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BUSINESS PUBLICATION

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September 2026

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 NorthSuperiorPublishing

 @tbay25  @Scott Sumner

Publication Mail Reg. # 40050324



The NWMO shares final design for Centre of Expertise

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) recently unveiled the final design for our Centre of Expertise. It will be located in Ignace, Ont., a host community for Canada's deep geological repository for used nuclear fuel.

The centre represents an approximately \$50-million investment in the community. It will incorporate a range of features identified through local community input, including flexible multipurpose and educational spaces, a design that blends into the natural environment, and an accessible location connected to community amenities.

"We are very proud of this design that integrates nature, knowledge and community," said Christina Van Drunen, Vice-President of Operations at the NWMO. "It has been exciting to see the NWMO's new home in Ignace grow from the concepts presented seven years ago to these final renderings, and it couldn't have happened without input from community members."

Designed at approximately 55,000 square feet — about the size of a football field — the facility will accommodate 160 to 200 NWMO employees, bringing sustained economic opportunity to northwestern Ontario for generations to come.

The centre will anchor the NWMO's long-term operational presence in the region, supporting training, innovation and the development of world-class expertise to support the NWMO's work.

Founded in 2002, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is a not-for-profit organization tasked with the safe, long-term management of Canada's intermediate- and high-level radioactive waste, in a manner that protects people and the environment for generations to come.

The NWMO has been guided for more than 20 years by a dedicated team of world-class scientists, engineers and Indigenous Knowledge Holders who

are developing innovative and collaborative solutions for nuclear waste management.

possible, which means that firms bidding for the contract will have an advantage based on their proximity to



The NWMO seeks construction firm for Centre of Expertise

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) has released a request for proposals for the construction of our Centre of Expertise in Ignace, Ont.

Designed at approximately 55,000 square feet, the facility will accommodate 160 to 200 NWMO employees. It will include flexible multipurpose and educational spaces, a design that blends into the natural environment, and an accessible location connected to community amenities.

"We are very proud of this design, and selecting a construction firm is a major step towards breaking ground next year," said Christina Van Drunen, Vice-President of Operations at the NWMO. "The Centre will establish the NWMO's long-term operational presence in the region while supporting training, innovation and world-class expertise for our work."

We remain committed to local procurement driving local benefits whenever

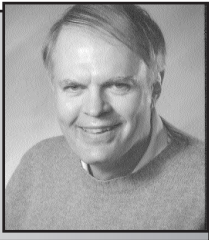
the host communities of Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and Ignace. "As we enter this next stage of the development of the Centre of Expertise in Ignace, we look forward with enthusiasm as we prepare to change the landscape of this community," said Kim Baigrie, mayor of Ignace. The Centre of Expertise was a significant negotiated commitment that the Township of Ignace included in the hosting agreement that was signed in 2024, which aimed to ensure investments related to Canada's used fuel repository will support the community in achieving its aspirations for the future.

The centre represents an investment of approximately \$50 million in the community, and sustained economic opportunity in northwestern Ontario for generations to come.

The request for proposals closes on Sept. 10, 2026, and the anticipated award date of the contract is early January 2027. Construction is expected to begin in early 2027.



**Publisher's
Note
Scott
Sumner**



It's great seeing a Thunder Bay resident do so well on the world stage- Jordan Staal. Jordan brought both the Stanley Cup and Conn Smythe trophies to Thunder Bay- quite an accomplishment. Local media asked him some questions about his season.

This is your second Stanley Cup!

"It's pretty wild being 17 years since my first Stanley Cup win in 2009. I have some distant memories of that and they are coming back just talking to you guys today. It was a lot of work to bring it back home again and share with you guys."

"It was great getting the cup handed to me as the captain and then cast it off. It was incredible. Both wins were amazing. The first win was with my brothers and parents and this time with my wife and kids as well. It was all the years of ups and downs in Carolina and those feelings of finally getting it done."



"My kids come to a fair amount of games and they felt the playoff run."

Thunder Bay seems to be a hockey town judging from the line up outside?

"The line around the building is incredible and I want to see as many people as I can and be able to share it. It takes an army to win the Stanley Cup and I know I have Thunder Bay behind me and feel the support."

It must have been great to win the Conn Smythe trophy as well?

"The Conn Smythe trophy was the cherry on the top of everything and something I wasn't really thinking about."

How does it look for the Hurricanes this upcoming season?

"This upcoming season is another season with pretty much the same group and is a

very good team. We are always looking to get better, but we have a group that can pull it off again and it is exciting times in Carolina. Many of our best players are young and signed up for a long time, so can be good for a long time. I'm going to hang on for as long as I can and enjoy it with them, keep battling, keep pushing and make sure we can hoist that thing again."

"I kinda of go one year at a time and give it my all. The body has held up and I am fortunate with no injuries. I just work hard and make sure I give it everything I have and everything is going alright."

"If my body is willing and my wife is good with it, I'm going to keep going as long as I can. I love the game, enjoy the battle and the day to day grind. I'm very fortunate to be still here doing this."

How has it been this off season?

"I remember growing up and enjoying the game outdoors with my brothers and

friends. Now it is the lake and enjoy the swimming, boating and fishing."

"I'm heading back next week which is hard to think about, but I enjoy the grind



part of it, getting in the gym and working out with the guys, being around them and pushing each other. That's what it is all about and will start all over again when I get back to Raleigh. It is what I love. To be able to play at an elite level at my age, I'm proud of that and there's no question I had to go through a lot of work to get there."

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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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44Th Westfort Street Fair Grows!

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER
Thunder Bay BUSINESS

I asked Aaron Gillingham, who is an organizer of the Westfort Street Fair and owner of The Sal Restaurant and East Coast Lobster both located in Westfort, some questions on this years Street Fair.

“ It is pretty special to last this long and to be growing like we are, 45 is next year and 50 isn’t far off. It’s incredible to have a long standing event like this is Thunder Bay.”

“ By 9am it was in the hundreds of people and then quickly to the thousands. I think we set a record for how many strollers we had here for 9:30 am, so big shout out to the kids and families that came out early, good to see.”

“ In my 10 years here it’s the first time having any rain or an overcast day and we are having the same amount of people out. So apparently rain doesn’t affect anyone in Westfort. Westfort is very tight knit, loyal and apparently not made of sugar, that’s how Westfort rolls!”



Summer Sidewalk Social Draws Crowds to City Hall

More than 100 people gathered at City Hall today for the City of Thunder Bay's Summer Sidewalk Social, a family-friendly event bringing together residents, City staff, and community members to connect, enjoy the downtown south core, and celebrate our community.

Attendees had the opportunity to meet City staff and learn about key municipal projects and programs helping shape Thunder Bay's future.

The event highlighted the importance of cre-



ating welcoming, accessible opportunities for residents to connect directly with City staff and participate in conversations about their community.

"Events like the Summer Sidewalk Social help bring community engagement into public spaces where meaningful conversations can take place," said Louisa Costanzo, Manager, Community Safety & Wellbeing.

"There are several City projects currently underway that involve community engagement, and this is a chance to bring those conversations into a public space. The event

creates an opportunity to share information, answer questions, hear different perspectives and insights, and learn from each other. Those conversations help build relationships and bring community insight into the work we do."

Engagement opportunities support our community growth by bringing people together in the downtown south core and highlighting the positive momentum underway as the area continues to evolve through revitalization, investment, and community development.



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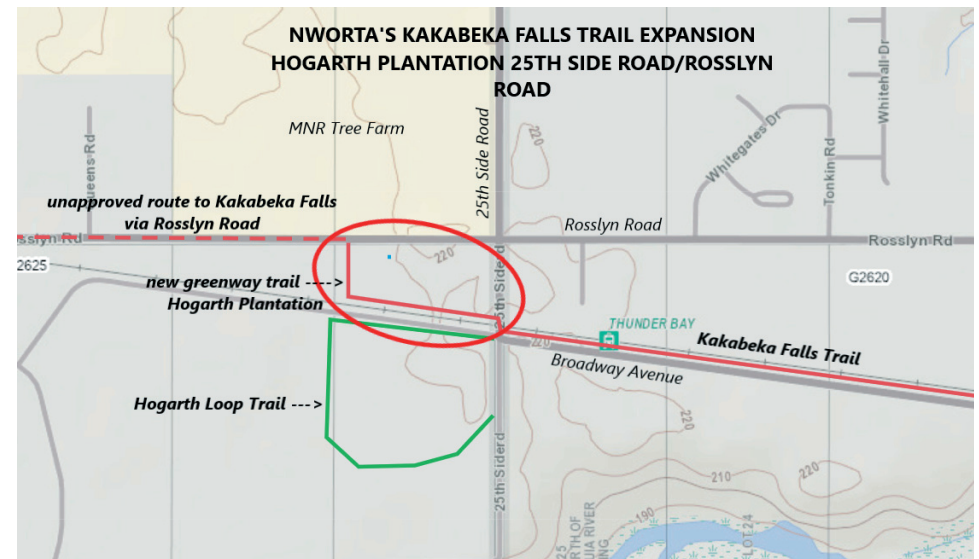
NWORTA Completes New Kakabeka Falls Trail Extension Through Lakehead University Hogarth Plantation

The NorthWestern Ontario Recreational Trails Association (NWORTA) is pleased to announce the completion of a new 0.5-kilometre Kakabeka Falls Trail extension through the Lakehead University Hogarth Plantation property, from 25th Side

Road to Rosslyn Road. This important addition to NWORTA's Connecting Communities initiative replaces approximately 0.6 kilometres of shared road use along 25th Side Road and Rosslyn Road with a scenic off-road greenway trail, providing hik-

ers with a safer and more enjoyable experience. The project was made possible through

fiers. From Rosslyn Road, hikers can continue west along the existing unofficial



the generous support and collaboration with Lakehead University, Trans Canada Trail, and NWORTA's members, donors, volunteers, and supporters. The trail is a new addition to the Trans Canada Trail and Voyageur Trail Association trail network in the area. "Every membership, donation, and volunteer hour helps make projects like this possible," said Len Day, President of NWORTA. "We sincerely thank everyone who has supported our vision of connecting communities through hiking trails. This new section is another important step toward building a regional trail network that residents and visitors will enjoy for generations."

The new trail begins on the west side of 25th Side Road, immediately north of the CN Rail crossing, and follows the perimeter of the Hogarth Plantation property to Rosslyn Road east of the Ministry of Natural Resources Tree Farm parking area. Directional signs have been installed to guide trail users, as well as Trans Canada Trail and Voyageur Trail Association trail identi-

route toward Harstone Drive, Luckens Road, Highway 590, and Kakabeka Falls. Looking ahead, this section is expected to become an even more significant connection once the proposed Shabaqua Trail extension to Kakabeka Falls receives approval and is constructed.

The completion of this trail segment represents another milestone in NWORTA's long-term goal of developing a regional hiking trail network linking Thunder Bay with Atikokan, Nipigon, and eventually Minnesota as part of the Connecting Communities initiative.

NWORTA encourages everyone to explore the new trail and invites residents to support future trail development through memberships, donations, sponsorships, and volunteer opportunities.

Respectfully submitted by:

Len Day, President
NorthWestern Ontario Recreational Trails Association (NWORTA)



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What I Learned Mining in Northern Ontario

Jessie Cook Mentor, CLAC's Supporting Women In Construction (SWIC) program

Beyond the winding roads, endless lakes, and stunning fall foliage, there's more to discover deep in northern Ontario's remote mining communities.

Even though it's been a while since I worked at a gold mine site, some things have really stayed with me from my time near Dubreuilville, Ontario.

First, the communities surrounding the mines really cared. The mine's investment in local communities was visible throughout our journey. Support for roads, community facilities, events, and local functions showed a commitment to giving back to the areas where they operated. They also hired locally, creating steady, reliable work for the people who lived there. You could clearly see the impact that had on the surrounding communities.

Second, security stood out. Job security that can span generations is a notable feat, and it benefits everyone. But there was another kind of security that stood out to me: the feeling of security and safety on site. There were strict entrance protocols, safety training, and general awareness throughout the community. There was an "everyone has your back" mentality, which meant there was always an extra set of eyes on things.

That could be taken the wrong way, but when you're doing dangerous work in a remote area, I saw it as a benefit. The towns seemed to thrive knowing everyone had each other's backs, and as visitors in town for work, we felt that support too.

Third, training and awareness made a lasting impression. Even though we were contractors and weren't directly involved in mining the materials, the amount of training we received just to make it onto the job site was remarkable. We learned about the process and the carefully planned steps required to operate a site like that. It gave us a deeper appreciation for what those large operations were doing. The companies clearly prioritized site-wide safety and communication, which benefited everyone. Yes, things took more time, but I'd rather have safe work than shutdowns and

loss of life!

When you consider the vast amount of ground those operations covered, it was clear how important strict protocols were, along with making sure everyone understood them.

It seemed like everyone, from store owners and schools to hospitals, understood how the operations worked. That said a lot about the ripple effect that good training and awareness could have throughout an entire community.

Looking back, one of the biggest takeaways from my time in northern

Ontario was the strong connection between workers, employers, communities, training, and safety. Everyone had a role to play, and each contributed to the success of the whole.

It's something I think about now in my role as a mentor with CLAC's Supporting Women in Construction (SWIC) program. Having good people around you, knowing where to turn for support, and having access to training and mentorship can make a big difference in building a long-term career in the trades.

Continued

KEVIN HOLLAND
MPP FOR THUNDER BAY - ATIKOKAN
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The Forestry & Mining Industries within our region *- Annual Feature*

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What I Learned Mining in Northern Ontario

Continued

Northern Ontario has figured out how to make use of available resources, employ local people, and benefit communities at

the same time. Those operations contributed to their towns, supported conservation, and created lifelong careers for the people involved. Working at that mine was one of the best experiences of my

career!
Please, bring this community feeling to BC!

Jessie Cook is a tradeswoman and mentor

with CLAC's Supporting Women In Construction (SWIC) program. Through SWIC, she shares her experience in the trades and supports other women building careers in construction.



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Equinox Gold and Orla Mining Complete Business Combination, Creating North America's New Senior Gold Producer

- Combined company anticipated to produce 1.1 million ounces of gold annually
- Clear path to more than 1.9 million ounces through high-quality North American growth projects
- Planned Chief Executive Officer succession positions the Company for its next phase of growth

Equinox Gold Corp. (TSX: EQX, NYSE American: EQX) ("Equinox Gold" or the "Company") and Orla Mining Ltd. (TSX: OLA; NYSE American: ORLA) are pleased to announce the successful completion of their previously announced business combination (the "Transaction"), creating North America's new senior gold producer. The combined company is expected to produce approximately 1.1 million ounces of gold annually¹, with a clear path to more than 1.9 million ounces² as its high-quality North American growth projects are developed. The combined company brings together a portfolio of high-quality producing mines, a peer-leading pipeline of growth projects, substantial free cash flow generation and highly experienced leadership and technical teams.

Upon closing of the transaction, Ross Beaty has stepped down as Chairman of the Board and has been appointed Chairman Emeritus and Special Advisor to the Board. Chuck Jeannes has been appointed incoming Chairman of the Board.

Ross Beaty, retiring Chairman of Equinox Gold, stated: "When we founded Equinox Gold just over eight years ago, we set out to build a company that would become a leading gold producer. It has been immensely rewarding to see that vision take shape, culminating in our combination with Orla, which now positions Equinox Gold as a senior gold mining company with tremendous potential for further growth. While I am stepping down as Chairman, I am not stepping away, and I look forward to contributing to the company's continued success as Special Advisor to the Board. I want to sincerely thank my fellow directors, our employees, our shareholders, and the communities where we operate for their trust and support. Building companies is always a team effort. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and excited to see the Company continue to grow, create value, and seize the opportunities ahead."

Chuck Jeannes, incoming Chairman of Equinox Gold, commented: "The completion of this combination marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for Equinox Gold. Together, we have created North America's new senior gold producer with over 60% of production coming from three long-life mines in Canada, complimented by a portfolio of high-quality operations, a compelling pipeline of growth projects and the financial strength to create long-term value for all shareholders. I am honoured to assume the role of

Chairman at this important moment in the Company's evolution.

Continued

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Equinox Gold and Orla Mining Complete Business Combination, Creating North America's New Senior Gold Producer

Continued

“Realizing the full potential of this combination requires stability in leadership. Following the extraordinary growth Equinox Gold has achieved over the past year and the successful completion of this transformational combination, it is essential the Company enter its next chapter with a leadership team committed to guiding the business over the long term.

“In this context, Darren Hall has decided to retire from Equinox Gold effective October 31, 2026. Darren has played a critical role during an extraordinary period of growth and transformation for the Company, culminating in the completion of this combination and the creation of a stronger, more diversified North American senior gold producer.

Over the next three months Darren will work closely with Jason Simpson to ensure a smooth and orderly transition, after which Jason will assume the role of Chief Executive Officer. On behalf of the Board, I want to thank Darren for his exceptional leadership and the important role he has played in helping transform Equinox Gold into the company it is today.

“Having worked closely with Jason during a sustained period of growth and success at Orla, I have every confidence in Jason's ability to lead Equinox Gold through this next chapter. He understands the business and has earned the respect of teams across the organization, and shares an unwavering commitment to our values, our people and our long-term vision. 1 Mid-point of Equinox Gold's and Orla's 2026 guidance, on a full-year basis, as further detailed in the Equinox Gold news release dated January 14, 2026 and the Orla news release dated January 20,

2026, respectively.

2 Anticipated production growth comes from completion of the Valentine Phase 2 expansion (Canada) and with Castle Mountain (USA), South Railroad (USA), Los Filos (Mexico) and Camino Rojo underground (Mexico) in production and operating in line with expectations outlined in current technical reports, which technical reports are available under the respective SEDAR+ profiles of Equinox Gold (in the case of Valentine, Castle Mountain and Los Filos) and Orla (in the case of South Railroad and Camino Rojo).

Jason brings the leadership, discipline, ambition and experience required to capitalize on the many opportunities ahead and I am excited to see the Company continue to grow and succeed under his leadership.

“I also want to thank Ross Beatty for his leadership, vision and countless contributions as the founder of Equinox Gold. His continued involvement as Special Advisor to the Board will provide valuable continuity as we move forward.

“Equinox Gold enters the next phase from a position of strength, with a diversified portfolio of high-quality assets, an unmatched pipeline of growth opportunities, and with the team and financial capacity to execute on this incredible opportunity for value creation. I look forward to working with my fellow directors, management and employees to build on the strengths of both companies, execute our strategy and realize the significant opportunities this combination has created.”

Darren Hall, CEO of Equinox Gold, commented: “Building Equinox Gold into a senior producer has been the privilege of my career. I am proud of what this team has accomplished together, and am confi-

dent Jason will lead the company through an exceptional next chapter. This is the right moment for this transition, and I leave knowing the Company is in very good hands.”

Equinox Gold's reconstituted Board now consists of: Chuck Jeannes (Chairman), Lenard Boggio (Lead Director), Tamara Brown, Omayya Elguindi, Douglas Forster, Darren Hall (CEO), Blayne Johnson, Rob Krcmarov, Jason Simpson (President), David Stephens and Mike Vint.

Equinox Gold will provide additional information about the proforma benefits of the Transaction, including consolidated 2026 guidance, when it reports its second quarter financial and operating results after market on Wednesday, August 5, 2026.

Equinox Gold intends to cause Orla to (i) delist the Orla shares from the Toronto Stock Exchange and NYSE American Stock Exchange, (ii) apply to cease to be a reporting issuer, and (iii) otherwise terminate its public company reporting requirements as soon as possible. Orla shares held in online trading accounts or in brokerage accounts will update automatically to reflect the receipt of Equinox Gold shares, generally within two weeks of closing. Orla shareholders who hold physical share certificates or DRS Statements must submit a Letter of Transmittal to Equinox Gold's transfer agent, Computershare Investor Services Inc., to receive their Equinox Gold shares. Additional information regarding the process of receiving Equinox Gold shares is available on Equinox Gold's website at www.equinoxgold.com or by emailing ir@equinoxgold.com.

BMO Capital Markets acted as financial advisor to Equinox Gold for the Transaction and provided a fairness opinion to the Equinox Gold board of direc-

tors. CIBC World Markets Inc. provided a fixed fee fairness opinion to the board of directors of Equinox Gold. Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP acted as Canadian legal advisor and Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP acted as U.S. legal advisor.

Trinity Advisors Corporation acted as financial advisor to Orla for the Transaction. Scotiabank acted as financial advisor to Orla's Special Committee, and Scotiabank and Fort Capital provided fixed fee fairness opinions to the Orla Special Committee. Stifel Nicolaus Canada Inc. and Edgehill Advisory Ltd. acted as capital markets advisors to Orla for the Transaction. Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP acted as Canadian legal advisor to Orla, Crowell & Moring LLP acted as U.S. legal advisor and Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP acted as Canadian legal advisor to the Orla Special Committee.

About Equinox Gold
Equinox Gold (TSX: EQX, NYSE-A: EQX) is a Canadian mining company positioned for growth to become a new North American senior gold producer with a strong foundation of high-quality, long-life gold operations in Canada and across the Americas, and a pipeline of development and expansion projects. Guided by a seasoned leadership team with broad expertise, the Company is focused on disciplined execution, operational excellence and long-term value creation. Equinox Gold offers investors meaningful exposure to gold with a diversified portfolio and clear path to growth. Learn more at www.equinoxgold.com

Selling Techniques: 5 tips for Getting in Front of Decision Makers

One of your biggest challenges in selling may be how to reach the actual decision making customer. When organizations bring me in to deliver my Trusted Advisor Selling© seminars I reassure participants that getting in front of the economic buyer is relatively simple when you keep in mind these 5 tips.

Tip #1 – Start Higher up the Ladder

The higher you start up your customer's chain of command, the more likely you are to reach someone with the authority to say yes. Unfortunately, sales reps often settle for easier to reach lower level managers who aren't authorized to make significant operational changes or large purchases. In other words, in order to say yes to your offering, they'd have to ask a higher-up for permission. They are however, empowered to say no. So, it makes sense to start with job titles of people with buying power such as Regional Managers or Division Vice Presidents. They may redirect you to talk with someone lower. But then at least you'd have their permission – and tacit endorsement – to do so.

Tip #2 – Skip Small-Talk and Puffery

The three quickest ways to annoy senior managers: waste their time, feign familiarity, or look like you're hiding something. A poor way to start a phone conversation: "Hi Mary, how are you today?" Their response will likely be terse or worse. Instead use: "Hi Mary, my name is (first name and last name), I'm with ABC company based out of (location). We haven't met yet. The reason I'm calling is..." No small talk. Introduce yourself fully. Get to the point.

Tip #3 – Communicate Distinctive Value

Most upper level managers don't answer phone calls from strangers. Still, you'll have more impact getting a manager's attention with a phone call then by sending an email that gets buried or filtered to junk. Ditto with trying to Direct Message them via social media. A phone call gives the advantage leaving a voice mail, followed-up with email. That means you need a compelling reason for them to want to

explore this further. So before you dial, you need to know the distinctive value you can bring to their company. Keep in mind you may need to leave this as a voice mail message.

Stating you've been established for 30 years and your team members are experienced is not compelling. What managers want to know is the ultimate benefit of your offering, how it's different than your competitors, and evidence that you deliver on these benefits. So your voice mail message might be, "The reason I'm calling is we've developed a way to (share benefit). I'm wondering if this is something that might possibly be a fit for your company. It's different from conventional approaches in that (briefly describe what's unique). As a result we've had companies like yours such as ABC Corp reduce costs by x% within 6 months. I'm wondering if you'd be open to a short conversation to see if this might create similar results for your firm. I'll email you an example. In case it goes to your junk box I'm sending it at 2pm and my email address is... I'll put this in my calendar to follow-up with you on date and time. If you'd like to reach me in the meantime my direct phone number is..."

Tip #4 – Follow-up, Follow-up

Send the email, and follow-up by phone as promised. If you reach their voicemail again, then reference your last phone call and email, and add, "I'm guessing this isn't a good time for you. So, I'll call back day and time. Meanwhile my phone number is..."

Phone later as promised. If they still don't respond then leave a voice mail and email again asking frankly if this is of any interest, or if there someone else in the organizations who takes care of this area who it would make more sense for you to connect with.

Tip #5 – Help Employees to Help You

Those times when managers send lower level employees to collect your info and prices, you need to be diplomatic. There's no way that person – who's only gathering info for some higher-up – will convey

your value the way you can. So, don't send prices or brochures. Ever. Instead, explain that you'll be happy to provide pricing/ options but there are a number of variables you'll need to ask about to determine accurate pricing. Suggest a virtual meeting and ask, "Is there anyone else involved in this project who it would make sense to invite (aka their boss), so we can make sure we don't miss any critical issues?" They can always say no, but you at least extended the offer without causing offense.

Bottom line: Many potential sales are lost when reps either start too low down their customer's chain of command, or they give up too soon. Remember – it's just a phone call or email. I hope these tips make it easier and more profitable for you and your team members. Let me know if I can assist.

By Jeff Mowatt (original content – not AI generated)

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Lakehead University Launches Help in Hand Initiative to Support Youth Mental Health in Northwestern Ontario

For youth in northwestern Ontario, timely access to mental health care is a significant challenge. To fill this service gap, researchers at Lakehead University are launching the Help in Hand initiative in partnership with community mental health agencies and School Mental Health Ontario.

With a \$2 million investment from Health Canada's Youth Mental Health Fund, the initiative expands access to youth mental health supports in schools across northwestern Ontario. Help in Hand will bring digital mental health tools directly into schools—where young people spend much of their time—and create stronger links to additional care when it is needed.

Led by Dr. Aislin Mushquash, a clinical psychologist and Lakehead's Research Chair in Youth Mental Health, the initiative is part of her broader research program focused on helping young people thrive in an increasingly digitally connected world. Designed to complement, not replace, existing mental health services, Help in Hand adds another layer of support to help young people connect with the right level of care based on their current needs.

"I've worked as a clinical psychologist in our community for 13 years and have seen how young people often face unique barriers to accessing support," said Dr. Mushquash. "Help in Hand is about providing practical, evidence-based tools while strengthening links to the broader mental health system. Our hope is that this initiative will lead to a better understanding of the impact of digital spaces and technologies on youth mental health."

Recognizing that educators are often the first point of contact when youth experience challenges, Help in Hand will provide school communities with specialized training and resources to navigate the evolving digital mental health landscape, find high-quality tools, and measure their impact. Participating students will have

access to JoyPop, a research-backed app that helps youth strengthen their emotion regulation skills and improve overall well-being.



A network of community partners will be central to the success of this project. Pictured (from left) are Renee Monsma, Children's Centre Thunder Bay; Ashley Hendy, School Mental Health Ontario; and John Dixon, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, who participated in today's announcement.

Dr. Mushquash and her research team are working closely with a network of community partners, including Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, Children's Centre Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay Counselling Centre, School Mental Health Ontario, and McGill University's Ludic Mind Studio, to improve the effectiveness, timeliness, and cultural appropriateness of integrated mental health care for youth and their support systems.

Help in Hand will directly benefit youth, families, and schools across the region, while the knowledge generated will help inform how education and healthcare systems make decisions about the integration of digital technologies nationwide.

Quotes

"Community organizations, like Lakehead University, are key to strengthening youth mental health because they understand the needs and realities of young people in their communities, especially those facing the greatest barriers to

care. Through Health Canada's Youth Mental Health Fund, our government is helping young people access mental health care where they feel safe and supported. Supporting young Canadians today means

"The Help in Hand program demonstrates Lakehead University's commitment to social responsibility in interactive online systems and the mobilization of research into real-world solutions that directly serve the needs of our community. By expanding mental health support within our local educational framework, Lakehead continues to lead in research that fosters thriving, resilient communities."

Dr. Langis Roy
Vice-President, Research and Innovation,
Lakehead University

"The Help in Hand project is an important step forward in improving access to mental health supports for youth across Northwestern Ontario. By increasing digital mental health literacy, providing evidence-informed tools, and strengthening pathways to care, the project will help youth and families find support sooner and more easily. Dilico is proud to partner in this work and to help ensure that Indigenous youth and their caregivers have access to resources and services that support wellness, resilience, and positive mental health outcomes."

John Dixon
Director of Substance Health and Special Projects, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care

"Helping young people thrive means ensuring they have access to evidence-informed mental health supports that reflect the realities of their lives today. The Help in Hand initiative brings together digital mental health literacy, practical supports, and strong partnerships with schools to help students, educators, and families build confidence and wellbeing. We are excited to partner on this important work and help bring it to school communities across Ontario."

Dr. Kathy Short
Executive Director, School Mental Health Ontario

building a Canada strong for generations to come."

The Honourable Marjorie Michel
Minister of Health, Government of Canada

"When young people have access to the right supports at the right time, they are better able to thrive at school, at home, and in their communities. The Help in Hand initiative reflects the innovation and collaboration that Northwestern Ontario is known for, bringing together educators, researchers, and community organizations to improve access to mental health supports for youth. I'm proud to see partners across our region leading this important work."

The Honourable Patty Hajdu
Member of Parliament – Thunder Bay Superior North
Minister of Jobs and Families and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario (FedNor), Government of Canada

Three Northern Ontario colleges partner to increase the oral health workforce

- Across Northern Ontario, there is a need for more dental assistants, and three public colleges are partnering to meet that demand.

Cambrian College in Sudbury, Confederation College in Thunder Bay, and Sault College in Sault Ste. Marie are working together to broaden the availability of dental assisting training.



Dental Assistants are essential members of the oral health care team, working alongside dentists and dental hygienists to provide direct patient care. They also play an important role in supporting the efficient operation of dental offices and ensuring coordinated, timely access to oral health-care services.

In Thunder Bay, students will enrol in Cambrian's existing one-year, three-semester Dental Assisting Levels 1 & 2 program. Classes will be taught online, and students will use Confederation College's oral health programs' state-of-the-art simulation lab and clinic facilities for their labs. Their clinical placements will take place in Thunder Bay and other communities in northwestern Ontario. Students will graduate with a Cambrian College credential.

"This partnership expands access to dental assisting education for students across northwestern Ontario and helps address a critical workforce need in our region," says Michelle Salo, President of Confederation College. "By combining Cambrian College's program with Confederation College's facilities and local clinical placements, students can complete their education closer to home while preparing for rewarding careers that support the health of our communities."

In Sault Ste. Marie, students will also enrol in Cambrian's existing Dental Assisting program. Classes will be taught online and students will travel to Sudbury for practical skills training. Placements will be held in Sault Ste. Marie and surrounding areas. Students will also graduate with a Cambrian credential.

"Partnerships like this are essential to keeping Northern Ontario college education relevant, responsive and connected to the realities of our sector," says Sherri Smith, President of Sault College. "By working together, we are creating practical, common-sense pathways for students to access high-quality training closer to home while helping address workforce needs across the North. That kind of collaboration is foundational to the future growth and strength of northern colleges, including Sault College, and the communities we serve."

This partnership reflects a shared commitment by the three colleges to expand access to high-quality health care education while responding to labour shortages affecting Northern Ontario.

"This partnership demonstrates what can be accomplished when Northern Ontario colleges work together to address the needs of our communities," says Kristine Morrissey, President of Cambrian College. "By working together, we're creating

greater access to high-quality Dental Assisting education while helping students remain connected to their home communities and preparing graduates to meet the growing demand for oral health care professionals across the North."

The program opens this September in Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie. There is also a new intake of students available in January of 2027.



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All Day, All fore Good Jones Insurance Golf Marathon raises \$100,000 for PRO Kids and Wilderness Discovery Centre

Jones Insurance is proud to announce that the second annual All Day, All fore Good Jones Insurance Golf Marathon raised over \$100,000 in support of PRO Kids Thunder Bay and Wilderness Discovery Centre, demonstrating the incredible impact that can be achieved when a community comes together for a common cause.

er 26 community players, including Jones Insurance President Jeff Jones and Commercial Insurance Broker Evan DeGrazia, for a golf marathon from sunrise to sunset. Each participant committed to raising \$3,000 in support of PRO Kids Thunder Bay and Wilderness Discovery Centre, with their collective efforts helping the event reach the outstanding total of \$100,000.

Held on June 22, the event brought together

"Reaching the \$100,000 mark is an incredible achievement, and it speaks to the generosity and spirit of our community," says Jeff Jones, President of Jones Insurance. "This event is about more than golf. It's about supporting organizations that make a meaningful difference in the lives of local families. We are incredibly grateful to every sponsor, donor, volunteer, and supporter who helped make this year's event such a tremendous success."

The event received support from dozens of sponsors, partners, and individual donors whose contributions helped drive fundraising efforts throughout the day, including a generous \$5,000 donation from Gore

Mutual Insurance through its Gore Mutual Brokers for Good program. Their generosity, combined with the dedication of volunteers and participants, made this year's event the most successful All Day, All fore Good to date.

"Witnessing 26 community members dedicate an entire day on the golf course to support local charities was truly inspiring," says Grace Power, PRO Kids Coordinator. "The generosity of every golfer, sponsor, volunteer, and donor shows what our community can accomplish when we come together. Thanks to this incredible support, more children and youth in Thunder Bay will have the opportunity to participate in sports, arts, recreation, and leadership programs that help them build confidence, friendships, and lifelong skills."

Since its inception, All Day, All fore Good has been guided by a simple belief: local people can make a big difference when they come together to support local causes. The event continues to grow, strengthening connections between businesses, charities, and community members while generating meaningful support for organizations making a difference across Northwestern Ontario.

PRO Kids works to ensure that financial barriers do not prevent children and youth from participating in sports, arts, and recreational activities, while Wilderness Discovery Centre provides inclusive outdoor experiences that connect people of all abilities with nature. Funds raised through this year's marathon will help both organizations continue creating opportunities for local people.

Jones Insurance extends its sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's success and looks forward to building on this momentum in future years.

For more information, visit jonesins.com/signature-events.

THUNDER BAY BUSINESS

2026 DEADLINE / PRINTING / DISTRIBUTION DATES

Issue	Ad Copy Deadline 4PM Friday	Printing Deadline Friday	Distribution Date	Topic
February	January 23	January 27	February 1	Financial/Legal
March	February 20	February 24	March 1	Forestry/Mining
April	March 23	March 30	April 1	Transport
May	April 20	April 7	May 2	Construction
June	May 22	May 26	June 1	Report On Thunder Bay
July	June 23	June 27	July 2	Manufacturing
August	July 24	July 28	Aug 1	Environment
September	August 21	August 24	September 2	Education
October	September 21	September 8	October 1	Aboriginal
November	October 23	October 27	November 2	Health/Remembrance Day
December	November 20	November 23	December 2	Technology/Christmas
January	December 18	December 22	January 4	Fitness

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The Superior MX Race at the KBMX Track!

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER

Great Outdoors

Motocross racing is a huge sport and I like to follow the Supercross and Motocross series on TV during the year.

Thunder Bay has its own race motocross series that has undergone some recent changes to improve what they have to offer. Samatha Horsman is the co owner of the KBMX track. Her boyfriend recently purchased the facility and has made some good improvements to the infrastructure. "It is going well today with many riders and it's beautiful day with 200 spectators so far."



Also the motocross series has basically rebranded to Superior MX and is hoping to grow their presence in the community.

Liz Innanen is the Vice President of Superior MX.

"Last year we started a new organization and incorporated as not for profit to start a fresh with all volunteers. We are growing and hoping for a new track in Oxdrift, near Dryden for 2027."

"We are trying to be more established and transparent into the public. There has always been motocross in Thunder Bay and the Northwest region but are trying to let everyone know we are here. We do more social media now and try to get the word out there."



"Today we have 58 riders registered in different classes for 136 entries."

"On Friday night we do some games and the community is family atmosphere. It is a very welcoming sport."

"We are super proud of Rheid Newbold who is racing for our division at Loretta in Tennessee, where everyone in motocross aspires to race and get noticed."

Wyatt Innanen, age 14, has been riding motocross since he was 9 and races for Heartbeat Hotsauce with an 85 in the 12-16, Supermini 12-16 and School Boy 1 classes. Today he went 1 1 1.

"I like the adrenaline and my favourite is hanging out with friends. I also like it is not a team sport and it all relies on you."

"We have done races so far this year including Atikokan, KBMX and racing

indoors at Cedar Lake, Wisconsin."

"I don't play any other sports and try to ride my bike as much as I can most days. Other sponsors are EKT 90, Revolution Belting and MPH Auto."

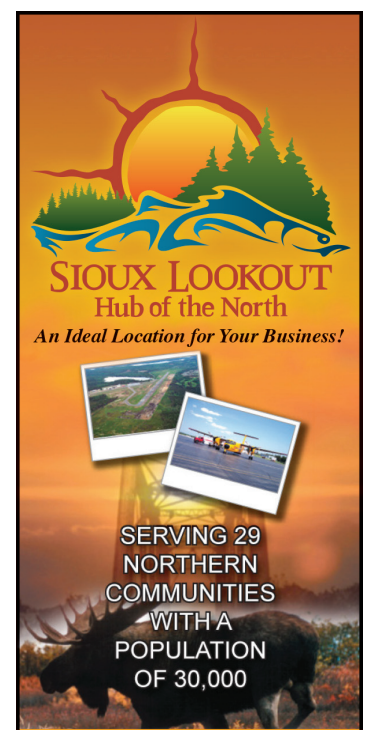


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Thunder Bay Brings Community Priorities to 2026 AMO Conference

Thunder Bay leaders brought forward key community priorities at the 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference this week in Ottawa, advocating for provincial support for infrastructure, housing, health care, transportation, public safety and community development.

The City delegation was led by the Chair of the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, along with two members of the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

"The AMO Conference provides an important opportunity to meet directly with provincial decision-makers and advocate for the issues that matter most to Thunder Bay residents," said the Mayor of Thunder Bay. "We had productive discussions focused on strengthening infrastructure, expanding housing opportunities, improving health and social services, and supporting long-term growth in our community."

The annual AMO Conference brings together municipal and provincial leaders from across Ontario to discuss shared challenges and opportunities facing communities. This year's discussions focused on housing and homelessness, infrastructure funding, mental health and addictions, public health and access to health care services, Indigenous engagement, economic development, community safety, municipal governance, and community resilience.