



For Immediate Release

**Join the Conversation on a Basic Income Guarantee.**  
***Northern Policy Institute announces Agenda for the 2016 BIG Conference***

**September 14, 2016** – Northern Policy Institute is pleased to announce the agenda for the upcoming Basic Income Guarantee Conference October 5-6<sup>th</sup> in Sudbury, ON.

The BIG conference agenda is designed to generate a balanced, inclusive conversation on the idea of a basic income guarantee pilot in Ontario.

The day and a half agenda features presentations by diverse experts, including Dr. Mike Moffatt, Interim Director of the Lawrence Centre for Policy and Management at Ivey Business School, Dr. Gayle Broad, Director of Research at NORDIK Institute, and Dr. Evelyn Forget, economist and professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba and Academic Director of the Manitoba Research Data Centre, among others.

In addition, the conference agenda includes multiple table discussions designed to engage participants in a wide range of critical issues and subject areas relevant to the basic income policy discussion.

Topics for conversation around a basic income guarantee include food security issues, potential models for a B.I.G. pilot, tax implications, and the potential impact a basic income could have on Indigenous communities and social innovators.

“We want people to join the conversation,” said NPI President, Charles Cirtwill. The potential impacts a basic income guarantee carry on our province require a discussion that brings in all voices – from elected officials to service providers to individuals who have their own perspectives to share.”

The conference will also feature interactive tools to facilitate conversation across the region and province. Spots are still available – visit [www.big2016npi.ca/registration/](http://www.big2016npi.ca/registration/) to register.



Northern Policy Institute is also seeking completed work on the topic. We invite anyone who has done research on the subject to submit it to [info@northernpolicy.ca](mailto:info@northernpolicy.ca). Relevant work will be posted as a resource on our conference website.

For a full list of presenters and bios, please visit [www.big2016npi.ca/presenters/](http://www.big2016npi.ca/presenters/)

**Media Interviews:** Northern Policy Institute President & CEO, Charles Cirtwill is 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, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, and Kenora. 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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## **BIG Conference Agenda 2016**

### **Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 AM Registration Opens

12:00 PM Conference Welcome and Luncheon  
*Speaker, Q&A*

1:00 PM Introduction of Group 1 Presenters

1:15 PM "A B.I.G. Typology - and what we might be able to afford"  
*Dr. Mike Moffatt, Lawrence Centre*

1:45 PM "B.I.G. tax implications - depending on the model we choose"  
*Dr. Lindsay Tedds, School of Public Administration, University of Victoria*

2:15 PM Q&A with Dr. Moffatt and Dr. Tedds

2:30 PM Body Break

3:00 PM Table Discussions  
*What model of B.I.G. should Northern Ontario pilot?*

3:45 PM Introduction of Group 2 Presenters

4:00 PM "It's 2016, do we still need a B.I.G.?"  
*Dr. Evelyn Forget, University of Manitoba*

4:30 PM "B.I.G. and Food Security"  
*Dr. Valerie Tarasuk, University of Toronto*

5:00 PM Q&A with Dr. Forget and Dr. Tarasuk

5:15 PM Body Break

5:30 PM Wrap Up Topic 1  
*Summary of preferred options, closing discussion*

### **Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**

06:30 AM Doors Open

07:00 AM Welcome & Breakfast



Speaker, Q&A

08:15 AM Table Discussions

*Where should Ontario pilot their B.I.G.?*

09:00 AM Body Break

09:15 AM Introductions of Group 3 Presenters

09:30 AM "B.I.G. and social innovators"

*Michael Crawford Urban & Christine Yip, Mowat Centre*

10:00 AM "B.I.G. and Indigenous Peoples"

*Dr. Gayle Broad, NORDIK Institute*

10:30 AM Q&A with Urban, Yip, and Dr. Broad

10:45 AM Wrap Up Topic 2

*Summary of common characteristics, closing thoughts*

11:30 AM Table Discussions

*How should the B.I.G. pilot be assessed?*

12:15 PM Capstone Lunch

Speaker, Q&A

1:15 PM Wrap Up Topic 3

*Summary of common criteria, closing thoughts*

1:45 PM Closing Remarks

2:00 PM Conclude Day 2