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Northwestern Ontario Development Network

NODN NEWS

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO DEVELOPMENT NETWORK
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONERS CONFERENCE
FRIDAY, MARCH 28TH
VALHALLA INN, THUNDER BAY

1st Annual Economic Development Practitioners Conference

Everyone's welcome to NODN's 1st Annual Economic Development Practitioners Conference at the Valhalla Inn, Thunder Bay, Friday, March 28th.

The full day conference will revolve around resources and strategies for the Economic Development Practitioner, the development and sampling of successful projects as well as concentrating on strengthening the network of Economic Development Practitioners in Northwestern Ontario. Most importantly, there will be opportunity to network with peers from across the region and share ideas and projects. Guest speakers to be heard include the distinguished Karen Corkery, Director of Higher Education Research and Development at Industry Canada, and Deborah Clark-Forster, Senior Business Consultant for Science, Technology & Services Investment and Trade Division of Ontario's Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. Presentations will also be made by the Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund, Ambassadors Northwest and the Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre.

More details and the online registration form can be found at www.nodn.com

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New President for EDCO

The Board of Directors of the Rainy River Future Development Corporation (RRFDC) would like to announce that Mr. Geoff Gillon, Ec.D.(F), Regional Economic Development Manager, has been elected President of the Economic Developer Council of Ontario (EDCO) for the next one year term. Mr. Gillon assumed his duties at the 2008 EDCO Conference in Toronto where he had the opportunity to meet with various government Ministry Staff. EDCO, a provincial association with over 600 members, strives to provide economic development practitioners with vital professional development and information services.
We wish Mr. Gillon and EDCO all the best in this coming year.

NADF Annual Business Awards

Outdoor and interior photos of Darcy & Susan's Gas in North Spirit Lake

Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF) has hosted its Annual Business Awards banquet and presentations each fall since 1990. Due to the large geography of its service area, the event rotates between venues in Thunder Bay and Timmins allowing a larger number of constituents and sponsors to attend. Numerous companies and individuals have partnered with NADF as sponsors of the event which began with just 10 people in attendance at the first even, to nearly 500 at the most recent. Award categories have grown from the initial Business Man and Woman to the current eight which also include Building Communities, Youth, Executive, Economic Development Corporation, Partnership and most recently the Neechee.

One of the past winners was Darcy Kejick and his partner Susan Rae who own and operate Darcy and Susan's Gas in North Spirit Lake; a remote First Nation located north of Red Lake. Darcy and Susan won the awards for Youth and Partnership of the Year in the fall of 2005. In 2006, Darcy also won the Project Beyshick Business Planning Award for his plan to expand into a grocery and dry goods store in 2007.

Only two and one half years after winning the first awards, Darcy Kejick and Susan Rae are successfully operating both business operations. Their success is undoubtedly due to careful planning, reassessment of the initial plan throughout implementation as well as cautious credit policies.

NADF is proud of the accomplishments of its clients and looks forward to celebrating once again at the 18th Annual Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund Awards on October 22, 2008 at the Days Inn in Timmins.
For more information, contact by email Giuseppe Buoncore gbuoncore@nadf.org or Dawn Willoughby dwilloughby@nadf.org or phone 1-800-465-6821 or in Thunder Bay 623-5397.

Sioux Lookout Train Station Receives Funding

On Thursday, February 14th Minister Gravelle of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, accompanied by the full NOHFC Board, announced a 2 million dollar grant towards the Sioux Lookout downtown revitalization project which includes the restoration and redevelopment of the train station, Centennial Park upgrades and signage improvements in the municipality. The Municipality bought the train station in 2007 and has since created the Economic Development Commission which has as one of its mandates, the planning and overseeing of this project.

Mayor Poling stated, "This grant announcement is great news for Sioux Lookout and the revitalization project as well. In addition to the donation gratefully received from Bowater for green space development in Centennial Park, the NOHFC funding will permit us to go forward with the station's renovation plans almost immediately".

The Economic Development Commission has already made application for an intern to assist with the demands that such a project will create in terms of planning and process management and who will be assigned to the sub-committee created specifically to oversee the redevelopment of the station.
More information will be forthcoming once the Commission is ready to unveil its recommendation in the near future.

THE entrepreneur CENTRE Building Business

Free Business Seminars during March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 **Selling on Websites, Online Payments, Processes & Benefits** Marathon 1-4pm	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 **Best Practices in Developing and Using a Website** Nipigon 6:30-9:30pm	14	15
16	17 **How to Write an E-Business Plan, How to Conduct E-Business, How to Implement into Your Business** Schreiber 6:30-9:30pm	18	19 **Best Practice in Developing and Using a Website** Manitouwadge 6:30-9:30pm	20	21	22
23	24	25 **How to Sell and Market Your Business via the Web** Terrace Bay 6:30-9:30pm	26	27	28	29
30	31					

The Entrepreneur Centre services provide information on business topics, one on one consultation with a Small Business Counsellor, Small Business Seminars, guides and information packages on how to start a business in Northwestern Ontario, information on financial programs, government programs and services, assistance with preparing a business plan, referrals to various agencies or resources, and programs.

For more information on these events or The Entrepreneur Centre please contact:
Karen Honan—Development Officer (Small Business)
Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC)
Email: EntrepreneurCentre@ThunderBay.ca
General: 807.625.3960 Toll Free: 800.668.9360
Fax: 807.623.3962

Thunder Bay CEDC
Community Economic Development Commission
Project-based • Business-led • Partner-driven • Community-supported

Upcoming Events

- 2008 Quality Centred Management Training by Lloyd Smith Solutions – sessions being held from February through June. Visit www.lloydsmith.ca for more details.
- The Thunder Bay Entrepreneur Centre Free Business Seminars – sessions being held throughout March. Contact Karen Honan at (807) 625-3960 or 1-800-668-9360 for more details.
- Making Trade Shows Work with Barry Siskind, Monday, March 17th at the Victoria Inn, Thunder Bay. For more information contact Michael Dunlop, GO North Advisor, at (807) 475-1772
- Green North Eco-Conference 2008 – presented by green@work, March 18th & March 19th at Confederation College. Registration and information at www.greennorthecoconference.com
- NODN 1st Annual Economic Development Practitioners Conference, Friday March 28th, Thunder Bay, ON Registration available online at www.nodn.com
- 2008 Annual Ontario Association of Community Future Development Corporation Conference, in Stratford, ON from April 20th to 22nd. Visit www.ontcfdc.com/conference for more details and registration
- Northern Ontario Women's Economic Development Conference – April 29th & 30th at the Valhalla Inn, Thunder Bay. For more information or to register visit www.nowedc.ca

In compliance with providing annual professional development to our members, NODN wishes to create a Development Series that members can participate in across Northwestern Ontario.

If there is a topic you wish to gain more knowledge on, a speaker you feel would benefit Economic Development Professionals, educational courses you would like to participate in, or if you have any other ideas or suggestions please send them to Dan Brenzavich at dan@nodn.com

Northern Ontario Women's Economic Development Conference

The PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise, and partners, the North Superior Training Board and Algoma University College, have announced that they will host the first Northern Ontario Women's Economic Development Conference NOWEDC) in Thunder Bay, April 29-30, 2008. The NOWEDC is the first regional economic development conference devoted to advancing business development opportunities for women.

Keynote speakers such as Cathrine Ann, award-winning rags to riches Entrepreneur, Diane Redsky, Director of Programs, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, Winnipeg, and Melanie Conn, past director of Simon Fraser University's Certificate program for CED Professionals, director of the Canadian Women's CED Council, and co-founder of the WomenFutures CED Society, and sessions during the conference will focus on themes relevant to economic issues facing women in Northern Ontario today. These include: Building a Business in Northern Ontario; Creating Sustainable Livelihoods and Growing Our Northern Communities. As part of the impressive agenda, the conference will showcase eminent female role models who are involved in business and community economic development.

Registration is now open with incentives to register early. Visit www.nowedc.ca for more information.

Northern Ontario Women's Economic Development Conference "Ordinary Women Doing Extraordinary Things"

PARO Centre For Women's Enterprise