



Province funds 50 interns in Sudbury

By [Harold Carmichael](#), The Sudbury Star

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Labour Minister Ken Flynn (left) and Sudbury Liberal MPP and Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault at a press conference at the Sudbury YMCA Employment Services and Immigrant Services office in the Rainbow Centre.

Fifty college and university graduates have landed one-year employment internships at Greater Sudbury businesses, organizations and other groups thanks to \$1.5-million in funding from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation's Northern Ontario Internship Program.

"There are many barriers that keep someone from getting their first job," said Sudbury Liberal MPP and Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault at a press conference at the Sudbury YMCA Employment Services and Immigrant Services office in the Rainbow Centre. "Those 50 people in those 50 places total about \$1.5 million coming into our economy. That's 50 more people who have graduated from Laurentian University, College Boreal who didn't need to move to start their great career ... They can stay close to home and get the experience they need."

Thibeault made the announcement on behalf of Northern Development and Mines Minister Michael Gravelle.

Labour Minister Ken Flynn, who was on hand for the announcement, said the challenge for his government is helping get young people the skills and training they need to land good jobs.

"The unions are telling me their halls are empty," he said. "The members are all out working. The jobs are out there. We have to ensure the training is there."

Flynn said many young people are making the decision on the career they want to pursue not in their teens, but when they reach their mid-20s.

"They have come to the realization that what they want to do is be a crane operator, an electrician, a boilermaker," he said.

Jeff Leal, minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the minister Responsible for Small Business, who was also present, said the interns can make a significant impact during their time with their businesses or organizations, such as Eat Local Sudbury, in the work they do to help raise awareness of and grow local food production in Greater Sudbury.

Leal said that as a parent of two teens set to embark in the work world soon -- Braden, 19, and Shanae, 17 -- in his home community of Peterborough, "I think it's important that the Bradens and Shanaes of Sudbury can find their destiny right here in Sudbury."

Thibeault later told reporters that the internships are for one-year terms, pay \$30,000 to 60,000 a year, and that 100 such internships were funded in 2016. He said another 27 internships will follow.

Thibeault said organizations that take on interns through the NOIP often hire them on full time.

"What we are seeing is many of them (interns) end up staying at the location they were trained at," he said. "The employer realizes they need that person."

Businesses and organizations where the 50 current interns are working include Biznorth Inc., Spectrum Telecom Group Ltd., J.L. Richards & Associates, the Northern Policy Institute, Eat Local Sudbury Co-operative Inc., Health Sciences North, the Social Planning Council of the Sudbury Region, NEO Kids Foundation, Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce, Le salon du Livre du Grand Sudbury, and Better Beginnings Better Futures.

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