

NORTHERN POLICY INSTITUTE

**Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce
President's Series Luncheon**

“Northern Policy Institute – We’re Here, Now What?”

R. Martin Bayer, Chairman

September 17, 2013

Northern Policy Institute – Where Did We Come From?

- In March of 2011, Ontario released the “*Growth Plan for Northern Ontario*”

“The 25-year [Growth Plan for Northern Ontario](#) will help create a stronger, more diverse and sustainable Northern economy. This robust plan was developed with northerners for northerners. It will guide decision-making and investment planning in the region. *To move the plan forward*, the government will immediately:

- Establish a [Northern Policy Institute](#). The institute will play a key role in implementing and monitoring the growth plan...”

Northern Policy Institute's Objects

- ❖ **The development and promotion of proactive, evidence-based and purpose driven policy options that deepen understanding about the unique challenges of Northern Ontario and ensure the sustainable development and long term economic prosperity of Northern Ontario;**
- ❖ **the research and analysis of:**
 - ❖ **existing and emerging policies relevant to Northern Ontario;**
 - ❖ **economic, technological and social trends which affect Northern Ontario;**

Northern Policy Institute's Objects ***(cont'd)***

A silhouette of a northern landscape against a blue background. It features a large evergreen tree on the left, a smaller evergreen tree in the center, and a range of mountains at the bottom. A large blue circle is positioned in the upper right quadrant.

❖ **The formulation and advocacy of policies that benefit Northern Ontario and First Nation communities;**

❖ **Other complementary purposes not inconsistent with these objectives;**

Northern Policy Institute's Board Members

- **Ms. Florence Bailey**

- Economic Development Officer

- Municipality of Sioux Lookout

- **Ms. Thérèse Bergeron-Hopson**

- Timmins and District Hospital

- **Dr. Harley d'Entremont**

- Nipissing University

- **Mr. Dominic Giroux**

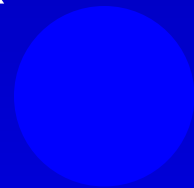
- President

- Laurentian University

- **Dr. George Macey**

- Consultant, Dentist

- Marathon, Ontario



Northern Policy Institute's Board Members (cont'd)

- **Mr. Hal J. McGonigal**

- Retired

- Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

- **Mr. Doug Murray**

- Thunder Bay, Ontario.

- **R. Martin Bayer**

- Partner, Weaver Simmons LLP

- Sudbury, Ontario

- **Ms. Madge Richardson**

- Executive Director

- North Superior Workforce
Planning Board, Thunder Bay

- **Dr. Brian Stevenson**

- President

- Lakehead University

Northern Policy Institute

Where Are We At?

- Northern Ontario Heritage Fund (“NOHFC”) approved \$5 million in funding for the Northern Policy Institute (“NPI”) in August of 2012;
- NPI was incorporated in December 2012;
- Founding board was selected and appointed in February 2013;
- The funding contribution agreement with NOHFC was signed in July 2013;
- NPI received its first operating funds in August 2013
- A national CEO search process was conducted and the new CEO, Mr. Charles Cirtwill, was appointed in September 2013;

Northern Policy Institute

Broad Goals

- Over time, to be a financially self-sufficient institute;
- To think and operate independently from government;
- To develop and recommend policy options for Northerners that is evidence-based;
- To be relevant to the people of Northern Ontario;
- To make a difference that is measurable for the people of Northern Ontario;

Northern Policy Institute

The Road Ahead

- Our board members are anxious to get going and to think about ideas and develop recommendations that are going to matter for the people of Northern Ontario;
- Under our funding contribution agreement, we must produce our initial first year operating budget and our 5 year business plan within 6 months of the disbursement of the initial funds;
- We have set up offices here in Sudbury at Laurentian University and in Thunder Bay at Lakehead University;

Northern Policy Institute

The Road Ahead

• Once we set up our website, we will be posting, among other things, our:

• conflict of interest policies;

• Chair's declaration of compliance with the conflict of interest policies by all Board members;

• annual report, including our audited financial statements;

• bylaws, letters patent and any changes to our letters patent.

Northern Policy Institute

Food For Thought (cont'd)

- ❖ **As we think about the direction and priorities of the Northern Policy Institute, here are some important considerations:**
- ❖ **We must not allow ourselves to be an organization that simply generates more research papers with recommendations that never get implemented;**
- ❖ **We must communicate regularly with the people of Northern Ontario about the progress and work of the Northern Policy Institute;**

Northern Policy Institute

Food For Thought

- ❖ **As we think about the direction and priorities of the Northern Policy Institute in the months ahead, here are some important considerations:**
- ❖ **We must forge partnerships and collaborate with the people of Northern Ontario, including municipalities, businesses, resource industries, Aboriginal organizations, Francophone organizations, Chambers of Commerce, colleges and universities in Northern Ontario;**

Northern Policy Institute

Food For Thought (cont'd)

- ❖ **As we think about the direction and priorities of the Northern Policy Institute, here are some important considerations:**

- ❖ ***Research Development:***

- ❖ **Our research must be practical and focussed on current or emerging issues or trends and assess the implications of the issues or trends relevant to the people of Northern Ontario now and in the future and should be in synch with the general themes and objectives of the *Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, 2011*;**

Northern Policy Institute

Food For Thought (cont'd)

❖ **As we think about the direction and priorities of the Northern Policy Institute, here are some important considerations:**

❖ **Research Coordination**

❖ **Our research should complement the existing research efforts of Northern Ontario's post-secondary institutions and non-government organizations and, where feasible, explore opportunities for coordinated efforts that contribute to our respective mandates;**

Northern Policy Institute

Food For Thought (cont'd)

❖ As we think about the direction and priorities of the Northern Policy Institute, here are some important considerations:

❖ ***Collaboration with our Stakeholders – the people of Northern Ontario:***

❖ Our stakeholder engagement process must recognize the value of multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary, and multicultural contributions to the collective advancement of Northern Ontario and we must work in a collaborative and inclusive approach to provide a full range of policy options for decision-makers;

Northern Policy Institute

Food For Thought (cont'd)

❖ As we think about the direction and priorities of the Northern Policy Institute, here are some important considerations:

❖ **Publicly accessible:**

❖ Our work and progress should be publicly accessible in order to stimulate public engagement and encourage dialogue, promoting viewpoints on the interests of Northern Ontario and our people;

Northern Policy Institute

Food For Thought (cont'd)

- ❖ **As we think about the direction and priorities of the Northern Policy Institute, here are some important considerations:**

Our Work Must Matter:

- ❖ **We must be able to measure whether we are making a difference and advocating for policies that will help to improve the quality of life for the people of Northern Ontario – jobs, revenue growth, investment capital, profitability of small and medium sized firms in Northern Ontario;**
- ❖ **We must all strive to work better together as Northerners and not get ourselves caught up in regional divisions that we create for ourselves, Sudbury-Thunder Bay, Timmins-Cochrane, Sault Ste. Marie-Sudbury and so on.**

Northern Policy Institute

Food For Thought (cont'd)

❖ **We must all try harder to understand one another and our interests and recognize that we are all people of Northern Ontario and this means breaking down artificial barriers for example, between municipalities and First Nations; We could do much more together, purchasing - insurance, auditing, municipal and First Nation employee benefit programs, public works equipment procurement, risk management, Northern Ontario wide consultation frameworks, greater cooperation in delivery of health care services, infrastructure planning, policing, fire and ambulance services; (144 + 106 = 250)**

Northern Policy Institute

Food For Thought (cont'd)

❖ Challenges Facing the People of Northern Ontario:

- ❖ Explore ways, through policy examination and research, to ensure more of the resource based wealth extracted from Northern Ontario stays in Northern Ontario, but at the same time, make sure we remain a competitive and attractive place to invest in what is an increasingly competitive global business environment;**
- ❖ Ensuring we have skilled and trained workers to fill jobs in Northern Ontario, especially in the resource sector;**

Northern Policy Institute

Food For Thought (cont'd)

❖ Challenges Facing the People of Northern Ontario:

- ❖ Ensure we have the best transportation systems and energy and information technology infrastructure to attract investment and allow the people of Northern Ontario to participate more fully in the global economy;**
- ❖ We are resource based communities and we need to think about diversifying and how we can help each other when the resource runs out – can we use those same workers for export, for instance, but they can still live in their communities following their shifts?**

Northern Policy Institute

Food For Thought (cont'd)

❖ Challenges Facing the People of Northern Ontario:

❖ A Need for Continuous Innovation - two-thirds of all new jobs created are by small and medium, fast growing businesses, so we need to part of and feed into an ecosystem in Northern Ontario nr that enables them to grow and grow faster, in an increasingly competitive global economy;

❖ We are resource based communities and we need to think about diversifying and how we can help our communities to diversify when the resource runs out – can we export our talent and experience, for instance?



*Thank You, Merci,
Müigwetch,*