
News Release

CANADA'S NEW GOVERNMENT INVESTS OVER \$4.6M IN GREATER SUDBURY REGION

SAULT STE. MARIE, Ontario, April 27, 2007 — The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health and Minister for FedNor, underlined the commitment of Canada's New Government to Northern Ontario today by announcing the results of a \$28.1M investment in support of 140 economic development projects benefiting hundreds of communities located throughout the vast region. Minister Clement announced the funding, provided by FedNor's two main programs – Northern Ontario Development and Community Futures – during a visit to Sault Ste. Marie this morning.

“Canada's New Government is committed to helping the residents of Greater Sudbury prosper,” said Minister Clement. “Our investment will help diversify the economy by supporting young Northerners entering the workforce, enhancing access to the information highway, and providing services to support small business growth.”

Of the total, more than \$4.6 million is earmarked for the **Greater Sudbury region** in support of 32 projects benefiting the technology, tourism, youth and small business sectors (see attached information sheet). Of this total, \$2.8M will be used to establish the Northeastern Ontario Network (NEON), an information technology (IT) consortium involving nine hospitals across Northeastern Ontario.

“We are certainly grateful to the Minister for today's significant announcement for all of Northern Ontario and for FedNor's tremendous contribution to this community and the surrounding area,” stated John Rodriguez, Mayor of the City of Greater Sudbury. “These investments will pay significant dividends in enhancing the quality of life for the residents and businesses of Sudbury and the Nickel Belt region.”

As outlined in Budget 2007, announced March 19th in Ottawa, Canada's New Government is creating competitive advantages for a stronger economy by reducing Canada's debt, lowering taxes on hard-working families, helping Canadian businesses compete globally, and making unprecedented investments in the infrastructure that connects the nation.

Today's announcement supports FedNor's strategic approach to helping Northern communities transition to a knowledge-based economy. More specifically, FedNor is meeting key Northern priorities, including: helping young graduates find full-time employment through FedNor's Youth Internship Program; ensuring that Northern communities have access to broadband so that residents can take advantage of the latest e-learning and tele-health initiatives; providing access to capital and advice for small business owners and entrepreneurs; developing an innovation capacity for medical and resource-based research; supporting trade networks to link Northern products and services to international markets; and facilitating marketing partnerships between tourism operators to attract new visitors to Northern Ontario.



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By supporting the residents of Greater Sudbury through its programs and services, FedNor is *opening doors* and *building futures* for a prosperous Northern Ontario.

To find out more about FedNor, visit us at: <http://fednor.ic.gc.ca>

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For more information, please contact:

Erik Waddell
Press Secretary
Office of the Honourable Tony Clement
613-957-0200

Peter Williams
Communications Officer
FedNor
705-670-6244 or 1-877-333-6673

Information

CANADA'S NEW GOVERNMENT INVESTS OVER \$4.6M IN GREATER SUDBURY REGION

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) INITIATIVES

\$3,177,730

To ensure that Northerners compete on both a local and global scale, FedNor helps connect Northern Ontario communities to the world by developing and enhancing telecommunications infrastructure, networks, and information and communications technology (ICT) applications.

FedNor funding will support:

- The Sudbury Regional Hospital Corporation (\$2,855,976)
- *to establish the Northeastern Ontario Network (NEON), an information technology (IT) consortium involving nine hospitals across Northeastern Ontario*
- Laurentian University of Sudbury (\$150,200)
- *to expand online courses and software as part of Laurentian University tele-learning programs to Ontario's Francophone community*
- Conseil De La Cooperation De L'Ontario (CCO) (\$131,503)
- *to develop an online Francophone training program at Collège Boréal to be used in the management of business cooperative models in Northern Ontario*
- Le Carrefour Francophone De Sudbury (\$40,051)
- *to upgrade its website and network database plus expand marketing programs*

YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

\$686,970

The FedNor Youth Internship Program (YIP) helps talented, young graduates gain the skills they need to secure permanent employment in the North. Today's investment will support 25 FedNor Youth Internships, providing recent post-secondary graduates with valuable on-the-job experience, helping them make the transition from the campus to the workplace. Local organizations receiving FedNor YIP funding of up to \$27,500 are:

- Northern Ontario School of Medicine (6 interns)
- Laurentian University (3 interns)
- City of Sudbury (3 interns)
- Music and Film in Motion (2 interns)

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YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM cont ...

- Cambrian College of Applied Arts & Technology
- BESTECH Inc.
- Centre de santé communautaire de Sudbury
- La Nuit Sur L'étang
- Downtown Village Development Corporation
- G.E.O.D.E. Grassroots Economic Opportunities Development Evaluation
- House of Kin
- Le Salon Du Livre Du Grand Sudbury
- The Northern Artist Gallery
- Rainbow District School Board
- United Way of Sudbury & District/Centraide

On August 8, 2006, Minister Clement celebrated the 1000th youth intern placement in Northern Ontario. Since April 2006, FedNor has invested more than \$1.3M in support of 52 youth interns in the Sudbury/Nickel Belt region.

SMALL BUSINESS INITIATIVES**\$491,676**

FedNor is committed to supporting community-based economic development efforts that create employment and stimulate growth in Northern Ontario, in particular, small and medium-sized businesses, through partnerships with community groups and not-for-profit organizations.

FedNor funding will support:

- College Boreal (\$360,200)
 - \$195,000 to support the establishment of a rural knowledge cluster in forestry
 - \$165,200 to support the expansion of The Centre for Industrial and Commercial Subcontracting of Ontario (STICO)
- Ontario's North Economic Development Corporation (\$50,000)
 - to implement a partnership strategy among five Northern cities for the development of business, marketing and communications activities
- City of Greater Sudbury (\$48,708)
 - to develop a networking strategy with private and public sector businesses and institutions that identify shared cost-savings and efficient uses of energy consumption
- Laurentian University (\$32,768)
 - to undertake a feasibility study to explore expanding on-line business degree courses in partnership with the Certified General Accountants Association (CGA)

TOURISM INITIATIVES**\$249,044**

Tourism is an economic driver in Northern Ontario, attracting millions of visitors each year who spend close to \$2 billion on hotels, restaurants, attractions and retail sales. To encourage tourists to visit and stay longer, FedNor invests in a variety of projects that boost tourism activity, ranging from marina and product development to marketing.

FedNor funding will support:

- Wild At Heart Refuge Centre (\$165,000)
- to expand its facilities used in the treatment and rehabilitation of injured wildlife, including larger animal enclosures that permit public viewing
- Rainbow Routes Association (\$40,000)
- to support a marketing and public education campaign for the Sudbury portion of the Trans-Canada Trail System
- Theatre Action (\$23,200)
- to plan and promote its 10th annual Festival franco-ontarien de théâtre in Sudbury for francophone student audiences
- Partners in Eco-Adventure Tourism Association (PEAT) (\$20,844)
- to develop a new website featuring a bilingual design and more content for its membership and marketing activities