

FedNor Update

OPENING DOORS. BUILDING FUTURES. IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

SUMMER 2006

A month of milestones

March marked the first official visit to Northern Ontario by the Minister for FedNor, the Honourable Tony Clement, and the official opening of the FedNor-funded medical research laboratories at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM).

"These research labs represent the largest single investment in FedNor's history," says Minister Clement. "With FedNor support of over \$6 million, Northern Ontario is now home to the best-equipped research facilities in all of Canada. The school

continues to attract some of the world's premier medical and scientific minds to teach the next generation of doctors in Northern Ontario."

The medical school, with campuses in Sudbury and Thunder Bay, admitted its inaugural class last fall.



Minister Clement and Associate Dean of Research, Dr. Greg Ross, display the results of the laboratory's first official experiment.

With over 2000 applications for admission received from across the country, potential students were subject to a targeted screening approach based on grade point average and community involvement. Specific attention was given to those with a rural or

Northern background. The process of selecting students was meticulous and involved participation and consultation from retired physicians, current students and members of the local community.

This September, 56 new medical students will begin

their journey at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. School officials are confident that close to two thirds of NOSM graduates will remain to practise in the North.

Investing in our future

As the Member of Parliament for Parry Sound-Muskoka, I know that the needs of Northern Ontario are as unique and challenging as the land itself.

When Prime Minister Stephen Harper appointed me Minister for FedNor earlier this year, I looked forward to the opportunity of rekindling old friendships and meeting with community leaders across the North.

Clearly, with stable funding approved for the next five years, FedNor is well positioned to make a marked impact on Northern Ontario's economy.

Our recent investments in health and medical education will ensure that the brightest young doctors, the best qualified nurses and the top analytical minds in Canada will be trained, conduct research and set up practice here in Northern Ontario.

FedNor investments in innovative technologies, eco-tourism, trade and small business will ensure Northern Ontario will prosper in the 21st Century. But I'm perhaps

most proud of our government's support for the next generation of leaders, educators and skilled trades people — our youth.

FedNor has been working with both the public and private sectors to help stem the flow of youth out-migration from our region. And it's working. In fact, I look forward to announcing the placement of our 1000th youth intern in the near future.

In closing, my family and I are proud to be part of Northern Ontario's future. It is our hope that all of the communities across the North will continue to work together, as we open doors and build futures for a prosperous rural and Northern Ontario.

Sincerely,



Tony Clement

Training nurses where they're needed

No one understands the North's critical need for nurses better than Darlene Furlong, Vice-President of Patient Care at Dryden Regional Health Centre.

"In the summer of 2004, a nursing shortage in Dryden forced 24 expecting mothers to travel to other hospital facilities and leave this community and their families for six weeks," she notes.

That's why Furlong is pleased FedNor invested in a pilot project run by Thunder Bay's

Confederation College, that has established degree-level nurse training centres in four satellite campuses across northwestern Ontario — Dryden, Kenora, Fort Frances and Sioux Lookout.

The pilot program came about last year when the Province of Ontario upgraded its standards, a change that required all registered nurses to graduate at the university level. It was then that Confederation, in partnership with Lakehead University, stepped in to deliver an accredited nursing program

to the college students enrolled at their satellite campuses.

FedNor contributed \$322 000 toward upgraded information and communications technology needed to deliver lectures, labs and course materials.

"Offering degree-level nursing education in smaller centres has attracted more qualified students than if it were offered only at Confederation's main campus in Thunder Bay," says Pat Lang, President of Confederation College. "Although this is a pilot program, we hope it will become a model for community-based nursing programs both provincially and nationally."

Thirty nursing students are currently in training with the Confederation/Lakehead program, and Lang says most are expected to find careers in their home communities.



Nursing students receive some "hands-on" experience at Confederation College's satellite campus in Dryden.

APPROACHING 1 000

FedNor's Youth Internship Program is successfully stemming the flow of youth out-migration in Northern Ontario.

In 1997, statistics revealed that only one in four young people who leave Northern Ontario ever return. This migration from the North has resulted in a steady decline in birth rates and education levels, as well as a greater dependence on outside sources for income and growth.

"Youth out-migration is a huge concern for the future of Northern Ontario," says FedNor Director General, Louise Paquette. "We are talking about the next generation of Northern leaders, educators and entrepreneurs. We need our youth to return to the North and we need to provide them with the right reasons to stay."

By partnering with not-for-profit organizations and the private sector, FedNor's Youth Internship Program provides young Northern graduates with the opportunity to find employment and gain valuable professional experience in Northern Ontario.

"We are really excited about announcing the placement of our 1 000th intern this summer," says Paquette. "With close to 70 percent of interns finding full-time work after their placement, we can see that we're definitely on the right track. This is great news for the future of Northern Ontario."

YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM SUCCESS

- To date, FedNor has invested over \$25 million in youth-related projects, placing interns with over 400 host organizations across Northern Ontario.
- Seven out of 10 interns find full-time employment in Northern Ontario as a result of their placement.
- FedNor will place their 1000th intern later this summer.

THUNDER BAY



SHAWN HUSTON
Age 23
Born Timmins, ON
Education Sault College – Computer Engineering Program
Place of Internship Sault College
Description Shawn is helping with the development of a reliable and cost-effective water treatment system that will be provided to communities with little expertise in the operation of water treatment plants.
Status Began internship in September 2005.

"Thanks to this FedNor youth internship, I'm building on the classroom education I received in the Computer Engineering Program here at Sault College, and applying those skills in an exciting and innovative setting. I firmly believe that this additional hands-on training will allow me to pursue a fulfilling career in Northern Ontario."

SAULT STE. MARIE



JAIMIE JORGENSEN
Age 23
Born Thunder Bay, ON
Education Lakehead University – Honours Bachelor of Commerce
Place of Internship Scholars Education Centre, Thunder Bay
Description Jaimie provides research and groundwork to Scholars' international market development department, to help expand and export their educational services to countries such as the United States and China.
Status Began internship in September 2005.

"This is a wonderful self-fulfilling experience. I'm doing things in my current position that I never thought I was capable of before my internship began. The prospect of permanent work in this field looks assured."

INTERESTED IN HOSTING A YOUTH INTERN?

- If you are a **not-for-profit organization**, you may qualify if you have a newly created position available that delivers community economic development activities, or if your organization provides support services, information and/or skills training to entrepreneurs and small businesses across Northern Ontario.
- If you are a **private sector business** looking to enhance your company's operations in the fields of innovation, connectivity or trade, you may qualify if this project will lead to business expansion and the creation of new employment opportunities in Northern Ontario.



JENNIFER CLOUTIER
Age 22
Born Cochrane, ON
Education Nipissing University – Bachelor of Arts, Sociology
Place of Internship Polar Bear Habitat and Heritage Village
Description Jennifer helps create curriculum friendly, educational programs to accommodate visiting children and school trips to the Habitat.
Status Began internship in January 2006.

"This FedNor internship gave me the opportunity to return to Northern Ontario and gain vital work experience related to my field of study. FedNor, the Cochrane and Area Community Development Corporation and the Polar Bear Habitat and Heritage Village are providing me with a wonderful head start to a rewarding career."



CHANTAL VALADE
Age 27
Born Elliot Lake, ON
Education Collège Boréal – Fish & Wildlife Management
Place of Internship Science North
Description Chantal worked closely with a team of Staff Scientists to develop and deliver science workshops, camps and programs, and assisted in the development of new exhibits and activities at Science North.
Status Completed internship in 2005. Currently employed full-time as a Staff Scientist at Science North.

"Throughout my internship, I found myself in a dynamic environment where I was constantly challenged and able to grow professionally. This was a great chance to gain more knowledge and hands-on experience in my field of work. I would like to thank both FedNor and Science North for giving me such a wonderful opportunity."



MONIQUE HÉBERT
Born Noéville, ON
Education Collège Boréal – Information Technologies Program, and Laurentian University – Business and Economics classes
Place of Internship Municipality of West Nipissing
Description As an Economic Development Project Coordinator, Monique analyzed economic development opportunities within her local community. She also served as a liaison with local business owners, helping them to define barriers to local economic development and business retention.
Status Internship in October 2005. Currently employed full-time as an Economic Development Coordinator with the Municipality of West Nipissing.

"As youth in Northern Ontario communities are aware, it is very difficult to find employment without having to relocate to a large metropolitan area. Thanks to FedNor's Youth Internship Program, I was able to live and work close to my hometown, while learning how to establish and maintain effective business relationships, deal with conflict resolution and countless other experiences that have helped develop my skills and build my career."

CLICK. CALL. VISIT.
 For more information on the FedNor Youth Internship Program, visit fednor.ic.gc.ca or contact your local FedNor office at 1-877-333-6673.



MARC RIOUX
Age 30
Born Sudbury, ON
Education Humber College – Computer Engineering Program
Place of Internship West Parry Sound Health Centre/Parry Sound Business Bureau
Description Marc assisted PSAnet (Parry Sound Area Network) with identifying the broadband needs of various stakeholders in the Parry Sound district during the early deployment phase of enhanced telecommunications networks across the region.
Status Completed internship in 2003. Currently employed full-time as a System Support Specialist at the West Parry Sound Health Centre.

"My FedNor internship gave me the opportunity to gain valuable experience in the business and administrative sides of the computer industry. It allowed me to showcase my skills and develop my abilities, which then led to a full-time job in Northern Ontario."

COCHRANE

SUDBURY

NORTH BAY

PARRY SOUND

A Royal engagement: FedNor goes to the Fair

FedNor was once again the toast of The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto this past November, as the award winning Northern Pavilion provided a taste of Northern Ontario and so much more.

This was the fifth year the FedNor-funded pavilion took centre stage at the world's largest indoor exposition, highlighting all the North has to offer in primary agriculture, processed products, education and research.

"I've been coming to Toronto with the Northern

delegation since 2001," says Stig Puschel, the lead FedNor officer responsible for the pavilion. "Each year, it just gets better and better. We are now considered an integral part of the Royal and people look forward to seeing what new and interesting products we're showcasing from the North."

At more than 4500 square feet, the impressive showcase now ranks as one of the largest commercial exhibits at the event, with over 30 businesses and organizations, ranging from livestock producers and fish

farmers to cranberry growers and organic farmers, displaying their unique products and knowledge in agriculture and the agri-food industry.

With nearly 300 000 visitors attending the Royal each year, the pavilion is increasing awareness of agriculture's importance to Northern Ontario, along with the prospects of new markets, new investment and new jobs.

Visit FedNor at the Fair from November 3-12, 2006.



(L to r) FedNor Director General, Louise Paquette, Bill Duron, CAO of The Royal Winter Agricultural Fair, and Global Television's Susan Hay cut the ribbon to officially open the 5th annual Northern Ontario Agriculture Pavilion supported by FedNor.

INSIDE FEDNOR

Raising millions for a great cause

Back in 1984, FedNor's Associate Director General, Greg Smith, was building a successful career and felt it was time to give back to the community.

"I feel now like I felt then — that those of us who are more fortunate in life have a moral obligation to help those who are in need," Smith says.

The then 27-year-old joined the Rotary Club, as well as the Easter Seal Society, an organization dedicated to helping children with physical disabilities succeed. The Society

currently provides services to 8000 children province-wide.

Smith went on to chair the Sudbury Easter Seals Telethon for 12 years and has been a member of the provincial board for nine years. He will step down as Board Chair this June, after two years at the helm of Easter Seals Ontario.

"When you see the kids and their families, and the positive impact you're having on their lives, that makes it all worthwhile," says Smith.

This year, under Smith's leadership, the Easter Seal

Society raised over \$400 000 across Northern Ontario and a staggering \$12.6 million province-wide.

"My wife Karen and I don't have children of our own, but through my involvement with Easter Seals, I feel I have 8000 children to care for."

For more information on the Easter Seal Society, visit their website at www.easterseals.org.



FedNor's Greg Smith with hockey star Mats Sundin at the Toronto Maple Leafs Skate for Easter Seals Kids.

Shave for the record

Unlike the biblical figure Samson, three FedNor employees admit that losing their hair has actually empowered them. Executive Assistant to the Director General, Louise Dionne, Community Economic Development Officer, Paul Denis,

and Monitoring and Payment Officer, Pauline Blais, joined more than 800 brave souls at the Shave for the Record fundraiser for cancer research in Sudbury this past April, helping organizers raise more than \$300 000.

Dionne, who herself raised more than \$3000 in pledges from friends, family and fellow FedNorians in Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay and Timmins, says the event was very emotional.

"There were so many people telling their stories — it truly was overwhelming," she says. "Everyone you speak to knows someone who has battled this disease, so it really meant something to participate."



(l to r) FedNor's Paul Denis, Louise Dionne and Pauline Blais lost their locks while raising over \$3,000 in support of cancer research in Northern Ontario.

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