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August 2025

43rd Annual Westfort Street Fair!



INSIDE

Ascend Accelerator
Program graduates
seventh cohort

Government of
Canada launching
update of regional
growth strategy

Ontario Investing
\$6.2 Million to
Protect Forest Sector
Jobs and Workers in
Northwestern Ontario

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 @tbay25  @Scott Sumner



North Star Air Opens Brand New Terminal Building!



Taylor Made Test Session!

New Facility Completed for North Star Air!

- Special Feature

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AIR



Publisher's

Note

Scott

Sumner

Six student-based ventures graduated from the seventh cohort of Ingenuity’s Ascend Accelerator Program. The six student start-ups are provided funding from the John Dobson Foundation, in addition to mentorship, weekly workshops, and are held accountable to milestone goals created throughout the 10-week boot camp-style program.

Tony Braxton Tchio Ngoumeza - GreenShade
GreenShade is developing a precision agriculture system that leverages machine learning to optimize farming practices and provide farmers with tailored recommendations. Whether a farmer's goal is to maximize yield, improve resource efficiency, or identify the most suitable crops for their specific environment and climate, their system analyzes a wide range of variables to deliver actionable insights. By integrating data-driven analysis and predictive modeling, they empower farmers to make informed decisions that align with their unique agricultural goals.

James McDonagh and Gia Hieu Le - Conversaver
An AI-powered audio summarization tool designed to prioritize your privacy at every step. It delivers customizable summaries of your conversations, helping you capture key insights without the hassle of manual note-taking. With strict data protection measures in place, you can trust that your information stays secure and confidential.

Mackenzie Smith – Aurae & Company
Aurae is an online yoga studio rooted in accessibility, mindfulness, and self-care. With a holistic approach that nurtures mind, body, and soul, Aurae blends calming beach imagery with a flexible, “practice anywhere” ethos. Whether through guided meditations, movement practices, or reflective prompts, the brand invites users to reconnect with

Ascend Accelerator Program graduates seventh cohort



themselves and move with intention — no matter where they are.

Magdy Alani - Teknu Solutions
Teknu Solutions is a research-driven startup providing advanced engineering solutions for the Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) sector. Founded by PhD experts, it integrates structural engineering expertise with AI and optimization algorithms to streamline and enhance the design of buildings. Our first solution focuses on intelligent layout optimization to improve material efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, and accelerate early-stage design decisions. This company builds the foundation for smarter, more sustainable structures.

Rambert Shaw - Vivideye Concepts
Vivideye produces cinematic, story-driven videos that elevate brands, capture attention, and drive results. With our turnaround time of three business days, Vivideye helps you stand out and sell more with high-quality, professional content designed to leave a lasting impact regardless of whether you're a realtor, event planner, or small business owner.

Vince Butrico and Michae Gagliardil - SkillJa
SkillJa brings athletes and coaches together in one unified space. Athletes can find trusted coaches across 35+ sports, while coaches showcase their expertise, manage bookings, and grow their business. Built by athletes for athletes, SkillJa replaces the scattered search process with a seamless way to discover, book, and connect with sports coaches.

I asked James McDonagh about his project.

Tell Me about Conversaver?

“ Conversaver is an AI powered audio transformation tool. A user can upload any kind of audio file they want. It gets turned into a transcript and then processed using AI and summarized based on a very specific template the user wants. For example if you are a financial advisor and have many meeting in a day, our tool is basically able to take those audio files, quickly transcribe them and summarize them in a very specific format so they can go to their notes. It means you can kinda go paperless.”

“ A main goal for us with this was privacy and compliance as you are dealing with client data. It could be used by many people including in healthcare. We can introduce encryption. Half of our program is basically a transcriber which takes audio and puts it to text.”

What stage are you at with the project?

“ We are basically demo ready with the project and want to partner with a business that has many clients and meetings, so we can learn how viable our product is and refine the product. We could then move to more businesses including a Cloud based approach as now we do everything on a physical server. You could buy a subscription to the service. We want our app to be able to pair with Zoom for example as well.”

“ The project was equal parts research and figuring out what we wanted to build and then writing a lot of the code and refining the model.I do enjoy entrepreneurship.”

James just finished his Honours Bachelor of Computer Science and is going back for a Masters this fall, a two year course with some research.

I asked Alyson MacKay, Ingenuity manager some questions.

Tell me about this program.

“ I run the day to day operation of our business incubator, which assists students in starting their own businesses in a number of different ways- whether it be one on one meetings with students, to workshops, finding them resources and then our Incubator program which is our biggest program.”

“ Our office space Ingenuity has a hot space area for students that acts as their office with lockable space as well as a lecture room, theatre room.”

How does the Accelerator program work?

“ With the accelerator program itself we put out a call for applications. It gets dropped to the top ten and then the final rounds. All students can also contact me to find out specific information on where they could find funding and so on. They can get up to \$5000 through the Accelerator program.”

“ We typically get out 100 students a year contact us as well continuing their education. Anyone is welcome to have a conversation about entrepreneurship with us.”

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Thunder Bay Business is published monthly by:

NORTH SUPERIOR PUBLISHING INC.

tel: (807) 623-2348 fax: (807) 623-7515

email: nspinc@tbaytel.net

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New Facility Completed for North Star Air!

- Special Feature

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North Star Air Opens Brand New Terminal Building!

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER
Thunder Bay BUSINESS

The Thunder Bay Airport has a brand new building adjacent to its runways occupied by North Star Air. This state of the art, 37,000 square foot facility, has been custom built to meet the needs of the growing airline.

“North Star began about 26 years ago in Pickle Lake as mainly a float operation dealing with tourism and canoes. Frontier Canoes was involved in the original company. Frank Kelner got involved with the owner in 2013 with Cargo North which featured the Basler aircraft. From there in 2017 North Star Air was purchased by the Northwest Company, which is a publicly traded company. We operate independently but are owned by them. The Northwest Company also operates stores in the remote communities.” said Tom Meilleur, Vice President North Star Air. “Frank is a visionary and turned North Star from scratch to where it is today, so deserves a lot of the credit. He is the Accountable Executive of North Star with Transport Canada. Eventually he merged North Star and Cargo North and now we have 3 Baslers, 5 ATR 72 500 freighters, 8 Pilatus PC 12 and 4 Dash 8’s- 100 and 300’s.”

“I am from Chicago and went to school in Boston. In 2012 Frank had just bought out my dad in the business and asked me to go to Pickle Lake for the summer and I liked it there. One day in Boston and then Pickle Lake! I’ve been working in the aviation business for 11 years now.” said Jeff Stout, President / Chief Operating Officer of North Star Air. “My father, John, was involved in 1997 when it was a fly in fishing operation and grew over the



Jeff Stout, President/ Chief Operating Officer North Star Air and Tom Meilleur, Vice President North Star Air

years bit by bit. In 2012 my father’s business partner was bought out by Frank Kelner and that is when the growth trajectory started. They brought on Baslers, started Cargo North, added Pilatus aircraft and culminated by being bought by the Northwest Company in 2017. My father is completely out of the business now. Northwest purchased North Star Air in 2017 from my father and Frank Kelner. Frank Kelner is well known in aviation.”

North Star now has a staff of 330 here in Thunder Bay, in other NW Ontario communities, in Northern Manitoba and Nunavit.

“The new building is an amalgamation of 7 locations used previously including the warehouse leased from the airport for our cargo location. Our schedule service was in the main ter-

minal building. We had Walsh street as offices and administration with two buildings and two rental units on Beaverhall Hall Place. We have been

growing over time and now we are in one location.” said Tom Meilleur.

Continued

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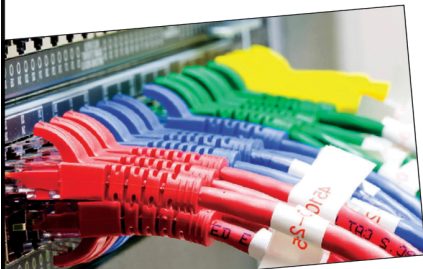
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Continued

“ We firmly believe the goal of being consolidated in one location was to improve customer service. Previously

you had to go all over the place. Having everyone in one place and getting a team approach with one stop shopping for our customers is huge. We have maintenance right here. The

synergies are going to be amazing.”

The new building is around 37,000 square feet in size, just a little bigger than the previous 7 locations com-

pleted. It was 3 to 4 years in the making, including a 1 1/2 year design and construction to get it completed. It is really energizing for Tom and myself to be involved more closely with the staff. In the past we had many people working from home because we didn’t have the space. It has been a long process and we are thrilled to have everyone in one location.” said Jeff Stout.

“ The aviation business is complex, particularly in the North. If we were running from say here to Toronto only it would be simpler. In the North you have a lack of infrastructure. The airports may not meet today’s codes. We are working with the government trying to find solutions to improve these airports. The weather, the harsh environments that are ever changing and lack of weather reporting is challenging. Our aim is to get a better service to the North.” said Jeff.

Continued



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Continued

“ You have to be adaptable in this environment. We have done a pretty good job to adapt to our customers and have had a good relationship with our First Nations communities including 11 partners- they are not owners but we have a strategic partnership. Since 2014 we have given back to the communities over \$13 million dollars. It is a beautiful relationship, built on trust, friendship and service. Our customers can call Jeff or me and say we need this. They get that extra service level and we get friendships. The communities we service are exclusively fly in only. They relie on us for passenger movements, fuel, cargo, food- we take that extremely seriously. We are an essential service.” said Tom. “ This new building is also about food security for example, so our clients can bring their food back safely in good condition, with our new freezers.”

“ We are a larger regional carrier- don’t have as many aircraft as some others, but what we have we use well. For instance our ATR’s normally might fly 1200 hours with other carriers and they are happy, but we have over 1800 hours due to efficient usage.” said Tom.

“ We operate independently but report to the Northwest Company. They are also our biggest customer as well as



“ It will take time to settle into this new building, but it is focusing in on our core business which is servicing the north. We don’t pretend to be Air Canada, we’re not Porter, we are a northern airline focused on safe, reliable service to the north. We can now double down with this new building and focus on what we can do better. It reaffirms our commitment to the north for the long run.” said Jeff.

Is there anything else on the horizon for North Star Air?

good to have flexibility with staff and aircraft to think outside of the box. If you have a scheduled flight and need a new aircraft for the route we will find a way to service the customer. We never want to hear from a community

that there are no seats available, as they need to attend medical appointments for example- we will add flights. We take out role very seriously.” said Jeff.



we serve all of their communities and are held accountable. They get well serviced. We are a Thunder Bay company and that is not changing. What is neat is we are working in Northern Manitoba and operating elsewhere bringing jobs here.” said Jeff.

“ We always look at new opportunity and have just got a new to us Pilatus PC 12 and want to add another freighter aircraft. Our growth will be incremental and concentrate on good service in the north. We will get better with this new building. In the business, aircraft can need maintenance so it is

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First Nation Community Partners

We applaud the community leaders that are opening up the skies of the North to competition so people, businesses, and communities will have more choices. In addition, a competi-

tive marketplace will motivate all to compete on fares and improve service levels.

To-date North Star Air's growing strategic business partnerships include

11 First Nations: Cat Lake, Deer Lake, Kashechewan, Marten Falls, Neskantaga (Lansdowne House), North Caribou Lake (Weagamow, Round Lake), North Spirit Lake, Poplar Hill, Sachigo Lake, Webequie and Eabametoong (Fort Hope).

* Take Flight Aviation Program Grants are available to our First Nation Partner Community members who are registered in an accredited Aviation Program anywhere in Canada. First Nation Community Investments and Involvement

In support of our vision and mission, our strategic business relationship with our First Nation community partners include the following benefits:

* A revenue-sharing agreement whereby the proceeds are linked to the sales revenue of each community.

We are proud and dedicated to playing an active role in making a positive difference within the First Nation Communities. Social and cultural programs such as Arts & Culture, Education, Environment, Healthy



Congratulations North Star Air!

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* Work together to create new business opportunities and employment while protecting and preserving the environment and maintaining First Nation values, culture, traditions, and identity.

Living and Sports and Recreation are programs we are passionate about and committed to sponsoring and supporting such programs.



Welcoming you to the 43rd Westfort Street Fair!

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-August Feature



Westfort Street Fair Set to Bring Fun, Food, and Family-Friendly Activities on August 16th

The beloved Westfort Street Fair returns on Saturday, August 16th, from



9 a.m. to 5 p.m., promising a full day of family-friendly fun, local shopping, and great food. Known for its lively atmosphere and community spirit, this year's fair is shaping up to be the biggest one yet.

As always, families are at the heart of the event, with an entire day of free activities for kids. The popular Kid Zone, sponsored by TBaytel, will keep children entertained with bouncy castles, fun games, and giant inflatable orbs provided by Ultimate Parties.

This year, fairgoers can also enjoy an exciting new feature – a relaxing lounge sponsored by Open Minds Interior. Designed as a comfortable sitting area with cozy seating, the lounge will feature live music from local singer-songwriters, as well as specialty drinks and tasty snacks from The Landing Gathering Hall.

The excitement doesn't stop there. The Main Stage, sponsored by Heartbeat Hotsauce, will once again host two crowd-favorite competitions – the Hot Pepper Eating Challenge and the Westfort Foods Hot Dog Eating Contest, where brave participants will compete for the title of hot dog eating champion.

The vendor community has also rallied in a big way this year. Aaron Gillingham, local business owner and committee chair, shared his excitement:

“The response from vendors has been amazing – over 115 are setting up this year, which is huge for our little community. The event is getting bigger

each year. It's going to be a great day to eat, shop, and enjoy everything Westfort has to offer. We're so thankful for our sponsors, especially Janzens, our presenting sponsor, for helping make it all happen.”

The businesses of Westfort are always proud to host this event, welcoming thousands of visitors to the neighbourhood each year. Many local shops will be offering amazing deals and an exceptional shopping experience, mak-

ing the fair a perfect opportunity to explore and support Westfort's unique businesses.

From delicious eats and unique shopping to family-friendly entertainment and live music, the Westfort Street Fair continues to grow every year – and 2025 promises to be the best yet.

For a full list of sponsors and to view the event agenda closer to the date, visit www.westfort.ca.

Mark your calendars, bring the whole family, and get ready to spend a day celebrating everything that makes Westfort special!



See you August 16th for the world famous Westfort Street Fair! It's the biggest party of the year!
Can't wait to see you

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Westfort Street Fair Set to Bring Fun, Food, and Family-Friendly Activities on August 16th

A bit of history about Westfort.

Westfort Village is a self-contained shopping district and in fact, many Thunder Bay residents will travel across the city to shop in the unique stores and shops. It is one of the oldest and most famous corners of Thunder Bay.

The community of Westfort, grew up around river traffic and the railway, home for working families. Early business owners established their own busy downtown area, complete with clothing stores, banks, restaurants, hotels,

professional offices, pharmacy and food store.

Historic Westfort Village... This historic village in Thunder Bay was once the focal point of a community that worked at the local grain elevators, factories and in the rail yard. Its proximity to the Kaministiquia River made it an ideal location for the docking of the smaller ships of the time.

There is still extensive evidence of the areas past. Now a unique antique and collectible shopping opportunity, this community of specialty shops makes



an enjoyable destination for Thunder Bay visitors. Continued

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Continued

The fort was first settled in 1860. The Fort William Town Plot were surveyed in 1859-60 by the Province of Canada's Department of Crown Lands and opened to settlement. Once the Fort William Town Plot (later known as West Fort) was selected as the eastern terminus for the Canadian Pacific Railway, and construction of the railway began in June 1875, Fort William began to grow, but very slowly. It would take the federal Department of Public Works, and later the Department of Railways and Canals, seven years 1875-1882 to build the Thunder Bay Branch from Fort William to Winnipeg.

By 1883-84 it was clear to all but the residents of Port Arthur that the Montreal-based Canadian Pacific Railway syndicate, in collaboration with the Hudson's Bay Company, preferred the low lying lands along the lower Kaministiquia River to the rocky shores of Port Arthur, and the Company subsequently consolidated all its operations there, erecting rail yards, coal handling facilities, grain elevators and a machine shop. Library



services for Fort William began in 1885 when CPR employees opened a bath, smoking and literary room, with a library attached in the Round House, West Fort William. Fees were \$1.25 per year for CPR employees; outsiders were required to pay \$1.25 for use of the tub.

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Continued

The Mary J. L. Black Library, 151 West Brock Street, opened in 1938. Mary J. L. Black was the librarian of the Fort William Library from 1909-1937.

She was one of Canada's leading librarians in her day and was the first woman president of the Ontario Library Association. It seems appropriate that the Westfort Branch was named in Miss Black's honour.

Many families enjoy taking their children out to this well established, annual event. This annual family event and never fails to provide a great time. If you haven't seen certain people in a very long time, maybe it is time for you to venture out to the 2025 Westfort Street Fair.

Thank you for coming out.






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Westfort Street Fair Set to Bring Fun, Food, and Family-Friendly Activities on August 16th

The Best Part of the Westfort Street Fair? The People!

There’s just something special about this day in Westfort... friends meeting up, neighbours catching up, and families turning the Street Fair into their yearly tradition. The air is always full of joy, laughter, and that unmistakable community spirit.

Every year it gets bigger and better – which means you’re almost guaranteed to bump into an old friend, a co-worker, or your favourite neighbour while grabbing a coney dog or enjoying a tasty “beverage.”

August 16th our day, Westfort – and we can’t wait to see you there!



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THUNDER BAY BUSINESS NORTH SUPERIOR PUBLISHING -August Feature



Westfort Street Fair Set to Bring Fun, Food, and Family-Friendly Activities on August 16th

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER
Thunder Bay BUSINESS

For me it is always fun to see so many people out on a nice day enjoying themselves and seeing everything the Westfort Village Association has to offer. This is a very unique area for Thunder Bay and a great place to support local entrepreneurs!

The Westfort Village Association present a day of great fun for the entire family and visitors alike! Frederica Street is closed each year for the event when local vendors set up for the days event. This year, like every other year, vendors will offer great food of different cultural cuisine, that is said to satisfy any appetite. Patrons casually sauntered up and down the avenue, meeting friends, being entertained by great, live, local musicians and that just makes the fair that much more, lively and happy. Everyone is in great spirits during the event and it seems that no one wants it to end!



Every vendor had sidewalk sales, showcasing different merchant wares that are special and interesting and also items that you just can't find just anywhere else.

Be sure to attend the Westfort Street Fair August 16th!

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Ontario Investing \$6.2 Million to Protect Forest Sector Jobs and Workers in Northwestern Ontario

Investment will support economic growth, job creation and innovation in Ontario’s forestry sector

The Government of Ontario is protecting workers and jobs in the forest sector by investing over \$6.2 million in research, innovation and modernization projects in Northwestern Ontario. As part of the government’s plan to protect Ontario, the investments from the Forest Biomass Program will boost Ontario’s forest sector’s competitive advantage by creating new jobs, increasing productivity and opening up opportunities for new revenue streams in new markets for underused wood and mill by-products, known as forest biomass.

“Our government is proud to support world-class innovation in Ontario’s forest sector that helps the industry grow, create jobs and build prosperity in northern communities that depend on a strong forest sector,” said Kevin Holland, Associate Minister of Forestry and Forest Products. “We’re taking bold, decisive action to protect good-paying jobs and economic growth in the face of US tariffs, including making targeted investments that ensure our forest sector is resilient for whatever else comes our way.”

Ontario’s investment is supporting eight projects related to the use of underused wood and mill by-products, known as forest biomass:

- The Centre for Research and Innovation in the Bioeconomy, which is receiving \$5,000,000 to accelerate forest sector growth by developing and commercializ-

ing innovative forest-based products, assisting with technology development and fostering cross-industry collaboration.

- Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek, which is



receiving \$250,000 to support the development of a community heating system by funding a study of local biomass supply and purchasing equipment to convert forest biomass to fuel.

- Thunder Bay Pulp and Paper, which is receiving \$87,750 to help support the facility’s modernization by funding two studies assessing current technology and designing upgrades to the boiler, fibre recovery and

sludge processing systems. These projects will help create good-paying local jobs while opening new markets for forest sector businesses. In addition, they will strengthen Northwestern

\$45 million to-date under the Forest Biomass Program to support more than 55 projects. Ontario’s Forest Biomass Program invests up to \$20 million each year in projects to increase wood harvest, create forest sector opportunity and find new uses for wood in collaboration with stakeholders, industry and Indigenous communities.

Quick facts

This investment builds on Associate Minister Holland’s recent announcements of Forest Biomass Program funding in May and July 2025.

Ontario’s Forest Biomass Program investments complement funding through the Forest Sector Investment and Innovation Program, which has approved close to \$72 million in investments, giving businesses the tools and technology to create jobs and unlock greater productivity.

Ontario’s forest sector generated \$21.6 billion in revenue from the sale of manufactured goods and services in 2023 and supported over 128,000 direct and indirect jobs in 2024.

Wood produced from Ontario’s Crown forests is sustainably sourced and renewable. Wood is a renewable resource, a clean energy source, and a sustainable – and biodegradable – alternative to single-use plastics.

Ontario’s economy by building strong regional markets for mill by-products which will create added demand for the harvesting, hauling and trucking industries, and develop new opportunities for Indigenous communities to participate in the growing forest industry.

Commented [DC(1)]: Link to BG Under the Forest Biomass Action Plan released in 2022, the government is developing the untapped potential of forest biomass to create new opportunities for forest sector growth, including investing over

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Government of Canada launching update of regional growth strategy

FedNor funds also announced in support of the tourism industry of Northern Ontario

Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario – FedNor

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Jobs and Families and Minister responsible for FedNor, recently announced the updated Prosperity & Growth Strategy for Northern Ontario, as well as a total FedNor investment of \$4,571,673 in tourism proj-

ects across the region.

The Prosperity & Growth Strategy for Northern Ontario (PGSNO) is a comprehensive document intended to support and amplify current and ongoing Government of Canada programs and collaborations to address the needs of Northern Ontario's residents and communities. Development of the updated PGSNO drew from consultation with communities, enterprises, Indigenous organizations, and other regional stakeholders in order to tailor fed-

eral investments to needs identified throughout Northern Ontario. PGSNO provides a roadmap for focussing and continuing strong economic development in the region, and this update will steer our efforts to address challenges and opportunities for the next 5 years.

Also announced was \$4,571,673 in FedNor funds for 22 tourism industry projects, businesses, and organizations throughout Northern Ontario. This includes the construction and installation of new tourism infrastructure and upgrades to existing attractions; the creation and expansion of festivals, tours, and exhibits; and support for the coordination and development of strategic plans. The collected projects receiving FedNor funds will help further develop Northern Ontario as an all-season tourist destination, supporting an industry to that provides jobs and economic benefits across the region by drawing in thousands of visitors each year while also offering made-in-Canada options for Canadians.

munities and organizations across the region.”

- The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Jobs and Families and Minister Responsible for FedNor

“The Prosperity and Growth Strategy for Northern Ontario is about unlocking potential—and that includes promoting Northern Ontario as a must-visit tourism destination. Whether it’s domestic travellers or international tourists, we want more people to experience the beauty, culture and opportunities in every corner of this region. From coast to coast to coast, the Tourism Growth Program helps ensure that no part of Canada is left behind.”

- The Honourable Rechie Valdez, Minister of Women and Gender Equality and Secretary of State (Small Business and Tourism)

“The Culinary Tourism Alliance is dedicated to working with communities to promote authentic taste experiences that honour local cultures and support industries across the culinary tourism value chain. We are proud to partner with Destination Northern Ontario, and thanks to FedNor’s support, we will continue to build partnerships and promote and foster diverse and inclusive culinary and agri-tourism destination development.”

- Rebecca Mackenzie, President & CEO, Culinary Tourism Alliance

Quotes


“The economic landscape has seen many changes over the last five years and communities in Northern Ontario deserve new opportunities for economic development. Whether it is harnessing new investment opportunities or supporting careers in the tourism industry, today’s announcement is critical to maximizing Northern Ontario’s full potential, in collaboration with com-

Happy Summer!

HON. PATTY HAJDU
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
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August 2025

Taylor Made Test Session!

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER
Great Outdoors

If you are an avid golfer it is always fun to test out some new equipment and ask some questions from a golf professional. It was fun to do this at the Fort William Country Club Taylor Made Day with Eric



Johnson, Territory Sales Manager at Taylor Made Canada from Winnipeg. He is a plus 1 handicap who played university golf at the University of Manitoba and after that at Arizona in mini tours. There he realized if you shoot 71, it's not good enough- you have to shoot 65 or better, so he came home.

"We have been coming to this demo day for 8 years now. We sell some equipment and then play with the pro Craig. It is always an awesome day at this club," said Eric. "We tested out the use of the new Qi35 driver with you using the Trackman to see how the ball is coming off the club-head. In your case it was a hair low so we take out our adjustment tool and crank up the loft. Then you started hitting the ball with your launch angle about ten yards further. It also helped your dispersion by closing the face by adding some loft."

Eric works with the swing the person has. They try to build the club to your swing not give you a lesson, that is for Craig. The Trackman tells us all the data, club head speed, launch angle, spin rate, descent angle, all the numbers that help you confirm what you are seeing with the ball flight said Eric.

What determines the distance with your swing?

"The length of your drive is determined by club head speed which could simply be 2.5 yards times club head speed MPH. So if your clubhead speed is 100 MPH you probably hit 250 yards. It is a easy reference guide. Top pros like Rory swing at 120 MPH which means their drive is over 300 yards of carry plus roll out."

"How do you get a clubhead speed of 120 MPH you might ask- lots of strength and flexibility. If your club is a little lighter that is something you can swing faster as well especially for the slower swingers.

The club head today is carbon fibre say with the Taylor Made Qi35. You can also add some weights and match the shaft."

How is the golf industry doing?

"The golf industry is still very strong. Coming out of COVID was a boom for the

industry, which added new golfers. This year is still good as people like to get out and play. The cost of clubs is high because of the complex materials and R and D that goes into every piece of equipment. They work 2 years ahead at the head office in

Carlsbad, California in the lab. Some people buy new clubs each year because it is their passion. Some may go 10 years with the same equipment, if they really like it."



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Teleco Tech Talk: Access Granted: The Future of Business Security is Smarter, Safer, and Simpler

What if a single badge swipe could unlock the front door of your business, log employee hours, limit access to sensitive areas, and notify you the moment someone enters a restricted zone?

Today, business security isn't just about keeping people out—it's about letting the right people in, the right way, at the right time.

Modern access control is an innovative, secure way to manage who can enter certain areas of your business when they can do it and what they can access—without relying on traditional keys.

Traditional keys offer no visibility. They

can be lost, copied, or stolen. And if an employee leaves, there's no simple way to revoke access without changing the locks. These vulnerabilities put your business at risk.

And it's not just about doors—access control can also protect IT rooms, inventory, cabinets, or parking lots.

Today's Access Control Can:

- Be Managed in the Cloud
- Monitor and control access from anywhere.
- Use Mobile Credentials
- Let employees use smartphones instead of fobs or cards.

- Offer Multi-Factor Authentication – Add extra security with cards, PINs, or biometrics.
- Send Real-Time Alerts – Get notified of suspicious activity like forced entries or doors left ajar.
- Integrate Seamlessly – Sync with surveillance systems, alarms, HR platforms, and time-tracking tools.
- Manage Visitors Easily – Grant temporary, trackable access to guests and contractors.

But access control isn't just about security—it delivers real business value:

- Set role-based access

tied to time of day and location.

- Make data-driven decisions from access patterns and occupancy data.
- Enhance emergency response and safety with real-time location awareness.
- Support hybrid and remote work environments with flexible credentialing.



And it's not just for large enterprises. Thanks to affordable subscription models and scalable technology, access control is within reach for small and medium-sized businesses too—often integrating with systems you already use.

Whether securing one office or multiple sites, access control puts the power back in your hands.

It's time to move beyond outdated keys and embrace a smarter, safer, and more flexible way to protect your people, property, and peace of mind.

Penny Belluz, Director of Operations at Teleco, drives innovation in IT, security, and telecom. Teleco has proudly supported businesses with trusted technology solutions for over 40 years.

Access Control Beyond Keycards: The Future of Business Security

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