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Towards a Draft Plan: A Shared Vision

**Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce's Submission
Towards A Growth Plan for Northern Ontario**

NOACC Vision Statement

"NOACC focuses as the voice and active link in the formulation of public policy contributing to the economic development and quality of life in Northwestern Ontario".

The Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce is registered as a provincial lobby organization. (Registration #: OLOO26-19990921094644-0)

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Quote From A Growth Plan for Northern Ontario Vol 1 Issue 1
Towards a Draft Plan+

“The development of a Growth Plan for Northern Ontario is all about creating a shared vision for all our northern communities. Our Northern Growth Plan will build on the North’s existing and future strengths. It will foster a smarter, more innovative and competitive economy and help us ensure a vibrant future for northern families.”

NOACC Vision Statement

“NOACC focuses as the voice and active link in the formulation of public policy contributing to the economic development and quality of life in Northwestern Ontario”.

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Part I Skinny

Economic Stimulus

Since the Northern Grow Plan had been initiated before the recognition of the historic global down turn. The forestry industry was in the forefront of this downturn so Northern Ontario has experience and lessons to share. The Grow North Plan is a medium to long term legislatively framed undertaking. It is necessary to now factor into the Grow North Plan an immediate economic stimulus. There will be a provincial wide stimulus package in the next budget most likely driven by infrastructure. This should become a key ingredient of the Northern Grow Plan.

Purpose of NOACC Grow North Submission

The primary Goal of NOACC’s submission is to further establish their credibility and identity and to add value at the “Think Tank” table in Thunder Bay (February) and participate in the spring final draft draft. We are committed to the

preservation and development of our unique communities to ensure a healthy economic future and a superior quality of life for our member Chambers, regional business districts and the citizens of Northwestern Ontario.

Northern Ontarians need confidence and what is required is a plan with bold leadership," "While will all be disappointed to see a deficit, it would be easier to accept if it were accompanied by a plan to stimulate the economy and to build a foundation for a more competitive province at the end of this economic turmoil."

Pushing forward with its infrastructure investments is a positive move, and NOACC looks forward to seeing more concrete actions in the next budget that would help to reduce the cost of doing business and provide confidence to all taxpayers.

Submission Content Synopsis

Section I NOACC Policies applied to Grow North Themes

NOACC member approved resolutions 2009 and 2008 Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce Policy Positions as they apply to the themes presented in the Towards Grow North Discussion Paper

Section II Rosehart Recommendations

NOACC and Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce: Prioritized Rosehart Recommendations Preparing for Change February 2008 Northwestern Ontario Economic Development Facilitator Report Dr Bob Rosehart

Sector III the need to build public policy capacity in the North

Policy Institute implementation and Northern Development Council Enhancement

Section IV Partnerships and shared visions

Common Voice NOACC Shared Visions

NOACC is a member and partner of many other organizations and has direct or indirect contact with all the major players

Section V Economic Stimulus

Plan to Northern Business and communities and recovery from historic global down turn as one tool for economic stimulus.

Contents

Section I contains NOACC member approved resolutions presented in the 2009 and 2008 Northwestern Ontario associated Chambers of Commerce Policy Positions as they apply to the Grow North Discussion Paper Name of paper The content of the NOACC discussion is related directly to member approved resolutions and to shared visions with NOACC as partners.

Section II is a membership of Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce (NOACC) and the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce prioritized Rosehart Recommendations from the Northwestern Ontario: Preparing for Change February 2008 Northwestern Ontario Economic Development Facilitator Report Dr Bob Rosehart

Section III Discusses the promotion of Policy Institute *and Enhancing the Role of Northern Development Councils* as outlined on page 10 of the Towards a Grow North Plan discussion Paper NSTB directed Common Voice and NOACC position resolutions 7 & 8

Quote

"In addition to the themes, there is a growing awareness of the need to build policy capacity in the North and ensure northerners have a strong voice in the policy development process"

Section IV contains NOACC Shared Partner Vision

- Common Voice Northwest
- Common Voice Task Forces
- Mining
- Forestry
- Energy
- NSTB
- EI Fairness
- LLMP report
- Tourism
- FN Partners

Section V demonstrates the Importance of the Grow North Plan to Northern Business communities and recovery from Historic Global Down turn by addressing miscellaneous topics that may assist the economic stimulus package.

- NOACC support of the importance of Grow North Plan
- Federal Provincial Cooperation in light of
- from Historic Global Down turn
- EI Reform
- Infra structure step one
- Taxation
- Aboriginal economy

Note: The research for First Nation input and the aboriginal economy is incomplete and will be forwarded in the near future.

- Northern Ontario as a distinct Economy
- Ethics of Climate change North of 51
- Regional Enhancement Committee
- Business Friendly Clean Air and Climate Agenda

The Report concludes with our contribution of recommendations.

Summary of Recommendations NOACC Priorities detailed

- Addressing the Fiscal stimulus challenge
- Northern Policy Capacity as a major component of the Grow North Plan
- Infra structure plan Investment

Northern Ontarians need confidence and what is required is a plan with bold leadership," "While will all be disappointed to see a deficit, it would be easier to accept if it were accompanied by a plan to stimulate the economy and to build a foundation for a more competitive province at the end of this economic turmoil."

- Addressing Grow North Themes and policy positions see details
- Capitalizing on the Rose hart under Recommendations
- Energy Industrial rates a tool of economic recovery
- Mining Positions
- Forestry recommendations
- Aboriginal Economy
- Fairness EI issue
- Recognition of Northern Ontario as a distinct economy
- Federal Provincial Cooperation
- Ethics of climate change

Part II Recommendation details

VI Recommendations Grow North Draft Plan

Preamble

Northern Ontarians need confidence and what is required is a plan with bold leadership,"

NOACC as the voice of business looks forward to seeing more concrete actions in the next budget and in the draft Grow North Plan that would help to reduce the cost of doing business and provide confidence to all taxpayers.

NOACC looks forward to working with the Ontario government to identify strategies that will form the basis of a three to twenty five year economic plan which will help strengthen Northern Ontario so that it will emerge from the current economic climate in a globally competitive position.

The Shared Vision NOACC Submission is based on recommendations contained in the following sections

- Section I NOACC Policies applied to Grow North Themes
- Section II Rosehart Recommendations Prioritized
- Section III the need to build public policy capacity in the North
- Section IV Partnerships and shared visions
- Section V Economic Stimulus

A synopsis of Recommendations

Economic Stimulus

Since the Northern Grow Plan has been initiated before the recognition of the historic global down turn. The forestry industry was in the forefront of this downturn so Northern Ontario has experience and lessons to share. The Grow Plan is a medium to long term legislatively framed undertaking. It is necessary to now to factor into the Grow North Plan an immediate economic stimulus. There will be a provincial wide stimulus package in the next budget most likely driven by infrastructure. This should become a key ingredient of the Northern Grow Plan.

"While we will be disappointed to see a deficit in the short term, it would be easier to accept if it were accompanied by a plan to stimulate the economy and to build a foundation for a more competitive north at the end of this economic turmoil."

The three pillars of Economic Stimulus

- Protecting those mostly impacted through EI Reform and Training
- Streamlining Infrastructure funding
- Innovation and tax incentives

Taxation

Lowering taxes isn't the only way to reduce business costs. Cutting through the mountain of unnecessary red tape, overlapping audits and overzealous enforcement which are costing businesses billions of dollars each year, will go a long way to helping businesses maintain profitability during these difficult economic times.

Similarly, we believe that it's vital the government establish a timeline to move to a system of smarter taxation that removes the disincentives to invest in innovation, and removes barriers to growth, paving the way for higher productivity and job creation.

Taxation incentives that create jobs through innovation and Ontario taxpayers get the best "bang for the buck". See section IV .7

Example Taxation concept incentive

Innovation Recommendation Enhancement to the Ontario Innovation Tax Credit (OITC).

CURRENTLY: 10% of the first \$2 million in Federally qualifying Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) expenditures that take place in Ontario. Program is geared specifically towards small and medium sized, Canadian Controlled Private Corporations conducting Research and Development (R&D) in Ontario. The OITC is a "Refundable Tax Credit", putting \$ in the pockets of companies pursuing product and process development. It is better than a grant or subsidy, because the qualifying criteria are established and rigorous. It is well suited for a wide variety of industries, non-discriminating

towards forestry, manufacturing, biotech, industrial processes, environmental science, etc.

RECOMMENDATION:

Increase credit to 25% of first \$2 million in qualifying Scientific Research and Experimental Development expenditures

Infrastructure

Utilize Infrastructure as the Initial Economic Development Basis for the Northern Growth Plan and for the immediate fiscal stimulus. Utilize training and EI Fairness as a major component of stimulus package. In order for Northern Ontario to fully benefit from the infrastructure programs there must be provincial federal cooperation.

Pushing forward with its infrastructure investments is a positive move for fiscal stimulus addressing the Grow North Themes with NOACC Policy is a northern point of view worth considering.

**Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Recommendations
Streamlining Infrastructure Funding for Economic Stimulus.**

NOACC supports the AMO positions for the North and urges the Ontario Government to advocate these positions.

- Increase the amount of funding for the current \$200 million intake of the BCF Communities Component in Ontario (for communities under 100,000 population) which closed in late November;
- Use BCF to support asset renewal projects that can be implemented quickly - not limiting funding to new projects;
- Initiate an open call for proposals for the BCF Major Projects category intended for projects exceeding \$30 million;
- Use Federal Gas Tax accountability mechanisms for all BCF projects in order to expedite projects -providing up-front funding of federal funds rather than reimbursement based on complex contribution agreements; and
- A federal and provincial commitment to expedite decisions and the processes (e.g., environmental assessments) that relate to BCF projects.

AMO is also recommending to the Minister of Finance that additional federal investment in infrastructure be provided to municipalities through the Federal Gas Tax. Federal Gas Tax investment leverages municipal own source investment and funds key projects while being fully accountable to tax payers.

- Provide additional infrastructure investment directly through the Federal Gas ~ Tax funding. Increasing federal infrastructure investment funding through ~' this mechanism will allow construction-ready projects to proceed ahead of schedule, leverage municipal own-source investment and create jobs in every part of Ontario.

AMO is also recommending that the Minister of Finance allocate new federal investment in housing. If additional federal investment is provided through a streamlined. Funding program, Ontario municipalities will be well situated to quickly invest in housing, including housing renewal and energy retrofits, and in much-needed new affordable housing stock. This investment will help stabilize housing starts and the residential construction industry, secure jobs in the industry and among Canadian, suppliers of housing materials. It will result in reduced energy consumption in social housing and corresponding green house gas emission reductions and increase access to affordable housing for Canadians.

- The federal government should work on an urgent basis with provinces, territories and municipalities to create a new, streamlined national housing program that supports affordable housing renewal and repairs, energy retro-Fits and the creation of additional supply of affordable housing for Canadians.

AMO believes that these measures meet the criteria for the design of effective stimulus policies outlined in the Department of Finance's consultation documents as follows:

- Timely - stimulus when it's needed.
- Maximum impact - stimulus that delivers.
- Flexible in size and duration - smart stimulus.
- Consistent with Canada's long-term economic goals - stimulus that fits the plan.

Federal Provincial Cooperation

Addressing the fiscal stimulus programs in the short term and link to medium and long term Northern Grow Plan through infrastructure Provincial Federal Accord and cooperation are absolutely necessary. We need the three levels of government to do the impossible put politics on hold within the limitations of Reality and restore the northern economy. Section V for details.

- Create Federal Provincial Cooperation for Northern Ontario for the duration of the fiscal stimulus and the economic recovery. The global Historic Down turn has had a devastating impact on the “ distinct economy” of Northern Ontario.

- If ever provincial and federal relations and cooperation was required, this is the time. One area of concern that could be corrected is the existing entangled NOHFC and Fender economic development reality.
- A solution is required for the entangled NOHFC and Fender economic development complex reality to enhance the upcoming provincial and federal fiscal stimulus programs. Section V

See section V .4 Disentanglement of FedNor and Heritage Funding

Building Policy Capacity

In Northern Ontario allows northerners the capacity to shape their destiny and to chart their own course within the Province and the Country by addressing regional challenges with realistic Northern solutions. See section III

Quote page 10 Towards a Northern Growth Plan Discussion Paper May 2008
 "In addition to the themes, there is a growing awareness of the need to build policy capacity in the North and ensure northerners have a strong voice in the policy development process"

Rosehart Recommendations

Utilizing the Rosehart Recommendations See section II. There are many immediate and long-term recommendations for consideration.

Mining

- Support an Annual Mining Summit in Northwestern Ontario.
- The Mining sector is positive for the future and a significant vehicle and tool for the Northern Economic recovery.
- See appendix IV .4

North of 51

North of 51 legacies the long-term future view of Northern Ontario is not understood use mining rose hart recommendation Geosciences survey.

Forestry

**Forestry Recommendations gleaned from the Ontario Forestry Coalition
 Wednesday, December 17, 2008 / 2009 Pre-Budget Submission to the
 Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs**

NOACC as sponsor and partner of the Forestry Coalition supports and endorses the following recommendations.

- Maintenance of the Industrial Fiber Basket

- Endangered Species Act

The government needs to recognize that the current forest management planning process addresses the objectives of the ESA in order to ensure that the implementation of the new Endangered Species Act does not result in a withdrawal of the land base or a reduction in fiber supply.

Maintain Competitive Measures Put in Place Since 2005 **Since 2005 the Government of Ontario has implemented several key measures/strategies to help restore the competitiveness of Ontario's forest sector. These include:**

- Road maintenance and construction funding
- Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) funding
- Wood promotion funding
- The creation of a Forest Sector Prosperity Fund
- A loan guarantee program
- Northern Pulp and Paper Electricity Program

The OFC requests that the Government of Ontario maintain all existing competitiveness measures and initiatives that have been put in place since 2005.

Energy Industrial Electricity Rate

Ontario's economy is heavily dependent on manufacturing which has been hard hit by the global market crises and historic global downturn. A significant factor in determining operation and investment of many manufacturing facilities is competitive industrial electricity costs.

Employment Insurance Fairness Regional Enhancement Committee Common Voice

The following is a summary of the EI Reform Recommendations:

- Common Voice Northwest believes the geographic qualifiers within the system should be eliminated, and a maximum benefit period of two (2) years be inserted in its place. Finding a job will take longer than ever due to the current economic crisis and the 45 weeks currently allowed is insufficient to ensure that laid off workers are able to remain in the area and be available to return to their community mill when it restarts.
- Common Voice Northwest believes that severance pay, and pension payout offsets should be eliminated from the EI system. Workers who are receiving severance pay should also be allowed to receive EI benefits right away. Workers should not be forced to exhaust their severance pay before receiving benefits.

- Common Voice Northwest recommends the EI service delivery system must return to a more centralized type of model, where services will be based on a "one-stop shop", with a view to deliver consistent and meaningful information to affected workers. It should also be able to approve individual training or retraining programs immediately, not 6 weeks prior to the start of training. Training provided within the system must include basic skills and education in an effort to avoid worker disqualification.
- Common Voice Northwest further recommends that the qualifier test for EI training benefits not be linked to EI status, nor based on family income.
- The Regional Enhancement Committee recommends that there be one EI Economic Zone for all of Northwestern Ontario and that the Thunder Bay Economic Zone be incorporated into the N.W.O. zone.

With Thunder Bay and the rest of Northwestern Ontario being as hard hit due to the crisis in the forest industry it is unfair to discriminate based on where one lives. In many cases workers at the same mill based in and around Thunder Bay will receive different benefits because of where their home is. Northwestern Ontario is a single labour market and should be treated as one.

To assist in restoring competitiveness to the province's manufacturing sector, the Government of Ontario needs to implement a temporary industrial electricity rate that is competitive with other jurisdictions in Canada and the United States.

Literacy training Employment Insurance Fairness Issue Regional Enhancement Committee NSTB Common Voice Task Force is a significant factor. See Hidden Pain

Common Voice Tourism Task Force Summary Tourism Recommendations:

- That the roles and responsibilities of the Northern Ontario Regional Travel Associations (NORTA- In NWO Sunset Country & North of Superior Tourism Association) be expanded and funding be increased to enable them to serve as leaders for tourism in Northwestern Ontario, more adequately addressing the issues that have been repeatedly identified by stakeholders as barriers to success in tourism.
- That in recognition of the many crown land and resource management-related issues causing investment uncertainty for resource-based tourism operators in Northwestern Ontario, endorse the recommendations of the Provincial Resource-Based Tourism Working Group (PRBTWG)
- That a Northern Development Fund be established to provide low interest/interest deferred loans to tourism stakeholders and/or that providing tax credits and increasing the rate of depreciation of equipment.

- That a review of provincial Ministry roles and responsibilities regarding tourism in Northwestern Ontario to streamline support for tourism marketing, development, investment and training.
- That changes in policies, practices and regulations regarding border crossings and in particular harmonize border crossing rules with those of United States as it relates to ease of access should be encouraged.

Innovation General Recommendations

- **A supportive business environment for commercialization. We need senior government to support programs and existing commercialization players in the North (not in S. Ontario claiming to support the North) to build effective linkages between the private sector (e.g. SMEs, angel investors, and other organizations) and research institutions. This must be done at a local level with linkages to broader networks.**
- We must support SMEs effort in the final stages of the commercialization process, the go to market strategies. In Northern Ontario, successfully launching an innovation into the broader marketplace is a challenge. We currently do not have any financial support mechanisms to assist with these costs. Private sector will often not participate until the initial response from the market is received.
- Government programs to support innovation must be flexible and responsive. They must recognize that they are supporting talent and people. This talent is not only at the research level but also at the entrepreneurial and business level. Programs must be flexible enough to get behind a management team that can make commercialization a reality. The bureaucracy of these programs should be able to provide an indication of funding within 45 days of a completed application. Emerging technology programs that result in the private sector SME waiting 3 to 6 months for an answer are ineffective.

See Section IV.6 and Appendix for details

Ethics of Climate Change

Establishment of a climate change fairness ethics commission to resolve the complicated issues in the context of future plans for North of 51.

This is significantly important for the future of Northern Ontario in the following areas Forestry, Mining, Energy, and Tourism. See section V

Conclusion

Another key area of agreement is the North's tremendous diversity. Discussion paper Grow North Session participants pointed out that Northern Ontario is a large and highly complex region, with important geographic, cultural and economic differences from community to community.

Feedback on what key priorities should be when developing the growth plan include: building an educated, skilled workforce in the North, focusing policies and actions to Northern Ontario's true competitive edge, creating connectivity and access to attract businesses and people, developing short-, medium- and long-term action, engaging and building partnerships with Aboriginal peoples, NOACC's insights and experiences will contribute to the "long term sustainable approach to a prosperous northern economy". We will share in making better local choices so northerners will enjoy a "brighter future". NOACC commits to participating as the voice of business in the upcoming "Think North" Forum. This report represents the basis of credibility, identity and value in the overall process. NOACC offers to be part of the review process of the final draft that will take us through "the next 25 years" in the spring 2009.

We will stay engaged and keep working to create the best possible Grow North Plan.



Section I

2009 / 2008 Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce (NOACC) Policies as they apply to Grow North Themes



Section 1.1

2009 / 2008 Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce (NOACC) Policies as they apply to Grow North Themes

Grow North Theme #1 Strengthen and advancing the resource-based industries.

Grow North Theme #2 Growing Emerging Sectors

Grow North Theme #3 Fostering Research Innovation and Commercialization

Grow North #4 Increasing education and training opportunities.

Grow North #5 Retraining and attracting people and jobs.

Grow North #6 Supporting business development and entrepreneurship.

Grow North #7 Making Strategic use of Infrastructure.

Application

Grow North Theme #1 Strengthen and advancing the resource-based industries.

Endangered Species Act NOACC 2009 #3

Be it resolved that the NOACC urges the Government of Ontario to:

1. Ensure that the “Endangered Species Act” (ESA) not replace the forest management planning process, but rather complement this process and provide opportunities to integrate species and habitat protection

requirements into current and future forest management plans, and further that.

2. Live up to the commitment made by the Minister of Natural Resources in May, 2007 when he stated “specific recognition of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA) and Forest Management Plans as equivalent processes” which plan for species at risk.

See Prospect North Mining Report In section #4
NOACC Res 2008 #10 Mining Resolution
Rosehart Mining recommendations contained in the Northwestern Ontario:
Preparing for Change 2008 Northwestern Ontario Economic
Development Facilitator Report

Grow North Theme # 2 Growing Emerging sectors
Policy Institute See Section III Enhancing the Role of Northern
Development Councils

Policy Statement Grow North Discussion paper page 10

Quote

"In addition to the themes, there is a growing awareness of the need to build policy capacity in the North and ensure northerners have a strong voice in the policy development process"

Grow North Theme #3 Fostering Research Innovation and Commercialization

Enhancement to the Ontario Innovation Tax Credit (OITC).

Background

10% of the first \$2 million in Federally qualifying Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) expenditures that take place in Ontario. Program is geared specifically towards small and medium sized, Canadian Controlled Private Corporations conducting Research and Development (R&D) in Ontario. The OITC is a “Refundable Tax Credit”, putting \$ in the pockets of companies pursuing product and process development. It is better than a grant or subsidy, because the qualifying criteria are established and rigorous. It is well suited for a wide variety of industries, non-discriminating towards forestry, manufacturing, biotech, industrial processes, environmental science, etc.

RECOMMENDATION:

Increase credit to 25% of first \$2 million in qualifying Scientific Research and Experimental Development expenditures.

Also see the Innovation position in section IV for details

Grow North Theme #4 Increasing education and training opportunities.

Poverty Reduction / Aboriginal Education NOACC RES 2009 # 9

Be it resolved that there be significant rethinking of the jurisdictional responsibilities and delivery of elementary school education, particularly in far north communities. Several Aboriginal school boards, having devolved funding from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), would in a non-traditional way become formally part of the Ontario school system.

Supporting Apprenticeship Training NOACC RES 2009 # 13

Be it resolved that NOACC urge the Government of Ontario to:

1. Extend the existing Ontario “Co-operative Education” tax credit from industries defined as “leading edge technologies” to include all employers participating in apprenticeship training programs.
2. Assess the economic impacts of the tax credit to determine if it is adequate to contribute positively to the desired outcome of reducing the skilled trades shortage.

Apprenticeship Training NOACC RES 2009 # 14

Be it resolved that the makeup of the boards need to have active representation from Northwestern Ontario people who are hands on and understand the working conditions in this area; and further that a change from the 3-1 ratio to a 1-1 ratio be made as soon as possible.

Apprenticeships NOACC RES 2009 # 15

Be it resolved that NOACC urges the Government of Ontario to:

1. Sponsor a coordinated effort among all stakeholders to enhance the image of the skilled trades, with our youth, their parents and teachers.
2. Redirect and target funds for technical education in Ontario’s schools, including investing in pupil places, qualified teachers and modern equipment and technology, so that Ontario is positioned to provide world-class programs in technology education.

Encourage business to offer experiential learning opportunities for cooperative education students (high school and college/university) and provide new opportunities and incentives to business to participate in providing classroom infrastructure and technical support.

Grow North Theme #5 Retraining and attracting people and jobs.

Northern Ontario Immigration NOACC RES 2009 # 12

Be it resolved that a working group composed of federal, provincial and community representatives be established and resourced to review opportunities and identify actions needed, for immigration to play a role in providing a skilled

and entrepreneurial workforce to meet the future needs of diversifying the economy of Northwestern Ontario.

1. Be it resolved that incentives are provided to under serviced communities in Northwestern Ontario, to attract immigrants to the area and remove barriers to entry for immigrants.
2. Be it resolved to establish processes and resources to assist under serviced communities, in Ontario, to ensure effective and coordinated settlement of newcomers. For instance, establish positions and/or organizations that serve as immigration support agencies to coordinate, facilitate and deliver services to employers and immigrants.
3. Be it further resolved that immigration be promoted and integrate evaluative mechanisms to recommend potential immigrants who have the greatest opportunity for economic success. Develop evaluation tools (online) for instance a credential assessment database that employers can use to quickly obtain eligibility, for employers or immigration support agencies to ensure those immigrants who have a high rate of economic success are identified and accepted into Canada. Provide similar tools for accreditation and financial assistance to employers for immigrants to pursue additional training needed for them to meet Canadian standards.

Grow North Theme #6 Supporting business development and entrepreneurship.

Doing Business with the Province NOACC RES 2009 # 5

1. Prorate the level of liability insurance with the level of risk, and the amount of other financial requirements (e.g. performance bonds) to the value of the contract.
2. Incorporate a clause into the terms and conditions to state that:
 - a. Awarding of the contract is subject to the successful bidder having satisfactory insurance coverage; and/or
 - b. Bids must be supported by an “undertaking of insurance letter” from the bidder’s insurance provider confirming their insurability to the level required by the contract.
3. Provide more transparent guidelines and province-wide marketing of the government procurement process.

Creating a Fair Paper Procurement Policy NOACC RES 2009 # 6

Be it resolved that NOACC urges the Ontario Government to act immediately to amend the Ministry of Government Services’ 2007 procurement policy and instead, adopt a policy requiring the Ontario government’s paper come from forests certified by any one of the three standards they endorse.

Grow North Theme #7 Making Strategic use of Infrastructure.

Infrastructure as the Initial Economic Development Basis for the Northern Growth Plan NOACC RES 2009 # 4

1. Be it resolved that transportation infrastructure form the basis of the Northern Growth Plan.
2. Be it resolved that the transportation strategies of Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins be emphasized in the Grow North Plan.
3. Be it resolved that the “Federal Infrastructure” funding be utilized for the economic development of Northern Ontario.
4. Be it further resolved that northern communities are supported with infrastructure development.

Twining of the Trans Canada Highway 11/17 NOACC RES 2009 # 9

Be it resolved that the Province of Ontario develop and implement a long range plan including the commitment of specific sums of money over the long term to create a four-lane divided highway through Northern Ontario.

Be it further resolved that the Province of Ontario partner with the Federal Government to plan to twin all sections of the Trans Canada Highway, starting where there is no alternate Canadian highway route. This planning stage should be targeted for completion within two years. Subsequent to that development to begin by the spring of 2010.

Far North Road Development NOACC RES 2009 # 12

1. Be it resolved that as an interim measure to developing all-weather roads in Ontario’s Far North, the senior levels of government support the realignment of winter roads to routes less dependent on ice roads and to locations more suitable to all weather road alignments.
2. Be it further resolved that Ontario commit in principle to supporting the Far North all-weather road development initiative, and make funding available in each of the next two years to lead a consultation process with environmental groups, communities, other levels of government and industry groups to work towards a detailed implementation plan that could be agreed upon by all stakeholders.

Refer to complete 2009 Resolutions Details in Appendix Section 1.

Section I.2

2008 NOACC Resolutions and Grow North Themes

Section I continued 2008 NOACC Resolutions

1. Establish a N. W. Ontario Regional Development Authority Grow North
Theme #2
2. Rebating Provincial Sales Tax to Municipalities Grow North Section IV
Section IV
3. Reducing Sales Tax Red Tape for Ontario Businesses Grow North
Section IV
4. Improvements to Ontario's Co-operative Education Tax Credit
Section IV
5. Creating a Competitive Climate for the Mining Industry in Ontario plugged into Mining Section IV Part I A) **Theme 1**
6. Eliminating Barriers for Internationally Trained Professional and Trades People **Theme 2**
7. Ontario Ports of Entry (POE) **Federal Provincial Cooperation**

2008 NOACC POLICIES

1. **Establish Northwestern Ontario Regional Development Authority Regional Enhancement Committee (REC)**
That the Provincial Government take the lead role, in cooperation with the federal government to work on the establishment of a Northwestern Ontario Regional Development Authority Regional Enhancement Committee (REC).
Theme 2
2. **Rebating Provincial Sales Tax to Municipalities**
That the Provincial Government rebate the provincial sales tax paid by Ontario municipalities (without increasing the compliance burden).
Section V Taxation Issues
3. **Reducing Sales Tax Red Tape for Ontario Businesses**
That the Provincial Government:
 - 1) Complete a review of its retail sales tax statutes and simplify and clarify the tax rules and rates.

- 2) Commence discussions with the Government of Canada to cross train sales tax auditors and eliminate the duplicate interruptions in the productivity of running small businesses.

Section V Taxation

4. Improvements to Ontario's Co-operative Education Tax Credit

That the Provincial Government:

- 1) Increase the current \$1,000 Ontario Co-operative Education Tax Credit from \$1,000 to \$2,500 per work term for each co-op student and raise the rate of tax credit on eligible expenses from 10 per cent to 25 per cent.
- 2) Allow employers who train apprentices as part of the three levels of Apprenticeship in-school training to claim the Co-op tax credit.
- 3) Lobby the Federal Government to match the Co-operative Education Tax Credit for a total of \$5,000.

Section IV and Grow North Theme #5

5. Creating a Competitive Climate for the Mining Industry in Ontario

That the Provincial Government:

- 1) Eliminate retroactive taxation from the proposed diamond royalty increase that was introduced in the recent Provincial budget.
- 2) Return any future royalties or taxes collected from the mining industry to the north in specific revenue sharing agreements in order to develop the required infrastructure and to attract new technology and businesses that will provide sustainable development to Northern Ontario. **Theme 1**

6. Eliminating Barriers for Internationally-Trained Professional and Trades People **Federal**

That the Provincial Government:

- 1) Continue expanding Employment Ontario with the expectation that it will eventually become a one-stop-shop for individuals to easily access information in regards to skilled trades, apprenticeship training, employment, and certification requirements to work in Ontario.
- 2) Provide financial support programs directly to internationally trained professionals and trades people to facilitate recertification in Ontario.
- 3) Further encourage and support cooperative programs that help to integrate internationally trained professionals and trades people into Ontario's business sector and ensure that they are in compliance with, and familiar with, Ontario's standards.
- 4) Work with the federal government and business partners to assist in making businesses across the province aware of the existence of World Education Service and other credentialing services and encourage their use.
- 5) Encourage and work with the federal government to review and revamp the current immigration process to ensure that internationally trained professionals are fully informed of the registration requirements they face

in Canada and are given an opportunity to complete the registration process before entering Canada.

- 6) Set in place by December 31, 2007 a provincial nominee program in Ontario in relationship to the Labour demand. Federal and **Grow Theme 5**

8. Changes Recommended at the Three Western Ontario Ports of Entry (POE)

That a call for review of Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) procedures and requirements for entering Canada:

- 1) That CBSA implement standardized practices for the enforcement of minor criminality laws across all Canadian ports of entry.
 - a. CBSA institute self-assessing practices (audio and video monitoring components and supervisory overview) to ensure adherence with standardized practices.
 - b. CBSA implement a customer service/human relations training program at the ports of entry identified as problematic.
 - c. CBSA immediately release all relevant statistics by POE for “turn backs” from the spring of 1999 to the present date.
- 2) That CBSA clearly communicate, in writing, any and all relevant changes in enforcement policies and practices six (6) months prior to implementation.
- 3) That CBSA and associated Federal Agencies investigate and implement a system of policies and practices that allow visitors with a minor criminal background to visit Canada.
 - a. Recognize if they have “done the time they have paid for their crime”
- 4) That CBSA hire and train qualified agents for Fort Frances/Rainy River/Pigeon River POE’s to administer and process visitors with “special circumstances” on a 7 day a week/24 hour basis.
- 5) That the Government of Canada implement a series of “short-term” solutions to address selected categories of “minor criminality” and thus facilitate border crossing (e.g., surrender driver’s license, surrender passport, utilize a bondsman, photograph and fingerprint, etc.) for those that have paid their debt to society.

- 6) Ontario Ports of Entry (POE) Tourism / Federal

7) Refer to complete 2008 Resolutions Details in Appendix 2



Section II

Grow North Plan NOACC and Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce Prioritized Recommendations gleaned from the Northwestern Ontario: Preparing for Change Feb 2008 Northwestern Ontario Economic Development Facilitator Dr. Bob Rosehart Report



Section II.1

Grow North and NOACC and Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce Prioritized Recommendations gleaned from the Northwestern Ontario: Preparing for Change Feb 2008 Northwestern Ontario Economic Development Facilitator Dr. Bob Rosehart Report

Executive Summary

The report presents

- Actions to help stabilize the current economy
 - Assistance to help build capacity for the new economy, and
 - Investments that will build the foundation of a prosperous northwest economy for the future.
1. Action must be taken to help **Stabilize the Current Economy** by providing targeted assistance to relieve factors which impact the ability of Northwest industries to either compete or make changes to create new markets and/or value-added products.
 2. Assistance is needed to help **Build Capacity for the New Economy** - Northwestern Ontario needs to continue to build capacity and ensure appropriate knowledge, skills, and governance models are in place to take advantage of new economic opportunities. There is a need for additional and more accurate regional information, and for appropriately trained and skilled workers ready for new opportunities. As well, there is a need for strong collaboration and vision with functioning governance structures to support communities and businesses as they navigate through these changing times.
 3. Finally, **Growing a Prosperous Northwest Economy** will require certain investments that signal a commitment to the people, communities, and economy of the Northwest and contribute to the foundation for their future.

Recommendations are arranged in twelve broad categories:

- Vision and Governance
- Aesthetics and the Environment
- Region-Province-Nation Building
- Forestry Sector
- Mining Sector
- Tourism Sector
- Energy Delivery and Regulation
- Agriculture Sector
- Aboriginal Economy
- Municipalities and Business
- Education Sector

Background

The region to be successful there must be both strong political will at all levels to support Northwestern initiatives and aggressive regional championing by organizations such as the Ambassadors Northwest, Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and the Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce

Recommendation

Be it resolved that the Rosehart recommendations be implemented by priority as it is fiscally responsible and that they receive high priority for consideration when Grow North policy is being formulated.

The NOACC and Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce members were surveyed with the following Prioritization

Section II.2 NOACC Rosehart Recommendations by Priority

NOACC Priority List

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Geoscience Mapping | 7. All-weather Road Study |
| 2. Northwestern Ontario Policy Institute | 8. Far North Road Development
Realignment of Winter Roads |
| 3. Common Voice Initiative | 9. Communities in Transition |
| 4. Northern Desk | 10. Regional MAA Office in
Northwestern Ontario |
| 5. Northern Development
Commissioner | Public Service Jobs in the North |
| 6. Forest Industry Champion Forest
Industry Secretariat | |

Section II .2 Thunder Bay C of C Priority List

9.0.1 Geosciences Mapping

14.2.1 Thunder Bay Incentive
Mechanism

14.4.1 Buy Ontario
15.4.1 Apprenticeship Regional Pi

14.2.2 Tactical Plan for Thunder Bay

Section II.3 NOACC Priorities

Priority #1

Implementation of the Geoscience Mapping Rosehart Recommendation #

9.0.1 Response to North of 51 Issue Grow Theme #1

The Province has embarked on a massive swath of Northern Ontario boreal forest considered the world's largest carbon storehouse, to be off-limits to forestry and mining activities under a plan that will also guarantee First Nations a share of resource revenues north of the 51st parallel, measures 225,000 square kilometers.

The Ontario Mining Association agreed it could take 15 years to map out the area's mineral potential, environmental features and vulnerable species,

The Ontario position is: "We don't want to compromise that, but we do want to ensure that our mining efforts in the province of Ontario are respectful of Ontarians, aboriginal and non-aboriginal alike."

It is also promised that legislation will be introduced this fall to overhaul Ontario's Mining Act to deal with complaints that prospectors can stake lands for exploration without consulting the owners. The considerable excitement about current levels of mining exploration, and a very strong feeling in the mining sector about the potential for new economic mineral deposits being found in Northern Ontario.

Issue

In the short term, the mining exploration expenditures driven by capital (often raised by the "Flow-through Share" vehicle) create significant short-term goods and service expenditures and employment in the North. Key reasons for this activity continues to be the record high-level prices of most mineral commodities and Ontario's international reputation as a good location of mineralization and world class mining infrastructure. Ontario's mining sector is being further strengthened through the cluster building OMICC initiative that is bringing together sector partners to further integrate mining developments in service and value added opportunities in Northern Ontario.

There is a level of concern in Northern Ontario related to future mine developments. Very few new mines have been developed in the last ten years and efforts are needed to increase the probability that economically viable deposits will be found. In terms of geoscience and geophysical mapping, in the past few years, the responsibility to generate such initiatives has fallen on individual Northern communities to apply for funding from agencies such as the NOHFC and FedNor.

This sector is far too important to both Ontario and Canada not to have the senior levels of government as active participants in the provision of such base scientific information.

The last significant Canada-Ontario program with respect to geoscience dates back to the 1980s. Geoscience mapping is a key element to attracting the private sector, in the form of prospectors and exploration companies, to invest their time and money in discovering a potential new mine site.

Recommendations

Be it resolved that a major five-year initiative related to geosciences and geophysical mapping be undertaken under the direction of the Ontario Geological Survey, with efforts to involve the Government of Canada as a partner.

Be it resolved that such an initiative would involve necessary consultation and participation of First Nations as well as local communities. It is important that this initiative start as soon as possible because of lingering concerns about the stability of the currently high commodity prices, and about the maturity of some of the existing mines in Northern Ontario.

Be it resolved that this particular initiative relates to the Northeast and the Northwest, as well especially as the Far North of 51 areas of the province.

Be it further resolved that the geoscience-mapping project is started immediately to alleviate investment discomfort for the future.

Priority #2

5.2 Northwestern Ontario Policy Institute

Background

Over the years there have been a variety of efforts to create Northwestern (Northern) databases and analysis capabilities by a variety of government and educational institutions, but none have been able to sustain their efforts on an ongoing basis. Having longitudinal, historical information on economic performance and public policy trends is important in order to understand the further evolution of Northwestern Ontario. This study looked at several options with respect to the establishment of a Policy Institute for Northwestern Ontario, and finds that the proposal being put forward by the North of Superior Training Board fulfills most of the objectives that would be desired. The Policy Institute would have the potential for sustained funding and would have an arm's length relationship with most other bodies in the Northwest.

Issue

The MNDM is primarily responsible for much of Northern Ontario policy and the Northern Development Councils exists and is an effective Northern Ontario Policy capacity to build on. The Policy Institute would be a valuable NDC partner.

Recommendation

It is recommended that senior government support the establishment of a Northwestern Ontario Policy Institute that would operate at arm's length from government and have a mission to analyze data on economic, business, technological, scientific and social issues, a an, and generate policy advice that can be applied to the region's economic and social development.

Priority #3 Common Voice

Background

During the past two years, under the leadership of NOMA, a broad-based coalition of 36 groups throughout the Northwest has developed a concept outlined in their final report "*Forging the Future*". It calls for a new advocacy agency to be established in the Northwest to interact with senior levels of government and other related stakeholders.

Issue

Considering the diversity of communities and organizations within the Northwest, this has been a challenge, and efforts are still underway to try and incorporate First Nations organizations into the broad-based coalition. NOMA has committed to an initial funding formula for the proposed advocacy agency, and efforts will continue to establish a 'common voice' for the region. Participants in this study indicated that advocacy methods used in the past are not as effective as they once were. Methods of affecting policy and direction of government have evolved, and new methods of advocacy are needed.

Rose hart RECOMMENDATION 5.1.1 (COMMON VOICE INITIATIVE)

It is recommended that the senior governments encourage and support the current Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association-led initiative to bring the economic players in Northwestern Ontario into a coalition that can identify and take action on key economic issues and opportunities by building a 'common voice' to advocate for the region with both public and private sector players. The study recognizes that the sub-activities of the initiative will need to be developed and supported based on their individual merit.

Priority #4

RECOMMENDATION 5.3.2 (NORTHERN DESK)

Background

This is a particularly critical time in the future of Northwestern Ontario. Strong political will is needed in order to see positive developments, particularly with respect to Aboriginal communities and economic development in the North. It is

particularly important and challenging because of the constitutional relationship requiring participation by the federal government in most issues relating to Aboriginal communities.

Increasingly in the Northwest, access to provincial ministries is by Internet or through Northern Development Officers with the MNDM. Input suggested that it would be beneficial to designate a 'Northern Desk' in the head office of each ministry. This would provide continuity in terms of a contact point for program and policy information, working through Northern provincial field staff. The identification of key contacts with Northern responsibilities in central agencies would greatly improve the access to, and quality of, the information being sought because the 'Northern Desk' would become very familiar with the programs and issues relevant to Northerners. This could be a pilot project mitigating some of the perceived negative issues relating to government centralization, and would be an initiative that would involve minimal cost.

Issue

This concept has merit; especially from a regional perspective where it is perceived that additional advocacy would benefit many projects that otherwise have difficulty getting the attention and support of central agencies. Having a senior-level "champion" at the table would provide the opportunities for fast action on regionally significant economic development projects. This is seen as an important and direct benefit of this model. Research indicated most models for development commissioners either focused on a particular economic crisis (such as a plant closure) or functioned as an Economic Development Commissioner attached directly to a senior political office. Interestingly enough, discussions with an outdoor equipment manufacturer that had gone through downsizing in Southern Ontario indicated that they felt there was no useful role for government in such restructuring. Northern communities' small size and single economic dependency may account for their support for the regional development commissioner concept.

Recommendation

It is recommended that MNDM work with the 'Economic, Environmental and Resources' group of Ontario ministries to establish a 'Northern Desk Model'. 'Northern Desk' officers in other ministries should be afforded the opportunity of regional familiarization through visits to the North.

"While there have been some successes, there is still a perception in the North that trying to explain why things cannot happen instead of actually making things happen." -Frank Pullia, Councilor, City of Thunder Bay

Priority # 5 Northern Development Commissioner

Rosehart RECOMMENDATION 5.3.3 (NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER)

Background

Northern Development Commissioner

Several times during the course of discussions the idea arose for a Northern Development Commissioner or a senior bureaucrat with direct access to senior levels of government, who could represent the region in dealing with issues and opportunities that are beyond the normal day-to-day parameters of line ministry staff and officials.

Issue

Northern Development Commissioner model.

A regional model for economic development in British Columbia was identified that most closely mirrored the Northwestern Ontario situation. A Northern Development Commissioner was appointed by legislation in 1998, to advocate for economic development and job creation in northern British Columbia. The Commissioner worked with regional groups and represented regional economic interests at the senior levels of government. This model functioned for almost four years, and indications are that it met with some success during that period. Follow-up research noted the absence of a Northern ministry to support the work of the Commissioner, and the geographic distance from the government central offices, as items to be addressed in developing a successful regional Northern

Recommendation

It is recommended that provincial and regional economic development partners further examine the development of a regional Northern Development Commissioner model that would advocate for economic development and job creation in Northwestern Ontario (or all of Northern Ontario).

Priority # 6 Forest Industry Champion Grow North Theme #1

Background RECOMMENDATION 8.1.1 (FOREST INDUSTRY SECRETARIAT) Forest Industry Champion

During the input phase of this study, there were many suggestions about how to resolve the issue of a lack of visible “champion” for forestry within the Ontario government. The most often-mentioned resolution was to move the forest industry group from within MNR to MNDM. This, perhaps, would be workable but other suggestions have been made as well. Because of the unique makeup of MNR, there is within one ministry both the forest industry group as well as the parks, wildlife and recreational sections, which can, at times, be complementary, and at other times adversarial. Another option would be to move the parks, wildlife and recreation groups to the environment ministry. Based on the input received and the issues raised, as well as looking at the entire sector, a less dramatic recommendation is being made. However, it is felt that this recommendation will indeed deal in an effective way with the concerns raised by the industrial sector.

Recommendation

It is recommended that, within the MNR, an arm's length Forest Industry Secretariat be established, having as a broad mandate the development of policies that would assist the forest industry in the province. It would report to the Minister and could be considered similarly to the Fire Marshall's Office to MCSCS or the Niagara Escarpment Commission to MNR.

Priority #7 Far North Road Development Grow North Theme 7

Background

In any society, reliable and reasonably priced transportation that provides needed access is vital to a successful economy. The lack of significant road infrastructure is an impediment to progress in light of the changing economic circumstances in Northwestern Ontario, particularly with respect to the interests of First Nations and Aboriginal people in becoming more significant players in the local economy and their interests in the resource sector (particularly mining). Winter road systems are increasingly unreliable and expensive to maintain, in part because of climate change, and are subject to potential environmental liabilities.

Issue

The time has come to explore the opportunity of a limited series of looping access roads for the Far North. As illustrated in Map #2 (Road System in Canada), all-weather road systems in Quebec and the western provinces go considerably further north than all-weather roads in Ontario, offering those provinces considerable access to small and remote communities in their respective North. Manitoba is currently working with Nunavut and the federal government on a Route Selection Study for an all-weather road that would link Rankin Inlet to the Manitoba road network, including an all-weather road link to the Port of Churchill. Improved access to currently remote areas of Ontario is seen as a critical step to stimulating and sustaining economic development in the region. While any new road developments would have to meet the strictest environment requirements, it is difficult to see why, if they have been successfully constructed in other provinces, an all-weather road system could not also be built to serve the Northern reaches of Ontario.

Recommendation

(REALIGNMENT OF WINTER ROADS)

Be it resolved that, as an interim measure to developing all-weather roads in Ontario's Far North, the senior levels of government support the realignment of winter roads to routes less dependent on ice roads and to locations more suitable to all weather road alignments.

"All I want is a road to my community."

**- Aboriginal Leader, Marten Falls, at
Matawa Tribal Council Chiefs**

**Meeting, October 22nd 2007, Thunder
Bay**

See Rosehart report MAP # 2: ROAD SYSTEM IN CANADA

Priority #8 (ALL-WEATHER ROAD STUDY)

Background

Another factor that makes future Far North road development attractive is the concept of convergence of infrastructure within common corridors. Over the next 15 years, there is a need to upgrade the telecommunications systems to remote communities (particularly in the western section of the province). This could be accommodated by a fibre-optic corridor adjacent to an all-weather road. In the same vein, several First Nation communities have considered local renewable-energy generation units from small scale hydro. Here, an all-weather road corridor would provide an opportunity for an associated transmission corridor. Benefits would include lower cost replacement of diesel-generated electricity and a significantly reduced environmental impact.

Issue

Where as First Nations that wish to be connected to an all-weather road could realize the benefits of easier access to traditional areas and to the region of Northwestern Ontario. This would create a significant economic advantage by lowering transportation costs of goods and services. As well, job creation and capacity-building opportunities would be presented during the construction phase and the maintenance of such all-weather roads.

In addition to these economic benefits, there would increasingly appear to be social, cultural, health and educational benefits for remote Northern communities by being better connected to the rest of the region and province. Current plans for realigning difficult sections of winter roads should be carried out with a view for the realignments to be located in proposed areas of all-weather road development.

Recommendation (ALL-WEATHER ROAD STUDY) Grow North Theme #7
Be it further resolved that Ontario commit in principle to supporting the Far North all-weather road development initiative, and make funding available in each of the next two years to lead a consultation process with environmental groups, communities, other levels of government and industry groups to work towards a detailed implementation plan that could be agreed upon by all stakeholders.

Priority # 9

RECOMMENDATION 14.1.1 (COMMUNITIES IN TRANSITION)

Background

Communities are constantly being told by the literature that small municipalities are not viable, and this is consistent with the current academic fascination with clusters. In reality, these communities are not disappearing, although they may be downsizing (or “right-sizing” as the small business sector is doing in many parts of Northwestern Ontario) and they need visible signs of support.

A good example of a community transition initiative applied on a regional and sector basis is the province's *Community Transition Program* to assist tobacco-growing communities to adjust to a more diverse economic base. This \$15 million fund was part of a \$50 million provincial initiative to assist both the industry and the residents of four counties in Southern Ontario move to a new and sustainable economy. The *Community Transition Program* provided one-window assistance to individuals, communities and businesses in making the adjustment to a more diverse and sustainable new economic reality. Fund parameters were established by a regional steering committee, and applications reviewed by a Project Approval Committee.

Issue

While there is an array of government programs designed to assist communities with economic and social development, there is no single program or package of programs tailored to helping communities deal with dramatic economic and social transitions. A specifically designed transition program would be of particular value in assisting smaller communities with their response to the economic and social change underway.

RECOMMENDATION 14.1.1 (COMMUNITIES IN TRANSITION)

It is recommended that a Community Transition Program be established for those communities in Northern Ontario negatively impacted by the downturn in the forest industry. This transition initiative should be modeled on the program developed by Ontario to assist with adjustments in the tobacco industry, and the province should work with community and business representatives and other levels of government to establish the parameters and delivery of the program to meet regional needs.

A prerequisite for such funding is the need for each municipality to go through a strategic planning process to give both short-term and long-term directions for their municipalities.

Priority # 10

RECOMMENDATION 13.0.3 (REGIONAL MAA OFFICE IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO)

It is recommended that a significant regional office of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs be established in either Sioux Lookout or Thunder Bay.

Section II.4 Thunder Bay C of C Priority List

9.0.1 Geosciences Mapping

See NOACC Section

14.2.1 Thunder Bay Incentive Mechanism

14.2.2 Tactical Plan for Thunder Bay

14.4.1 Buy Ontario

15.4.1 Apprenticeship Regional Pilot

Priority #1 Geosciences Mapping

See NOACC Section above

Priority #2

14.2 The City of Thunder Bay

Background

It is a practical reality that Thunder Bay is viewed as the capital of the region of Northwestern Ontario due to the relative size of the population of the city and its immediate surroundings compared to the region's total population (approximately half of the population of the Northwest). It is also apparent that, with today's economic development trends, the City of Thunder Bay is the only municipality in Northwestern Ontario that has the critical size to sustain the type of infrastructure (academic, medical, services, government) necessary to attract the clustered economic opportunities that present themselves in Canada today. For that reason, in order to have a healthy and prosperous Northwestern Ontario, it is important that Thunder Bay's economy be both diversified and able to respond to new opportunities and initiatives.

Issue

In a series of recent third party analyses, Thunder Bay has not fared particularly well in economic indicator comparisons. While some of these comparative efforts are primitive, they do continue to cast a negative image within the province and the country about Thunder Bay. All levels of government need to be proactive in making every possible effort to transition the City of Thunder Bay's economy as a key objective of any short- and long-term strategy to renew the economy of Northwestern Ontario. There are a number of existing provincial initiatives (such as GO North, Grow Bonds and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund) in place to assist Northern communities to grow business and attract investment to Northern Ontario. Practically speaking, it is very difficult to attract outside business interests to the City of Thunder Bay without significant incentives because of the competitive attractiveness of other jurisdictions. Since efforts to renew the economy of Thunder Bay should be a provincial priority, it is unlikely that a renewal strategy will be effective without the assistance of targeted incentives. There is a need for the senior levels of government to work together with the City of Thunder Bay to identify, secure and deliver on new and diverse economic opportunities to ensure its economic vitality.

RECOMMENDATION 14.2.1 (THUNDER BAY INCENTIVE MECHANISM)

It is recommended that the City of Thunder Bay Economic Development Corporation work with a senior provincial contact to design a custom series of incentives for each economic development opportunity, rather than a specific package of industrial and business incentives. These might include financial support for training, site preparation, various financial vehicles, and in some cases even government assuming an equity position in new enterprises.

Without downplaying the importance of long-term strategic planning, the economic situation for the City of Thunder Bay continues to deteriorate at a pace where short-term tactical strategies may have a positive impact.

See Appendix for full report and synopsis

Priority # 3

RECOMMENDATION 14.2.2 (TACTICAL PLAN FOR THUNDER BAY)

It is recommended that the appropriate provincial officials meet with the Thunder Bay Economic Development Corporation to develop a one to three year tactical plan to attract new economic opportunities to the City of Thunder Bay as soon as possible, to assist Thunder Bay in its role as the regional centre.

Priority #4 14.4.1 Buy Ontario Grow North Theme # 6

RECOMMENDATION 14.4.1 (BUY ONTARIO)

It is recommended that government procurement policies be pursued in the mass transit sector that support indigenous value-added

2007 NOACC Resolution Update

Priority #5

15.4.1 Apprenticeship Regional Pilot 14.4 Buy Ontario-Canada Issue

Background

Some degree of frustration was expressed by Northern community leaders and manufacturing sector representatives about the lack of “Buy Ontario-Canada” policies, especially with respect to the mass transit sector. Specific, positive examples were quoted, such as in the bridge construction sector, where a 10% **advantage is given to proposals citing the use of Canadian steel. These policies do exist to some degree. However, there is a limited appetite within government for such policies because they are subject to retaliatory measures.**

15.4 Apprenticeships

The study had considerable input concerning apprenticeship and trades programs, and the importance of these skills to the future economic health of Northwestern Ontario. At present, companies are apprehensive about investing in apprenticeships because the employment market in Western Canada has attracted skilled workers out of the region. It is not clear whether this out-of-region employment of skilled workers is necessarily bad for the economy, if the family units remain in Northwestern Ontario. On a positive note, some displaced skilled workers have migrated to opportunities in the mining sector. In the long term, the out-migration of skilled workers, along with the pending retirement of skilled trades people in the region, could cause severe worker shortages in forestry and mining that would impact their ability to maintain operations. A variety of new-economy value added operations would require skilled workers as well.

RECOMMENDATION 15.4.1 (APPRENTICESHIP REGIONAL PILOT)

It is recommended that the province institute on a regional pilot basis special grants and enhanced tax credits to employers and students to further encourage apprenticeship and trades training. Further, it is recommended that a regional pilot job-matching program be established for apprentices and trades, recognizing the broad geographic distribution of companies and potential apprentices across the region.

All too often, a potential student is identified in one community but the community lacks the apprenticeship position, or the apprenticeship position may be identified in another community but the student may be located elsewhere. This pilot program would work to link apprentice opportunities with potential students from across the region.



Section III

BUILDING PUBLIC POLICY CAPACITY IN THE NORTH



Section III.1 Introduction

BUILDING Public POLICY CAPACITY IN THE NORTH

Background

**“Part of the problem for Northwestern Ontario is that many of the most important decisions are being made thousands of kilometers away by people who are not as familiar or as interested with the issues and don’t have the time because they’re preoccupied by other things”
Livio Di Matteo.**

Public policy has a higher profile for Northern Ontario because of the preponderance of crown land and the effect this public ownership on the economy of Northern Ontario. Most aspects of all the lives of the citizens Ontario are affected by public policy but for northerners there is a more visibility because of crown land and a natural resource based economy.

The Ministry of Northern Development & Mines (MNDM) is primarily responsible for much of Northern Ontario policy and the Northern Development Councils (NDC) exist and is an effective Northern Ontario Policy capacity to build on. The Policy Institute would be a valuable NDC partner. This may be an additional appropriate model.

Quote Toward a Grow North Plan Discussion Paper Page May 2008

"In addition to the themes, there is a growing awareness of the need to build policy capacity in the North and ensure northerners have a strong voice in the policy development process"

NOACC 2009 Resolutions

7. ENHANCEMENT OF THE ROLE OF THE NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS

8. BUILDING A POLICY INSTITUTE OR POLICY CAPACITY IN THE NORTH

Concept Gleaned from

Strategies for Developing a Broadly Based Regional Knowledge Economy in Northwestern Ontario, June 2006 By Dr Livio Di Matteo Department of Economics Lake Head University Thunder Bay Ontario

See Paper in appendix

A Policy Institute for Northwestern Ontario:

Needs, Models and Structure

By Dr Livio Di Matteo Department of Economics Lake Head University Thunder Bay Ontario See Report in appendix

Executive Summary Recommendation

A Policy Institute for Northwestern Ontario:

Needs, Models and Structure

By Dr Livio Di Matteo Department of Economics Lake Head University Thunder Bay Ontario

That a policy institute for Northwestern Ontario be created with a mission to analyze economic, business, technological, scientific, and social issues and generate policy advice that can be applied to the region's economy and society. A Northwestern Ontario Regional Policy Institute (NWORPI), as well as serving as an arm's length source of policy advice to regional leaders, would serve as a repository of knowledge and data on the region and create a regional research and advocacy voice and serve as another driver of regional enhancement.

That an implementation committee consisting of key regional partners be struck to bring about the creation of the policy institute. At this stage, the North Superior Training Board should assume a leadership role in taking on the task of striking an implementation committee given its labour market policy role, its experience in organizing community events and forums, its tradition of engagement and its role in exploring the need for a policy institute. In particular, representation from First Nation's Communities is paramount at this stage. The role of the implementation committee would be to focus the mandate of the policy institute, ascertain the commitment of regional partners to the project, select an organizational and operational framework and seek funding partners.

Partner Support

Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and the Common Voice Initiative have recommended the formation and implementation of a Northwestern Ontario Policy Institute as contained in the Enhancing the Economy of Northwestern Ontario January, 2007. There is a recommendation contained in Northwestern Ontario: Preparing for Change Feb 2008 Northwestern Ontario Economic Development Facilitator Report # 5.2

Section III.2 NOACC Rosehart Priority #2

5.2 Northwestern Ontario Policy Institute

Background

Over the years there have been a variety of efforts to create Northwestern (Northern) databases and analysis capabilities by a variety of government and educational institutions, but none have been able to sustain their efforts on an ongoing basis. Having longitudinal, historical information on economic performance and public policy trends is important in order to understand the further evolution of Northwestern Ontario. This study looked at several options with respect to the establishment of a Policy Institute for Northwestern Ontario, and finds that the proposal being put forward by the North of Superior Training Board fulfills most of the objectives that would be desired. The Policy Institute would have the potential for sustained funding and would have an arm's length relationship with most other bodies in the Northwest.

Issue

The MNDM is primarily responsible for much of Northern Ontario policy and the Northern Development Councils exists and is an effective Northern Ontario Policy capacity to build on. The Policy Institute would be a valuable NDC partner.

Recommendation

It is recommended that senior government support the establishment of a Northwestern Ontario Policy Institute that would operate at arm's length from government and have a mission to analyze data on economic, business, technological, scientific and social issues, a an, and generate policy advice that can be applied to the region's economic and social development

Section III.3 Overview



Northwestern Ontario Policy Institute

Overview – for discussion and refining - December, 2008

Mission: The Northwestern Ontario Policy Institute conducts independent forward-looking research on business, scientific, economic and social issues and generates policy advice that will improve Northwestern Ontario's standard of living through sound economic and social policies.

Outcomes: As a result of the work of the NWO Policy Institute:

- ◆ Governments will receive policy advice on policy that identifies and meets the needs of NWO.
- ◆ Informed, timely commentary will be available on key issues related to economy, social issues, health, education, housing, energy, climate change, Aboriginal people, demographic change, transportation, business and resource management.
- ◆ Tools for advocacy on regional public policy issues will be available.
- ◆ Opportunities will be created for informed discussion of research findings.
- ◆ Results of the research will be published and distributed.

In his report "Northwestern Ontario: Preparing for Change (2008), Dr. Bob Rosehart, NWO Economic Facilitator said,

"Having longitudinal, historical information on economic performance and public policy trends is important in order to understand the further evolution of NWO."

Three Models for consideration and further development

Freestanding	Post-secondary Based	Consortium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - independent - Board of Directors - own funding, likely a combination of an endowment and project-based - public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - linked to either Confederation College or Lakehead University for administrative support, and access to researchers and graduate students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - linked to one or more of North Superior Training Board, Thunder Bay Economic Development Corp., Thunder Bay Ventures, Northern Ontario Development Network, Lakehead University, Confederation College, Common Voice Northwest, - administrative home in one of

membership	- guided by an Advisory Council	the above - guided by an Advisory Council of the consortium partners - NDC partnership
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Key ingredients for success

- Senior government support and money
- Multi-disciplinary focus
- Non-partisan approach

Next steps

Establish a Steering Committee to refine the approach.

1. Meet with the University of Toronto to discuss possible synergies with their recently announced Ontario-focused Institute for Policy Analysis.
2. Test for degree of interest and commitment with interested governments, potential funders and members.

Section III.4

Research Institute (Policy Institute) Task Force: Work continues on the development of the Research Institute and a more detailed report is expected for the next meeting of The CVNW Board of Directors.

NOACC Resolution 2009 #8

BUILDING A POLICY INSTITUTE OR POLICY CAPACITY IN THE NORTH

Background:

If Northern Ontario were a province, only British Columbia and Quebec would be larger. Northern Ontario covers over 800,000 square kilometres; nearly 90 percent of the Province of Ontario’s land area. It extends across two time zones, from Quebec in the east to the Manitoba border in the west. It stretches from Georgian Bay to Hudson Bay and James Bay. It is indeed a vast and magnificent land, an empire within a province. There is a “growing awareness of the need to build policy capacity in the North and ensure northerners have a strong voice in the policy development process”

Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and the Common Voice Initiative have recommended the formation and implementation of a Northwestern Ontario Policy Institute as contained in the Enhancing the Economy of Northwestern Ontario January, 2007.

The Ministry of Northern Development & Mines (MNDM) is primarily responsible for much of Northern Ontario policy and the Northern Development Councils (NDC) exist and are an effective Northern Ontario Policy capacity to build on. The Policy Institute would be a valuable NDC partner.

Issue:

The issue in Northwestern Ontario is that many of the important decisions are being made thousands of kilometers away by people who are not familiar with the issues of the North.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Be it resolved that Northwestern Ontario be proactive by the establishment of a Northwestern Ontario Policy Institute that would assist with the development of Growth North policies. The policy institute would be non-partisan.
- 2) Be it resolved that senior government support the establishment of a Northwestern Ontario Policy Institute that would operate at arm's length from government and have a mission to analyze data on economic, business, technological, scientific and social issues; and generate policy advice that can be applied to the region's economic and social development.
- 3) Be it resolved that examples of Arm's Length relationships such as Fire Marshall's Office to MCSCS or the Niagara Escarpment Commission to MNR be considered.
- 4) Be it resolved that the Rosehart Recommendation 5.2.1 be adopted, and that once the Northwestern model has proven to be valuable, it becomes a pan northern program.

Section III .5 NOACC Resolution 2009 #7

ENHANCEMENT OF THE ROLE OF THE NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS

Background:

Minister Michael Gravelle, Member of Provincial Parliament for Thunder Bay-Superior North states, "We look forward to an action-focused plan that will help to retain our youth, attract new investment and continue the work we have started related to diversification of our economy. Our government recognized the importance of initiatives like this with the establishment of the Northern Development Councils (NDC). We will take their input as well as that of others and move forward expeditiously on these ideas."

Issue:

NDC's are an important component of the Northern Growth Plan and an enhanced role would greatly increase the long-term value of the Northern Growth Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Be it resolved to expand the transparency of the Northern Development Council (NDC) systems by publishing all reports including monthly reports, minutes of meetings held and annual reports.
- 2) Be it resolved that the NDC's are enhanced and play an important role in the Grow North Plan.
- 3) Be it resolved that the NDC's be utilized to build policy capacity in the North and ensure northerners have a strong voice in the policy development process
- 4) Be it further resolved that a Pilot Project policy think tank be attached to the Northern Development Council system for the Northwest and be adopted as the model once the Northwestern model has proven to be viable.

See support Documentation in Section Appendix



Section IV.1 Introduction

NOACC Partnerships and Shared Visions

NOACC holds a firm belief in the value of partnerships and has a history of successful partnerships both here in Northwestern Ontario and beyond. We recognize their value and their importance for success in today's business environment. ' (NOACC speech at NOMA AGM 2008)

"Northwestern Ontario has many challenges ahead of us for future economic growth in our communities, but also, more importantly, we have many opportunities as well. I know it is a cliché but when we all work together we can make a significant difference for the betterment of all business....enabling us to develop and invigorate our economic climate." (NOACC speech at North Eastern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce 2008 NOCC AGM)

Section IV .2

NOACC Partnerships and Shared Visions

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Common Voice Northwest

The NWO Common Voice Initiative is a movement toward unified action by the citizens of Northwestern Ontario to chart their own course within the Province and the Country by addressing regional challenges with realistic Northern solutions.

Northwestern Ontario is a distinct geographic, economic and social space within Canada. The challenges it faces are as different and the contributions it makes to the Province and Country are unique. The complex decisions affecting the Northwest are best understood and made by those who live here.

Membership

Ontario must operate as consensual union that speaks clearly on common areas interest. This new Common Voice includes area, business, industry, labour, municipalities, unorganized areas, schools, university college healthcare institutions, development agencies and all other people who are invested in the Northwest.

Role

The role of the Common Voice will be to ensure that, to the best of its ability, and through co-operation with all of its partners, the people of the Northwest become more advantaged than they are today. The Common Voice will identify, promote and develop economic opportunities in and for Northwestern Ontario. It will also enter into a dialogue with all residents and interest groups of the Region to determine those projects that should be undertaken as a priority. To be heard clearly by the other regions of the Province and Country, Northwestern Ontario. The *Northwestern Ontario Common Voice Initiative* was undertaken by the Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) to engage and mobilize the citizens of Northwestern Ontario to “chart their own course within the Province and the Country by addressing regional challenges with realistic Northern solutions”.

The Common Voice has been working to identify, promote and develop economic opportunities in and for Northwestern Ontario, entering into dialogues with all residents and interest groups of the Region to determine those projects that should be undertaken as a priority.

Common Voice Northwest has created a number of sector-specific Task Forces and Committees that are designed to scope out both the issues facing the Northwest and to offer solutions to those issues. Each Task Force and Committee will be required to present the issues and solutions to the Common Voice Northwest Board of Directors and to convince that Board of the importance of pursuing these particular issues on behalf of the people of Northwestern Ontario. The Board in turn will prioritize the issues presented to them and then develop an action plan to convince the appropriate government to implement the suggested changes to public policy.

To begin the Common Voice is engaging the expertise of regional leaders within identified industries and challenged areas. These leaders are forming into Task Forces or Regional Committees to identify the issues and create action plans:

Section IV .3 Common Voice Task force Actions

Energy Task Force: The Ontario Energy Board hearings have been adjourned until March. N.W.O., represented by the City of Thunder Bay, the Township of Atikokan and the Energy Task Force was successful in getting our issues added to the OEB agenda and in part that has resulted in the delay of the hearings. In the New Year, the Energy Task force will re-engage to deal with other energy issues. See section IV

Regional Enhancement Task Force: A sub-committee of this task force is finalizing the details of the Employment Insurance changes as requested by the Common Voice Northwest Board. A final paper is expected shortly and it will be presented to the CVNW Board of Directors in time to be considered for input into the Federal Budget. See section IV

Research Institute Task Force: Work continues on the development of the Research Institute and a more detailed report is expected for the next meeting of the CVNW Board of Directors. See Section IV

Tourism Task Force: The Tourism Task Force has already brought forward its recommendations and objectives in the form of a report to the CVNW Board. The Board adopted the 5 key recommendations and instructed the Executive Committee to promote them. This committee will continue to meet as required to

identify additional common issues and to co-ordinate tourism activities.

Transportation Task Force: The Transportation Task Force has had its initial meeting to provide invited members with information about CVNW and its goals. A preliminary list of issues has been identified. Another meeting is planned to take place in the first half of January, where the first steps towards reaching a goal for the task force will take place.

Mining Task Force: The Mining Task Force has not yet come into being and in the New Year the CVNW administrator will be working towards development and implementation of this task force. **See Section IV**

Youth Task Force: The Youth Task Force is currently in its very early stages as communications between potential members and administration has only begun. We are looking to try and get a meeting in the works for January of the New Year.

Agricultural Task Force: Steps are being taken to get the Agricultural Task Force back in operation.

Immigration Task Force: This Task Force is in the formation stage around a Regional Portal and an Immigration Strategy. The organizers will be channelling their findings. See NOACC Resolutions in Section I

Grow North Themes and Forging the Future cross over

Towards a Growth Plan for Northern Ontario A Discussion Paper May 2008 Themes

Grow North Theme #1 Strengthen and advancing the resource-based industries.

Grow North Theme #2 Growing Emerging Sectors

Grow North Theme #3 Fostering Research Innovation and Commercialization

Grow North #4 Increasing education and training opportunities.

Grow North #5 Retraining and attracting people and jobs.

Grow North #6 Supporting business development and entrepreneurship.

Grow North #7 Making Strategic use of Infrastructure.

Application of Grow North Themes and Forging The Future Topics

Regional Decision Making policy page 10 of **Towards a Growth Plan for Northern Ontario A Discussion Paper May 2008**

Policy Institute

Regional Enhancement Committee policy
Community and Labour Adjustment

Economic Development

Energy Grow North theme #1

The Knowledge Economy Grow North theme # 4

Investment Incentive Zone Grow North theme #

Population and Business Regeneration Grow North theme # 5

Immigrant Integration Grow North theme # 4

Infrastructure and Resources

Communication Network. Grow North theme # 7

Diversified Economy Grow North theme #

Education and Training Grow North theme # 4

Social Housing Grow North theme # 7

Networked Regional Economy Grow North theme #

Youth Grow North theme # 4 / 5

Regional Tourism Grow North theme # 2

Northwestern Ontario Transportation Grow North theme # 7

See appendix for the complete Forging the Future Common Voice Document Link

See Common Voice Newsletter and Website

Section IV.4 Mining

“NOACC focuses as the voice and active link in the formulation of public policy contributing to the economic development and quality of life in Northwestern Ontario”.

Mines are community builders. They are partners in prosperity building. demonstrates how 480 direct mine jobs lead to 2,280 employment positions and how the output of a single mine contributes \$278 million to Ontario’s economy and \$84 million to government revenues annually.

Public policy has a higher profile for Northern Ontario because of the preponderance of crown land and the effect this public ownership on the economy of Northern Ontario. Most aspects of our lives for all of Ontario are affected by public policy but for northerners there is a more visibility because of crown land and a natural resource based economy.

Northern Ontario has many challenges ahead of us for future economic growth in our communities, but also, more importantly, we have many opportunities. We know it is a cliché, but when we all work together, we can make a significant difference for the betterment of all business, enabling us to develop and invigorate our economic climate during this historic global downturn.

“Mining is the key to Northwestern Ontario fortunes” Hon Michael Gravelle MPP Ministry Development and Mines. The Mining sector is positive and enthusiastic for the future. Mining is a significant element and tool for the Northern Ontario economic recovery. Mining in Ontario is a modern, high-tech, environmentally and socially responsible industry. In Ontario the mining cluster employs more than 200,000. Recently the OMA launched an economic study on the output, employment, and fiscal and tax contributions of a representative mine in Ontario.

Prospect North Mining Conference Report

The North-western Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce holds a firm belief in the value of partnerships and has a history of successful partnerships both here in North-western Ontario and beyond. We recognize their value and their importance for success in today’s business environment.

The first Prospect North Mining conference took place at the Travelodge Hotel Airline on Thursday and Friday, October 23 and 24, an initiative of the North-western Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. As far as anyone could recall, it was the first regional conference in the Northwest to engage mainly senior (major) mining companies, as opposed to junior exploration companies.

Co-Chair Barry Streib envisaged a series of annual conferences. Streib, President of NOACC, said, "In our next phase, I'd like to see a more global perspective." This phase would involve invitations to the mining sector all across Canada as well as beyond our country's borders. He stated that this conference, having 150 registered delegates, had met its attendance target.

The first Prospect North Mining Conference was an expensive undertaking but had a productive successful learning curve. The conference met its target attendance goal not only in numbers but also the blend of attendees. There were many one-time expenses that will be amortized over the next series of annual conferences. The marketing and promotional expenditures will be greatly reduced in the future conferences. We have established logos, display materials, designs poster artwork, letterhead etc. These investments will have long-term value and a strong base on which to deliver future conferences.

Iain McCormack Co-Chair of the Conference stated, "We wanted to create a learning opportunity for NOACC members as well as people in the mining and business community." Ian McCormack added, "We felt that First Nation communities and individuals should have and can have opportunities in that industry." NOACC's goal was to present "strategic perspectives" rather than to debate issues.

The success of the conference was not only in the mining sector as a learning experience, but there was significant success by providing a platform to share perspective with, especially our first nation partners.

One of the presenters, Terry Waboose, Deputy Grand Chief of Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) stated "Part of our mandate and job," he said, "is to educate . . . the broader community, including industry and governments and municipalities." His goal as presenter was to give the

perspective of First Nations on their relationships to government and the mining sector. He remarked that he had received positive feedback: "My message was well received." Outside the conference proper, the Province of Ontario and Matawa First Nations held a press conference late Friday morning in order to sign a letter of intent. Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, represented the government. The letter documented the common goal of developing a protocol on traditional Matawa lands. Terry Waboose (NAN) also commented, "It is a milestone because it opens up that dialogue with government for those First Nations that did sign."

Chris Hodgson OMA President described mining as "an energy-intensive industry" Energy prices continue to rise even though the industry has made great strides in achieving energy efficiency. Co-generation is one solution. Therefore, he said, "A megawatt saved should be as valuable as a megawatt generated." Hodgson alluded to the Ontario government's initiative to modernize the Mining Act, stating that it was imperative to strike a balance between social aspirations and a healthy industry.

As for Premier McGuinty's initiative to develop a land use strategy for the Far North, he said, "If we get this right, it would be a marvellous achievement." In conclusion, Hodgson emphasized that mining has a bright future, not the least because industry, governments, NGO's (specifically environmental groups), and First Nations appear to be pulling in the same direction.

The Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce and OMA also supported the Prospect North conference, as an initiative of NOACC and MNDM.

Barry Streib (NOACC) had previously remarked, "We're all partners in this thing whether we think we are or not."

Northwestern Ontario has many challenges ahead of us for future economic growth in our communities, but also, more importantly, we have many opportunities. I know it is a cliché, but when we all work together, we can make a significant difference for the betterment of all business, enabling us to develop and invigorate our economic climate during this historic global downturn.

Section IV .3 Mining recommendations

Creating a Competitive Climate for the Mining Industry in Ontario

Resolution NOACC Resolution 2008 #

10. Creating a Competitive Climate for the Mining Industry in Ontario

That the Provincial Government:

- 3) Eliminate retroactive taxation from the proposed diamond royalty increase that was introduced in the recent Provincial budget.

Return any future royalties or taxes collected from the mining industry to the north in specific revenue sharing agreements in order to develop the required infrastructure and to attract new technology and businesses that will provide sustainable development to Northern Ontario.

Recommendation

Be it resolved that the Rosehart recommendations be implement by priority as is fiscally responsible and that they receive high priority for consideration when Grow North policy is being formulated.

Priority #1

Implementation of the Geoscience Mapping Rosehart Recommendation # 9.0.1 Response to North of 51 Issue

Whereas the Province has embarked on a massive swath of Northern Ontario boreal forest considered the world's largest carbon storehouse, to be off-limits to forestry and mining activities under a plan that will also guarantee First Nations a share of resource revenues north of the 51st parallel, measures 225,000 square kilometers.

Whereas The Ontario Mining Association agreed it could take 15 years to map out the area's mineral potential, environmental features and vulnerable species,

Whereas the Ontario position is: "We don't want to compromise that, but we do want to ensure that our mining efforts in the province of Ontario are respectful of Ontarians, aboriginal and non-aboriginal alike."

Whereas it is also promised that legislation will be introduced this fall to overhaul Ontario's Mining Act to deal with complaints that prospectors can stake lands for exploration without consulting the owners.

Whereas the considerable excitement about current levels of mining exploration, and a very strong feeling in the mining sector about the potential for new economic mineral deposits being found in Northern Ontario.

Where as In the short term, the mining exploration expenditures driven by capital (often raised by the "Flow-through Share" vehicle) create significant short-term goods and service expenditures and employment in the North. Key reasons for this activity continues to be the record high-level prices of most mineral commodities and Ontario's international reputation as a good location of mineralization and world class mining infrastructure. Ontario's mining sector is being further strengthened through the cluster building OMICC initiative that is bringing together sector partners to further integrate mining developments in service and value added opportunities in Northern Ontario.

Whereas there is a level of concern in Northern Ontario related to future mine developments. Very few new mines have been developed in the last ten years and efforts are needed to increase the probability that economically viable deposits will be found. In terms of geoscience and geophysical mapping, in the past few years, the responsibility to generate such initiatives has fallen on individual Northern communities to apply for funding from agencies such as the NOHFC and FedNor.

Whereas this sector is far too important to both Ontario and Canada not to have the senior levels of government as active participants in the provision of such base scientific information.

Where as the last significant Canada-Ontario program with respect to geosciences dates back to the 1980s. Geosciences mapping is a key element to attracting the private sector, in the form of prospectors and exploration companies, to invest their time and money in discovering a potential new mine site.

Be it resolved that a major five-year initiative related to geosciences and geophysical mapping be undertaken under the direction of the Ontario Geological Survey, with efforts to involve the Government of Canada as a partner.

Be it resolved that such an initiative would involve necessary consultation and participation of First Nations as well as local communities. It is important that this initiative start as soon as possible because of lingering concerns about the stability of the currently high commodity prices, and about the maturity of some of the existing mines in Northern Ontario.

Be it resolved that this particular initiative relates to the Northeast and the Northwest, as well especially as the Far North of 51 areas of the province.

Be it resolved that the geoscience-mapping project is started immediately to alleviate investment discomfort for the future.

Section IV .4 The following are the key principles and/or elements suggested for inclusion in NOMA's presentation to the Mining Act Consultations:

1. Taxation & Royalties

- a. That any structure or substructure of a mine located within or underneath a municipality be taxed by the municipality at the heavy industrial rate. This will include any shafts (regardless of their function) and any lateral tunnels regardless of where the head frame is located
- b. Any mine located within 100 miles of an existing municipality shall make a payment in lieu of taxes to that municipality as if the entire mine was located within the boundaries of the municipality. The location of the mine shall be defined as that point closest to the municipality's boundary. If more than one municipality is located within the 100-mile radius of the mine the PILT will be pro-rated based on the existing assessment of each community.
- c. Where a mine is located in excess of 100 miles from a community that has been designated as a service point by the mining company 10% of the royalty normally paid to the Province of Ontario shall be paid to the designated municipality in recognition of the costs associated with serving a venture serviced long distance.

2. Approvals

- a. That any exploration within the municipal boundaries be subject to the normal building permit system. For example, any proposed drilling must receive municipal approval prior to the construction of any access roads, clearing of land or placement of a drill – regardless of the ownership of surface or mineral rights.

3. Consultation

That any exploration company be required to confidentially inform the municipality within which exploration is to take place or within any lands within 100 miles of the boundaries of the municipality, of their plans and objectives.

That NOMA calls on the Government of Ontario to recognize Aboriginal, First Nation and Metis rights over certain lands and to ensure that the mining act reflect full and meaningful consultation regarding exploration and development in lands where the Aboriginal, First Nation and Metis peoples have traditional rights and responsibilities.

See section IV appendix



Section IV.5 Forestry

Forestry Recommendations from the Ontario Forestry Coalition Wednesday, December 17, 2008 / 2009 Pre-Budget Submission to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs

The Task

The task is to find and fund new solutions and investment in the next budget that will assist our **forest industry back on its feet** - not just for the short term but the long term - so we can put those 6,000 people back doing what they know best! For Northern Ontario **the Forest Industry is our Auto Industry!** It's important to our economy far exceeds the importance of the auto sector to Southern Ontario's economy on a relative population basis. We have already seen more than two thirds of our forest work force laid off.

NOACC as sponsor and partner of the Forestry supports and endorses the following recommendations.

Maintenance of the Industrial Fibre Basket

Access to a predictable, continuous supply of fibre is a fundamental component of a healthy forest industry and is a necessity to ensure continued investment in existing primary and secondary products as well as new wood products, like biofuel pellets. As Ontario continues to move toward the implementation of a green economy, we need to ensure that the appropriate level of resources is made available to the forest sector.

For every 1,000 m³ reduction in harvest levels 3.1 jobs are lost. This translates into approximately 3.1 jobs lost for every 625 hectares of productive Crown forest taken out of production in the current planning area. Numerous environmental groups have suggested that forest operations should not be permitted within woodland caribou range, a position that if acted upon would result in a withdrawal of almost 8 million hectares of productive forest within the current planning area. Estimating conservatively, this would result in over 20,000 job losses to the forest sector alone.

In 2002, in the "*Final Report of the Ontario Forest Accord Advisory Board on the Implementation of the Accord*", representatives of the forest industry, the Government of Ontario, and the environmental sector recognized the long-term supply of wood necessary for industrial processing is 24 million cubic metres per year (m³/yr).

In March 2008 this vision was re-confirmed by Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources, Donna Cansfield, in a letter to the OFIA, which stated, "I support the concept of a secure long-term fibre

supply for the forest industry. I also recognize the relevance of the 24 million m³/yr for the forest industry as a benchmark”.

As the forest sector looks toward better economic times, maintaining our sector’s access to 24 million m³ will be essential, not only to ensure the continued operation and associated benefits (e.g. good paying jobs) of existing mills, but to attract additional, new investment to Ontario to capitalize on expanding and newly emerging markets and to create new jobs.

A long-term, predictable and secure fibre supply is integral to the government’s vision of growing our green economy. We cannot afford to forego these opportunities by eroding our resource base.

This recommendation will not cost the Ontario Government one cent and therefore will have no impact on the Government’s budget except for ensuring that once the industry recovers taxes, stumpage and other fees will begin to flow back to the Ontario treasury.

Endangered Species Act The Ontario Forestry Coalition continues to be very concerned that additional reduction of fibre supply will occur through implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Those concerns are further exacerbated by the government’s public statement that it would “implement the Endangered Species Act, beginning with a plan to protect large scale areas for caribou habitat in the Boreal Forest”. This statement alone creates uncertainty for our sector.

The forest sector of Ontario, through the implementation of our world class, platinum standard Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA), currently provides for the protection and recovery of species at risk, including woodland caribou. In the government’s own words, “The Crown Forest Sustainability Act requires that Forest Management Plans (FMP) identify threatened and endangered species as “featured species” and provide for their protection within the area covered by the plan.”

And we have the track record to prove it. Forest management in Ontario has directly contributed to the recovery of numerous species including southern flying squirrel, red-shouldered hawk, and the bald eagle.

The government needs to recognize that the current forest management planning process addresses the objectives of the ESA in order to ensure that the implementation of the new Endangered Species Act does not result in a withdrawal of the land base or a reduction in fibre supply.

Maintain Competitive Measures Put in Place Since 2005

Since 2005 the Government of Ontario has implemented several key measures/strategies to help restore the competitiveness of Ontario’s forest sector. These include:

1. Road maintenance and construction funding
2. Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) funding
3. Wood promotion funding

4. The creation of a Forest Sector Prosperity Fund
5. A loan guarantee program
6. Northern Pulp and Paper Electricity Program

Today, we are witnessing the benefits of these programs that are allowing viable mills to remain open. In addition, these initiatives are creating an economic environment that is stimulating investment with the introduction of new technologies into mills as the forest sector continues to transform itself in preparation for better economic times.

In the words of Premier McGuinty, the objective of the various competitive measures is “to help the sector meet the challenges it currently faces and become more competitive in the global marketplace.” As many of the challenges currently facing the forest sector are not anticipated to recede until at least 2010, continuation of these programs will be vital in achieving the Premier’s vision.

The OFC requests that the Government of Ontario maintain all existing competitiveness measures and initiatives that have been put in place since 2005.

Source Forestry Coalition

NOACC is an active member and participant in Forestry Coalition and the Common Voice Energy Task Force

Section IV.6 Energy Position Industrial Electricity Rate

Ontario’s economy is heavily dependent on manufacturing which has been hard hit by the global market crises. A significant factor in determining operation and investment of many manufacturing facilities is competitive industrial electricity costs.

The August 2008 report “Economic Impacts on the Ontario Economy of Different Price Scenario’s of Natural Gas and Electricity,” prepared for the Centre of Spatial Economics, concluded that high prices for electricity increase production costs leading to reductions of exports, increases in imports, lower investment and lower employment.

Ontario’s manufacturing sector has shed well in excess of 200,000 jobs in the past two years.

To assist in restoring competitiveness to the province’s manufacturing sector, the Government of Ontario needs to implement a temporary industrial electricity rate that is competitive with other jurisdictions in Canada and the United States.

Industrial electricity rates are used in the majority of industrialized nations as an economic development tool. In Ontario, industrial rates should serve as a temporary bridging mechanism that improves competitiveness. Further, industrial rates will help manufacturers weather the current economic storm and position themselves to compete after the global economic recovery occurs.

This recommendation will help all sectors in the Forest Industry but as importantly will help the auto sector, the parts sector and the steel industry as well. By taking such a broad approach we will avoid any softwood lumber challenges from the United States.

Source Forestry Coalition

NOACC is an active member and participant

Bottom Line + Industrial energy rate

NOACC supports the undertakings of NOMA Energy Task Force

Ontario Energy Board's direction regarding the **Integrated Power System Plan and Procurement Processes**. This plan identifies the future dates that have been set for closing the two coal-fired electricity-generating stations in the Northwest. The organization has stepped up to the plate on this one with the concerns about constrictions and the region's ability to function efficiently and attract new industry or economic activity that require significant amounts of electricity.

Common Voice Task Force Actions

Energy Task Force: The Ontario Energy Board hearings have been adjourned until March. N.W.O., represented by the City of Thunder Bay, the Township of Atikokan and the Energy Task Force was successful in getting our issues added to the OEB agenda and in part that has resulted in the delay of the hearings. In the New Year, the Energy Task force will re-engage to deal with other energy issues. **See section IV Forestry**

Industrial hydro rate

- Increased industrial hydro rates have been a significant factor in forestry job losses, as energy costs in this sector are a big part of the overall cost structure.
- **Energy policies have resulted in tremendous challenges for major power users. Since 2003, all included rates for major power users have gone up by 40%.**
- Manitoba has lower rates for major power users, and while forestry mills and paper machines have been closing shop in Ontario, Manitoba hasn't seen one permanent shutdown.
- Our proposal would make Ontario's forestry sector more competitive by introducing an industrial hydro rate in the \$45-55 MGh range (all in) for resource-based and manufacturing consumers. The rate would be guaranteed for 5 years. This will help auto and steel sectors as well as forestry.
- To qualify, firms would have to negotiate a "community benefits" package. Elements of the package might include negotiated jobs, investment and environmental initiatives.
- Based on a historical commodity prices, it's estimated the program would cost \$450 million annually in benefits for participating firms.

See Appendix section IV

See submissions

See Interveners Report

Section IV .7

Innovation Partnerships and Shared Visions

Introduction

Background

The "Culture of Innovation" is not a commodity that can be purchased. It is acquired through action, participation and the collective will to succeed and participate actively in our culture of innovation. The future of all Canadians, our collective well-being and our national pride must depend on it. This is even more important for regional Canada especially Northern Ontario as the comparative economic advantage of exploiting natural resources declines.

The region of NWO has many negative demographic and economic indicators. NWO's historical pursuit of comparative economic advantage in exploiting natural resources-industries that are very capital intensive- with its consequent reliance on foreign capital, while successful will be challenged in the twenty-first century. It is **not** suggested that this historical pursuit be abandoned. The knowledge based economy to which Canada is headed, demands that we reconsider this highly specialized economic status of Northern Ontario and move beyond such a simplistic strategy. There is a continuum of events and successful undertakings leading up to the proposal. Two examples are the Molecular Medical Research Centre (MMRC) and the NOIC Northern Ontario Innovation center and the Northern Ontario Commercialization Initiative NOCI.

General Recommendations

1. A supportive business environment for commercialization. We need senior government to support programs and existing commercialization players in the North (not in S. Ontario claiming to support the North) to build effective linkages between the private sector (e.g. SMEs, angel investors, and other organizations) and research institutions. This must be done at a local level with linkages to broader networks.
2. We must support SMEs effort in the final stages of the commercialization process, the go to market strategies. In Northern Ontario, successfully launching an innovation into the broader marketplace is a challenge. We currently do not have any financial support mechanisms to assist with these costs. Private sector will often not participate until the initial response from the market is received.
3. Government programs to support innovation must be flexible and responsive. They must recognize that they are supporting talent and people. This talent is not only at the research level but also at the entrepreneurial and business level. Programs must be flexible enough to get behind a management team that can make commercialization a reality. The bureaucracy of these programs should be able to provide an indication of funding within 45 days of a completed application. Emerging technology programs that result in the private sector SME waiting 3 to 6 months for an answer are ineffective.

Specific Recommendations

Enhancement to the Ontario Innovation Tax Credit (OITC).

Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce Dec1, 2008 Pre Budget Consultations

Background

10% of the first \$2 million in Federally qualifying Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) expenditures that take place in Ontario. Program is geared specifically towards small and medium sized, Canadian Controlled Private Corporations conducting Research and Development (R&D) in Ontario. The OITC is a "Refundable Tax Credit", putting \$ in the pockets of companies pursuing product and process development. It is better than a grant or subsidy, because the qualifying criteria are established and rigorous. It is well-suited for a wide variety of industries, non-discriminating towards forestry, manufacturing, biotech, industrial processes, environmental science, etc.

RECOMMENDATION:

Increase credit to 25% of first \$2 million in qualifying Scientific Research and Experimental Development expenditures

ADDITIONAL VALUE NOTES:

- The increase can be made quickly within the established program framework – quick and easy.
- Program administration costs are already borne by Canada Revenue Agency, so the provincial enhancement will go directly into the pockets of businesses that need it
- May even attract companies doing R&D elsewhere in Canada to consider doing R&D in Ontario (case in point: Quebec has best provincial SR&ED regime geared towards pharmaceutical companies, and they have been very successful in attracting R&D investment)

Additional Notes

Encompasses scientific research, applied and basic (with and without practical applications for the research) and experimental development of a new product or process (devices, materials, etc.) During a time of economic slow down, corporations may look into options for expansion in other areas. For example; a company, whose primary customer may have been the forestry section, may look to other options to service other sectors. When claiming for SR&ED, a corporation is claiming the costs to develop the intellectual property necessary for its long-term competitiveness and survival.

Section IV .8 Common Voice Grow North Theme #3

Innovation as an Economic Development Driver

Growing our Knowledge Economy for Northwestern Ontario

Gleaned from NOMA Regional Recovery Plan

Forging the Future Background Notes

An economy in transition:

The growing trend for a knowledge economy:

Issue Description

Northwestern Ontario's traditional economy, heavily dependent on our resource sector is in decline. The trend cannot be reversed.

Issue solutions

“We must change in ways both innovative and creative. Success will depend on recognizing and building on our strengths and embracing the new knowledge economy. Leadership is about charting new directions, using our natural resources differently, and creating networks and partnerships that will result in strong communities, new business and sustainable employment.

Northwestern Ontario is a vast region of many diverse communities with a total population of 240,000 (app). Thunder Bay and its close suburban municipalities form the major urban "hub" with a population of 125,000 (app.). A remarkably strong Education Sector and a dynamic emerging Health Sector has been evident in the last ten years. There is a trend to new job growth in the knowledge economy. Unfortunately, that growth has not compensated for the job loss in the traditional resource based economy.”

(Livio Di Matteo, Strategies for Developing a Broadly Based Knowledge Economy in Northwestern Ontario) LU 2006

Realizing the Vision

- Northwestern Ontario's Education and Health Sector will be recognized both nationally and internationally. Our measure of success will be tied directly to achieving a full partnership with aboriginal people and their communities, our regional and rural communities and Thunder Bay.
- Creating a consortium of education and health sector partners:
- Few communities in North America can equal our education, health and research capacity and potential: strong public and separate school systems, Lake head University, Confederation College, Negahneewin College, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, the Regional Health Sciences Centre, the Cancer Care Centre, St. Joseph's Care Group, excellent regional school boards, hospitals and health centres, and the new Bio-Technology Research Centre.
- The "knowledge economy" will flourish as the region becomes known as a destination for education, health care, research, business partnering and mentoring, and "learning and playing."
- Use informed stewardship of our traditional resources, trees, water, and minerals, for a sustainable future and "value added" that directly benefits our residents and communities.
- The region's "special niches" will focus on proven solutions for growth and stability of rural, remote and aboriginal communities.

Recognize the Health and Education Sector as a "key" driver for regional recovery:

- **Articulation of the vision for** building and strengthening the knowledge economy in Northwestern Ontario in all communication with government ~ formal recognition of the importance of the knowledge economy by NOMA and the Regional communities.
- **Special status for knowledge sector initiatives** through resolution of Thunder Bay and other municipal councils promotion of the vision of the knowledge economy in publications and virtual marketing across Northwestern Ontario

Create and fund an integrated Education and Health Sector Secretariat to:

- Establish a common understanding of the needs of the region for health and education through broad and intensive needs assessment
- Provide one voice to government to achieve our goals
- Identify our individual and collective strengths
- Determine pathways to partnerships ~ expand the sharing of resources, Infrastructure, and expertise ~ model cooperation vs.
- Competition to intensify the impacts of a knowledge economy
- Focus on common issues and strategic directions to move the knowledge agenda forward.

Establish an Opportunities Fund for sector partners to

- Create "spin offs" of our unique niches such as applying distributed learning models to new occupations
- Expand delivery to regional communities with a priority for universal guaranteed broadband access and affordability for all residents

- Establish transportable education solutions for "on-site" trades and skills training for individuals and companies
- Commit to "guaranteed access" for re-tooling workers and qualifying residents of our rural, remote and aboriginal communities to ensure they can be active participants in new and value added expansions in our region.

Establish a Northwestern Ontario Innovation Fund for the education and

Health sector that will:

- Enable the consortium partners to increase their research capacity
- Seek partners for specific research niches
- Test and apply research outcomes that can be implemented in our communities engage our communities in research ~ link nationally and internationally with business and industry interested in research.

Fund the development and marketing to sell "the brand" –

- Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario as a Centre for Knowledge and Lifestyle both nationally and internationally)
- Expand the opportunity for sector partners to participate in education missions, trade missions, national and international conferences and workshops host national and international events) communities)
- Capitalize on our unique solutions for small to middle sized communities and emerging health and education systems
- Conduct community readiness projects that will prepare business and communities for more intensive cultural diversity through the introduction of the "Friends of International" model
- Create an international focus for Thunder Bay as a good place to come to - visitors, students, professionals and immigrants "come to learn and stay to play,"
- Sell training and education expertise with the added value of nature and safe

See Appendix Section IV Innovation Partnerships and Shared Visions

Section IV.9 Tourism

Common Voice Northwest Tourism Task Force

Top Five Recommendations: Summary

1. That the roles and responsibilities of the Northern Ontario Regional Travel Associations (NORTAs- In NWO Sunset Country & North of Superior Tourism Association) be expanded and funding be increased to enable them to serve as leaders for tourism in Northwestern Ontario, more adequately addressing the issues that have been repeatedly identified by stakeholders as barriers to success in tourism.
2. That in recognition of the many crown land and resource management-related issues causing investment uncertainty for resource-based tourism operators in Northwestern Ontario, endorse the recommendations of the Provincial Resource-Based Tourism Working Group (PRBTWG)

3. That a Northern Development Fund be established to provide low interest/interest deferred loans to tourism stakeholders and/or that providing tax credits and increasing the rate of depreciation of equipment.
4. That a review of provincial Ministry roles and responsibilities regarding tourism in Northwestern Ontario to streamline support for tourism marketing, development, investment and training.
5. That changes in policies, practices and regulations regarding border crossings and in particular harmonize border crossing rules with those of United States as it relates to ease of access should be encouraged.

The Members of the Tourism Task Force are:

- Sunset Country Tourism
- North of Superior Tourism Association (NOSTA)
- Northern Ontario Native Tourism Association (NONTA)
- Kenora District Camp Owners Association/Northwestern Ontario Tourism Association (KDCA/NWOTA)
- Patricia Region Tourist Council
- Tourism Thunder Bay
- Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association operating as Nature & Outdoor Tourism Ontario (NOTO)
- NOACC (inactive)
- Common Voice Northwest (inactive)

Common Voice Northwest has created a number of sector-specific Task Forces and Committees that are designed to scope out both the issues facing the Northwest and to offer solutions to those issues. Each Task Force and Committee will be required to present the issues and solutions to the Common Voice Northwest Board of Directors and to convince that Board of the importance of pursuing these particular issues on behalf of the people of Northwestern Ontario. The Board in turn will prioritize the issues presented to them and then develop an action plan to convince the appropriate government to implement the suggested changes to public policy.

The recently formed Northwestern Ontario Regional Tourism Council (NWORTC) expresses their support for the initiative to look at ways to increase Ontario's share of the global tourism market as well as to offer our input and assistance.

Early in the process, Common Voice engaged the expertise of regional leaders within identified industries and challenged areas to form Task Forces or Regional Committees to identify the issues and create action plans. Out of this, a Northwestern Ontario Regional Tourism Council (NWORTC) with the mandate of “developing and fostering a Northwestern Ontario tourism strategy which addresses key issues, including planning, policy and product development” was formed.

NWORTC has undertaken to develop a *Tourism Industry Inventory, Survey and Gap Analysis* for all of Northwestern Ontario. Under the direction of the Council, a consultant has been working to:

1. Substantiate the fundamental issues that affect investment readiness across all of Northwestern Ontario by researching the primary issues identified by NWORTC.
2. Conduct a primary literature review of the tourism industry in Northwestern Ontario focusing on a review of strategic plans, studies and reports that address the identified issues

and tourism marketing materials produced by various tourism marketing associations, economic development bodies, municipalities and other major stakeholders.

3. Survey regional and industry leaders for their expertise and insights into the future of the tourism industry in Northwestern Ontario and specifically how to address the identified issues.
4. Identify gaps that represent real and perceived barriers to investment in the tourism industry in Northwestern Ontario.
5. For each issue; list and summarize the relevant literature, provide context / background to the issues, identify potential solutions (short, medium & long term) and develop a recommendation to address the issue that identifies time-lines, responsibilities, resources, next steps and follow-up (implementation) details.
6. Develop a presentation for NOMA and other orders of government, industry and stakeholders.
7. Produce a final report that will be distributed to NOMA, its members, the Tourist Associations and other major stakeholders.
8. We look forward to working with you to help to build a stronger Ontario tourism industry and wish you every success in this vitally important initiative

Northern Communities Investment Readiness Tourism Inventory, Survey and Gap Analysis- Phase One

FOREST Marketing+Communications

Patricia Forrest March, 2008

Executive Summary:

Initiated by the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, the Northwestern Ontario Common Voice Initiative has led to the creation of several task forces and committees including the Northwestern Ontario Regional Tourism Council (NWORTC) whose mandate is "developing and fostering a Northwestern Ontario tourism strategy which addresses key issues, including planning, policy and product development".

The members of the NWORTC are:

- Sunset Country Tourism
- North of Superior Tourism Association (NOSTA)
- Northern Ontario Native Tourism Association (NONTA)
- Kenora District Camp Owners Association/Northwestern Ontario Tourism Association (KDCA/NWOT A) Patricia Region Tourist Council
- Tourism Thunder Bay
- Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association operating as Nature & Outdoor Tourism Ontario (NOTO)

The Council identified the following priority issues for tourism in Northwestern Ontario:

- The roles and funding of tourism organizations and agencies
- Border issues
- The state of tourism infrastructure"
- Land use and related matters
- Marketing effectiveness
- Tourism product development

The Council also asked that the issue of the investment readiness of Northwestern Ontario tourism be addressed.



Section V

Economic Stimulus



Section V.1 Economic Stimulus

NOACC Strongly supports the Grow North Plan

The economy of Northern Ontario historically has always suffered economic decline before southern Ontario when global and local conditions dictate. The North is always first to decline and last to recover.

A Growth Plan for Northern Ontario will focus on achieving a more sustained pattern of growth, recognizing unique challenges such as stemming youth out-migration, creating sustainable regions and improving infrastructure networks.

The plan will build on the good work already done by northern residents, the Northern Development Councils and northern municipalities, who have studied and prioritized the challenges and opportunities for sustainable growth in Northern Ontario

The plan will also build on the government's actions and successes through the Northern Prosperity Plan, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, the Forest Sector Competitiveness Strategy and other many initiatives.

Whereas a seventeen-member ministers table, the "G-North", has been established to coordinate and align resources, policies and investments to support the development and implementation of a northern growth plan. The G-North had its inaugural meeting on June 20, 2007.

The Grow North Plan has taken on greater significance because of the upcoming Economic stimulus.

Economic Stimulus

Since the Northern Grow Plan has been initiated before the recognition of the historic global downturn. The forestry industry was in the forefront of this downturn so Northern Ontario has experience and lessons to share. The Grow Plan is a medium to long term legislatively framed undertaking. It is necessary to now to factored into the Grow North Plan an immediate economic stimulus. There will be a provincial wide stimulus package in the next budget most likely driven by infrastructure. This should become a key ingredient of the Northern Grow Plan.

The province of Ontario is in a period of deteriorating prospects. The North is used to difficult economic times and would like to recover at the same time as the total province not after. There will be a recovery. The Growth Plan for Northern Ontario is an exciting and reassuring development; however, it is a long term (25- 30 year project).

But the economy will recover and be stronger than ever.

Infrastructure as the Initial Economic Development Basis for the Northern Growth Plan
NOACC RES 2009 # 4

5. Be it resolved that transportation infrastructure form the basis of the Northern Growth Plan.
6. Be it resolved that the transportation strategies of Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins be emphasized in the Grow North Plan.
7. Be it resolved that the "Federal Infrastructure" funding be utilized for the economic development of Northern Ontario.

Be it further resolved that northern communities are supported with infrastructure development.

Employment Fairness will play a major role in the economic stimulus and recovery. See Reform section IV. See NOACC Resolutions in Appendix Section I

Cooperation between all levels of Government is absolutely necessary for a successful economic recovery. See Cooperation information in the section.

Section V.2 Economic Stimulus Infrastructure

Responsible Economic Stimulus

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE 2009 Resolution #4

INFRASTRUCTURE AS THE INITIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BASIS FOR THE NORTHERN GROWTH PLAN

Background:

Northern Ontario is served by an extensive highway network, rail lines that connect to the U.S. and eastern and western Canada, the Great Lakes seaway, and 68 airports including Ontario's third busiest, located in Thunder Bay. As well, recent advances in broadband services have closed the gap in connectivity, with approximately 95% of northerners now able to connect to the internet. Parts of this region are bordered by two U.S. states (Minnesota and Michigan). With four U.S. border crossings and two international ports, Northern Ontario is considered a "gateway to the American mid-west" and to the commodity rich western Canada. This is an asset for the region.

Northern Ontario is a major portion of the Saint Lawrence Seaway major harbours The Seaway is important to SSM and TB. SSM has embarked on north south transportation strategy

Thunder Bay has always carried bridge traffic to the west. Now the western boom has enhanced the significance of this route and the transportation bridge has higher value. The City of Thunder Bay has embarked on a dynamic and comprehensive economic development strategy with a strong transportation infrastructure component to capitalize on this western boom.

Sault St Marie has a North south intermodal plan to move containers from Asia to the US mid west. This is vision requires support and to play an important role in the Grow North plan. Timmins has an air transportation boom and a long-term view to connect to James Bay shipping traffic as climate change makes it practical.

Sudbury and North Bay are being connected by 4-lane high way to southern Ontario, which gives them greater advantage, and opportunity is part of southern Ontario economy because of travel time and safety. There is an advantage of geographic proximity.

Issue:

In any society, reliable and reasonably priced transportation that provides needed access is vital to a successful economy. The lack of significant road infrastructure is an impediment to progress in light of the changing economic circumstances in Northwestern Ontario, particularly with respect to the interests of First Nations and Aboriginal people in becoming more significant players in the local economy and their interests in the resource sector (particularly mining). Winter road systems are increasingly unreliable and expensive to maintain, in part because of climate change, and are subject to potential environmental liabilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Be it resolved that transportation infrastructure form the basis of the Northern Growth Plan.**
2. **Be it resolved that the transportation strategies of Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins be emphasized in the Grow North Plan.**
3. **Be it resolved that the “Federal Infrastructure” funding be utilized for the economic development of Northern Ontario.**
4. **Be it further resolved that northern communities are supported with infrastructure development.**

V.3 Recommendations of AMO Dec 15, 2008**AMO Infrastructure Resolution****Issue:**

The federal government is undertaking consultations with Canadians in advance of its planned January 2009 Budget. Consultations are being undertaken by the Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, which will include a discussion of measures intended to stimulate the economy. Transport, Infrastructure and Communities Minister John Baird will also be consulting on how to accelerate infrastructure funding within the federal Building Canada Fund (BCF) to improve infrastructure and create jobs in all parts of Canada. AMO member municipal governments are encouraged to add their voices to these consultations.

Background:

AMO met with Minister Baird in November to discuss ways to accelerate BCF Funding and followed up with a detailed letter to Minister Baird on December 4, 2008, which is attached for your information. The letter included options that AMO believes will best help to accelerate current BCF investments in infrastructure:

1. Increase the amount of funding for the current \$200 million intake of the BCF Communities Component in Ontario (for communities under 100,000 population) which closed in late November;
2. Use BCF to support asset renewal projects that can be implemented quickly - not limiting funding to new projects;
3. Initiate an open call for proposals for the BCF Major Projects category intended for projects exceeding \$30 million;

4. Use Federal Gas Tax accountability mechanisms for all BCF projects in order to expedite projects - providing up-front funding of federal funds rather than reimbursement based on complex contribution agreements; and

5. A federal and provincial commitment to expedite decisions and the processes (e.g., environmental assessments) that relate to BCF projects.

AMO is also recommending to the Minister of Finance that additional federal investment in infrastructure be provided to municipalities through the Federal Gas Tax. Federal Gas Tax investment leverages municipal own source investment and funds key projects while being fully accountable to tax payers.

6. Provide additional infrastructure investment directly through the Federal Gas ~ Tax funding. Increasing federal infrastructure investment funding through ~' this mechanism will allow construction-ready projects to proceed ahead of schedule, leverage municipal own-source investment and create jobs in every part of Ontario.

AMO is also recommending that the Minister of Finance allocate new federal W: investment in Housing. If additional federal investment is provided through a streamlined funding program, Ontario municipalities will be well situated to quickly invest in housing, including housing renewal and energy retrofits, and in much-needed new affordable housing stock. This investment will help stabilize housing starts and the residential construction industry, secure jobs in the industry and among Canadian, suppliers of housing materials. It will result in reduced energy consumption in social. . J housing and corresponding green house gas emission reductions and increase access to **affordable housing for Canadians.**

7. The federal government should work on an urgent basis with provinces, territories and municipalities to create a new, streamlined national housing program that supports affordable housing renewal and repairs, energy retro-Fits and the creation of additional supply of affordable housing for Canadians.

AMO believes that these measures meet the criteria for the design of effective stimulus policies outlined in the Department of Finance's consultation documents as follows:

- Timely - stimulus when it's needed.
- Maximum impact - stimulus that delivers.
- Flexible in size and duration - smart stimulus.
- Consistent with Canada's long-term economic goals - stimulus that fits the plan.

Action:

Heads of Council can write to the Ministers at the addresses below indicating support for AMO's recommendation to include these important budget measures that will help stimulate the economy, create jobs in Ontario, improve access to affordable housing and invest in the quality municipal infrastructure that serves as a foundation of the national economy.

Section V.4 Federal Provincial Cooperation Northern Ontario “a distinct economy”.

Background: An administrative tangle

There is the entangled NOHFC and FedNor economic development reality. A solution is required for the entangled NOHFC and FedNor economic development complex reality

In any event, although the intentions are laudable and many worthwhile initiatives have received funding, the effect is an inefficient welfare patchwork that funnels almost all economic development strategies through these two agencies. Funding and priorities are subject to the whims and priorities of succeeding federal and provincial governments that are not always in sync. The effect on municipalities is that their first thoughts when they assess an economic project is not its inherent value, but what will FedNor or Heritage think of it. It reshapes thinking, slows progress, transfers responsibility and creates a culture of dependency.

Northern Ontario's economy is dramatically different from the economy of southern Ontario. In many respects, Northern Ontario remains no more than a resource extraction colony of the south. Instead of manufacturing, we have mining and forestry. Compared to the rest of the province, only half as many Northerners work in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing, information, culture, and recreation, professions, science and technical services. These are the growing, influential professions; occupied by the people that Richard Florida calls the "creative classes."

The public sector in the North - healthcare, education, and public administration, is disproportionately large. The public sector has become a source of economic development. This is a reality that we will continue to build on. It is a "client" economy, dominated by the employees of big companies and big government. Both are based outside the region. Because of the industrial structure of the region, 40.5% of northern employees are unionized, compared to 28.5% of employees in the province. Although there are many excellent exceptions to the rule, it is generally not an innovative economy. If the Ministers are smart they will ask what it is about provincial policy that stops a population of pioneers and adventurers drawn from all over the world from creating a dynamic and exciting economy.

Issue

There are dynamic players attempting to drive the innovation culture. They are the creative class heroes. This is strength to build on. Traditionally Decision-making has been done outside the North. Big government and big business operate from headquarter sites not the Northern Ontario. The Issue is an administrative tangle.

With fewer than 800,000 people, Northern Ontario is divided into 10 territorial districts, 145 municipalities, two Local Health Integration Networks, 102 First Nations, and over 150 unincorporated communities, including 46 Local Services Boards, and 42 of Ontario 47 Sustainable Forest Licenses.

With citizen government comprise perhaps 10% of the region. Why so many overlapping jurisdictions with so little real power? The structure keeps Northerners divided and dependent.

“Northern Ontario’s economic development landscape is a patchwork of organizations that lack coordination”

Blais
Economic Development Consulting

Associates

“Industrial policy in Northern Ontario is controlled by multiple ministries. Neither the Ministry of Natural Resources nor the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines focuses exclusively on northern development. They each control one of the North’s major industrial sectors. They each dilute their northern portfolio by mixing in responsibility for southern producers. The job of promoting secondary industry, value added and innovation is in a third ministry controlled by the Premier.”

In short, that is how economic development process is managed in Northern Ontario. The internal controllers are FedNor (a federal government agency) and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation sponsored by the Province. Economic development “assistance” is particularly advanced in the Maritimes where the federal offering is called ACOA (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency)

The cities have developed into attractive and comfortable regional service centers. They have many of the amenities of southern communities combined with the beauty of a still wild and beautiful landscape. The North has its own universities and it is swimming in talented people.

Recommendations

Be it resolved the following is considered. The question is not a matter of, “Is the money needed?” Of course it is. The question is how is it made available and who decides what gets funded. The ministers will see their needs to be a realignment of responsibility and accountability.

Be it resolved that the Ministers see that a basis is in place.

Be it further resolved that the North Growth Plan considers these culture realities. Federal Provincial Cooperation

- 1. FedNor / Heritage power structure disentanglement**
- 2. Policy think tank non partisan move from reactivity to proactively**

Bringing together 17 ministries to consider the economy of Northern Ontario is critically important. It is the first time in living memory the Province of Ontario has moved from benign neglect and crisis management (i.e. saving mills, steel plants etc. after they get into trouble) to a proactive strategy of planning and thinking.

Section V.5 Taxation Issues

“The development of a Growth Plan for Northern Ontario is all about creating a shared vision for all our northern communities. Our Northern Growth Plan will build on the North’s existing and future

strengths. It will foster a smarter, more innovative and competitive economy and help us ensure a vibrant future for northern families.”

Economic Stimulus

Since the Northern Grow Plan has been initiated before the recognition of the historic global downturn. The forestry industry was in the forefront of this downturn so Northern Ontario has experience and lessons to share. The Grow Plan is a medium to long term legislatively framed undertaking. It is necessary to now to factor into the Grow North Plan an immediate economic stimulus. There will be a provincial wide stimulus package in the next budget most likely driven by infrastructure. This should become a key ingredient of the Northern Grow Plan.

Purpose of NOACC Grow North Submission

The primary Goal of NOACC’s submission is to further establish their credibility and identity and to be included at the Leaders table at the Thunder Bay and participate in the spring final draft draft.

Northern Ontarians need confidence and what is required is a plan with bold leadership," "While will all be disappointed to see a deficit, it would be easier to accept if it were accompanied by a plan to stimulate the economy and to build a foundation for a more competitive province at the end of this economic turmoil."

Pushing forward with its infrastructure investments is a positive move, and NOACC looks forward to seeing more concrete actions in the next budget that would help to reduce the cost of doing business and provide confidence to all taxpayers.

EI Fairness is a major component of the stimulation package. It is a federal issue but it has tremendous impact on the province and municipalities.

OLP Website

www.fairness.ca

OCC Ontario Chamber of Commerce

www.actnowforontario.com

Taxation

Lowering taxes isn't the only way to reduce business costs. Cutting through the mountain of unnecessary red tape, overlapping audits and overzealous enforcement which are costing businesses billions of dollars each year, will go a long way to helping businesses maintain profitability during these difficult economic times.

Similarly, we believe that it's vital the government establish a timeline to move to a system of smarter taxation that removes the disincentives to invest in innovation, and removes barriers to growth, paving the way for higher productivity and job creation.

"While we will be disappointed to see a deficit in the short term, it would be easier to accept if it were accompanied by a plan to stimulate the economy and to build a foundation for a more competitive north at the end of this economic turmoil."

Federal Provincial Cooperation

Addressing the fiscal stimulus programs in the short term and link to medium and long term Northern Grow Plan through infrastructure Provincial Federal Accord and cooperation are absolutely

necessary. We need the three levels of government to do the impossible put politics on hold within the limitations of Reality and restore the northern economy. Section V for details.

Create Federal Provincial Cooperation for Northern Ontario for the duration of the fiscal stimulus and the economic recovery. The global Historic Down turn has had a devastating impact on the “ distinct economy” of Northern Ontario.

Innovation Taxation

Taxation Incentives not tax cuts.

CURRENTLY: 10% of the first \$2 million in Federally qualifying Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) expenditures that take place in Ontario. Program is geared specifically towards small and medium sized, Canadian Controlled Private Corporations conducting Research and Development (R&D) in Ontario. The OITC is a “Refundable Tax Credit”, putting \$ in the pockets of companies pursuing product and process development. It is better than a grant or subsidy, because the qualifying criteria are established and rigorous. It is well suited for a wide variety of industries, non-discriminating towards forestry, manufacturing, biotech, industrial processes, environmental science, etc.

NOACC 2009 2008 Taxation Policy Positions

RECOMMENDATION:

Increase credit to 25% of first \$2 million in qualifying Scientific Research and Experimental Development expenditures

Grow North Theme #7 Making Strategic use of Infrastructure.

9. Rebating Provincial Sales Tax to Municipalities Grow North Section IV
Section V

10.Reducing Sales Tax Red Tape for Ontario Businesses Grow North **Section V**

11.Improvements to Ontario's Co-operative Education Tax Credit
Section V

2008 NOACC POLICIES

Rebating Provincial Sales Tax to Municipalities

That the Provincial Government rebate the provincial sales tax paid by Ontario municipalities (without increasing the compliance burden).

Section V

Reducing Sales Tax Red Tape for Ontario Businesses

That the Provincial Government:

- 3) Complete a review of its retail sales tax statutes and simplify and clarify the tax rules and rates.
- 4) Commence discussions with the Government of Canada to cross train sales tax auditors and eliminate the duplicate interruptions in the productivity of running small businesses.

Section V

Improvements to Ontario's Co-operative Education Tax Credit

That the Provincial Government:

- 4) Increase the current \$1,000 Ontario Co-operative Education Tax Credit from \$1,000 to \$2,500 per work term for each co-op student and raise the rate of tax credit on eligible expenses from 10 per cent to 25 per cent.
- 5) Allow employers who train apprentices as part of the three levels of Apprenticeship in-school training to claim the Co-op tax credit.
- 6) Lobby the Federal Government to match the Co-operative Education Tax Credit for a total of \$5,000.

Section V

Establish Northwestern Ontario Regional Development Authority

Regional Enhancement Committee (REC)

That the Provincial Government seize the lead role, in cooperation with the federal government to work on the establishment of a Northwestern Ontario Regional Development Authority Regional Enhancement Committee (REC).

Section V.5 Employment Insurance Fairness Common Voice

Background

The current Employment Insurance system is funded through a combination of employee/employer contributions. In 1990, the federal government ceased making contributions to the UI fund. A surplus of over \$57 billion dollars (according to the Public Accounts of Canada, March 31, 2008) was taken by the government, leaving only \$2 billion in the reserve fund. Until recently, the EI system has been needed for shorter term, temporary layoff situations but due to the current economic situation in Ontario, there is a need for restructuring the system to address longer term (or permanent) job loss. Currently, EI benefits are paid out based on a system where workers are not treated equally. An individual living within Thunder Bay City limits may receive benefits for a period of 35 weeks, while an individual living in Kakabeka Falls, some 29 kilometres to the west, receives 37 weeks of benefit. Both are affected by job losses in forestry, are in the same labour market (and may even have worked at the same location) but receive different benefits.

Where geographic areas of Canada have been hardest hit with high unemployment (i.e. East Coast fisheries), the federal government has used the flexibility within the EI system to assign enhanced benefits to those areas.

Common Voice Regional Enhancement Committee

Common Voice Northwest is a broad based organization with the goal of Northwestern Ontario charting its' own course within the Province and the Country by addressing regional challenges with realistic Northern solutions. It consists of representatives from the municipal sector, area Chambers of Commerce and labour, our post-secondary institutions, school boards, training boards and multicultural organizations.

Northwestern Ontario is a distinct geographic, economic and social space within Canada. The challenges it faces are different and the contributions it makes to the Province and Country are unique. The complex decisions affecting the Northwest are best understood and made by those who live here.

As this region has experienced a loss of over 6,000 forest industry jobs in the past few years, it has been necessary to examine what public policy changes need to be made to deal with the aftermath of

these significant job losses as well as looking to the future to examine how best to move the economy of the Northwest forward. To this end over the past nine months the Regional Enhancement Committee, which is a sub-committee of Common Voice Northwest, has been working to identify issues related to labour and community adjustment across the Northwest. They identified Employment Insurance Reform as a key tool in assisting workers, their families and the communities that host them in transitioning from one economy to another.

Minister, attached you will find the full brief and we would respectfully ask that it be provided to the Minister of Finance as well as the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development for their consideration.

The following is a summary of our recommendations: Details following document

- **Common Voice Northwest believes the geographic qualifiers within the system should be eliminated, and a maximum benefit period of two (2) years be inserted in its place.** Finding a job will take longer than ever due to the current economic crisis and the 45 weeks currently allowed is insufficient to ensure that laid off workers are able to remain in the area and be available to return to their community mill when it restarts.
- **Common Voice Northwest believes that severance pay, and pension payout offsets should be eliminated from the EI system.** Workers who are receiving severance pay should also be allowed to receive EI benefits right away. Workers should not be forced to exhaust their severance pay before receiving benefits.
- **Common Voice Northwest recommends the EI service delivery system must return to a more centralized type of model, where services will be based on a "one-stop shop", with a view to deliver consistent and meaningful information to affected workers. It should also be able to approve individual training or retraining programs immediately, not 6 weeks prior to the start of training. Training provided within the system must include basic skills and education in an effort to avoid worker disqualification.**
- **Common Voice Northwest further recommends that the qualifier test for EI training benefits not be linked to EI status, nor based on family income.**
- **The Regional Enhancement Committee recommends that there be one EI Economic Zone for all of Northwestern Ontario and that the Thunder Bay Economic Zone be incorporated into the N.W.O. zone.**

With Thunder Bay and the rest of Northwestern Ontario being as hard hit due to the crisis in the forest industry it is unfair to discriminate based on where one lives. In many cases workers at the same mill based in and around Thunder Bay will receive different benefits because of where their home is. Northwestern Ontario is a single labour market and should be treated as one.



REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REFORM

See Regional Enhancement Committee Information end of Document

The Regional Enhancement Committee of Common Voice Northwest has identified Employment Insurance Reform as a key issue facing Northwestern Ontario. An EI Sub-Committee was struck and it consulted widely with both union, adjustment and other community organizations to not only identify the issues but the solutions as well.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this section is to provide an overview and basic understanding of the current Employment Insurance system and its application to unemployed workers, with specific reference to Northwestern Ontario. There are two key components which require particular attention: benefit entitlement and training.

The current Employment Insurance system is funded through a combination of employee/employer contributions. In 1990, the federal government ceased making contributions to the UI fund. A surplus of over \$57 billion dollars (according to the Public Accounts of Canada, March 31, 2008) was taken by the government, leaving only \$2 billion in the reserve fund. Until recently, the EI system has been needed for shorter term, temporary layoff situations but due to the current economic situation in Ontario, there is a need for restructuring the system to address longer term (or permanent) job loss.

Currently, EI benefits are paid out based on a system where workers are not treated equally. An individual living within Thunder Bay City limits may receive benefits for a period of 35 weeks, while an individual living in Kakabeka Falls, some 29 kilometres to the west, receives 37 weeks of benefit. Both are affected by job losses in forestry, are in the same labour market (and may even have worked at the same location) but receive different benefits.

Where geographic areas of Canada have been hardest hit with high unemployment (i.e. East Coast fisheries), the federal government has used the flexibility within the EI system to assign enhanced benefits to those areas.

BENEFIT LEVELS AND ENTITLEMENT

The basic Employment Insurance benefit rate is 55% of average insured earnings up to a yearly maximum insurable amount of \$41,100. This means an unemployed worker could receive a maximum payment of \$435 per week. EI is a taxable income, meaning federal and provincial taxes will be deducted. The amount of weekly EI benefits will be based on the highest 14 weeks of insured earnings in the qualifying period. The qualifying period is the shorter of:

the 52-week period immediately before the start date of a claim, or

the period since the start of a previous EI claim if that claim had started during the 52 week-period.

Only the insurable hours that fall within the qualifying period are used to start a benefit period. However, the qualifying period may be extended up to 104 weeks if the applicant was not employed in insurable employment and not receiving EI. For example, if an individual has been unable to work in his/her regular job, or in other suitable employment, because of illness or an injury, his/her qualifying period might be extended. In such cases, eligible workers must provide strong medical evidence to prove an injury or illness existed. Other circumstances eligible for an extension

include being confined to jail, attending school, or receiving Provincial financial assistance while not working.

Regular benefits can be paid from 14 weeks to a maximum of 45 weeks. The number of weeks of benefits which may be paid is determined at the start date of the benefit period, based on the unemployment rate in the region and the amount of insurable hours accumulated in the qualifying period.

The applicant must have worked a minimum number of insurable hours, normally from 420 to 700, over a qualifying period, usually the previous 52 weeks. The number of insurable hours required depends on where the applicant lives in Canada and the unemployment rate for that region. Earnings made (for example, vacation pay, severance pay or money allocated during the 2-week waiting period) will be deducted in the first 3 weeks for which benefit is otherwise payable following the waiting period. Usually this means that anyone who has been a long time employee is penalized by being forced to wait a total of 5 weeks before benefits begin.

The following charts depict unemployment rates, qualification hours, and minimum and maximum benefit periods for Northern Ontario for the periods October/November 2008, and November/December 2008:

EI Economic Region of Northern Ontario (2000)

Unemployment Rate & Benefit Table

(for the period of October 12, 2008 to November 8, 2008)

Unemployment Rate	10.3
Number of Insured Hours Required to Qualify for Regular Benefits	525
Minimum Number of Weeks Payable for Regular Benefits	26
Maximum Number of Weeks Payable for Regular Benefits	45

Unemployment Rate & Benefit Table

(for the period of November 9, 2008 to December 6, 2008)

Unemployment Rate	10.1
Number of Insured Hours Required to Qualify for Regular Benefits	525
Minimum Number of Weeks Payable for Regular Benefits	26
Maximum Number of Weeks Payable for Regular Benefits	45

The following chart shows seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for Thunder Bay and Northern Ontario:

		2008		
		JANUARY 13/ FEBRUARY 9	JUNE 8/ JULY 12	NOVEMBER 9/ DECEMBER 6
CODE	EI ECONOMIC NAME			
37	THUNDER BAY	6.9	6.1	5.5
38	NORTHERN ONTARIO	10.9	10.4	10.1

(The EI Economic Name equals the boundary for Thunder Bay, as per Service Canada.)

The following chart identifies the divisor number used in the calculation of benefits:

Divisor	
Unemployment rate in region	Minimum divisor
0% to 6%	22
6.1% to 7%	21
7.1% to 8%	20
8.1% to 9%	19
9.1% to 10%	18
10.1% to 11%	17
11.1% to 12%	16
12.1% to 13%	15
13.1% and over	14

In summation, the **weekly benefit level** for an unemployed worker is determined according to the following steps:

- total earnings paid in the last 26 weeks ending with the last day of work;
- the number of weeks worked in the last 26 weeks;
- the unemployment rate in the region and the minimum divisor (see chart above) that applies at that unemployment rate;
- average weekly insured earnings are found by dividing total earnings in the last 26 weeks by the greater of:
 - a) the number of weeks worked in the last 26 weeks; or
 - b) the minimum divisor number
- multiply the result by 55% to obtain weekly benefit.

The **maximum benefit period** an unemployed worker can collect benefits is determined by the unemployment rate chart set out below:

Number of weeks payable												
Unemployment rate in economic region												
Hours of Work	6% and under	6% to 7%	7% to 8%	8% to 9%	9% to 10%	10% to 11%	11% to 12%	12% to 13%	13% to 14%	14% to 15%	15% to 16%	16%+
420-454								26	28	30	32	
455-489								24	26	28	30	32
490-524							23	25	27	29	31	33
525-559						21	23	25	27	29	31	33
560-594					20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34
595-629				18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34
630-664			17	19	21	23	25	27	29	31	33	35
665-699		15	17	19	21	23	25	27	29	31	33	35
700-734	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36
735-769	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36
770-804	15	17	19	21	23	25	27	29	31	33	35	37
805-839	15	17	19	21	23	25	27	29	31	33	35	37
840-874	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38
875-909	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38
910-944	17	19	21	23	25	27	29	31	33	35	37	39
945-979	17	19	21	23	25	27	29	31	33	35	37	39
980-1014	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40
1015-1049	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40
1050-1084	19	21	23	25	27	29	31	33	35	37	39	41
1085-1119	19	21	23	25	27	29	31	33	35	37	39	41
1120-1154	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	42
1155-1189	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	42
1190-1224	21	23	25	27	29	31	33	35	37	39	41	43
1225-1259	21	23	25	27	29	31	33	35	37	39	41	43
1260-1294	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44
1295-1329	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44
1330-1364	23	25	27	29	31	33	35	37	39	41	43	45
1365-1399	23	25	27	29	31	33	35	37	39	41	43	45
1400-1434	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	45
1435-1469	25	27	29	31	33	35	37	39	41	43	45	45

Number of weeks payable (continued)												
Unemployment rate in economic region												
Hours of Work	6% and under	6% to 7%	7% to 8%	8% to 9%	9% to 10%	10% to 11%	11% to 12%	12% to 13%	13% to 14%	14% to 15%	15% to 16%	16%+

						%	11	12	13	14	15	16	
						%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
1470-1504	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	45	45	45
1505-1539	27	29	31	33	35	37	39	41	43	45	45	45	45
1540-1574	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	45	45	45	45
1575-1609	29	31	33	35	37	39	41	43	45	45	45	45	45
1610-1644	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	45	45	45	45	45
1645-1679	31	33	35	37	39	41	43	45	45	45	45	45	45
1680-1714	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	45	45	45	45	45	45
1715-1749	33	35	37	39	41	43	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
1750-1784	34	36	38	40	42	44	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
1785-1819	35	37	39	41	43	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
1820-	36	38	40	42	44	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45

TRAINING

Often due to the difficult economic environment in which job opportunities are limited or simply out of personal interest, unemployed individuals may decide to take courses or training programs, rather than remain inactive.

As a general rule, to be entitled to [regular benefits](#), a worker must show they are unemployed, able and willing to work and actively looking for suitable work. Therefore, when taking a training course without being directed to do so by a [designated authority](#), it must be shown, without a doubt, that taking a course is not an obstacle to the applicant's active job search or to their acceptance of appropriate employment.

[Section 25 of the EI Act](#) empowers authorized Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) staff to refer individuals to courses or training programs or any other employment activities to facilitate their return to the labour market.

HRSDC also has agreements with a number of provinces, such as the Canada Ontario Labour Market Development Agreement (see below) and public and private organizations to act as designated authorities that may direct an individual who is receiving EI benefits to:

- courses or training programs that individuals will take at their own expense, or
- any other employment activity for which the person is receiving financial assistance.

It is essential that a search for work continues and that taking a course does not prevent the availability to work or from accepting any appropriate offer of employment during normal working hours. There is a requirement to be ready to make all necessary arrangements to hold a job or even drop the course if necessary.

The taking of part-time courses or training programs will require the following questions to be satisfactorily answered:

- Do you normally work daytime hours on a Monday to Friday basis, in your usual occupation?
- Are all of your courses below the university level?
- Would you leave this course if it conflicted with a full-time job?
- Are all your courses held in the evening, after 6:00 p.m. or on weekends?
- Is the total number of hours of attendance equal to or less than 10 hours per week?
- What are the names of the courses and training institutions?

What are the course start and end dates?**Canada-Ontario Labour Market Development Agreement**

This agreement expands Ontario's role in the design and development of labour market programs. The agreement makes possible a shared approach to the delivery of benefits and supports to workers in Ontario who need assistance. Benefits and measures under the LMDA are designed to help individuals prepare for, obtain, and maintain employment. Examples of benefits include wages subsidies and self-employment assistance, while measures consist of general employment front-line assistance services designed to help individuals find employment.

An individual's training can either be funded through OSD (Ontario Skills Development), which was designed to return insured participants to employment as quickly as possible (the shortest training route), or SCS (Second Career Strategy), a provincial program that is part of Ontario's \$1.5 billion Skills to Jobs Action Plan, which was designed to help individuals to secure skills training for demand occupations.

The programs differ in some respects. For example:

1. OSD will only fund EI eligible individuals, while SCS will fund EI and non-EI eligible unemployed workers in Ontario.
2. With OSD, skills training is not restricted to skill level B of the National Occupation Classification (NOC) skills matrix. If an "insured" individual is funded through SCS, his/her training will be limited to NOC skill level B of the NOC. Here lies the potential to train thousands of workers for the same occupations, thus risk flooding the labour market with similar skills. Furthermore, Non-EI-eligible Ontarians can access training that will prepare them for occupations in NOC skill level C as well. Such wider options, therefore, are only available to those individuals who are laid off for longer periods of time.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT

COMMITTEE Over the past three years, Community and Labour Adjustment Committees throughout Ontario have been dealing with the aftermath of a

forestry industry in crisis, and more recently, a severe loss of jobs in the manufacturing sector, and soon in the mining industry. Sectoral job losses by the thousands have not only affected the economies of Ontario communities, but have also increased the need to respond to the significant social impacts on workers, families and the broader communities. The Regional Enhancement Committee, a task force of Common Voice Northwest, is mandated to provide region-wide leadership for community and labour adjustment activities across Northwestern Ontario. This committee has recognized the need for employment Insurance reforms and has prepared this report for Common Voice's consideration.

While there are competent service providers in place to deal with the plethora of issues facing laid off workers, there is a serious need for government to not only review, but also change, the employment insurance system for the betterment of these affected workers.

RECOMMENDATION: The Regional Enhancement Committee believes the geographic qualifiers within the system should be eliminated, and a maximum benefit period of two (2) years be inserted in its place. Finding a job will take longer than ever due to the current economic crisis and the 45 weeks currently allowed is insufficient to ensure that laid off workers are able to remain in the area and be available to return to their community mill when it restarts.

For individuals suffering long-term unemployment, their personal financial situation is of utmost concern. Each affected worker is different, and thus has different financial considerations. Whether they are younger workers, with all the responsibilities of raising a young family and having to find work outside the community, or the older worker who may be near the end of a work career and cannot find a job, the financial pressures are evident. These affected workers should not be further penalized by offsets to benefits they may be entitled to under the EI program.

RECOMMENDATION: The committee believes that severance pay, and pension payout offsets should be eliminated from the EI system. Workers who are receiving severance pay should also be allowed to receive EI benefits right away. Workers should not be forced to exhaust their severance pay before receiving benefits.

The employment insurance program is in place to assist workers find work through job search, and skills enhancement training or retraining. This is sometimes done in conjunction with community colleges and universities but many affected workers cannot access this training due to lack of grade 12 education, or financial constraints. Again, each worker is different, and individual needs will vary from worker to worker.

The current EI system is not designed to identify these individual needs for training, and the end result is many workers are being eliminated from the system because they do not qualify, or have exhausted, benefits under the current rules. This system is decentralized: anecdotal evidence clearly proves that a worker may have to make contact with three or more different service providers, and unfortunately, gets different answers to the same question or cannot get any help at all. There are structural problems within the EI program that need immediate review and change.

RECOMMENDATION: The Regional Enhancement Committee recommends the EI service delivery system must return to a more centralized type of model, where services will be based on a "one-stop shop", with a view to deliver consistent and meaningful information to affected workers. It should also be able to approve individual training or retraining programs immediately, not 6 weeks prior to the start of training. Training provided within the system must include basic skills and education in an effort to avoid worker disqualification. The committee further recommends that the qualifier test for EI training benefits not be linked to EI status, nor based on family income.

- ◆ extend benefit period for up to 2 years
- ◆ increase the level of EI benefits and increase the maximum level of earnings before triggering a clawback
- ◆ eliminate cumbersome eligibility rules

RECOMMENDATION:

The Regional Enhancement Committee recommends that there be one EI Economic Zone for all of Northwestern Ontario and that the Thunder Bay Economic Zone be incorporated into the N.W.O. zone.

With Thunder Bay and the rest of Northwestern Ontario being as hard hit due to the crisis in the forest industry it is unfair to discriminate based on where one lives. In many cases workers at the same mill based in and around Thunder Bay will receive different benefits because of where their home is. Northwestern Ontario is a single labour market and should be treated as one.

See Appendix background Information

**Section V.6
Economic Stimulus Regional Enhancement Committee**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Provincial Government take the lead role, in cooperation with the federal government to work on the establishment of a Northwestern Ontario Regional Development Authority Regional Enhancement Committee (REC).

The REC partnership is a grass roots organization that deals with community adjustment, labour adjustment, and the Hidden Pain Training literacy. It is a bottom line front organization that can and has made significant contributions to the economic recovery of Northwestern Ontario and deserve priority consideration. This committee has valuable input for the Grow North Plan.

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (NOACC) Res 2008 #1

Establish Northwestern Ontario Regional Development Authority Regional Enhancement Committee (REC) – Common Voice: As a key component of the Northern Growth Plan

Background:

In December 2006, stakeholders from Northwestern Ontario met to discuss the challenges facing communities across Northwestern Ontario (NWO). Under the auspices of the Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), questionnaires were sent throughout NWO soliciting suggestions to further develop NWO's economy. A report was produced and resulted in the development of "Forging the Future" – the plan for the Northwestern Ontario Regional Development Authority (NWORDA). NWORDA was presented at the NOMA Conference in Dryden, April 2007. The initiative was re-named "Common Voice" and endorsed by most communities throughout NWO. The Regional Enhancement Committee (REC) is one taskforce of this initiative.

Role and mandate of the REC is a division of the Common Voice that was given the task of organizing regional enhancement to support, but not duplicate the work currently being done by the Community Adjustment and Labour Adjustment Committees. The REC, while not becoming directly involved in lobbying government agencies, will be collecting information and issues that will be presented to the Common Voice to take forward.

Issue:

Key concepts of the REC:

- Active Community and Labour Adjustment Committees are distinct organizations that address adjustment issues in individual communities throughout NWO. Their work will remain separate

from this Committee. The work of the REC will enhance but not duplicate the work of these Committees.

- The REC will deal with macro issues that face both Labour and Community Adjustment Committees. These will include the impact that closures of major employers have on communities in NWO as well as initiatives to enhance communities throughout NWO.

It is anticipated that funding for the REC will come from various government agencies in the form of grants for special projects. The Labour and Community Adjustment Committees will be asked to cover the financial costs of having one of their members represent them on the REC within their budgets.

- The region's economic development is in transition and that there are many barriers and obstacles for displaced workers in obtaining new or updated training that will allow them to remain and work in NWO.
- The Community Adjustment and Labour Adjustment Committees will be asked to establish funding for their representatives to participate on the REC. The committee will apply to various agencies and organizations for funding of these special projects. The North Superior Training Board (NSTB), as an incorporated organization, can apply for and manage any project funds. It was suggested that they could apply for funding of an Intern in the future.
- Enhance partnerships with First Nations to capitalize on growing population.
- Increase support of small business development and innovations/inventions to get them into production.
- Create alternative delivery mechanisms in workforce training and education.
- Develop a "Best Practices" Adjustment Toolkit.

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the Provincial Government takes the lead role, in cooperation with the federal government to work on the establishment of a Northwestern Ontario Regional Development Authority Regional Enhancement Committee (REC).

The REC partnership is a grass roots organization that deals with community adjustment, labour adjustment, and the Hidden Pain Training literacy. It is a bottom line front organization that can and has made significant contributions to the economic recovery of North-western Ontario and deserve priority consideration. This committee has valuable input for the Grow North Plan.

See Employment Insurance Fairness in Section IV

REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) *Common Voice* has resolved, “That NOMA endorses the creation of a **Regional Enhancement Committee** and authorizes the Board of NOMA to appoint an individual or individuals to represent NOMA”. (August 2007)

The **Regional Enhancement Committee** has been created to serve as an umbrella task force with a specific regional mandate to provide region wide leadership for community and labour adjustment and in conjunction with other Common Voice task forces, to develop an inclusive regional enhancement strategy which includes, but is not limited to:

- The promotion of strategic planning and community capacity building at the local and regional level involving multi-stakeholder collaboration;
- Serve as a link with MTCU Adjustment Advisory Program and the Federal Government;
- Serve as a strategic resource to local Community and Labour Adjustment Committees;
- Encourage stakeholder dialogue focusing on “best practices” on Adjustment initiatives across Northwestern Ontario and catalogue same;
- Identify funding sources of specific economic recovery feasibility initiatives and examine community impact assessment tools;
- Facilitate funding through a single, unified request.

Accountability: The **Regional Enhancement Committee** is accountable to NOMA’s Common Voice. The facilitators of Common Voice will serve as the liaison between the Regional Enhancement Committee Task Force and the governing body of Common Voice.

Composition of Committee: The **Regional Enhancement Committee** is chaired by two independent Co-Chairs on a rotating basis and includes multi-stakeholder representatives such as independent Chairs of Community and Labour Adjustment Committees across Northwestern Ontario and the signatories to these agreements; the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Adjustment Advisory Program; Municipal government representatives; Local Training Boards; Aboriginals; community and non-government organizations across Northwestern Ontario; and Ex-officio Provincial and Federal government representatives.

Role of the Committee:

- To attend all meetings of the Committee/Sub-Committees as scheduled;
- To develop plan of action, implement initiatives to be forwarded to Common Voice;

- To review, recommend actions of sub-committees;
- Committee members may be invited to be sub-committee Chairpersons;
- Decisions will be made by consensus.

Community and Labour Adjustment Committees Active across the North

Issues: Communities throughout Northwestern Ontario are engaged in Community and Labour Adjustment at an unprecedented rate. The Adjustment Advisory Program (MTCU) provides advisory assistance and financial support to affected workers/communities as a result of change/transition in the workplace; organizations; communities and labour market sectors. There are fourteen communities in Northwestern Ontario that are in Community/Labour Adjustment and are in need of innovative programs to bring new economic opportunities to the region. The Northwestern Ontario Regional Development Authority (NWORDA) is recommending the creation of a *Regional Enhancement Committee*, an umbrella regional adjustment team that would liaise with MTCU's Adjustment Advisory Program and the federal government. The *Regional Enhancement Committee* would have a specific regional mandate to facilitate the creation of a regional plan, identifying best practices that meet the regions needs and support and assist with funding measures.

Proposed Actions:

Action I: NWORDA to create a *Regional Enhancement Committee* to develop an inclusive regional enhancement strategy which includes the promotion of strategic planning at the local level involving multi-stakeholder collaboration, sharing of best practices and serve as a resource to Local Community Adjustment Committees to ensure all program information would be shared. Partners/Role: NSTB – Lead in arranging monthly meetings with community partners such as NWORDA/NOMA; NOACC;MTCU – Adjustment Advisory Program; CEP Labour Adjustment Committee; FedNor; Ministry of Northern Development and Mines; City of Thunder Bay Economic Development Commission; Regional Community Adjustment Committees; community and non-government organizations.

Action II: Regional Enhancement Committee as a starting point for economic diversification, work with communities to develop “an investment readiness” profile based on a self-assessment tool made available through the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines.

Partners/Role: NWORDA/NOMA; MNDM; MTCU – Adjustment Advisory Program;

Action III: Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce to seek a report from MTCU Adjustment Advisory Program on specific initiatives underway to mitigate worker/community impact and catalogue best practices in Adjustment; identify funding sources of specific economic recovery initiatives; and to include pre-feasibility studies as an eligible expense.

Partners/Role: NOACC – Lead with Regional Enhancement Committee.

Action IV: NWORDA to partner with FedNor to establish a Community Economic Adjustment Initiative (CEAI) based on previous experience in Northwestern Ontario e.g. the federal government's Softwood Industry Community Economic Adjustment Initiative (SICEAI).
Partners/Rode: NWORDA and FedNor

Timelines:

Action I – April 2007 Regional Enhancement Committee established; action plans and implementation to take place over a 2-year period – 2007-08.

Action II – Promotion of MNDM Investment Readiness Test and identification of investment readiness gaps in Northwestern Ontario communities. 2007-08

Action III – NOACC and MTCU – Adjustment Advisory Program – report to be provided by Fall 2007.

Activity IV – 2007-08.

Expected Outcomes:

Activity I – The creation of a tripartite roundtable-working group to restart the Northwest Regional Adjustment Program/Regional Economic Adjustment Initiative.

Activity II – The promotion of the MNDM Investment Readiness Test across communities in the region.

Activity III – A Report on Community and Labour Adjustment in Northwestern Ontario cataloguing best practices on Adjustment initiatives in Northwestern Ontario; funding resources and pre-feasibility studies.

Activity IV – By the end of 2007 a working relationship established with NWORDA and FedNor on Adjustment issues in Northwestern Ontario.

Section V.7 Ethics of Climate Change

Establishment of a climate change fairness ethics commission to resolve the complicated issues in the context of future plans for North of 51.

And

A Business Friendly Clean Air and Climate Change Agenda

A point of view for consideration as a possible response to North of 51 issue and other Environmental/ climate Issues to stimulate debate

Last year 2007, 1,500 scientists from 50 countries called on Canadian governments to protect the 5.6 million square kilometers of boreal forest in Canada, which holds about 186 billion tonnes of carbon. That's the equivalent of 27 years of global carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels.

Climate change will cause harm. Heat waves, storms and floods will kill many people and harm many others. Tropical diseases, which will increase their range as the climate warms, will exact their toll in human lives. Changing patterns of rainfall will lead to local shortages of food and safe drinking water. Large-scale human migrations in response to rising sea levels and other climate-induced stresses will impoverish many people. As yet, few experts have predicted specific numbers, but some statistics suggest the scale of the harm that climate change will cause.

Whereas the debate concerning reality of climate change is over. It is time for action. However there are winners and losers as in all ethical situations

Some effected northern communities, and opposition parties warned that north of 51 announcement could discourage new investment in mining and forestry in the far north by creating uncertainty about what new rules could be developed - a concern echoed by industry associations.

The question is an ethical one. Science, including the science of economics, can help discover the causes and effects of climate change. It can also help work out what we can do about climate change. But what we should do is an ethical question.

The climate question is ethical, however, because any thoughtful answer must weigh conflicting interests among different people. If the world is to do something about climate change, some people-chiefly the better-off among the current generation-will have to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases to save future generations from the possibility of a bleak existence in a hotter world. When interests conflict, "should" questions are always ethical.

As climate change raises a number of ethical questions. How should we, all of us living today-evaluate the well-being of future generations, given that they are likely to have more material goods than we do? Many people, some living, others yet to be born, will die from the effects of climate change.

Many ethical questions can be settled by common sense. Sophisticated philosophy is rarely needed. All of us are to some extent equipped to face up to the ethical questions raised by climate change. For example, almost everyone recognizes (with some exceptions) the elementary moral principle that you should not do something for your own benefit if it harms another person. Where as it is true that, sometimes you cannot avoid harming someone, and sometimes you may do it accidentally without realizing it. But whenever you cause harm, you should normally compensate the victim.

There is an appropriate northern apocryphal myth where sick and old people are abandoned on an ice flow for the benefit of group. Another fitting analogy is

the tossing of some from an over loaded life boat (our world) for the common good. Modern democratic values dictate that there is societal compensation. It is true that even the harmed will benefit in the long term from the common good but this group suffers an unfair disproportional cost benefit ratio. Those present and future beneficiaries of the common good climate change public should compensate losers in northern Ontario and the third world.

Ethics of Costs and Benefits

Even if weighing costs against benefits does not entirely answer the question of what should be done about climate change, it is an essential part of the answer. The costs of mitigating climate change are the sacrifices the present generation will have to make to reduce greenhouse gases. We will have to travel less and better insulate our homes. We will have to eat less meat. We will have to live less lavishly. The benefits are the better lives that future people will ad: they will not suffer so much from the spread of deserts, from the loss of their homes to the rising sea, or from floods, famines and the general impoverishment of nature.

Where as weighing benefits to some people against costs to others is an ethical matter. Bur many of the costs and benefits of mitigating climate change present themselves in economic terms, and economics has useful methods of weighing benefits against costs in complex cases. So here economics can work in the service of ethics.

The ethical basis of cost-benefit Nicholas Stern and his colleagues at the U.K. Treasury recognized economics recently in a major report, the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change. The Stern Review concentrates mainly on comparing costs and benefits, and it concludes that the benefit that would be gained by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases would be far greater than the cost of reducing them. Stern's work has provoked a strong reaction from economists for two reasons. First, some economists think economic conclusions should not be based on ethical premises. Second, the review favours strong and immediate action to control emissions, whereas other economic studies, such as one by William Nordhaus of Yale University, have concluded that the need to act is not so urgent.

Most of the costs of controlling climate change must be borne in the near future, when the present generation must sacrifice some of its consumption. The benefits will mostly come a century or two from now. Because Stern judges the present value of those benefits to be higher than Nordhaus does, Stern can justify spending more today on mitigating climate change than Nordhaus can.

They misunderstand democracy. Democracy requires debate and deliberation as well as voting

Be it resolved that the uncertainty for investment is addressed through fair, ethical and scientific means.

Be it resolved like the science of climate change; recognize that the ethics of climate change is complex. So far it leaves much to be resolved. We face ethical as well as scientific problems, and we must work to solve them through a fairness commission.

Be it resolved that there is recognition that there is ethical concerns go back for words

Be it resolved that there are situations of unfair and disproportional cost benefit ratios endure by some and others far away benefit. The concern is not with the resource sectors but fairness to first nations and northern communities.

Be it resolved for the common good there are winners and loser. Some benefit more than others. There should be societal economic compensation for those communities from beneficiary communities present and future. Any we advocate communities not industrial sectors be compensated.

Be it further resolved that a climate change fairness ethics commission to resolve these complicated issues in the context of future plans for North of 51.

This same principle also tells us that what we should do about climate change is not just a matter of weighing benefits against costs-although

Be it further resolved that there is recognition that those who benefit from it should not impose its costs on others who do not.

Gleaned from Reference

John Broome

American Scientific June 2008

**Background support for a Climate Change Ethic Commission and Ontario Chamber of Commerce Position (Business) Policy 2008
Business Community Mining Forestry Impacts of Climate change Policy
Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce**

A Business Friendly Clean Air and Climate Change Agenda Ontario is in the process of developing a Clean Air and Climate Change Plan that will set up the provincial policy framework for cleaner energy, stronger research and more stringent emission standards. Recently the federal government has announced the national regulatory framework for air emissions covering greenhouse gases (GHGs) and criteria air contaminants (CACs).

Overlapping, non-harmonized environmental mandates at provincial and federal levels will significantly increase business operational costs while mandated

emission free technologies will drive up both capital and operating costs in regulated industries. An environmental tax on polluting energy sources will further drive the cost of power and fuel upwards in Ontario. Ontario businesses are concerned with the impact the provincial Climate Change plan might have on Ontario's economy and are urging the government to develop a business friendly Clean Air and Climate Change Agenda.

Where as Ontario business community has been assuming an increasingly larger stewardship role over environmental issues. Members have consistently chosen environmental sustainability and protection as one of their top priorities for the provincial government.

Ongoing opinion polls also show that more than 90 per cent of Canadians want cleaner air, and recognize that climate change represents a long-term threat.

The "Climate Change and Clean Air" issue has risen to the top of the political agenda at both the federal and the provincial levels, while governments have been developing regulatory frameworks:

- Canada's federal government announced its emission regulatory framework in April 2007 committing to stop the rise in GHG emissions within 5 years, and subsequent lowering of the GHG intensity by 18% by 2010 and a yearly 2% thereafter. Companies failing to comply have been offered the flexibility to pay penalty fees of \$20 per tone that will be used to finance a Technology Fund. To achieve reductions in criteria air contaminants (CACs), the federal government proposed the introduction of hard absolute caps on total tonnes for each of NOx, SOx, VOCs and PM in regulated industries. The aim is to reduce smog by 50% by 2015.

- Ontario government has announced its Go Green Plan in July 2007 and is planning as well to introduce legislated tougher toxic emissions standards (as announced in the Liberal Party platform).

The Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce endorses government's efforts to pursue a cleaner and sustainable environment for future generations. Yet, it is extremely important to business that the federal and provincial governments avoid regulations and compliance options that overlap, duplicate, or introduce inconsistencies that increase the compliance burden on industry.

Businesses have expressed concerns over a range of negative economic impacts related to tougher environmental regulations:

1. *Technological limitations:* There are genuine limits to the scope of available and affordable technologies, which could be deployed effectively, and particularly to meet the likely mandated timetables. In large measure, businesses already employ best available technologies that are commercially viable, making significant reductions unattainable in the short term.
2. *Competitive Realities:* The capital and operating costs of new technologies may be uneconomic for Ontario producers versus global competitors. Ontario producers may be unable to pass-through additional compliance costs.
3. *Limited Scope/Early Action:* Over the past several years' businesses have significantly enhanced their environmental performance through improved internal operations (economically achievable process improvements, equipment upgrades, and other abatement methods). Similar large-scale opportunities do not exist for the next round of reductions.
4. *Structural Impediments:* The reduction targets are being imposed on existing operations, which are capital intensive with long payback and capital turnover periods. While a new Greenfield operation could be designed more optimally to achieve environmental results, existing facilities can only realize comparable gains through capital stock turnover over an extended period.
5. *Compliance burden:* overlapping or contradictory federal and provincial regulations will create confusion and will increase the compliance burden for businesses. A common set of design principles would ease the compliance burden.
6. *Cost implications:* An environmental tax will further increase the price on energy, jeopardizing the sustainability of a range of vulnerable industries in Ontario (manufacturing, forestry, agriculture, etc).

7. *Allowing for growth.* Some jurisdictions [particularly US states and Europe] disallow the use of intensity to manage GHG emission reductions. These jurisdictions are developing policies that require absolute reductions in GHG emissions. It is critical that Ontario harmonize with the federal government for an intensity-based approach that will allow Ontario's economy to grow.

The Ontario Government should collaborate with the federal government, and consult with the Ontario business community to ensure an effective harmonization of new clean air regulations.

Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce and the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce urges the Ontario government to:

to pursue a harmonized and non-discriminatory approach if developing any provincial standards in parallel with the federal government, and ensure:

- A signed equivalency agreement with the federal government on Clean Air and Climate Change regulatory frameworks;
- Realistic and reasonable timetables for the implementation of science-based actions directed to improving air quality;
- Policy changes produce the least economic impact on regulated industries;
- Incentives to businesses to encourage implementation of lower-emitting technologies and early "emission reducing" action;
- Adequate funding of research on energy efficiency, and emission free technologies.

Further to engage all industries to be affected by proposed regulations/standards in a fair consultation process and ensure a level playing field for regulated businesses. (Mining Forestry)

Reference Ontario Chamber of Commerce Policy 2008



Section VI

Recommendations Grow North
Draft Plan



VI Recommendations Grow North Draft Plan

Preamble

Northern Ontarians need confidence and what is required is a plan with bold leadership,"

NOACC as the voice of business looks forward to seeing more concrete actions in the next budget and in the draft Grow North Plan that would help to reduce the cost of doing business and provide confidence to all taxpayers.

NOACC looks forward to working with the Ontario government to identify strategies that will form the basis of a three to twenty five year economic plan which will help strengthen Northern Ontario so that it will emerge from the current economic climate in a globally competitive position.

The Shared Vision NOACC Submission is based on recommendations contained in the following

Section I NOACC Policies applied to Grow North Themes

Section II Rosehart Recommendations Prioritized

Section III the need to build public policy capacity in the North

Section IV Partnerships and shared visions

Section V Economic Stimulus

A synopsis of Recommendations Economic Stimulus

Since the Northern Grow Plan has been initiated before the recognition of the historic global down turn. The forestry industry was in the forefront of this downturn so Northern Ontario has experience and lessons to share. The Grow Plan is a medium to long term legislatively framed undertaking. It is necessary to now to factor into the Grow North Plan an immediate economic stimulus. There will be a provincial wide stimulus package in the next budget most likely driven by infrastructure. This should become a key ingredient of the Northern Grow Plan.

"While we will be disappointed to see a deficit in the short term, it would be easier to accept if it were accompanied by a plan to stimulate the economy and to build a foundation for a more competitive north at the end of this economic turmoil."

The three pillars of Economic Stimulus

- Protecting those mostly impacted through EI Reform and Training
- Streamlining Infrastructure funding
- Innovation and tax incentives

Taxation

Lowering taxes isn't the only way to reduce business costs. Cutting through the mountain of unnecessary red tape, overlapping audits and overzealous enforcement which are costing businesses billions of dollars each year, will go a long way to helping businesses maintain profitability during these difficult economic times.

Similarly, we believe that it's vital the government establish a timeline to move to a system of smarter taxation that removes the disincentives to invest in innovation, and removes barriers to growth, paving the way for higher productivity and job creation.

Taxation incentives that create jobs through innovation and Ontario taxpayers get the best "bang for the buck". See section IV .7

Example Taxation concept

Innovation Recommendation Enhancement to the Ontario Innovation Tax Credit (OITC).

CURRENTLY: 10% of the first \$2 million in Federally qualifying Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) expenditures that take place in Ontario. Program is geared specifically towards small and medium sized, Canadian Controlled Private Corporations conducting Research and Development (R&D) in Ontario. The OITC is a "Refundable Tax Credit", putting \$ in the pockets of companies pursuing product and process development. It is better than a grant or subsidy, because the qualifying criteria are established and rigorous. It is well suited for a wide variety of industries, non-discriminating towards forestry, manufacturing, biotech, industrial processes, environmental science, etc.

RECOMMENDATION:

Increase credit to 25% of first \$2 million in qualifying Scientific Research and Experimental Development expenditures

Infrastructure

Utilize Infrastructure as the Initial Economic Development Basis for the Northern Growth Plan and for the immediate fiscal stimulus. Utilize training and EI Fairness as a major component of stimulus package. In order for Northern Ontario to fully benefit from the infrastructure programs there must be provincial federal cooperation.

Pushing forward with its infrastructure investments is a positive move for fiscal stimulus addressing the Grow North Themes with NOACC Policy is a northern point of view worth considering.

Association of Municipalities of Ontario Recommendations Streamlining Infrastructure funding for economic stimulus. NOACC support the AMO positions and urges the Ontario Government to advocate these positions.

- Increase the amount of funding for the current \$200 million intake of the BCF Communities Component in Ontario (for communities under 100,000 population) which closed in late November;
- Use BCF to support asset renewal projects that can be implemented quickly - not limiting funding to new projects;
- Initiate an open call for proposals for the BCF Major Projects category intended for projects exceeding \$30 million;
- Use Federal Gas Tax accountability mechanisms for all BCF projects in order to expedite projects -providing up-front funding of federal funds rather than reimbursement based on complex contribution agreements; and
- A federal and provincial commitment to expedite decisions and the processes (e.g., environmental assessments) that relate to BCF projects.

AMO is also recommending to the Minister of Finance that additional federal investment in infrastructure be provided to municipalities through the Federal Gas Tax. Federal Gas Tax investment leverages municipal own source investment and funds key projects while being fully accountable to tax payers.

- Provide additional infrastructure investment directly through the Federal Gas ~ Tax funding. Increasing federal infrastructure investment funding through ~' this mechanism will allow construction-ready projects to proceed ahead of schedule, leverage

municipal own-source investment and create jobs in every part of Ontario.

AMO is also recommending that the Minister of Finance allocate new federal investment in housing. If additional federal investment is provided through a streamlined. Funding program, Ontario municipalities will be well situated to quickly invest in housing, including housing renewal and energy retrofits, and in much-needed new affordable housing stock. This investment will help stabilize housing starts and the residential construction industry, secure jobs in the industry and among Canadian, suppliers of housing materials. It will result in reduced energy consumption in social housing and corresponding green house gas emission reductions and increase access to affordable housing for Canadians.

- The federal government should work on an urgent basis with provinces, territories and municipalities to create a new, streamlined national housing program that supports affordable housing renewal and repairs, energy retro-Fits and the creation of additional supply of affordable housing for Canadians.

AMO believes that these measures meet the criteria for the design of effective stimulus policies outlined in the Department of Finance's consultation documents as follows:

- Timely - stimulus when it's needed.
- Maximum impact - stimulus that delivers.
- Flexible in size and duration - smart stimulus.
- Consistent with Canada's long-term economic goals - stimulus that fits the plan.

Federal Provincial Cooperation

Addressing the fiscal stimulus programs in the short term and link to medium and long term Northern Grow Plan through infrastructure Provincial Federal Accord and cooperation are absolutely necessary. We need the three levels of government to do the impossible put politics on hold within the limitations of Reality and restore the northern economy. Section V for details.

- Create Federal Provincial Cooperation for Northern Ontario for the duration of the fiscal stimulus and the economic recovery. The global Historic Down turn has had a devastating impact on the “ distinct economy” of Northern Ontario.
- If ever provincial and federal relations and cooperation was required, this is the time. One area of concern that could be

corrected is the existing entangled NOHFC and FedNor economic development reality.

- A solution is required for the entangled NOHFC and FedNor economic development complex reality to enhance the upcoming provincial and federal fiscal stimulus programs. Section V

See section Disentanglement of FedNor and Heritage Funding

Building Policy Capacity

In Northern Ontario allows northerners the capacity to shape their destiny and to chart their own course within the Province and the Country by addressing regional challenges with realistic Northern solutions. See section III

Quote page 10 Towards a Northern Growth Plan Discussion Paper May 2008
"In addition to the themes, there is a growing awareness of the need to build policy capacity in the North and ensure northerners have a strong voice in the policy development process"

Rosehart Recommendations

Utilizing the Rosehart Recommendations See section II. There are many immediate and long-term recommendations for consideration.

Mining

- Support an Annual Mining Conference in Northwestern Ontario.
- The Mining sector is positive for the future and a significant vehicle and tool for the Northern Economic recovery.

North of 51

North of 51 legacies the long-term future view of Northern Ontario is not understood use mining rose hart recommendation Geosciences survey.

Forestry

Forestry Recommendations gleaned from the Ontario Forestry Coalition Wednesday, December 17, 2008 / 2009 Pre-Budget Submission to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs NOACC as sponsor and partner of the Forestry supports and endorses the following recommendations.

- Maintenance of the Industrial Fiber Basket
- Endangered Species Act

The government needs to recognize that the current forest management planning process addresses the objectives of the ESA in order to ensure

that the implementation of the new Endangered Species Act does not result in a withdrawal of the land base or a reduction in fiber supply.

Maintain Competitive Measures Put in Place Since 2005

Since 2005 the Government of Ontario has implemented several key measures/strategies to help restore the competitiveness of Ontario's forest sector. These include:

- Road maintenance and construction funding
- Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) funding
- Wood promotion funding
- The creation of a Forest Sector Prosperity Fund
- A loan guarantee program
- Northern Pulp and Paper Electricity Program

The OFC requests that the Government of Ontario maintain all existing competitiveness measures and initiatives that have been put in place since 2005.

Energy Industrial Electricity Rate

Ontario's economy is heavily dependent on manufacturing which has been hard hit by the global market crises and historic global downturn. A significant factor in determining operation and investment of many manufacturing facilities is competitive industrial electricity costs.

Employment Insurance Fairness Regional Enhancement Committee Common Voice

The following is a summary of our recommendations:

- Common Voice Northwest believes the geographic qualifiers within the system should be eliminated, and a maximum benefit period of two (2) years be inserted in its place. Finding a job will take longer than ever due to the current economic crisis and the 45 weeks currently allowed is insufficient to ensure that laid off workers are able to remain in the area and be available to return to their community mill when it restarts.
- Common Voice Northwest believes that severance pay, and pension payout offsets should be eliminated from the EI system. Workers who are receiving severance pay should also be allowed to receive EI benefits right away. Workers should not be forced to exhaust their severance pay before receiving benefits.
- Common Voice Northwest recommends the EI service delivery system must return to a more centralized type of model, where services will be based on a "one-stop shop", with a view to deliver consistent and meaningful information to affected workers. It should also be able to approve individual training or retraining programs immediately, not 6 weeks prior to the start of training. Training provided within the system

must include basic skills and education in an effort to avoid worker disqualification.

- Common Voice Northwest further recommends that the qualifier test for EI training benefits not be linked to EI status, nor based on family income.
- The Regional Enhancement Committee recommends that there be one EI Economic Zone for all of Northwestern Ontario and that the Thunder Bay Economic Zone be incorporated into the N.W.O. zone.

With Thunder Bay and the rest of Northwestern Ontario being as hard hit due to the crisis in the forest industry it is unfair to discriminate based on where one lives. In many cases workers at the same mill based in and around Thunder Bay will receive different benefits because of where their home is. Northwestern Ontario is a single labour market and should be treated as one.

To assist in restoring competitiveness to the province's manufacturing sector, the Government of Ontario needs to implement a temporary industrial electricity rate that is competitive with other jurisdictions in Canada and the United States.

Literacy training Employment Insurance Fairness Issue Regional Enhancement Committee NSTB Common Voice Task Force

Common Voice Tourism Task Force Summary Tourism Recommendations:

- That the roles and responsibilities of the Northern Ontario Regional Travel Associations (NORTA- In NWO Sunset Country & North of Superior Tourism Association) be expanded and funding be increased to enable them to serve as leaders for tourism in Northwestern Ontario, more adequately addressing the issues that have been repeatedly identified by stakeholders as barriers to success in tourism.
- That in recognition of the many crown land and resource management-related issues causing investment uncertainty for resource-based tourism operators in Northwestern Ontario, endorse the recommendations of the Provincial Resource-Based Tourism Working Group (PRBTWG)
- That a Northern Development Fund be established to provide low interest/interest deferred loans to tourism stakeholders and/or that providing tax credits and increasing the rate of depreciation of equipment.
- That a review of provincial Ministry roles and responsibilities regarding tourism in Northwestern Ontario to streamline support for tourism marketing, development, investment and training.

- That changes in policies, practices and regulations regarding border crossings and in particular harmonize border crossing rules with those of United States as it relates to ease of access should be encouraged.

Innovation General Recommendations

- A supportive business environment for commercialization. We need senior government to support programs and existing commercialization players in the North (not in S. Ontario claiming to support the North) to build effective linkages between the private sector (e.g. SMEs, angel investors, and other organizations) and research institutions. This must be done at a local level with linkages to broader networks.
- We must support SMEs effort in the final stages of the commercialization process, the go to market strategies. In Northern Ontario, successfully launching an innovation into the broader marketplace is a challenge. We currently do not have any financial support mechanisms to assist with these costs. Private sector will often not participate until the initial response from the market is received.
- Government programs to support innovation must be flexible and responsive. They must recognize that they are supporting talent and people. This talent is not only at the research level but also at the entrepreneurial and business level. Programs must be flexible enough to get behind a management team that can make commercialization a reality. The bureaucracy of these programs should be able to provide an indication of funding within 45 days of a completed application. Emerging technology programs that result in the private sector SME waiting 3 to 6 months for an answer are ineffective.

See Section IV and Appendix for details

Ethics of Climate Change

Establishment of a climate change fairness ethics commission to resolve the complicated issues in the context of future plans for North of 51.

This is significantly important for the future of Northern Ontario in the following areas Forestry, Mining, Energy, and Tourism. See section V