

## **Guide to our Employment Calculator**

Just as all politics are local so too is all employment. In census years we can secure a great deal of information about local communities throughout the Thunder Bay region. In between census years, it is very difficult to measure changes in those smaller northern communities. It is possible, however, to estimate those changes. This is what our “Employment Calculator” does.

In non-census years there are reliable measures readily available for the Thunder Bay Census Metropolitan Area. Our smaller communities are not immune to changes in the economy of Thunder Bay, and in many cases changes in its economy reflect changes in the areas surrounding it. We can, in fact, identify historical relationships between population, labour market and economic indicators in our smaller communities to this larger unit. Using those historical trends we have developed community specific formulas to estimate workforce indicators in the years ahead, before the next census data is released.

Our calculator also includes, for reference, actual recorded data from 2001 to 2016 included in either the Census or the National Household Survey (2016). This tool may be accessed at [www.employmentcalculator.ca](http://www.employmentcalculator.ca)

### **Population**

If you pick your community in the left hand box, and “population statistics” in the right hand box you can get historical data on both total population, and the breakdown for two subgroups – Francophones and Aboriginal communities.

### **Labour Market Indicators**

This portion of the calculator uses the reported labour market indicators (employment, unemployment, participation rate) in the Thunder Bay CMA to estimate changes in those same measures for smaller communities in our region. It also allows you to estimate those numbers for the male and female population, or for the population as a whole and to look at those three groupings separately for the Francophone and Aboriginal populations in our communities. For these numbers we caution you that for our smallest communities the estimates can vary widely as the result of small changes and so these numbers should be used with extra caution. If you look at the years 2011 and 2015, we have done the calculations for you. In the years 2016 and beyond you will need to get the most recent data on the participation and employment rate for the Thunder Bay CMA and enter them in the appropriate boxes. Then the estimates for your community for that same period will be auto-generated.

### **Economic Impact**

If a new employer is coming to town, or thinking of coming to town, or one is leaving, selecting “economic impact” will allow you to estimate what effect this change will have on your community’s employment and unemployment rates, the direct income that might be generated or lost, the direct/indirect/induced income and employment impact that likely will be felt. These are, of course, estimates, and should be used as such – but this tool gives decision makers a handy tool to understand quickly the magnitude of the impact that job losses or gains may have on their community.

To get these economic estimates choose your community name on the right, “economic impact” on the left, and then input the number of estimated new jobs or job losses as the result of a potential change.