

FedNor Update

OPENING DOORS. BUILDING FUTURES. IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

SUMMER 2007

Investing in Northern Ontario's future

The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health and Minister for FedNor, recently celebrated the results of a \$28.1-million FedNor investment supporting economic development initiatives touching all corners of Northern Ontario.

"The support for these projects highlights the commitment of Canada's New Government to enhancing the economic well-being of the businesses and residents of all of Northern Ontario," stated Minister Clement. "By continuing to invest in tourism, technology, trade, youth and small business initiatives, we will help create jobs and further diversify the economy of our great region."

Here are just a few of the 140 projects that received FedNor support across Northern Ontario.



Minister Clement joins FedNor Director General, Louise Paquette in Sault Ste. Marie on April 27, for this historic occasion.

Sault Ste. Marie Airport Development Corporation, Sault Ste. Marie

A FedNor investment of \$225,000 will be used to enhance facilities at Runway Park, which is located at the airport in Sault Ste. Marie, allowing the park to host larger events and attract more visitors to the area.

Wild At Heart Refuge Centre, Sudbury

FedNor support of \$165,000 will help expand facilities used in the treatment and rehabilitation of injured wildlife. Once complete, public viewing of the larger enclosures will allow visitors to see and learn about local wildlife.

Kenjgwin Teg Educational Institute, Manitoulin Island

A FedNor investment of \$200,000 will assist the Kenjgwin Teg Educational Institute with the completion of a native studies curriculum. This new curriculum is currently being tested in Northern Ontario and will soon be offered throughout the province.

Town of Fort Frances

A FedNor investment of \$300,000 will support the first phase of Fort Frances' heritage tourism plan. The project will see the renovation and expansion of the historic Fort Frances Museum and Cultural Centre.

Nipissing University, North Bay



FedNor support of \$500,000 will go towards the development of a Science Research Complex at Nipissing University. Once complete, the complex will provide state-of-the-art research infrastructure attracting researchers and professors to the area, enhancing post-graduate programming at the university.



Kenjgwin Teg Project Co-ordinator, David Anderson, and staff writer, Eilleen Conroy, finalize the writing and production of an upcoming educational publication to be used by the Kenjgwin Teg Educational Institute's aboriginal educational program.



(l to r) Volunteer technicians Sarah Gittings and Amanda Metcalfe assist Dr. Carolyn Larièvre as she braces the broken wing of an injured snowy owl at the Wild At Heart Refuge Centre in Sudbury.

Minister's Message

As I look back on my first year as Minister for FedNor, I am delighted to see everything we have accomplished throughout Northern and rural Ontario. I have been quite impressed by what an active and essential role FedNor plays in rural communities. Indeed, our efforts over the last year have borne some very impressive results.

Recently, while in Sault Ste. Marie, I had the pleasure to celebrate 140 FedNor projects that received over \$28 million in funding.

Earlier this year, while touring Northern Ontario, I was on hand to make several announcements that will have a significant impact across the North. For example, thanks to FedNor's contribution to hospices in Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Thunder Bay, we will be able to house and provide compassionate care to some of our most vulnerable Northern citizens when they need it most.

In addition, I was proud to announce FedNor support for broadband technology across the North. Step by step, even the most remote regions are gaining access to Internet technologies that will provide advances in healthcare and education, as well as passage to the global marketplace for all citizens, regardless of location or geography.

Finally, on behalf of Canada's New Government, I would like to extend my best wishes to Joyce Holwerda, Robert Laforest, Stig Puschel, and Gloria Tozek on their retirement from the civil service. Their commitment and loyalty to Northern and rural Ontario is truly admirable and their approach to life and work an example for all FedNorians.

Sincerely,

Tony Clement



Industry
Canada

Industrie
Canada

Canada





FedNor narrows the broadband gap in Northern Ontario

Muskoka residents will benefit from improved health services thanks to an investment of \$2.4 million towards the expansion of broadband services within the area. A November trip by the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health and Minister for FedNor, to his home riding of Parry Sound–Muskoka saw the much-needed expansion of technology and services become ready for area-wide deployment across the region.

“In order for us to deliver quality healthcare through our hospitals, community physicians and nurses, we need access to these technologies,” Minister Clement said during the announcement in Huntsville. “Broadband networks are taken for granted in most other areas of the country. This investment is an important step in the elimination of geographic barriers that once limited the citizens of Northern Ontario.”

With support from FedNor, the Muskoka Community Network and North Bay’s Blue Sky Economic Growth Corporation will coordinate the



Minister Clement (right) with Susan Church, General Manager of the Blue Sky Economic Growth Corporation, and Rob MacPhee, Executive Director of the Muskoka Community Network, at the broadband expansion announcement in Parry Sound.

implementation of information and communications technology applications and the delivery of broadband solutions to 87 communities in the Muskoka area.

“The success of this project is vital to the economic growth and overall development of the Muskoka region,” said Rob McPhee, Executive Director of Muskoka Community Network.

“FedNor’s support for this project will certainly help our communities flourish and grow. It will attract and aid new and current businesses and provide quality of life for our citizens who previously did not have access to these technologies.”

To date, FedNor has invested close to \$7 million expanding broadband services to unserved Northern communities such as

the Chapleau Cree First Nation, Rainy River, Matchewan First Nation, and Port Sydney. These investments have provided remote Northern Ontario communities and businesses with access to specialized healthcare, distance education, and business opportunities that, until a short time ago, were out of reach.

FedNor funding aids three Northern Ontario hospices

Léo Therrien looks up from the architectural drawings for Sudbury’s new residential hospice and talks excitedly about the future of Maison “La Paix” House. As Executive Director, Therrien believes a project of this significance helps to define Sudbury as a caring community.

“Everyone at Maison La Paix House is amazed at what a great year 2006 was for the hospice community in Northern Ontario,” said Therrien. “We are hoping to break ground this spring and have our new facility operational by the end of the year. And if it wasn’t for the support and vision of FedNor, none of this would have been possible.”

Terry Fortin, an initiatives officer with FedNor in Sudbury, was the lead government official supporting a feasibility study for the hospice’s expansion. From that study, a budget and preliminary design were set in place for increased development.

“This was a great project from the beginning,” explained

Fortin. “All Léo and his staff needed was someone to help them get the ball rolling. Once FedNor helped fund the feasibility of the expansion, the hospice was able to get other levels of government on board for additional financing.”

In August 2006, the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health and Minister for FedNor, announced support of up to \$1.5 million for the establishment of residential hospices in Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Thunder Bay.

“Terminally ill patients and their families deserve the very best in palliative care and emotional support during this very difficult time,” said Minister Clement. “This government recognizes that hospices are a critical

element of an integrated health care system. Remaining close to home and loved ones is crucial to preserving patients’ dignity.”

Each hospice will be a 10-bed facility, employing up to 15 health care professionals including registered nurses, registered practical nurses and administrative staff.

“This time last year, we were not sure if we would have one residential hospice operating in Northern Ontario,” said Therrien. “Now, thanks to FedNor, the North will have three facilities providing compassionate care to people at their final stages of life.”



Léo Therrien looks over plans for the new Maison “La Paix” House in Sudbury.



Northern agriculture keeps growing at the Royal



The Northern Ontario Agri-food Pavilion

Northern Ontario was back on display in November with its popular array of products and services at Canada's premier agricultural exposition, Toronto's Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. For the sixth consecutive year, the Northern Ontario Agri-food Pavilion showcased more than 35 food producers, culinary professionals, equine outfitters, and forestry education and research centres. The pavilion provided the perfect forum for Northern vendors to highlight their unique wares to the many thousands of consumers, buyers and investors who visited during the 10-day event.



The 84th Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

Northern Ontario Agri-food Pavilion

In six years, the FedNor-supported pavilion has seen:

- Almost two million visitors
- Representatives and exhibitors from more than 100 Northern Ontario organizations and businesses
- Distribution deals for vendors from such countries as the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, Belgium and France
- Distribution and placement of exhibitors' products in major grocery chains throughout Ontario
- Over \$1.4 million in direct vendor sales
- Increased follow-up sales of almost 100 percent each year

Goodbye, farewell and amen

Laughter, a lot of memories and even some tears were shared as FedNor staff and friends gathered in Sudbury last December to celebrate the careers of Joyce Holwerda, Robert Laforest, Stig Puschel and Gloria Tozek.

A retirement dinner was hosted by FedNor Director General, Louise Paquette, and featured tributes, testimonials and toasts highlighting the accomplishments of each retiree.

"This is a truly bittersweet evening," said Paquette. "I am so proud to have worked with each of these individuals and it was great to reflect on how much they have contributed during their careers. But it also saddens me to know we won't be seeing them around the office anymore."

Paquette presented each of the retirees with a gift and commemorative plaque from the Prime Minister.

"Collectively, these FedNor employees represent over 120 years of service to Canada and Canadians," added Paquette. "Thanks to their hard work and dedication, Northern and rural Ontario are better, stronger, happier places."

Here, in their own words, are a few pearls of wisdom explaining life, work and what lies ahead.

Stig Puschel

What he'll do and what he'll miss:

"I will miss the vision, the team, the camaraderie, the community partners, and the ability to make a difference.

I plan to spend more of my time at the camp, travelling, expanding perennial beds and my knowledge of good food, wine, and art. Simply put, do more of what I already enjoy doing."

Words from the wise:

"Take chances and play outside the box. It might hurt on occasion, but it's more fun and much more rewarding. The journey is as easy and as exciting as you make it. Live and love the one you're with."

Robert Laforest

What he'll do and what he'll miss:

"I will miss working with my colleagues and friends at FedNor and the great relationships I have built over the years.

Liliane (his wife of 22 years) and I plan to travel across Canada and see everything the country has to offer.

I'd also like to increase my involvement as a volunteer with Timmins Search and Rescue and with the Kenogamissi Cottagers Association. This should kick-start my retirement and we will pick up from there!"

Words from the wise:

"It will take the time that it takes."

Joyce Holwerda

What she'll do and what she'll miss:

"In December, I took a cruise, and then went to the Bahamas in February. I also plan to spend time with my mother, join the London Grannies Group helping grandmothers in Africa, and I've promised to help one friend with her art gallery, another launch a photography business and another who is involved with an economic development project in Peru. Oh, and I plan on playing volleyball on Wednesday mornings!

I always felt that I was part of the CFDCs that I worked with over the years. I will be sorry not to have a front-row seat to see what new and exciting initiatives they come up with."

Words from the wise:

"Bloom where you are planted and work with what you have. Don't criticize what people and your co-workers can't do — concentrate on what they can do."

Gloria Tozek

What she'll do and what she'll miss:

"I expect to be in my garden and tending to it as much as I can! As well, I want to continue working within my community. I will be volunteering with a local transition house for homeless women and children. It is a project close to my heart and a cause I truly wish to see grow and succeed.

I will miss being part of a team working toward better communities and ultimately, making Canada a better place for all to live. The community partners are great. Always looking for ways to improve their communities and challenging us to see things from a new perspective. I will miss the lively debates, deep discussions and the wonderful diversity that is FedNor."

Words from the wise:

"Listen, listen and listen some more. Don't be too anxious to show what you know. Take the time to learn about the community. You will spend less time with your foot in your mouth!"



FedNor Director General, Louise Paquette (centre), with retirees Joyce Holwerda, Robert Laforest, Stig Puschel and Gloria Tozek.

FedNor's Dan Garcia with Stig Puschel and his wife Donna.



"Free at last!"



FedNor's Robert Laforest and his wife Liliane.



FedNor's Carmen DeMarco and Bernie Arbez.

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