



For Immediate Release

Northern Policy Institute and the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation and the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre to host Leader's Breakfast on Federal Economic Agenda for Ontario

January 22, 2015, Thunder Bay, ON – What can the federal government do to grow the Northern Ontario economy? This is the question the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce, its partners, and Northern Policy Institute will be asking at a Leader's Breakfast on January 28, 2015 in Sault Ste. Marie, ON.

The breakfast is part of a consultation process currently being conducted by Northern Policy Institute throughout Northern Ontario to collect information, feedback, and research on critical federal issues that political parties of all stripes should be including in their soon to be developed campaign platforms.

The breakfast will include a presentation on the recently released discussion paper *A Federal Economic Agenda for Ontario*. Tickets will be available to the public and the event will provide an opportunity for people throughout Northern Ontario to learn more about the Federal Economic Agenda for Ontario and provide their input on the issues unique to Northern Ontario that should be included in the agenda.

"The Federal Economic Agenda for Ontario is only as strong as the people who create it," says Northern Policy Institute president and CEO, Charles Cirtwill. "What is included in this agenda will be informed by the feedback we receive during our consultation process. This is why we are encouraging people to come out and participate in these consultations. We cannot say on our own what issues matter most to the people of Northern Ontario. You have to tell us, so we can then help inform policy makers on what changes are needed and how we should go about achieving them."

The breakfast will be held at the Days Inn and Suites in Sault Ste. Marie on Wednesday, January 28 from 7:45AM to 9:15AM. Tickets are \$25.00 + HST /Person for Chamber Members & \$35.00/Person for Non-Chamber Members and are available by contacting the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce at (705)949-7512 or ordered via downloading a registration form from the Chamber website at www.ssmcoc.com.

"Our Province, and in particular, Northern Ontario, is at a critical point economically", says Mark Barsanti, 2014-2015 Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce President. "The economic policy made in the next 12 months will have a profound impact on the variables that we use to measure success. Federal Policy on matters relating to infrastructure development, resource extraction and immigration, to name only a few, has the potential to be the tipping point toward Northern Ontario finally becoming an economic powerhouse in its own right. We need to make sure our voices are heard and that the Federal Government not only sees the potential of our region within Ontario but also our potential contribution to the national economy."

Background: The Federal Economic Agenda for Ontario is a collaborative effort between The Mowat Centre, The Institute for Competiveness and Prosperity, and Northern Policy Institute. In October, 2014, The Mowat Centre released its discussion paper, *A Federal Economic Agenda for Ontario* during the 2014 Ontario Economic Summit.

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According to the discussion paper, the purpose of the Federal Economic Agenda for Ontario is to: “define clearly the challenges and opportunities facing Ontario, develop a common vision and agenda on key economic issues, inform public dialogue, outline policy options that could be pursued by the federal government, and inform platform development by political parties in the lead up to the federal election.”

The feedback that is collected will be used to complete the Federal Economic Agenda for Ontario with an intended release in the spring of 2015.

To read the full discussion paper, *A Federal Economic Agenda for Ontario*, and provide feedback visit www.northernpolicy.ca.

Media Interviews: Northern Policy Institute President and 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 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 Mowat Centre:

The Mowat Centre is an independent public policy think tank located at the School of Public Policy & Governance at the University of Toronto and Ontario’s non-partisan, evidence-based voice on public policy.

We undertake collaborative applied policy research, propose innovative research-driven recommendations, and engage in public dialogue on Canada’s most important national issues.

Our policy areas of expertise are intergovernmental economic and social policy, state transformation, energy policy and not-for-profit policy.

About The Institute for Competitiveness and Prosperity:

The Institute for Competitiveness and Prosperity is an independent, not-for-profit organization that deepens public understanding of macro and microeconomic factors behind Ontario’s economic progress. We are funded by the Government of Ontario and are mandated to share our research findings directly with the public. The Institute serves as the research arm of the Task Force on Competitiveness, Productivity and Economic Progress.

About the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce:

The Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce is the recognized voice of business and is committed to economic prosperity in Sault Ste. Marie. The Chamber represents the interest of 700 plus member businesses and agencies and has been serving the needs of the Sault’s business community since 1889. Historically Proven...Future Driven.

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