




Come North – Population Growth Strategy

“Let’s Start Working Together”

February 11- 13, 2020

Temiskaming Shores, Ontario

Riverside Place



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Canada and Ontario's Commitments

- Recognized and apologized for the harm caused by the denial of Indigenous self-determination, forced assimilation and a historical tendency to forget treaties and the rights that flow from the treaties;
- Committed to addressing and implementing (Canada) the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission;

Canada and Ontario's Commitments (cont'd)

- Recognized the inherent right to self-government within section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 and continues a willingness to work on a tripartite basis to implement this right, including the consideration of land bases;
- Demonstrated a willingness to negotiate the resolution of land claims, including the provision of land and access to resources as elements of compensation;
- Expressed a willingness and a commitment to consult on matters that may affect Indigenous rights and interests.

Our Shared Interests – What Can We Do Together?

- ❖ In the North, we share our lands with approximately 111 municipalities and townships;
- ❖ We have about 90 First Nations in the North;
- ❖ *Yet, we never meet together to discuss issues that are common to one another;*
- ❖ In Northern Ontario, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities hosts an annual gathering and ***this year, it will be held on May 13 to 15 in Timmins;***

Our Shared Interests – What Can We Do Together?

- ❖ The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities includes this many municipalities and townships:
- ❖ Sudbury – 11
- ❖ Algoma – 23
- ❖ Cochrane – 13
- ❖ Manitoulin – 9
- ❖ Nipissing – 11
- ❖ Parry Sound – 22
- ❖ Temiskaming - 23

Our Shared Interests – What Can We Do Together?

- ❖ Throughout these same Districts, we have approximately 57 First Nations:
- ❖ Sudbury – 11
- ❖ Algoma – 11
- ❖ Cochrane – 8
- ❖ Manitoulin – 7
- ❖ Nipissing – 4
- ❖ Parry Sound – 8
- ❖ Temiskaming – 8

What Interests Do We Have in Common?

- ❖ We share a vast territory rich in resources like minerals, forests, water, wind and land;
- ❖ We both purchase the same kinds of goods and services – insurance, audits, employee health benefits programs, gravel, sand, snow plows, dump trucks, culverts, firetrucks, paper, copiers, phones and phone plans, and so on;
- ❖ We are geographically spread out and small compared to our southern neighbours;

What Interests Do We Have in Common?

- Municipal governments also have an interest in promoting reconciliation due to the prevalence of Indigenous residents within their jurisdiction, consider:
 - More than 85% of Ontario's Indigenous peoples live off-reserve and in urban or rural centres.
 - Some municipalities are increasingly becoming home to large concentrations of Indigenous peoples.
 - Other municipalities serve as hub regions to which Indigenous peoples from nearby communities travel to obtain goods and services.

What Interests Do We Have in Common?

- Many Ontario municipal governments are located in close proximity to First Nation communities;

Municipal governments and First Nations can work together on areas of mutual interest, to address common concerns and to better serve Indigenous residents living within municipal boundaries or those who travel to municipalities to obtain services, education, and work.

Now is the time

- It's time we started to work more effectively together;
- Imagine the collective buying power of over 168 First Nations and municipalities throughout Northern Ontario;
- Imagine the political advocacy of the same number of northerners represented through an association –
- How about a “***Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities and First Nations?***”

Food for thought Questions

- Nahaw, Miigwetch, Merci, and thank you!

