



HOSTED BY THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

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The Prospect North Mining Conference, an initiative of the Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines with the support of the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, will bring together a regional community to discuss the economic potential inherent in a strong and collaborative Northern Ontario mining industry.

Spending on exploration activities is continually increasing in Ontario, and is expected to exceed \$625 million in 2008. The mining sector employs 100,000 Ontarians directly and indirectly.

As mining companies expand their operations, they're exploring possibilities in Northern Ontario. These explorations could lead to operational, productive mines, which would provide many economic benefits to the North.

The goal of the Prospect North Mining Conference is to ensure everyone - mining companies, First Nations, governments, and the business community - is aware of the potential in a regional mining industry, and how to effectively turn that potential into concrete, measurable economic growth.

The conference's objective will clarify and simplify the process of setting up a mining operation in Northern Ontario, so that everyone concerned will have a better understanding of how they can benefit.

Guest speakers at Prospect North will discuss important topics related to the mining industry, such as the rules, regulations, policies and procedures that mining companies will need to follow when dealing with governments, First Nations and residents of the region. Regional organizations will discover how to do business with the mining industry, and government officials will hear what is and isn't working in the industry today.

The economic benefits of a strong mining industry will reach far beyond the mining companies themselves. According to statistics from the Ontario Mining Association, new mines create hundreds of jobs, the majority of which stay in the local community. These jobs pay weekly wages that average fifty per cent higher than any other Ontario industry sector. Mining businesses inject approximately \$1 billion into the Ontario economy annually, and support more than 1,000 businesses.