

EXPLORE



NIPIGON
NESTLED IN NATURE

Community Profile

Township of Nipigon, Ontario



www.nipigon.net



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Mission Statement

Nipigon will be a destination point for visitors, businesses and new residents while maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for the community.

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2010 Dedication of Paddle to the Sea Park & Nipigon Downtown Revitalization 4.5 million tourism investment

Left to right: MP Bruce Hyer, MPP Michael Gravelle, Mayor Richard Harvey, and Red Rock Indian Band Elder Norma Fawcett

Message from the Mayor

On behalf of myself and Nipigon's Town Council, I am pleased to invite you to learn about our community, and the benefits of doing business in Nipigon by reviewing our 2011 Community Profile.

Nipigon's accessible location is one of the unique advantages we are pleased to offer our business community. All cross Canada traffic passes through Nipigon because we are located at the junction of Highways 11 and 17 on the Trans Canada Highway, near the centre of the country. The Canadian Pacific Railway is accessible in Nipigon, and Thunder Bay's international airport and urban amenities are within an hour's drive.

Nipigon is situated in one of the most scenic areas in the country, with a quality of life and all season recreational opportunities, including a world class fishery, that rival the best that Canada has to offer.

Our Town Council is committed to business development, and we are proud to pursue and support this priority through our Economic Development Office. We are pleased that you are considering Nipigon as a place to do business, and our team will do everything possible to help you become a partner in our success.

Sincerely,

Richard Harvey, Mayor



1. Nipigon – An Overview.

Nipigon is a progressive township of 1,718 residents, with 2,713 people living within a commutable distance. The township covers an area of 109.65 square kilometers and is strategically located near the centre of Canada on the TransCanada Highway; 100 km east of the City of Thunder Bay on the shore of Lake Superior.

Nipigon is a stable district service hub because of the transportation networks and regional services that converge in the community. Nipigon boasts a healthy diversity of businesses in commercial, retail, government, industrial supply and service as well as the tourism sector. We are proud of our small businesses as well as larger chains like Home Hardware, Canadian Tire, Fields, and the recent addition of Tim Hortons. Nipigon also benefits from the stable presence of government services such as the Nipigon District Memorial Hospital, Ontario Provincial Police detachment, Ministry of Natural Resources, and Parks Canada administration office.

Nipigon is ready for new investments in forestry and mining. The community has a long history of forestry manufacturing since the primary employer was previously a plywood mill. The local labour force is skilled and experienced in all aspects of manufacturing and management.

Canada's most impressive fresh water fishing can be experienced on the Nipigon lakes and rivers. This is the home of the World-Record Brook Trout and more than 70 other fish species that inhabit the one million hectares of fresh water in Lake Superior and the mouth of the Nipigon River.

The quality of life in Nipigon is second to none. Nipigon's recreation programs and exceptional natural beauty make us an attractive place to live, do business and visit. Great schools, health care, social services, arts & culture, affordable housing and an entrepreneurial spirit, all add to the outstanding natural features of the area.

2. Living in Nipigon

When it comes to quality of life, residents of Nipigon enjoy a pristine natural environment. The benefits of clean air, fresh water, abundant land, good schools, the district hospital, affordable real estate and rural hospitality are just a few of the things that this progressive Northwestern Ontario community has to offer.

The Nipigon area is home to people of many nationalities, religions and cultures, creating a diverse and tolerant population. The municipality has a positive working relationship with its neighbouring First Nations, the Red Rock Indian Band.

Description	Total
Population in 2010	1,718
Population in 2006	1,752
2006 to 2010 population change %	-1.9
Total private dwellings	737
Land area (square km)	109.14

Source: *Census 2006 and MapInfo 2010*

One of Nipigon's advantages is its remarkable affordability. House prices and rents (residential and commercial) are among the most competitive in Ontario and the overall cost of living is significantly lower than the provincial average. A comfortable 3 bedroom, single family home could cost from \$65,000 and \$95,000.

While salaries are also below the provincial average, this is offset by the low living costs and low municipal taxes. Nipigon's Council is strongly committed to keeping public costs to a minimum.

There are four distinct seasons to participate in outdoor activities; spring, summer, fall and winter. Nipigon is known for its sub-arctic climate, with cold winters and warm summers. The local climate is influenced by Lake Superior, resulting in slightly cooler summer temperatures and warmer winter temperatures than the interior.

Average Temperatures

	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct	Year
Daily Average (°C)	- 16.6	1.5	17	4.8	1.7 A
Daily Maximum (°C)	- 10.5	8	23.7	9.2	7.7 A
Daily Minimum (°C)	- 22.7	- 5	10.2	0.4	-4.3 A

Source: *Environment Canada*



3. Community Services

The Township of Nipigon was incorporated in 1908 and is governed by a Mayor and four Councillors, all elected for a four year term. A full range of municipal services are provided by approximately 15-20 employees.

Provincially, Nipigon is located within the Thunder Bay–Superior North riding and is represented by Michael Gravelle, M.P.P. Federally, Nipigon is within the Thunder Bay-Superior North electoral district and is represented by Bruce Hyer, M.P.

The Township of Nipigon provides excellent municipal services to its residents including road maintenance, garbage collection, landfill tipping, water supply, and sewage services. In 2009, the Township began a \$6.9 million upgrade to its water treatment plant and is in the process of a \$7 million upgrade to sewage treatment.

Business & Residential Water Rates

There are currently no water meters in Nipigon. As per By-law No. 1691, January 19, 2010, the water rates are charged as follows:

Number of People	Rates per quarter
1 person	\$70.00 per quarter
2 people	\$95.00 per quarter
3 - 4 people	\$105.00 per quarter
5 – 6 people	\$113.00 per quarter
Over 7 people	\$139.00 per quarter

Clean hydro-electricity is provided to the community by Hydro One, natural gas is distributed by Union Gas, modern telecommunications are supplied by TBaytel and Bell Canada, and the area is also serviced by SHAW Cable. Emergency response services are fast and readily available in Nipigon. Fire protection is provided by the Nipigon Volunteer Fire Department. Policing is provided by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) detachment located directly in the township, and Nipigon enjoys participation in neighbourhood Crimestoppers.

In addition to these essential public services, the Township of Nipigon supports community enrichment through recreation programs, library, community centre, arena and tourism information centre. Nipigon's Marina is capable of accommodating boats of any size and first-class facilities are operated at the waterfront annually from June to October.

4. Education

Nipigon is part of the Superior-Greenstone District School Board and the Superior North Catholic District School Board, with elementary schools from each Board located directly in the town. Both the George O'Neill Public School and the St. Edward Roman Catholic School offer classes from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 in fully equipped and high quality learning facilities.

The nearest public secondary school is the Nipigon-Red Rock District High School. The high school is located in Red Rock, 15 minutes away, with public school bus service. Secondary school programs are also offered through Contact North distance education, with full-time teaching staff and state-of-the art technology on site.

In 2010, over 40% of Nipigon residents over the age of 25 held a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree. Architecture, engineering and related technologies were the most popular fields of study, with health, parks, recreation and fitness were also predominantly chosen.

Confederation College of Applied Arts & Technology is a regional college with its main campus in Thunder Bay. It offers full-time postsecondary programs as well as part-time credit and non-credit courses, specialty programs for business and industry, apprenticeship and skills training programs, and cooperative workplace training programs. Full-time programs include Aviation, Business, Engineering Technology, Health Sciences, Media Arts, Natural Resources and Skilled Trades.

Lakehead University is an award winning university conveniently located in Thunder Bay. The University has some 7,600 students and offers undergraduate and postgraduate education in nine core faculties: Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Forestry and the Forest Environment, Graduate Studies, Medical School, Professional Studies, Science and Environmental Studies and Social Sciences and Humanities.

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine is Canada's newest medical school and also has a main campus in Thunder Bay. It focuses on educating and retaining medical professionals in Northwestern Ontario communities. Clinical learning sites include Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Sioux Lookout, as well as smaller centres throughout Northern Ontario including Nipigon.

5. Health Care

Nipigon offers exceptional health and social care services that include acute care sites, long term care facilities and public health services. Nipigon is home to over 20 health, wellness and social service providers, including family physicians, chiropractors, dentists, counsellors and massage therapists.

Nipigon also has one of the largest concentrations of social care agencies in the region with organizations like North of Superior Counselling Programs, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care and Thunder Bay Public Health Unit all establishing regional offices in the town.



Hospital facilities are located at the Nipigon District Memorial Hospital, a 37-bed facility that offers extended care, chronic care, acute care, and respite care beds for the 5,500 people served by the hospital's catchment area.

The facility boasts modern equipment and 95 fully qualified staff who can deal with complex emergency, medical, pediatric, coronary, obstetric and chronic care problems either directly or through transfer from or to other health care facilities.

In addition, residents benefit from internationally renowned medical research, treatment and care services provided through the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre and the Northwestern Ontario Regional Cancer Care Centre based in Thunder Bay.

For international businesses, it should be noted that under the Canada Health Act, the costs of health care services are full and/or partially covered through publicly funded insured services.



6. Economic Base

Today, Nipigon is a service centre and much of the local economy is geared towards servicing the people, businesses and transportation industries that pass through or stop in the town. Businesses range from gas bars and travel service centres, to retail stores and hospitality operations such as motels and restaurants.

There are many small businesses and organizations that cater to the town's Highway traffic in addition to the local and regional markets. One of the major benefits of working and doing business in Nipigon is the very minimal commuting and travel times to work. Major employers in Nipigon are located within 5 minutes drive of most Nipigon residences.

Nipigon Major Employers

Employer:	Sector:	No. Employees:
• Nipigon District Memorial Hospital	Public	95
• Ministry of Natural Resources	Public	Not available
• Superior-Greenstone District School Board	Public	65
• Nipigon Husky Travel Centre	Private	35
• Zechners Food Mart	Private	32
• Tim Hortons	Private	30
• Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)	Public	22
• The Township of Nipigon	Public	20

The town of Nipigon has a concentration of public service agencies. For example, Nipigon is home to health services and social welfare agencies including the Nipigon District Memorial Hospital, North of Superior Counselling Programs and Dilico Anishinabek Family Care. These agencies service local residents but also draw additional people to the town from neighbouring First Nations and municipalities.

Family-owned and commercial tourism operations in the area offer visitors unique excursions, charters and outdoor experiences on land and water. A number of hospitality and service businesses accommodate the needs of tourists including guides, accommodations, gasbars, fishing and boating suppliers, among others.



7. Business Overview

Excellent transport links, business services and telecommunications, combined with a municipal infrastructure built for growth, make Nipigon one of the top locations in the region for direct investment.

In Nipigon, businesses benefit from an extensive transportation infrastructure, with key national rail routes and the Trans-Canada Highway running through the town, providing easy access to millions of potential customers in Canada and the United States. The City of Thunder Bay is just over one hour away by road and the Canada-US border with Minnesota is just two hours away.

From Nipigon to Canadian towns and cities:

Destination	Distance in km	Driving Time
• Thunder Bay, ON	110 kilometres	1 hour 20 minutes
• Sault St. Marie, ON	588 kilometres	6 hours 45 minutes
• Sudbury, ON	891 kilometres	10 hours 21 minutes
• Ottawa, ON	1348 kilometres	15 hours 14 minutes
• Toronto, ON	1271 kilometres	14 hours 26 minutes
• Winnipeg, MB	780 kilometres	9 hours 33 minutes

From Nipigon to the United States cities:

Destination	Distance in km	Driving Time
• Duluth, MN	419 kilometres	6 hours 9 minutes
• Minneapolis, MN	666 kilometres	8 hours 34 minutes
• Chicago, IL	1173 kilometres	14 hours 46 minutes
• Sault Michigan, MI	594 kilometres	7 hours 35 minutes
• Milwaukee, WI	1057 kilometres	12 hours 56 minutes

With an international airport located just over 100 kilometres west in Thunder Bay and four regional airports with commercial, recreational and private air services close by in neighbouring municipalities, businesses in Nipigon can access fast and efficient flight connections to worldwide destinations.



The Nipigon Marina also provides a water connection to the Port of Thunder Bay; the largest outbound port on the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway.

Local and regional communication technology developments ensure that businesses in Nipigon are always connected to the rest of the world to support market expansion and increased efficiency. There is high speed broadband connectivity in the town as well as reliable 3G telecommunications networks.

From commercial real estate prices to municipal tax and utility rates, businesses based in Nipigon benefit from lower operating costs than the provincial or national average. There is a vibrant downtown centre and good availability of commercial properties and land for sale or lease. This means unrivalled financial benefits for entrepreneurs and businesses.

7.1 Business Opportunities

Looking to the future, the main business priorities for Nipigon are:

- New manufacturing ventures seeking efficiencies in transportation
- Waterfront development investment opportunities
- Commercial business development in the downtown core
- Tourism business development around the National Marine Conservation Area opportunity

Key sectors of opportunity for new business ventures are primarily in environmental technology, clean energy solutions, value-added wood products and tourism. In addition, many opportunities exist to provide business, financial and administrative support services to Nipigon's emerging industry sectors.



Nipigon's unique environmental assets and rich natural resources have been identified as a potential opportunity for the environmental technology sector, including cutting-edge research and development in marine ecosystems, renewable energy such as wind and solar power, bio fuels, geology, mining, water conservation and wastewater treatment.

The Township of Nipigon Economic Development Office and the Superior North Community Futures Development Corporation work collaboratively to provide information on provincial and federal government programs, business advice, and accessing research and development grants. These services are available to help businesses become more competitive at local, national and international levels.

Township of Nipigon Economic Development Office

www.nipigon.net

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Superior North Community Futures Development Corporation

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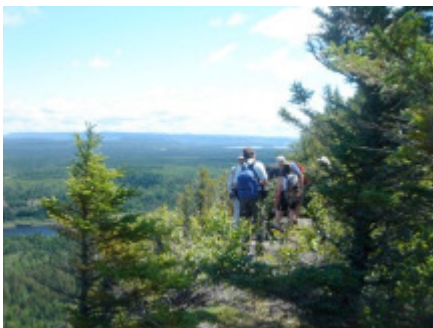
8. Recreation:

Nipigon is a natural visitor destination any time of year. Nestled against a backdrop of dramatic landscapes and the world's largest freshwater lake, Nipigon has a wealth of activities to offer all ages - the likes of which cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

The Nipigon Community Centre is operated by the Nipigon Township and offers multi-purpose indoor activities such as ice-hockey, figure skating and basketball, in addition to fitness, sewing and other programming. For outdoor recreation facilities, baseball diamonds, tennis courts, a swimming pool and a golf course are available.

Paddle-to-The-Sea Park is Nipigon's newest recreational attraction for children and adults. It features an interpretive, themed family park in Nipigon's downtown core, which continues along a newly constructed promenade to the spectacular Nipigon Marina. This world-class attraction is part of Nipigon's downtown revitalization project. A picturesque marina and wondrous waterways make Nipigon a world-renowned destination for water activities.

Some of Canada's best freshwater fishing action starts on the Nipigon lakes and rivers every spring. The world record brook trout weighing 14lb was caught on the Nipigon River in 1915 and since that time, the river has become a Mecca for anglers. This is where you'll find some of the biggest brook trout in the world as well as plentiful walleye, salmon, sturgeon and lake trout. Other popular water activities in Nipigon include sailing, kayaking, boating, canoeing and diving. Here, you can spend days and weeks exploring the beaches, islands and coastlines of the Nipigon lakes and rivers by water.



Camping, hiking, mountain biking, rock and ice climbing, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and back country snow showing in the fresh air of the boreal forests are also popular pastimes for local residents. Nipigon is conveniently situated near to Ruby Lake Provincial Park and Dorion's Ouimet Canyon Provincial Park. Other local Nipigon highlights include a spectacular lookouts over the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area, the Nipigon Recreational Trail and the Nipigon Historical Museum.



9. Contact Information

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