

Investment in Sudbury's Innovation, Workforce and Infrastructure

Ontario's clean growth and innovation goals are supported by continued provincial partnership in critical minerals, mine electrification and clean tech development. Research and training expansion at Laurentian University, Cambrian College and NORCAT will help address labour shortages and keep northern industries competitive. Infrastructure investment in housing, employment land and regional connectivity will attract business, grow the workforce and prepare northern Ontario communities to thrive in a low-carbon, innovation-driven economy.



Why is this important?

Greater Sudbury's population has grown from 166,000 in 2021 to about 192,000 today, driven largely by immigration programs like the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP), the Rural Community Immigration Pilot (RCIP) and the Francophone Community Immigration Pilot (FCIP).

To keep momentum and unlock economic potential, the region needs post-secondary education aligned with in-demand sectors such as modern mining, health care, life sciences and clean technology.

Growth is also straining infrastructure. Investment in housing, roads, utilities and digital connectivity is needed to support livability, retain workers and meet development goals.



Supporting information

Labour gaps: Northern Ontario faces skilled trades shortages in mining, construction and health care.

Clean tech leadership: Greater Sudbury leads in mine remediation and sustainable practices, with standout projects from Vale and Glencore.

Innovation hubs: Laurentian University, Cambrian College, and NORCAT are advancing electrification, automation and battery tech.

Infrastructure strain: The 2024 Greater Sudbury Development Corporation annual report highlighted urgent housing and transportation needs.

Global demand: The International Energy Agency (IEA) projects critical mineral demand will quadruple by 2040— Greater Sudbury is positioned to lead.

How can senior levels of government support us?

Senior governments can support northern Ontario's economic growth by aligning funding with regional strengths in critical minerals, clean tech and mine electrification. Investing in partnerships among local post-secondary institutions, NORCAT, and industry, can boost research, skilled trades and commercialization. Support for mine waste remediation—where the region leads globally—could bring clean tech solutions to market. Expanding the Practice Ready Ontario model to other fields could also ease labour shortages by fast-tracking certification for newcomers and retrained workers.

Alignment with government policies/priorities

Ontario has prioritized the Ring of Fire and its Critical Minerals Strategy to unlock the full value chain from extraction to processing. As a global hub for mining innovation, workforce training and critical minerals R&D, Greater Sudbury is well positioned to support this vision — but sustained investment is essential.

The province is also advancing its Health and Life Sciences sector. Greater Sudbury contributes through Health Sciences North Research Institute, Cambrian College's Simulation Lab, Collège Boréal's Advanced Ambulance Simulation Centre, Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM), and NORCAT's training capabilities. With proper investment, this ecosystem can meet provincial and national workforce needs.



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