

FEDERATION of NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
Northern Leader's Economic Summit
October 17 – 19, 2007 in Timmins, Ontario

1. NATURAL RESOURCES

Priorities identified by FONOM	Discussion highlights from break-out session
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unified voice for Northern Ontario - Establishment of Centre of Excellence - Capitalize on Hydro Development Opportunities and Port Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - streamlining processes and leg - update mining act - unify surface and mining rights - strategy to attract reg workforce - focus on value added, needs access to fibre - mill residue source for bioeconomy will decline with mill closures - dev strategy based on global positioning - need to work with First Nations, need resolution to land claims - fragmented leadership - need strong collective leadership

1. Natural Resources Session

Leaders: Chris Cormier – Mine Manager, Porcupine Joint Venture-Goldcorp
Chris Rees – Consultant, Suthey Holler Association

Chris Cormier presented a need to solve problems for the mining industry. From his perspective, it is essential to garner support from the residents, the municipality as well as government. This includes updating the mining act and unifying the mining rights with the surface rights. In addition, streamlining the permitting process and developing a workforce attraction strategy are also vital components that require consideration.

Chris Rees discussed natural resources from a forestry standpoint, in particular, the value added side of forestry rather than the traditional forestry industry. He added that we must protect and maintain jobs in the traditional commodity based forest product sector, create fibre access for SMEs and create forest fibre access for non-traditional forestry. The traditional forest industry and the new forest industry are linked—the most economical biomass for bio-energy is mill residues but as traditional mills close down, fewer residues are available. The forestry sector is faced with issues that are difficult to influence such as the exchange rate of the Canadian dollar, US protectionism, worldwide competition, energy prices and the radical change to forest tenure.

The group provided the following feedback:

- Promote research and development to assist with innovative products
- Establishment of Centre of Excellence for natural resources based industries in Northern Ontario
- Post-secondary opportunities in Northern Ontario—transference of skills/education
- Lobby for tax rebate strategy toward infrastructure

- Enhance agriculture opportunity in under or non-utilized agricultural lands
- Address MNR process and impact on Northern Ontario, especially tourism issues
- Develop strategy based on global positioning
- Streamline mine development process—proactive lobbying to remove barriers
- Change SFL system to license to harvest vs. tied to manufacturer
- Crown land access for cottage lot development—MNR to municipality, road restrictions and lake restrictions
- Work with First Nations to lobby or resolution of land claims
- Water policy amendments to govern commercialization
- Tackle usage of crown land in a new way
- Education curriculum change at primary and secondary levels to advocate levels of natural resources-based industries to youth
- Forestry school in Northern Ontario (why is this school in Southern Ontario?)
- Energy rates for industry as economic development tool
- Use forest as tourism attraction, target Asian/European markets
- Quicker move to co-op SFL
- Enhance effective relationship with First Nations based on land-use and development
- Unified energy development strategy for Northern Ontario to feed energy needs
- Unified leadership evident in Northern Ontario, how can we demonstrate unity?
- Youth in-migration attraction strategy
- Improve lobbying to address downloading to municipalities
- Northern voice in Toronto at Queen's Park to advocate for Northern Ontario development
- Access to capital restricts growth—we must improve access
- Encourage Northern Ontario MPs and MPPs to strengthen their voice or establish one group to speak for Northern Ontario—could be secretariat?
- Active approach to raise political awareness for Northern Ontario issues
- Strategy to bring forward northern issues, collective leadership group that speaks on behalf of Northern Ontario
- Northerners need to take charge of the north
- Form a Northern coalition that advocates radical change to gain attention and move forward—make noise
- FONOM becomes aggressive leadership entity—should be advocate for Northern Ontario
- Enhance road network in Far North
- Use environmental process system as model for change to other processes
- Protect small communities and businesses through hydro development opportunities and port development
- Capitalize on hydro development.