



For Immediate Release

## **Northern Policy Institute announces BIG Conference**

### ***Northern Ontario's think tank to host conference on a Basic Income Guarantee in Ontario***

**August 3, 2016** – Northern Policy Institute is pleased to announce an upcoming conference to explore the idea of a basic income guarantee (BIG) on October 5-6<sup>th</sup> in Sudbury, ON.

The Ontario government's 2016 budget committed to launching a basic income pilot in an undetermined community within the province.

A basic income guarantee is a payment to eligible families or individuals that ensures a minimum level of income. The core idea behind this policy means that everyone would be guaranteed some basic amount of money upon which to live.

Since the announcement in April, the policy has been met with divergent voices offering different perspectives on the issue.

As Northern Ontario's evidenced-based, independent think tank, part of our role is to create opportunities for dialogue, leading to objective and effective decision making.

As such, NPI is providing the platform to explore and debate the potential economic and social impacts of a basic income guarantee in Ontario.

"Northern Policy Institute exists to provide fair, balanced and objective assessments of policy," said NPI President Charles Cirtwill. "We are looking forward to hosting this upcoming conference on such a relevant and timely issue to Northern Ontario."

The BIG conference will bring together decision makers, community leaders, and members of the public who share an interest in the topic.

The non-partisan day and a half event will feature multidisciplinary researchers and authors recognized in their fields of study. The conference will also include interactive tools to facilitate conversation across the region and province.

Registration is now open for the conference, which will be held October 5-6<sup>th</sup> at the Hellenic Centre in Sudbury, Ontario. To register, visit [www.BIG2016NPI.ca](http://www.BIG2016NPI.ca)



**Media Interviews:** Northern Policy Institute President, 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 Kenora, Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie 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.*