



For Immediate Release

## **Northern Policy Institute and Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce to host Leader's Luncheon on Federal Economic Agenda for Ontario**

**January 15, 2015, Thunder Bay, ON** – What can the federal government do to grow the Northern Ontario economy? This is the question the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce and Northern Policy Institute will be asking at a Leader's Luncheon on January 21, 2015 in Thunder Bay, ON.

The luncheon 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 luncheon 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 Luncheon will be held at the Airline Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay on Wednesday, January 21 from 11:30AM to 1:15PM. Tickets are \$35 for Chamber members and \$45 for non-members and are available on the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce website at [www.tbchamber.ca](http://www.tbchamber.ca).

"This is an opportunity for business leaders to make their issues and ideas known to policy makers in advance of the coming Federal election," says Thunder Bay Chamber President, Charla Robinson. "We are looking forward to an interesting and informative dialogue."

**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.

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](http://www.northernpolicy.ca).

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**Members of the media are welcome to attend the luncheon at no charge; lunch will not be provided.**

**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 Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce:**

*The Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce is an independent, non-partisan business network that has been actively serving local business for over 127 years. Widely recognized as the "Voice of Business", our mission is to influence effective change and foster an environment where businesses and the community can prosper.*

*With over 1000 members, the TBCC is Thunder Bay's voice of business.*

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