

M11-0428

MEMORANDUM TO: Northern Ontario partners and stakeholders

FROM: Cal McDonald, ADM
Northern Development Division, MNDMF

Victor Severino, A/ADM
Ontario Growth Secretariat, MOI

DATE: June 2, 2011

SUBJECT: *Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, 2011, June 2011 Update*

There is still time to register for ThinkNorth II

We are pleased to share the agenda for ThinkNorth II (see attached) and to encourage you to register for these upcoming summits.

The summits are an opportunity for northerners to be actively engaged in shaping the framework for regional economic planning areas in Northern Ontario.

Expect a hands-on interactive session with workshops on:

- crafting a vision for regional economic development planning in Northern Ontario,
- creating strategies for collaboration amongst rural, urban and Aboriginal communities,
- engaging the private sector,
- aligning economic development efforts with labour market and population planning, and
- addressing the key issues that will support implementation success.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Register Now!

Why Attend? Because you want to build stronger connections among all of the local leaders who will together implement the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario.

Who Should Attend? Northern leaders from municipalities, Aboriginal communities and organizations, the Province, francophone organizations, economic development agencies, business and industry, non-government organizations and others are invited to register for either session.

How to Register: Please register online at:
<http://thinknorth.northernontariobusiness.com>

Agenda and Event details: The agenda and conference details can be found at
http://www.mndmf.gov.on.ca/northern_development/business_support/northern_growth_plan_e.asp

Can't be there in person? Link in to the sessions by videoconference! Look for the announcement of videoconference locations and register at your location of choice - coming soon on
<http://thinknorth.northernontariobusiness.com>

Summit Speaker Feature

Our May bulletin featured profiles of four of the national and international leaders sharing their experience and insights at ThinkNorth II. We are pleased to also have Joy Wilkins and George Brosseau participating in this event.



Joy Wilkins,

Advisor - Economic Development and Strategic Planning

Joy Wilkins is a Senior Fellow with The University of Georgia's Fanning Institute where she contributes to the organization's work in leadership development and community capacity building. Previously, as Group Manager for Community Innovation Services at Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute, Joy oversaw services for leaders in economic development representing cities, counties, regions, and state and federal entities. Joy is a frequent advisor, speaker, instructor, and author on economic development, strategic planning, and quality management topics. She has served in the economic development profession since 1994 and has been a Certified Economic Developer since 2002. Joy is a member of the International Economic Development Council Board of Directors.



George Brosseau

Senior Director of Regional Development - Northern Alberta

George has been involved in the economic development field for the past 25 years following a management career in commercial and business development. He has taken his entrepreneurial spirit to three western provinces and the Northwest Territories to support community, regional and Aboriginal economic development, primarily in the Wood Buffalo region of Alberta and the Kootenays of British Columbia. He has worked with small, remote and isolated rural communities and cities. Currently Senior Director of Regional Development for Northern Alberta, with Alberta Finance and Enterprise, George was engaged in the development of Regional Economic Development Alliances (REDAs) in Alberta.

Other speaker profiles can be found at

http://www.mndmf.gov.on.ca/northern_development/business_support/northern_growth_plan_e.asp

In Other News:

Northerners shaping regional economic development areas

Members of the recently formed Northern Advisory Committee (NAC) met in Thunder Bay on May 27 for their initial working meeting. The NAC is co-chaired by Eric Rutherford of Greenstone and Jane Blackwell of Kirkland Lake. The team has a broad membership from communities large and small across Northern Ontario. Members also bring specialized expertise and insight on economic development planning from multiple sectors including:

- Municipalities, Municipal Associations
- Aboriginal communities and organizations
- Francophone organizations
- Economic development organizations
- Postsecondary, workforce planning and research organizations.

The role of this advisory committee is to contribute to the development of the two regional economic development planning area pilots and also to begin dialogue about how regional economic development planning areas can be implemented across the North. The NAC will also advise on communications and outreach for implementation of regional economic development planning areas so that northerners can be actively engaged in implementation planning.

The NAC will work with two implementation teams responsible for the development of the two regional economic development planning area pilots in the northwest and the northeast. The NAC may also advise provincial ministries on other matters relating to the implementation of the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, 2011.

Welcome to the following individuals who are volunteering their time and efforts to the NAC:

- Iain Angus, City of Thunder Bay and Common Voice
- Sylvia Barnard, Cambrian College
- Don Bernosky, Confederation College
- Jane Blackwell, Ontario Association of Community Futures Development Corporations
- Mayor Dave Canfield, City of Kenora
- Tim Commisso, City of Thunder Bay
- Chief Isadore Day, Union of Ontario Indians
- Paul Finley, Economic Developers Council of Ontario
- Janet Gasparini, Social Planning Network of Ontario
- Fred Gibbons, Northern College
- Julie Joncas-Sauvé, Far Northeast Training Board
- Mayor Clermont Lapointe, Association of Francophone Municipalities of Ontario
- President Gary Lipinski, Métis Nation of Ontario
- Dr. Lesley Lovett-Doust, Nipissing University
- Dr. George Macey, Common Voice
- Dr. Richard Myers, Algoma University
- Doug Nadorozny, City of Greater Sudbury
- Mayor Ron Nelson, Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association
- Debbi Nicholson, Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce
- Robert Reid, Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce
- Eric Rutherford, Greenstone
- Margaret Scott, North Superior Workforce Planning Board
- Gary Scripnick, Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association
- Mayor Al Spacek, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities
- Barry Streib, Northwestern Ontario Association of Chambers of Commerce
- Joe Torlone, City of Timmins
- Tom Vair, Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre
- Harold Wilson, Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce.

You asked...

As staff of MNDMF and partner ministries meet with northern communities and organizations, several areas of the plan are prompting further discussion and questions. In each bulletin, we will provide an update on these key questions.

How will northerners be involved in implementation planning for the Growth Plan?

There was extensive involvement by northerners in the development of the plan and the Province remains committed to actively engaging northerners in its implementation.

As initiatives move forward, there will be opportunities for northerners to actively contribute to planning and implementation.

For example, the ministries' approach to engage northerners in regional economic development planning has three key elements:

1. Implementation that is shaped by northerners and for northerners

The geographic scope and nature of these two pilots will essentially be shaped by the local communities involved. The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry is supporting the work of two local implementation teams to guide these efforts.

Based upon the policy direction set out in the Growth Plan, these local implementation teams involve a diversity of partners including municipal and Aboriginal leaders, government partners, business and industry and the education and research sectors. Both of these local implementation teams have been asked to ensure that they include broader consultation and engagement of northern partners in their work plan.

2. A long-term focus on engaging northern communities in regional economic development planning

In addition to the local implementation teams, the ministry is establishing a Northern Advisory Committee. There are many communities interested in regional economic development planning and the role of this advisory group is to look beyond the two pilots and provide advice on how regional economic development planning can be implemented across Northern Ontario.

The ministry is working to ensure there is a broad range of perspectives represented in this working group including small, mid-size and large communities, with particular attention on regions of Northern Ontario not already involved in the two pilots. The ministry has also invited individuals who bring different perspectives including those of the political leadership, CAOs, planners and economic development organizations and all peoples of the North including francophone communities, Métis communities and First Nations. One of the key roles of this group will be to plan additional engagement and outreach activities to solicit input from across Northern Ontario on regional economic development planning.

3. An economic summit for northerners to learn about and provide input on regional economic development planning

The third element of our approach to engage northerners is to ensure that key events such as the ThinkNorth II economic summits are as accessible as possible. Steps we have taken include not charging a registration fee, having two summit locations, and expanding accessibility through videoconference sites and live webstreaming.

The purpose of these two summits is to engage all interested northerners in the discussion shaping regional economic development planning areas. There is an open registration process and community leaders, economic development practitioners and the diverse number of northern partners who may be interested in this initiative are invited to attend.

What kinds of projects have been funded by the Northern Training Partnership Fund?

Ontario is investing \$45 million over three years (i.e. 2010-2013) to prepare Northern Ontarians for new jobs in emerging resource sectors. The Northern Training and Partnership Fund (NTPF) helps people get on-the-job training or training for a future job in new development opportunities.

This initiative helps Northern Ontarians (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) obtain workplace skills and sustain employment by providing employers in Northern Ontario with skilled workers for current and future needs. Training in the following sectors is eligible for the fund: mining, energy and greener economy, forestry, environment, bio-economy, tourism, agriculture and related infrastructure.

Since the Northern Training Partnership Fund was announced in July 2010, over 40 applications were received in the first three intake rounds. Approved projects from the first two intakes will be announced mid-June 2011 and will provide over 2000 Northern Ontarians with workplace skills and sustainable employment in resource related sectors. The recommendations from the April intake are awaiting approval. Applications for the Northern Training Partnership Fund may be submitted at any time and are reviewed quarterly.

To learn more about NTPF please visit the website at www.tcu.gov.on.ca.

Worth repeating

If you have not already reviewed the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, please visit the Places to Grow website at www.placestogrow.ca to download a full copy along with supporting documentation. Copies are also available across Northern Ontario at offices of the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry and Service Ontario. Comments can be sent via email to northerngrowthplan@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your continued support for the Growth Plan. We look forward to working closely with northerners on its implementation.

Sincerely,



Cal McDonald
ADM, Northern Development Division
Ministry of Northern Development,
Mines and Forestry



Victor Severino
A/ADM, Ontario Growth Secretariat
Ministry of Infrastructure

THINKNORTH II - AGENDA

June 13 - Fort William Historical Park (Thunder Bay, ON) • June 15 - Holiday Inn (Sudbury, ON)

6:00 - 7:00 pm	Summit Registration
7:00 - 7:15 pm	Opening Remarks - Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry
7:15 - 7:45 pm	Regional Economic Development Planning: What the Research has Revealed • Eric McSweeney, McSweeney and Associates, Ontario
7:45 - 8:15 pm	Innovative Approaches to Regional Economic Development • Stuart Trundle (New Zealand)
8:15 - 8:45 pm	Vision to Action: Leadership & Networks that Deliver • John Gallagher (Ireland)
8:45 - 10:00 pm	Evening Reception

June 14 - Victoria Inn (Thunder Bay, ON) • June 16 - Holiday Inn (Sudbury, ON)

8:00 - 8:30 am	Registration
8:30 - 8:45 am	Opening
8:45 - 9:15 am	Opening Remarks - Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry
9:15 - 9:30 am	Summit Overview: Introduction of implementation teams and advisory group
9:30 - 10:00 am	Panel 1: Questions and input on international best practices and lessons learned (Eric McSweeney, Stuart Trundle and John Gallagher)
10:00 - 10:15 am	Networking / Coffee Break
10:15 - 11:45 am	Panel 2: Regional Economic Development Planning in Northern Ontario - Four Perspectives • Innovation with Industry Partners (Brian Holst - Alaska) • Engaging Aboriginal Communities (George Brosseau - Alberta) • Moving Forward in a Fragile Economy (Robert Muir - Scotland) • Preparing for the Future: Labour Market and Population Planning (Joy Wilkins - USA)
11:45 - 12:45 pm	Lunch
12:45 - 2:00 pm	Workshops - Concurrent Session A 1 - Building a Northern Ontario Framework- Applying Lessons Learned to Northern Ontario Panel members: Eric McSweeney and Stuart Trundle 2 - Relationships Matter: Leadership, Engagement and Collaboration amongst Urban, Rural and Aboriginal Communities- Panel members: John Gallagher and George Brosseau 3 - Partnerships for Change- Supporting and Sustaining Private and Public Sector Partnerships and Engaging across Sectors and Organizations Panel members: Brian Holst and Robert Muir 4 - The Talent Challenge: Strengthening the Alignment of Education, Training, Labour Market Plans and Economic Development Panel member: Joy Wilkins
2:00 - 2:15 pm	Networking / Coffee Break (move to next workshop)
2:15 - 3:00 pm	Workshops - Concurrent Sessions B 1. Vision 2021: The year is 2021. The Regional Economic Development Planning Areas are functioning well and Northern Ontario communities are prospering. Describe what is happening in northern communities. 2. Implementation Success: The Regional Economic Development Planning Areas are a new initiative for Northern Ontario that will require commitment and buy-in from all stakeholders. What do you see as key issues to be addressed for success in implementation? 3. S.W.O.T Analysis: The Regional Economic Development Planning Areas represent change! With any change there are strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (S.W.O.T.). Identify what you believe to be the key elements of the S.W.O.T.
3:00 - 3:15 pm	Networking / Coffee Break (move to next workshop)
3:15 - 4:00 pm	Workshops - Concurrent Sessions C 1- Vision 2021 2- Implementation Success 3- S.W.O.T Analysis
4:00 - 4:10 pm	Networking Break (reconvene in main conference room)
4:10 - 4:40 pm	The Path Forward: Plenary Session (reports from each workshop)
4:50 - 5:00 pm	Next Steps, Summit Close