

For Councils information:

Re: Transforming Ontario's North Leadership Summit

September 11th to 13th 2018 Held in Cochrane ON

Submitted by Councillor Burrows

The summit was conducted by Stitt Feld Handy Group with 70 participants in attendance. Throughout the three day we were broken up into groups and come up with as many reasons why the North is being held back and that the message out there is that we are not open for business. All of Northern Ontario and we had participants from as far away as Scribber, feel the provincial government is shutting us out to keep Northern Ontario as their playground, then from each group a topic was picked and it opened to a full room discussion.

The issues that were brought to quite lengthily discussions were, Transportation, Communications re: cell and internet, education, Truth and Reconciliation and Ring of Fire.

These were some of the findings, once the summit group goes back and tallies everything up Mayor Politis of Cochrane would be sent the information with hopes he will pass it on to all councils in the North.

Transportation, Corina Moore President of Ontario Northland was present, she was asked is Ontario Northland looking into high speed rail service and the many opportunities that are used in European countries. Other countries are using the new technology of Bombardier why are we not looking into this. She has promised to do her homework on the European rail service and report back her findings.

This does not mean there is any intention to better our rail service. Another was how small towns could work with Ontario Northland to get passenger trains back on the line, by creating more attractions and working with businesses to develop a program, this was something that they felt and economic development officer could conduct.

Having all councils come together so that the message can get to Queens Park without the council's participation it doesn't go anywhere.

Working with First Nations communities on how we can create jobs being mining or forestry or industry having first nations input needs to be a priority.

Look at the services our community has and what services we could build on to help small communities to go forward.

Mike Metatawabin from Five Nations Energy Inc., whose homeland is Northern Albany. Mike spoke on truth and reconciliation he gave a fantastic explanation in a very short time. How the government went into his nation forced welfare on them when they did not want the government welfare. This was the government's way of threatening them we give you money we take your children and put them into residential schools or you go to jail. Mike himself is a survivor of residential school. Then our government gave them a status card, numbered them and made them wards of the crown and to this day all indigenous people are wards of the crown. This was the short story and why it is so important today to work with all first nations. How do we get all post-secondary education into communities without leaving your home? How to promote and help communities understand the motivation of travel, attractions and retention in the north with hopes of working together.

To develop the proper resources to transport electricity to the south this again is lack of transportation. Recognizing diversity and how do we mitigate communications with each community when each community is do diverse such as indigenous communities, recognizing what works for one community may not work for another.

Social networking and social media we still have to many gaps in the North again lack of technology. How to use and utilize your whole community training that is open to everyone.

The indigenous people are open to working with the ring of fire it is the government that is the hold up. So this was the many topics discussed there was a lot of great ideas it would be great to see the information from this summit be submitted to our government soon.