends Opportunities Priorities (TOP) Report. February.
- Northwest Training and Adjustment Board 2011b. Workforce Focus. Health Care in the Northwest Region. 6(3). September.
- Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) 2012. Common Statistics Ignace.
- Ontario Parks 2012. *Park Statistics 2012*.
- Ontario Parks 2011. *Park Statistics 2011*.
- Patricia Area Community Endeavours (PACE) 2009. *Regional Strategic Plan: 2009-2012. Final Report*. <http://www.pace-cf.on.ca/upload/documents/pace-regional-strategy-final-report-2009-12-23.pdf>
- Patricia Area Community Endeavours (PACE) n.d. *Welcome to PACE*. <http://www.pace-cf.on.ca/>
- Pronger, D. 2012. *Optimism speaking residential sales in Ignace*. The Dryden Observe. Published on 11 April 2012.
- Pronger, D. n.d. *Ignace Online*. About Ignace. <http://www.ignaceonline.com/about-ignace-ontario.htm>
- Ricci's Trucking Raleigh Falls Timber 2011. Home. Retrieved from <http://www.ricctrucking.ca/>
- Runesson, U.T. 2011. *Ontario's Northwest Forest. Northwest History. Past*. Faculty of Natural Resources Management. Lakehead University. http://www.borealforest.org/index.php?category=ont_nw_forest&page=history
- Schmallegger, D. and D. Carson 2010. *Is tourism just another staple? A new perspective on tourism in remote regions*. 13(3), 201-221. May.
- Statistics Canada 2012a. *2011 Community Profiles*. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada. Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada 2012b. *Kenora, Ontario (Code 3560) and Ontario (Code 35) (table). Census Profile*. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa.

Statistics Canada 2007. *2006 Community Profiles*. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada. Ottawa.

Statistics Canada 2002. *2001 Community Profiles*. 2001 Census. Statistics Canada. Ottawa.

Statistics Canada 1997. *1996 Community Profiles*. 1996 Census. Statistics Canada. Ottawa.

The Corporation of the Township of Ignace 2010. Township of Ignace Official Plan 2010. October.

Township of Ignace 2009a. Township of Ignace Community Profile 2009.

Township of Ignace 2009b. Township of Ignace Strategic Plan 2009-2012.

Township of Ignace 2008. Local Businesses. Official Website.

<http://town.ignace.on.ca/siteengine/activepage.asp?PageID=38>

Township of Ear Falls n.d. Township of Ear Falls. <http://www.ear-falls.com/>

Township of Ignace n.d. Township of Ignace Official Website. <http://town.ignace.on.ca/>

Township of Ignace Strategic Plan 2009. 2009-2012.

Wozniczka, Izabela A., Rhonda L. Koster, Raynald (Harvey) Lemelin. 2010. *Communities in Transition: Changing Views on Tourism Development as a Vehicle for Economic Diversification in Northern Ontario, Canada*. Journal of Rural and Community Development 5, ½ (2010), 90-102.