

**NORTHERN**  
POLICY INSTITUTE



INSTITUT DES POLITIQUES  
**DU NORD**

***AMBASSADORS NORTHWEST  
THUNDER BAY JANUARY 8 2015***



# What IS Northern Policy Institute?

“Think tank”

- Independent
- Non-partisan
- Evidence based
- IN the North – local, regional, provincial, national and international

NOT an advocacy group – our objective is policy education – for politicians, public servants and the general public

# How think tanks make a difference

## Attack “Executive Paternalism”

- Policy may SOUND good...

## Push evidence based policy making, not decision based “evidence seeking”

- But is it ACTUALLY good

## Better policy through accountability and transparency

- If so, prove it!

# Three key goals for Northern Policy Institute



Enhance measurement and the availability of those measures to all stakeholders.

Build SUSTAINABLE community capacity: skills, knowledge, private capital.

Enhance self-sufficiency

- Of individuals, communities, sub-regions and the region as a whole.

# Independent

There is a BIG difference between:

- “working WITH a Policy Institute” and “HIRING a consultant”

Independent means just that –

- Funders, members and stakeholders do not direct the work of Northern Policy Institute
- Board does not “pick” projects or pre-determine results
- Staff and contract authors are independent
- Double blind peer review – just like academic journals
- Northern Policy Institute does NOT take positions – we ask the questions – the authors provide, and defend, the answers

# Samples of our work

## The Airport/Port Transportation Authority Model

Is It Applicable for Ontario's Ring of Fire Mineral Development?

By Nick Mulder

Released June 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

- Arms length
- Community managed
- Shared risk
- Shared investment
- Market driven
- Needs based
- Flexible and responsive
- No “if you build it” – THEY build it

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.**

U.S. EDITION Wednesday, June 18, 2014 As of 9:34 AM EDT

June 18, 2014, 9:34 a.m. ET

(MKTW) KWG Applauds Northern Policy Institute  
Commentary

**NORTHERN ONTARIO**  
**Business**

ESTABLISHED 1980

Published on: 6/17/2014 4:00:00 PM

**Think-tank report calls for Ring of Fire port authority**

By Northern Ontario Business staff



**RESOURCE CLIPS**

*Clear, accurate mining/exploration news*

**New way to the Ring of Fire?**

A think tank suggests Ontario's development corporation is on the wrong track

# Minimum Wages: Good Politics, Bad Economics?

By Morley Gunderson

*Released July 29<sup>th</sup> 2014*

- Is NOT an anti-poverty tool
- Has measurable negative effects on youth and low skilled workers
- Better to have regular, small increases
- Occasional, large increases hurt everyone
- Policy should reflect who is actually working minimum wage jobs
- Need to recognize the non-monetary value of entry level and low skill work
- Need to separate value of the person from value of the work
- The value of the person should be addressed by society (Direct transfers: guaranteed annual income, negative income tax, welfare, employment insurance, education vouchers, universal child care benefit, guaranteed income supplement, etc.)



# Picking Up the Pieces: A Community-School-Based Approach to First Nations Education Renewal

By Paul W. Bennett and Jonathan Anuik

*Released September 10<sup>th</sup> 2014*

- Modelled on Edmonton Public Schools
- “Community school-based” model
- Community driven
- Locally controlled
- Properly funded
- Culturally sensitive
- Relevant to students, economy and society
- Transparent and accountable
- More focus on results and improvement in success rates





# Coming soon

Northwestern Ontario Labour force (demand side)

Northeastern Labour force (demand side)

Northern Ontario demographic projections (supply side)

Northeastern, Northwestern and Northern Ontario GDP

FedNor organizational design

How to empower Northern Ontario

Getting the comparison right – NOT Northern Ontario to Southern Ontario

Culturally safe instruction for public educators – building on Thunder Bay's success with at risk aboriginal students

# Ways we can help Ambassadors NW

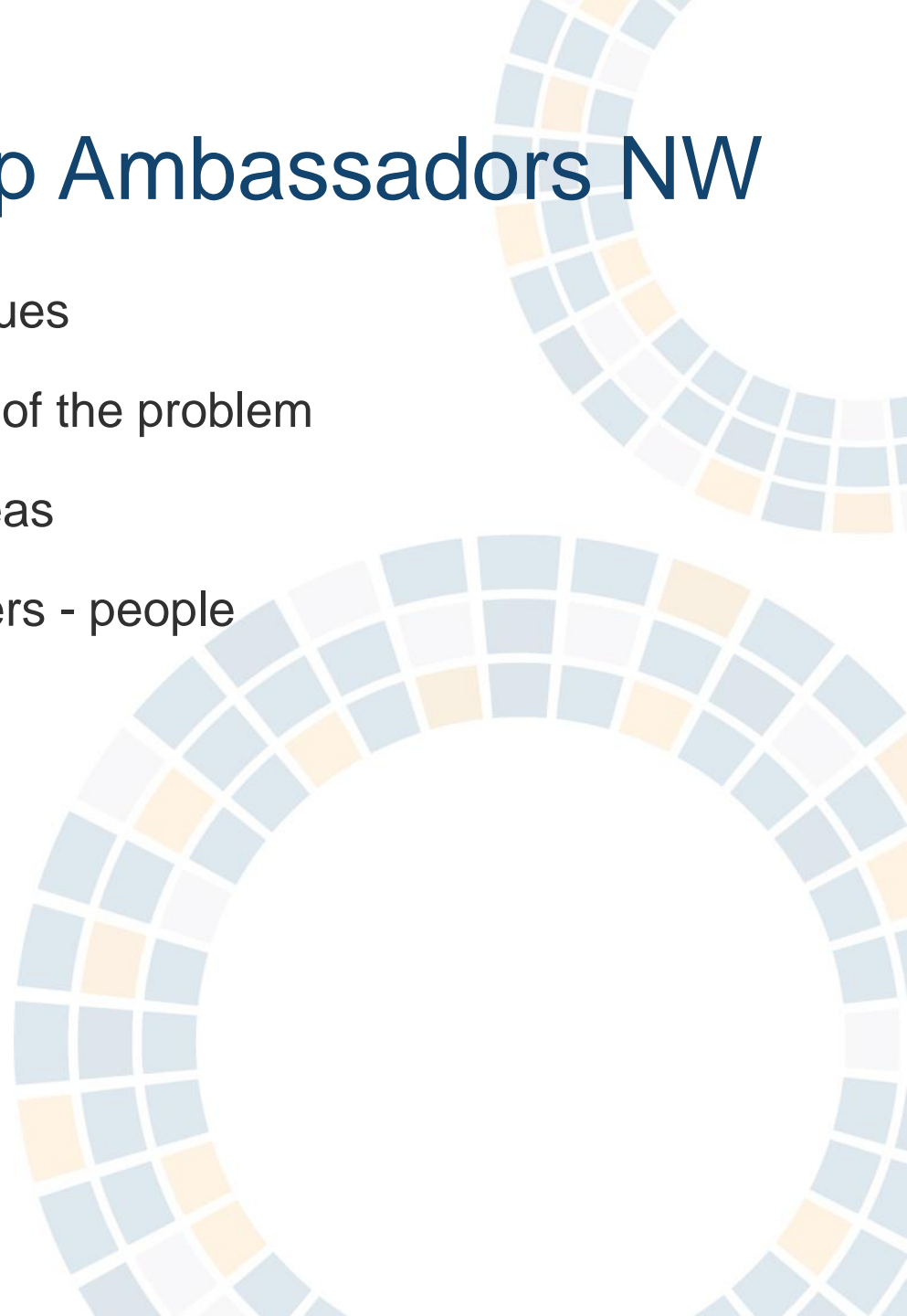
Identify urgent or emergent issues

Describe the depth and nature of the problem

Identify potential solutions - ideas

Identify potential problem solvers - people

Measure results



# Possible new “causes” for Ambassadors NW

## East-west road – build it now

- Community capacity, economic activity, reduce exploration costs, kick start the first mine

## First Nations Education

- Under-educated, under-employed, available, good for both sides
- Approach is both “three r’s” AND culturally relevant/respectful
- Progress/success here can be replicated to achieve progress/success for rest of population

## Youth Employment

- We want them to stay, they need work
- Internships – more and paid – and subsidies exist
- Apprenticeships – Ontario’s rules are among the most restrictive in the country

## Regional Ambassadors

- Hosting events promoting the region in global centres for trade and investment (eg. Toronto, Hong Kong, New York – or as opportunities arise)
- Regional champions – use your networks to open doors and invite investment, interest, immigration, reconnection
- Examples: NB Ambassadors program, East Coast Connected

# Ways Ambassadors NW can help us

## Identify urgent or emergent issues

- e.g. Federal Economic Agenda

## Help us (and others) measure the problem

- e.g. labour shortage, private investment, economic impact

## Be ambassadors for us

- Work your networks, get involved, promote the significance and role of NPI

## Fundraising

- NPI MUST be self-sufficient to be truly independent

## Leveraging

- Foundations like “matching funds”, e.g. HRJ Consulting 65/35 rule

# Federal Economic Agenda for Ontario



Partnership between Mowat Centre, Northern Policy Institute and the Centre for Competiveness and Prosperity

What IS the plan for Ontario?

Challenge the federal parties to think strategically and explicitly about the needs of Ontario, and for us, Northern Ontario

# Five PROPOSED objectives

Discussion paper suggests Ontario will grow if we can improve in these areas:

- Labour force participation
- Increased productivity
- Improved economic opportunity and reduced poverty
- Increased exports
- Improved federal fiscal framework

# Seven PROPOSED issues

Discussion paper suggests we can improve in those five areas if we focus our efforts in seven key areas:

- Infrastructure
- Workforce development
- Immigration
- Trade and investment
- Innovation
- Federal transfers
- Targeted strategies for sectors and regions

# The devil is in the detail

Feedback forms and discussions ask the following questions:

- What do we need to tackle first?
- Are these the right issues?
- In terms of growth, what are the biggest opportunities? The greatest challenges?
- Can you provide specific examples of how failures in these areas impact you, your company or your industry?
- Are there quick wins we can achieve now with simple changes?
- Are their bigger (“transformational”) ideas the federal government should take on in the next four years?
- Are we doing some things right that we could expand on?
- Can you suggest other specific changes, short or long term, that will make a measurable difference?



# Ways to participate

Online – [www.northernpolicy.ca](http://www.northernpolicy.ca)

Email – send me an email and I will email you the discussion paper and a feedback form

Chamber public luncheon – January 21, 11:30-1:00, Airline Hotel

Small group session – January 21, AFTER the Chamber Luncheon, 1:30-3:00, Airline Hotel (Barcelona Room)

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