



For Immediate Release

State of the North Conference features local perspectives and international ideas

August 23, 2018 – Attendees at Northern Policy Institute (NPI)'s second annual *State of the North Conference* presented by Northern Ontario Workforce Planning will learn firsthand from the experiences of both local communities and international leaders on taxation and policy experimentation.

This year's conference, '*Bold Approaches: Taxing for Growth*', promises to deliver bold ideas and spark important discussions about the state of Ontario's northern regions.

The conference is taking place September 26-27 at the Best Western Conference Centre in North Bay, ON. Tickets include breakfast and lunch on both days, networking opportunities, and admission to all sessions. Special ticket pricing is available for students, those attending the [Northern Ontario Business Awards](#) and those attending the [Transforming Ontario's North Summit](#). For more information and to register, please visit www.stateofthenorth.ca.

Northern Policy Institute recognizes that travel and distance can be a barrier to event participation and we wish to do everything we can to overcome that. This year we are pleased to announce that we have funds available to cover the registration, travel and accommodation costs for two conference attendees. Anyone interested in this travel grant must fill out a [survey](#) on NPI's website, highlighting how they and their community would benefit from the conference. Candidate selection will be made on September 12.

Join the conversation online by using the hashtags #TaxTalks and #StateoftheNorth.

See speaker lineup below. For full agenda, please visit www.stateofthenorth.ca/agenda/

Wednesday September 26, 2018

Each topic will be followed by a table discussion where participants can network with speakers and share their ideas.

Topic 1: State of the North

- Charles Cirtwill, President & CEO, Northern Policy Institute

Topic 2: How can taxation support growth?

- Kevin Milligan, Vancouver School of Economics, University of British Columbia
- Fred O'Riordan, Ernst & Young LLP
- Q&A w/ presenters



Tax Talk: Canadian Taxes, what needs to change and why?

- Dr. Jack Mintz, the School of Public Policy, University of Calgary
- Q&A w/ Jack Mintz

Thursday September 27, 2018

Topic 3: Taxation by Indigenous Communities

- Manny Jules, First Nations Tax Commission
- Kate McCue, Fiscal Realities/Georgina First Nation
- Dwayne Nashkawa, Nipissing First Nation
- Q&A w/ presenters

Tax Talk: Global evidence of the value of pilots and policy experimentation

- Mikko Annala, Head of Governance Innovation, Demos Helsinki
- Q&A w/ Mikko Annala

Thank you to our sponsors, Northern Ontario Workforce Planning, Canadore College, Moose FM 106.3 and the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC).

Media Interviews: NPI 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 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. [Learn more.](#)

About State of the North:

State of the North is an annual conference that brings together decision makers, community leaders, experts and innovators to explore the state of Northern Ontario from an economic, social, and environmental perspective. [Learn more.](#) *Conference is being offered in English, however panel discussion groups will be available in French.