

REGIONAL SERVICE DELIVERY

Unlike other Canadian and Ontario jurisdictions, Northern Ontario has few regional structures to facilitate co-ordinated service delivery. Planning and delivery issues are exacerbated by the North's challenging geography and dispersed population. There is a need for a new approach to enable a more cohesive, efficient and collaborative approach to service delivery.

Many models of regional collaboration exist in other jurisdictions, including British Columbia, which has a flexible regional service delivery model that builds economies of scale and also accommodates for services more effectively delivered at the local level. Further examination of approaches will identify practices that may work in Northern Ontario.

Plan of Action

1. Initiate a review of northern service delivery to enhance planning, service delivery, and administrative effectiveness in incorporated and unincorporated areas:
 - a) Establish and work with a review team (with representation from northern municipalities, unincorporated areas, Aboriginal communities, and service delivery organizations) to examine service delivery mechanisms in the North and other jurisdictions; identify potential options and guiding principles; and prepare a plan for gaining broad northern input on proposed options.
 - b) Map the existing administration and delivery of public services (e.g., transportation systems, water supply and distribution, waste management, fire protection, emergency services, social services) in Northern Ontario.