

PLACES TO GROW

BETTER CHOICES. BRIGHTER FUTURE.

Towards a Northern Growth Plan

Think North Summit

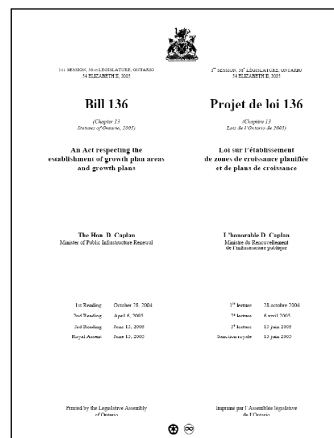
February 3, 2009



PLACES TO GROW BETTER CHOICES. BRIGHTER FUTURE.

Places to Grow Act, 2005

- Provides the legislative framework to develop and implement the policies of regional growth plans
- Identifies the principles for growth plans applicable province-wide:
 - Sustain a robust economy and build strong communities while promoting a healthy environment and a culture of conservation
 - Build on community priorities, strengths and opportunities
- Growth plans set out the long-term vision and goals that will guide and coordinate provincial decision-making



MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE/MINISTRY OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND MINES

2

Approach to Plan Development

- Places to Grow elements:
 - Twenty-five year timeline with short, medium and long-term actions
 - Extensive public and stakeholder consultation and collaboration
 - Interministerial collaboration and coordination (e.g. G-North Ministers table)
 - Research and review of other jurisdictions
- Additional elements:
 - Partnership with Ministry of Northern Development & Mines
 - Aboriginal engagement
 - Federal government engagement
 - Reference group



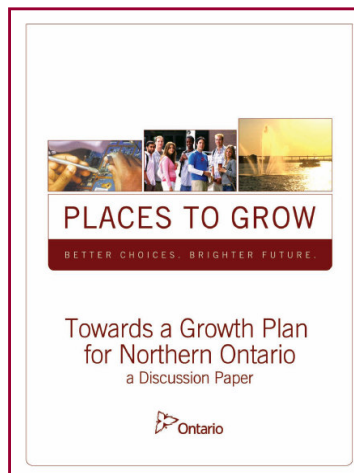
Growth Plan Context

- Resource-based industries: mining, forestry, tourism, agriculture
- Emerging knowledge-based sector: health, bioenergy, biotechnology, research and innovation
- Current challenges: financial crisis, slowing global economy, industry consolidation, higher oil and energy costs, increasing competition for knowledge-based and skilled trades workers and the commercialization of intellectual property
- Future opportunities: new trading blocks, growing demand for emerging technologies/knowledge/innovation, technological advances in the resource industries and access to wealth of natural resources (extensive knowledge and expertise)



Building on Northern Recommendations

- Common reflection of socio-economic factors
- Key themes:
 - Strengthening and advancing resource-based industries
 - Growing emerging sectors
 - Fostering research, innovation and commercialization
 - Increasing education and training opportunities
 - Retaining and attracting people and jobs
 - Supporting business development and entrepreneurship
 - Making strategic use of infrastructure
- Set out questions for getting to the “how”



Helping Us Get to “How”

Northern

- More than 1200 northerners involved to date
- Regional Sessions (13 held in spring/summer 2008)
- Technical Sessions (10 held to date)
- Aboriginal Engagement: Part of broader efforts plus additional focused engagement
- Reference Group
- Youth Engagement
- Conferences / events / meetings
- Online input through www.placestogrow.ca



Interministerial

- G-North Ministers Table and interministerial meetings
- Federal meetings

Technical Working Sessions

- Series of working sessions for focused discussion on key priority topics:

✓ Health	✓ Bioeconomy
✓ Transportation	✓ Agriculture
✓ Alternative Energy	✓ Tourism
✓ Value-added Mining	✓ Aboriginal Economic Development
✓ Training & Education	Rural Economic Development
✓ Value-added Forestry	E-business
- Scope out opportunities, barriers, lessons from other jurisdictions and necessary elements for policy development/resource alignment
- Discussion questions from each session have been posted on the Places to Grow website (www.places togrow.ca) to provide a forum for online feedback



General Priorities

- Leveraging current strengths
- Building a supportive climate for innovation success
- 'Quality of Place' and environmental sustainability to attract and retain people and workers
- Strategic infrastructure investments to increase connectivity throughout the region and better link businesses to markets – transportation and technology
- Business planning and financial supports for emerging sectors (particularly bioeconomy including renewable energy) and entrepreneurs
- Partnerships involving public and private sectors and Aboriginal groups
- Capacity building within Aboriginal communities to increase participation in Northern Ontario's economy
- Tools to empower leaders to effect change
- Reduced regulatory burden and harmonization of provincial and federal requirements
- Flexibility and adaptiveness in programs



Early Input

Evolving the Traditional Sectors:

- Financial incentives (and improved resource access processes) to encourage value-add opportunities and entrepreneurship in mining and forestry
- Sectoral marketing strategies to build the respective international reputations of the forestry and mining sectors
- Investment in micro-scale clusters of infrastructure to support agriculture
- Strategic support for tourism operators and regional travel associations

Research & Innovation → Market:

- Technology transfer mechanism to access investments, resources and other business supports (e.g. CRIBE)
- Expanded role for the two Local Health Integration Networks in economic development
- A policy framework for the bioeconomy (integrated with the Provincial approach)
- Support for greater collaboration among universities/colleges, the private and public sectors (education to support the knowledge economy)



Early Input

Education and Skills

- Support for cross-system collaboration and distributive learning
- Focused alignment of funding formulas to reflect the unique nature and structure of northern schools
- Opportunities to fill new and emerging labour market gaps (energy, science/technology, health human resources)
- Strategy to recruit local, national and international students
- Apprenticeship initiatives and other programs to help retain skilled youth

Physical Capacity (Infrastructure)

- Coordinated multi-modal transportation network to accommodate the efficient movement of people and goods
- Investment in energy transmission infrastructure
- Market incentives to encourage investment in renewable energy generation and community energy programs (particularly in remote locations)
- Strategic investments in enhanced broadband capabilities



Early Input

Aboriginal Capacity:

- Focused intergovernmental efforts to increase educational attainment (through increased involvement in decision-making)
- Increased partnership-building between Aboriginal peoples and the public/private sectors in economic development (e.g. equity partners in infrastructure development)
- Curriculum and educational programs that are culturally relevant and accessible from home communities
- Federal and Provincial collaboration to address regulatory and legislative barriers

Quality of Place:

- Strategic investments to assist in the redevelopment of key urban parcels (e.g. waterfront areas, downtowns, transportation hubs)
- Market incentives to encourage private investments in strategic locations (particularly brownfields)
- Revitalization programs for rural communities (i.e. culture and recreation, heritage preservation, main street beautification)
- Support for environmental clean-up and remediation and conservation of lands that are of high ecological and traditional value

Implementation

- Implementation strategy will be key to the Growth Plan's success
- Growth Plan will include a section for next steps, including:
 - Short term actions
 - Measures and metrics
 - Infrastructure strategy
 - Alignment of related initiatives

Key Milestones

