



GROWING THE POPULATION & OPTIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY STUDIES

InterGroup Consultants, June 2022



1. Study Objectives

The study looks at of the challenges and opportunities with anticipated population growth and identifies options to leverage possible benefits and mitigate potential negative impacts in Ignace and the Local Study Area (LSA)¹.

Key Planning Assumptions: age structure, out-migration, historical growth rates, retirement expectations, and economic drivers. Assumptions are used to determine the possible population growth trends in Ignace and LSA.

Ignace Population Growth Aspirations

- Grow the population to 2,500-3,000 residents.
- Support and retain population (especially youth).
- Attract and retain workers and their families.

Local Study Area (LSA) Population Growth Aspirations

- City of Dryden: 9,000 by 2031.
- City Sioux Lookout: 6,200 by 2038.
- Municipality of Machin wants to ensure there is sustainable growth with a focus on the well-being for elders and youth.



2. Key Findings

Baseline (historical perspective)

- With the exception for Sioux Lookout, that has experienced growth, population has remained relatively stable for the last 10 years.
- Population is becoming slightly more diverse (those that identify as Indigenous or visible minority).
- Census family couples with children at home are declining more in Ignace than municipalities in study area.

Forecast without the Project: a steady population in Ignace with some opportunity for growth in other municipalities in the LSA by 2046. Greater growth will be dependent on resource-based activities for all communities. Steady out-migration of youth and limited retention opportunities for new workers and their families.

Forecast with the Project: the population will approach the Ignace growth aspirations as well as supporting the LSA growth. Stability and investment will support youth as well as new workers and their families who live, work, and play in Ignace and surrounding area.



3. Next Steps

- The Project will be a catalyst for growth in Ignace.
- A coordinated planning effort will be needed to achieve growth taking into consideration increasing the housing stock, enhancing facilities and services, and stimulating economic diversification. Additional considerations:
 - How to capture the first wave of NWMO in-migration from the pre-construction phase.
 - How to develop and retain the workforce locally and regionally.
 - How to sustain safe and cohesive communities.

¹ Municipalities of the LSA include: the Township of Ignace, City of Dryden, Municipality of Machin, Municipality of Sioux Lookout, Melgund Local Services Board and Wabigoon Local Services Board.