

# THUNDER CENTRE

Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada

## Thunder Bay Demographic Profile 2001

	City	Metro
Population	109,106	121,986
Working Age Population (Ages 15 – 64)	-	81,355
Number of Families	-	34,630
Median Age of the Population	-	39.1
% of Population (Ages 15 & over)		81.8
Average Income – Family Households (1996)		\$58,731

Source: [www.statscan.ca](http://www.statscan.ca) Community Profiles

## Accessibility

Served by both major railways (Canadian National Railway, Canadian Pacific Railway)

Thunder Bay International Airport (Domestic & International)

Port of Thunder Bay

TransCanada Highway (11/17) & Highway 61

### Surface Distance From:

Toronto, Ontario	1,387 km (862 miles)
Ottawa, Ontario	1505 km (934 miles)
Winnipeg, Manitoba	700 km (435 miles)
Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota	545 km (340 miles)
Duluth, Minnesota	305 km (190 miles)
Chicago, Illinois	1,047 km (1,047 miles)
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	965 km (600 miles)

## Continental Market Area

Market Area	Estimated Population	
250 Miles/400 Kilometres	Canada	230,000
	U.S.A.	300,000
	Total	530,000

For more information contact:

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A development by: Camrose Developments (Ontario) Ltd.

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## Facts about Thunder Bay

- The **Forest Sector** is important to the economic foundation of Thunder Bay as it employs 10% of the local workforce.
- Some **1.4 million visitors** generate \$350 million for the local economy every year.
- Thunder Bay is Northwestern Ontario's **health care centre**, with 68% of the region's physicians practicing here. The new Thunder Bay Regional Hospital was completed in February, 2004 at a cost in excess of \$255 million. The 651,000 square foot facility will have 375 acute care beds.
- **Confederation College** with an enrollment of 3,200 full time post-secondary students, 400 apprentices, 550 Adult training students and 17,000 continuing education students employs 420 full time and 330 part time employees. **Numerous programs of study** include aviation, Multimedia, Health Sciences, Internationals Business, and Aboriginal Studies.
- **Lakehead University** has an enrollment of 6,800 full time and 2,500 part time students and employs more than 2,400 on a full and part time basis. While many of its programs are oriented to the needs of North Western Ontario, some of its programs are **unique in Canada**, such as a combined diploma program in Engineering Technology with a Bachelor of Engineering degree program. In 2003 \$95.3 million was granted by the province to fund a new medical school for Northern Ontario with facilities to be shared by Lakehead University and Laurentian University (Sault Ste. Marie).
- The **Canada/United States border** is 32 miles south of the city. Minneapolis, Minnesota is the closest major U.S. Centre
- **Thunder Bay International Airport** serves **half a million passengers** every year.
- The **Port of Thunder Bay** has recently seen new investment of \$1,000,000 in grain handling facilities and handled shipments of pulp to overseas markets. Over 7 million metric tonnes of cargo pass through the port annually.
- Due to its **strategic location** in the heart of the country Thunder Bay is home to over **75 trucking firms** serving the distribution needs of North Western Ontario.
- Thunder Bay Telephone is the **largest independent** telephone system in Canada, offering some of the lowest rates in the country. Thunder Bay was recently chosen as a call centre by The Responsive Marketing Group creating 100 new jobs. Another call centre was established in 1999 by SB Direct Com employing 250 full and part time workers.
- Within a 500-mile radius of Thunder Bay, the market area population is an **astounding 21.5 million people**.

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## AVERAGE INCOME COMPARISONS – 1996

Canada	\$23,100
Ontario	\$20,700
Thunder Bay	\$28,524
Metro Toronto	\$29,348
Sudbury District	\$23,550

Source: Revenue Canada Statistics

## POPULATION CHANGE COMPARISONS

	Population 1996	Population 2001	Change (%)
Canada	28,846,726	30,007,094	4.0
Ontario	10,753,573	11,410,046	6.1
<u>Thunder Bay</u>			
City	113,662	109,016	-4.1
District	157,619	150,860	-4.3
Rest of N.W. Ont.	-	76,575	-
Total NW Ontario	-	227,435	-
North Bay	64,785	63,381	-2.2
Sault St. Marie	83,619	78,908	-5.6
Greater Sudbury	160,488	155,601	-3.1

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- The **Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation** opened a new \$40,000,000, 50,000 square foot charity casino in August 2000. It currently averages 2,600 patrons/day and has an annual payroll of approximately \$10,000,000 and contributes in excess of \$2,500,000 annually to the City.
- **Bombardier Transportation** is one of Thunder Bay's largest manufacturers employing in excess of 400 workers manufacturing commuter rail passenger coaches. Successful contracts have been secured from GO Transit, the cities of Toronto, Seattle, and Los Angeles and recently a 1,000,000 man-hour contract from Via Rail Canada.
- **Bowater and Abitibi Consolidated** continue to upgrade pulp and paper operations and are investing in excess of \$125,000,000 in their facilities.
- In 1999 "**Silver City Thunder Bay**" with 12 state-of-the-art screens was opened by Famous Players Inc.
- **Development Thunder Bay** reports **entrepreneurship** is growing 4% faster in Thunder Bay than in Canada.

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