



Ontario's Social Landscape Paints the Picture of Local Communities Across the Province

Toronto – September 8, 2010

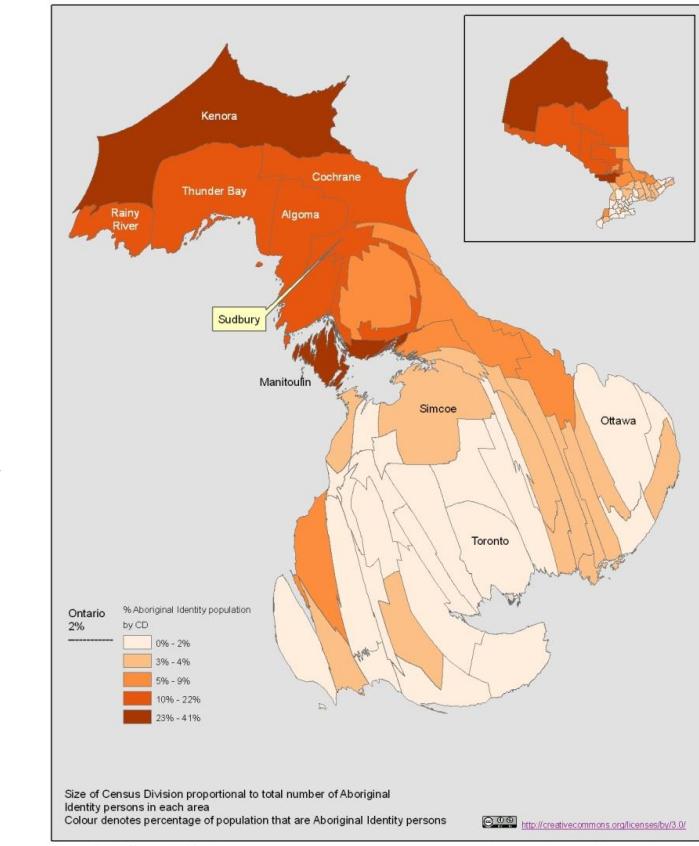
The Social Planning Network of Ontario's (SPNO) latest report, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, is *Ontario's Social Landscape: Socio-demographic trends and conditions in communities across the province* and provides valuable information about Ontario and its evolving communities. Chalk-full of demographic and socio-economic data, the report is offered as a resource for program planning, needs assessments, advocacy initiatives, public policy development, research projects and more.

Ontario's Social Landscape tells the story of emerging province-wide and local trends through the use of a unique mapping tool – the cartogram. Rather than the typical provincial map, researchers use cartograms – transformations of maps in which the land area, such as a census division, is adjusted to approximate the size of a particular population or group, such as the Aboriginal community as shown here. The shape of the physical land mass is transformed to reflect the size of the group of interest.

"*Ontario's Social Landscape* paints a picture of our communities, telling us where we're at and where we're headed", commented SPNO Board Chair Janet Gasparini. Key indicator data quantify social realities in Ontario communities – from the recession's impact on the economy to the issues of affordable housing and electoral participation. This information is essential for planning services to meet the needs of changing communities, engaging and mobilizing residents and taking action to create the communities we want.

Drawing mainly on data from the census, researchers hone in on several themes including diversity, aging, the economy and recession, housing and electoral participation. The report includes a focus on ethnoracial diversity, immigrant communities, Francophones and Aboriginal people, as well as, residents living with different physical abilities and mental health issues. It incorporates local stories of challenge and change across Ontario communities, and points the reader in the direction of other great resources.

The full report is available at www.spno.ca



For further information contact:

Ted Hildebrandt, Research Team Member
thildebrandt@cdhalton.ca, (905) 632-1975

Janet Gasparini, President, Social Planning Network of Ontario
jgasparini@spcsudbury.ca, (705) 675-3894