

**THINK NORTH SUMMIT TO FOCUS ON  
NORTHERN ONTARIO'S ECONOMIC FUTURE**

February 2, 2009

A gathering of international speakers and northerners will take place at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay on February 2-3, 2009. The **Think North Summit** will bring together more than 300 invited participants from across Northern Ontario to meet with national and international experts to discuss a long-range economic blueprint for Northern Ontario.

Hosted by George Smitherman, Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, and Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Summit will engage leaders from all levels of government, northern communities, First Nations, Aboriginal groups, business, industry, and the health, education and research sectors. Delegates will discuss best practices in international jurisdictions, future global trends, and how to transform the North by growing emerging sectors and developing a sustainable regional economy.

The Summit begins with a welcoming reception on Monday, February 2 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., followed by a full-day, interactive discussion on Tuesday, February 3, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Media who are unable to attend can watch the full February 3 proceedings via a live web cast at:  
<http://meeting.knet.ca/moodle/course/view.php?id=102> or mms://66.165.192.248:1800/

The e-mail address to submit questions is [northerngrowthplan@ontario.ca](mailto:northerngrowthplan@ontario.ca). The conference runs from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET on Tuesday, February 3, 2009.

**Agenda highlights for the February 3 Think North Summit include:**

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks by Ministers Gravelle and Smitherman
- 10:00 a.m. Plenary: Succeeding in a Global Economy
- Michael Gallis (U.S.A.) – Michael Gallis & Associates
  - Paavo Löppönen (Finland) – Academy of Finland
- 1:00 p.m. Panel Session: Growing a Knowledge-Based Economy
- Fred McMahon (Canada) – Fraser Institute
  - Robert Atkinson (U.S.A.) – Information Technology and Innovation Foundation
- 2:15 p.m. Panel Session: Developing a Sustainable Regional Economy
- Glen Murray (Canada) – Canadian Urban Institute
  - Peter Kenyon (Australia) – Author of *Good Enough Never is*
  - Calvin Helin (Canada) – Eagle Group of Companies
- 4:30 p.m. Northern Leaders Roundtable

The **Think North Summit** will build on input received through regional sessions and technical tables to shape the draft Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, which will be released for public consultation this spring. A final Plan will be released later in the year.

Developed for northerners by northerners, the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario will become the framework for policy development and investment planning in the North.