



For Immediate Release

Revitalizing Governance and Economic Development

October 16, 2019 – This new commentary by Northern Policy Institute shows that there are areas of economic and governing weakness in Northern Ontario that need to be addressed.

In 2015 and 2016, Northern Policy Institute (NPI) published two papers – “A New Northern Lens: Looking Out Is as Important as Looking In” (Mackinnon 2015) and “Governance in Northern Ontario: Taking Ownership of the Future” (Mackinnon 2016) that made recommendations for a different future path for Northern Ontario. To update and test these recommendations against real-world experience and information, key informant interviews were conducted with several business and government leaders from across Northern Ontario.

As a result of these and other conversations with Northerners, the original recommendations have been enlarged, alongside new themes, and revised recommendations have been developed to aid major change in Northern Ontario.

Recommendations are addressed to Northern Ontario's business, municipal, community and Indigenous leaders, as well as provincial organizations and include:

- Taking greater responsibility for their region and provide specific guidance to governments, rather than the reverse.
- Reviewing and adapting the socio-economic strategies practiced by other Indigenous communities and groups ought to be seriously considered.
- Implementing a new micro loans program for Northern Ontario.
- Developing and presenting to the Ontario government a plan to implement regional governments throughout the North.

Read the full commentary, “A New Path for Northern Ontario: Governance and Economic Development Considerations for a Strong and Sustainable North” at <https://www.northernpolicy.ca/a-new-path>

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Media Interviews: Author David MacKinnon and NPI President & CEO Charles Cirtwill are available for comment. To arrange an interview, please contact:

Christine St-Pierre
Communications Coordinator
705-677-5663
cstpierre@northernpolicy.ca

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.

About the author:

Mr. MacKinnon is a frequent commentator on Canadian fiscal issues.

Mr. MacKinnon is a native of Prince Edward Island. He was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree (honours economics) from Dalhousie University and an MBA from York University. He was also awarded a Centennial Fellowship by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and York University to study at York, Harvard and Oxford Universities as well as the European Institute of Business Studies.

Mr. MacKinnon served in several senior capacities in the Ontario Ministry of Finance, the Bank of Montreal and as CEO of the Ontario Hospital Association from 1996 to 2003. He was CEO of the Ontario Development Corporation, Ontario's principal economic development agency, from 1986 to 1993.

He currently serves as Vice Chair of Quinte Health Care, a four-site community hospital in Eastern Ontario and is a Past Chair, West Park Healthcare Center, a Toronto rehabilitation hospital. He recently completed a 12 year term on the board of the Canadian Standards Association including several years as Chair of its Finance Committee. He is a Governor of Loyalist College in Belleville.

Mr. MacKinnon has been involved with and a student of Northern Ontario for fifty years, including responsibilities in health care and economic development that have affected every community in Northern Ontario. He currently lives in Prince Edward County.