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Sudbury conference to explore guaranteed income

By [Sudbury Star Staff](#)

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Northern Policy Institute will hold a conference in October in Sudbury to explore the idea of a basic income guarantee, or BIG.

The so-called BIG conference will be held Oct. 5-6.

In a release, Northern Policy Institute said Ontario government's 2016 budget committed to launching a basic income pilot in an undetermined community within the province.

"A basic income guarantee is a payment to eligible families or individuals that ensures a minimum level of income," the institute said. "The core idea behind this policy means that everyone would be guaranteed some basic amount of money upon which to live.

"Since the announcement in April, the policy has been met with divergent voices offering different perspectives on the issue."

As Northern Ontario's evidenced-based, independent think tank, the Northern Policy Institute said part of its role is to create opportunities for dialogue, leading to objective and effective decision making. As such, NPI is providing the platform to explore and debate the potential economic and social impacts of a basic income guarantee in Ontario.

"Northern Policy Institute exists to provide fair, balanced and objective assessments of policy," said NPI president Charles Cirtwill. "We are looking forward to hosting this upcoming conference on such a relevant and timely issue to Northern Ontario."

The BIG conference will bring together decision makers, community leaders and members of the public who share an interest in the topic.

The non-partisan day and a half event will feature multidisciplinary researchers and authors recognized in their fields of study. The conference will also include interactive tools to facilitate conversation across the region and province.

Registration is now open for the conference, which will be held Oct. 5-6 at the Hellenic Centre in Sudbury. To register, visit www.BIG2016NPI.ca.

About Northern Policy Institute:

Northern Policy Institute is Northern Ontario's independent think tank.

It performs research, collects and disseminates evidence, and identifies policy opportunities to support the growth of sustainable Northern Communities.

The institute's operations are located in Kenora, Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury.

It seeks to enhance Northern Ontario's capacity to take the lead position on socio-economic policy that impacts Northern Ontario, Ontario and Canada as a whole.

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