

For Immediate Release

Federal Parties Barely Pass Ontario Policy Test

October 16, 2015, Thunder Bay, ON – The four main federal parties in this year’s upcoming federal election have all received marginal passing grades when it comes to priorities in Ontario. In May 2015, Northern Policy Institute partnered with the Mowat Centre to create *A Federal Economic Agenda for Ontario*, which provided 32 recommendations across six focus areas for Ontario.

With the Federal Election less than a week away, Northern Policy Institute has taken this project one step further and released a report card that grades the four main federal parties on their incorporation of the FEA recommendations in their party platforms.

“Every party received at least one ‘A’ and the Conservatives and Liberals led the way with three of them,” the report card states. “Part of this high-praise comes from the fact that all of the parties, save the Conservatives, are promising to reinstate the long form census.”

However, based on the final grades, it appears as though none of the main federal parties have truly embraced the proposed Federal Economic Agenda for Ontario. The final grades are as follows:

- Green – C-
- Conservative – C-
- Liberal – C
- NDP – C

“While nearly all of the FEA’s six key issue areas were touched on by the parties through either election platforms or campaign promises, only the NDP appeared to have responded to the report’s final section, ‘Responding to regional and cluster opportunities through targeted strategies,’” the report card states. “While the other three major parties have been silent in this area, NDP candidates from across northeastern Ontario recently unveiled plans to address two of the section’s recommendations, strengthening FedNor and taking a greater leadership role in the Ring of Fire development.”

The grades were based on information available prior to October 13th.

“Based on the available information at the time of publication, it is arguable that the parties have incorporated the FEA into their mandates just enough to warrant a passing grade,” the report card concludes. “With the polls just days away there is little time for them to pump up their mark, but whoever wins will need to stay after class to more fully incorporate Ontario’s priorities into upcoming budgets and future plans.”

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The Federal Economic Agenda for Ontario and the **Report Card** can be found on our website at www.northernpolicy.ca.

Media Interviews: Northern Policy Institute president and CEO, Charles Cirtwill, and report card co-author Northern Policy Institute analyst Dr. Mike Commito are available for comment. To arrange an interview, please contact:

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About Northern Policy Institute:

Northern Policy Institute is Northern Ontario's independent think tank. We perform research, collect and disseminate evidence, and identify policy opportunities to support the growth of sustainable Northern Communities. Our Operations are located in Thunder Bay and Sudbury. We seek to enhance Northern Ontario's capacity to take the lead position on socio-economic policy that impacts Northern Ontario, Ontario, and Canada as a whole.

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