



IGNACE AREA SOCIAL SERVICE STUDIES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY STUDIES

InterGroup Consultants/ Scatliff + Miller + Murray/ WSP, September 2022



1. Study Objectives

Two studies¹ combine to: describe the social service programs and infrastructure (facilities) in the Local Study Area (LSA)²; outline the potential changes to social services/ programs that might be associated with the Project; and assess potential options to enhance benefits and limit negative consequences.

Key Planning Assumptions: The projected population growth for Ignace is assumed to increase from just over 1,200 to 1,760 residents in the preconstruction phase (2028-2032) whereby 43% (530) residents can be attributed to the Project. In the operations phase (2043-2088) the population is assumed to be around 2,260 residents of which 80% (995) people can be attributed to the Project.

In the LSA (excluding Ignace) the project population growth is assumed to from 15,170 about 15,245 residents in the preconstruction phase (2023-2032) whereby 0.5% (75) of new residents can be attributed to the Project. In the operations phase (2043-2088), the anticipated growth is 16,330 residents of which 5.4% (830) is attributed to the Project.

Ignace Social Service Aspirations³

- Ensure support to Ignace community members through enhancements to evolving social services programs.
- Enhance infrastructure (facilities) to accommodate changing social service needs.

Local Study Area Aspirations⁴

- Address gaps in social service offerings and associated infrastructure constraints in the following key areas:
 - Drug and alcohol treatment
 - Mental health
 - Seniors' care
 - Access treatment facilities and programs



2. Key Findings

Baseline

- Most social service programs and associated infrastructure are available in Ignace or in the surrounding area communities, while some gaps in social services exist.
- Infrastructure required to accommodate social services exists in the local study, while many Ignace residents are required to travel to other communities for these services.
- Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) is creating a full day childcare centre in Ignace (15 spaces) in late 2023.

Forecast without the Project: Future community's needs can be met, although some gaps in social services may continue (e.g., addictions, homelessness, job search and training, seniors care). Travel outside Ignace and other communities for some services will continue. Some improvements to social services infrastructure will be required (e.g., improvements to access, facility upgrades/maintenance).

¹ Scatliff + Miller + Murray Inc. (2022), *Ignace Area Community and Culture Study*, and WSP (2022). *Ignace Area Infrastructure: Community Recreation Facilities Study*.

² Includes Ignace, Dryden, Local Services Board of Wabigoon, Machin, Sioux Lookout.

³ InterGroup Consultations Ltd. (2020). *Ignace Project Visioning Community Conversations*.

⁴ Scatliff + Miller + Murray Inc. (2022), *Ignace Area Community and Culture Study*.

Forecast with the Project: The projected population with the project is anticipated to increase demand for some social services (e.g., childcare). More social services staff will be required in Ignace and other area communities to accommodate expected growth, and to address needs of changing population demographics. Some infrastructure will require accelerated maintenance and/or expansion to accommodate current and expected limits of physical space.



3. Next Steps

- Led by the Township, prepare a plan which will:
 - Document gaps and capacity constraints in social services and enabling infrastructure
 - Develop actions that address gaps and constraints which the Township can lead and/ or participate in through area-wide inter-community planning
 - Work with Indigenous residents to identify and address Indigenous needs and aspirations as part of the plan
 - Create necessary alliances/ partnerships with area communities, appropriate government agencies and regional industries (including NWMO) to collaborate in planning, implementation, and financing
 - Establish a monitoring framework and measures to assess outcomes and to enable flexibility in provision of changing social services needs as the area population grows and changes
 - Specific areas for attention:
 - Childcare
 - Housing and care for seniors