

## Local Labour Market Monitor – July & August 2017

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*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*

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### Goods

#### Construction

- Panoramic Properties announced its St Joseph's condominium project is temporarily on hold as it is focusing on other projects. To date, about 40 to 50 people are on a list to purchase one of 214 condominiums which will eventually be built (The Sudbury Star, August 14, 2017)
- The provincial government again pushed back the completion date of the four laning of Highway 69 to "beyond 2021". Originally, the project was scheduled to be completed by 2017 (The Sudbury Star, August 17, 2017)
- City council approved the \$34 million widening of Municipal Road 35 between Azilda and Chelmsford. The project will be started in the spring of 2018 with or without other government funding. The project has been on the books since the 1990s, however work was delayed when Maley Drive was given higher priority (Sudbury.com, July 13, 2017)

#### Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil & Gas

- Vale reported the company is looking at cost saving measures and is reviewing its operations in the city. Local 6500 reported the company is looking at cost cutting to save \$200 million but no decisions have been made on how this will roll out. Options may include but are not limited to layoffs, a planned production stoppage or restructuring (The Sudbury Star, August 15, 2017)
- The provincial government announced its commitment to fund two industry and community road proposals to reach the Ring of Fire belt. This announcement was based on reaching road agreements with three out of the five First Nation communities closest to the remote deposits. An east-west road would connect Webequie and Nibinamik First Nations to the provincial highway network through Pickle Lake and continue into the Ring of Fire. The north-south community access road would start north of Aroland and extend into the Ring region. The environmental assessment of both projects will begin in January 2018 with construction planned in 2019 pending all approvals. Noront Resources estimates it could take five years to raise financing and start construction before mining begins (Sudbury.com, August 22, 2017)

- Laurentian University announced it has partnered with the University of Toronto, University of British Columbia and the Vale Living with Lakes Centre. Researchers have secured \$4 million in funding for five years of biomining research. The value of residual nickel in Sudbury tailings is estimated at \$7 billion according to current nickel values. Researchers will be exploring how to remediate waste and recover some value from locked metals in the residues (The Sudbury Star, August 3, 2017)
- Mohawk Garnet, a local mineral exploration and development company which processed mica, garnet and hornblende has closed its doors declaring bankruptcy. The company made the announcement after it was fined over \$300,000 by the Ministry of Environment for discharging harmful contaminants. The company is owned by members of the Six Nations of the Grand River near Brantford, Ontario (The Sudbury Star, July 25, 2017)
- Major Drilling announced it will be moving its North Bay office to Sudbury. The company will be expanding and consolidating its smaller shops into the one Sudbury location. Major Drilling assembles and repairs small drills used in mining exploration throughout North America (The Sudbury Star, July 6, 2017)

## **Services**

### **Health Care & Social Assistance**

- A \$7.5 billion dollar investment in child care services by the provincial and federal governments over the next 11 years will help ensure registered early childhood educators will be in demand as new positions are created in licensed agencies, organizations, First Nation's educational authorities and community based family support programs locally and provincially. Over the next five years, the provincial government is hoping to create 100,000 new licensed child care positions. In the Greater Sudbury area, it is important to note demand is directly related to an increase in subsidized spaces and not due to a local demographic increase in infants and children under four years of age (The Sudbury Star, July 7, 2017)

### **Information, Culture & Recreation**

- The Copper Cliff Curling Club announced it may be closing its doors. The club has been around for 100 years and has 200 members. The Club stated aging equipment and increasing hydro costs are making it very difficult to keep its doors open and the impending increases to minimum wage will not help with managing its expenses (The Sudbury Star, July 13, 2017)

### **Professional, Scientific & Technical Services**

- The Ontario government announced it will be hiring two new assistant Crown attorneys in Sudbury. The announcement is a result of pressure to speed up Ontario's justice system in light of the Jordan ruling which sets tight time limits for cases to come to trial (The Sudbury Star, July 10, 2017)
- Time Hero Incorporated reported it received \$417,410 from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation towards the development of a new cloud based application designed to help businesses improve scheduling and project management. The project will create eight new jobs locally (The Sudbury Star, July 13, 2017)

## Public Administration

- The Ontario Provincial Police are touring northeastern Ontario promoting hiring 100 officers (CBC Radio, August 10,2017)
- The Elgin Greenway was approved to proceed by city council, however, on a much smaller scale than the \$8.5 million cost projected earlier this year. The scaled back project will now cost \$3.9 million and will be incorporated into the 2018 budget while applications for other funding options are pursued. The project is one of 17 projects identified by council to revitalize the downtown core (The Sudbury Star, July 13, 2017)

## Trade

- Cora's announced it will be opening in the old Pizza Hut on Barrydowne Road. Cora's is a Canadian breakfast franchise with over 120 stores in the country
- The Toy Outlet, a discount surplus toy store at the Rainbow Centre closed. The Outlet opened in 2016

## Other Information

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- The Workforce Planning for Sudbury & Manitoulin released their *Quarterly Job Vacancies Report*. The report confirmed that from April 1 to June 30, 2017, there were a total number of 2053 job postings in the City of Greater Sudbury. This represented an increase of at least 500 job postings over the same period in 2016.
  - The top six industries based on number of job postings in the City for this period were:
    - Retail Trade (189)
    - Health Care & Social Assistance (128)
    - Public Administration (99)
    - Accommodation & Food Services (87)
    - Professional, Scientific, Technical (73)
    - Manufacturing (68)
  - The top three employers with the most postings for this period were:
    - Health Sciences North (87)
    - City of Greater Sudbury (84)
    - Walmart (39)
  - 39% of postings were full time while 18% were part time
    - 20% required a university education
    - 21% required college, vocational or apprenticeship training
    - 23% required a high school diploma or equivalency

<http://planningourworkforce.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/QUARTERLY-JOB-VACANCIES-April-June-2017.pdf>

- Sudbury was rated 169<sup>th</sup> out of a list of 417 cities according to MoneySense, a Canadian personal finance website. This is a steep drop from the 84<sup>th</sup> place ranking in 2016. Factors such as a robust economy, high wealth and income, home affordability, low taxes, transit friendliness and other factors were reviewed in rating determination (<http://www.moneysense.ca/save/financial-planning/canadas-best-places-to-live-2016-overview> <http://www.macleans.ca/economy/canadas-best-places-to-live-2017-overview>)