

Local Labour Market Monitor – September 2016

This Monitor focuses on local labour market news by industry. Industries are listed within the Goods and Services Sectors in the labour force. Within the Goods Sector are the following Industries: Agriculture; Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas; Utilities; Manufacturing & Construction. The Services Sector is comprised of Transportation & Warehousing; Trade; Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; Business, Building & Other Support Services; Information, Culture & Recreation; Accommodation & Food Services; Educational Services; Health Care & Social Assistance; Other Services; Public Administration

Goods

Construction

- The province of Ontario announced it will be providing up to \$19.5 million to the city over the next three years to upgrade and expand aging local community infrastructure. The funding comes from the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) and will be used locally to upgrade various water mains and culverts. City staff are evaluating other projects and will be making further recommendations to council. Across Northeastern Ontario, 116 communities will receive a total of \$58 million. (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, The Sudbury Star, September 1, 2016)
- Vanguard Building Innovations, the first prefabrication home construction company in Northern Ontario opened in Capreol. The company is able to build homes year round by using the prefabrication method, popular in western Canada and in the US. This results in less wastage and construction hours resulting in cheaper building costs (CBC Radio, Up North, Sept 26, 2016)

Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil & Gas

- New Age Metals (formerly Pacific North West Capital) is seeking a major investor to invest in its River Valley Project about 100 kms from the city. The find discovered in 2011, is rich in platinum, palladium, gold and other precious metals. A large percentage could be mined by open pit operation and smeltered in Sudbury. The mining exploration company believes the industry is emerging from a five year 'fear cycle' and market conditions are ripening for investment and development. If a major investor is secured, the project could be three to five years away from development (The Sudbury Star, September 19, 2016)
- Vale announced it cut a total of nine jobs, five permanent and four contract. The company stated it restructured its exploration group due to the prolonged downturn in commodity prices (The Sudbury Star, September, 23, 2016)

Services

Accommodation & Food Services

- Smoke's Poutinerie will be opening at the Rainbow Centre in the site of the former Quiznos. Twenty staff are expected to be hired at this site. Outlets are planned to be opened in local post secondary schools, the Canada Revenue Agency and at least one main site in North Bay (Sudbury.com, Sept 23, 2016)

- Toppers Pizza opened a new location on Barrydowne Rd. The pizzeria now has 10 locations in the city and surrounding area (Kijiji.ca)

Educational Services

- Laurentian University announced it will be receiving over \$59 million in funding to create a research and development facility at the school's Mineral Exploration Research Centre (MERC). These monies will be added to the \$55 million in cash and in-kind donations committed to the university totaling \$114 million. Metal Earth will focus on mining exploration and increasing ore body discoveries. The following is a detailed breakdown of how the funds will be distributed:
 - \$49.3 million from the federal Liberal government will be allocated over seven years and is the largest single allocation in the university's 56 year history. It will be used to hire 35 post doctoral fellows, research assistants, technicians and support staff. More than 80 graduates, 100 undergraduate students and several contractors will also be employed
 - \$10 million from mining entrepreneur David Harquail, CEO of Franco-Nevada Corporation will include a \$8.4 million endowment fund. This fund will be used towards research chairs, laboratory equipment and supplies, technical support and international scholarships for international PhD students. The remaining \$1.6 million will be allocated for immediate recruitment of a research chair in exploration targeting and other supports (The Sudbury Star, Sept 2, 2016)
- Laurentian University announced it is also receiving \$27.3 million from the federal and provincial governments to fund its \$60 million Research, Innovation and Engineering Centre (RIE Centre) and expand its Science and Engineering building by 47,000 sq ft. The new centre will be located between the Fraser and Parker buildings on campus and will house a relocated NORCAT currently situated on Maley Drive. The centre will be used to house labs, a lecture theater, machine shop and receiving and storage areas. The expansion is slated to be complete by March 2018. Both projects announced this month will create short term construction employment and long term skilled employment (The Sudbury Star, September 24, 2016)
- The Rainbow District School Board reported it is looking at closing 10 primary and two secondary schools due to a \$3.6 million funding shortfall. The board is proposing a series of mergers with other schools and the option of building new facilities to accommodate. The loss of funding along with declining enrollment has had a significant local impact (The Sudbury Star, September 1, 2016)
- Cambrian College announced they signed an articulation agreement with Algoma University. The agreement will allow qualified Cambrian students and graduates of certificate, diploma and advanced diploma programs a streamlined pathway to Algoma's Bachelor of Arts or Science degrees. These include Business Administration, Computer Science, Fine Arts, Music and Social Work degrees (Sudbury.com, September 8, 2016)
 - Cambrian College announced a two percent increase in overall enrolment for 2016/17 with first year enrollment up by 4%. The Barrydowne campus attracted 18% more international students bringing the fall total to 350, up from 286. An increase was also noted in indigenous students who are band sponsored or self identified (Sudbury.com, Sept 26, 2016)

- Collège Boréal announced it received \$5.7 million in federal and provincial funding for major infrastructure projects to modernize existing facilities and enhance the institution's capacity for research and innovation. The college will also be offering an innovative agricultural program which will help develop an entrepreneurial culture with a strong bias for research (The Sudbury Star, September 8, 2016)

Information, Culture & Recreation

- An estimated 500 people attended the first ever Film & TV symposium at the Northern Ontario Film Studios. In 2015, 20 productions were filmed in the city funneling at least \$18 million into the local economy and creating more than 700 jobs (Sudbury.com, September 25 & 29, 2016)

Trade

- Becker Shoes will be opening at 110 Donna Drive in the Silver Hills area. The company is one of the longest operating family owned Canadian shoe stores
- Mind Games will be opening at the New Sudbury Shopping Centre. Mind Games has stores across Ontario and British Columbia offering a wide and diverse selection of games, books, puzzles and educational toys (Kijiji)
- Lighting Showcase announced it will be permanently closing its doors after 35 years in business. The family owned business cited the death of its owner as the reason for the closure
- Dollarama closed at the New Sudbury Shopping Centre and is expected to reopen at the site of the former Future Shop on Barrydowne Rd
- Popcorn Video closed in Hanmer. The store blamed evolving consumer habits as a factor for declining customers due to the convenience of online movies and the abolition of late fees
- Sudbury eBike opened in Hanmer in the location of the former Popcorn Video