

**Speaking Notes**

**Northern Ontario Tourism Summit – Bushplane Museum**

**November 16, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.**

**[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]**

Good evening. On behalf of the City of Sault Ste. Marie and our City Council, it's my great pleasure to welcome you here to the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre for the opening of the Northern Ontario Tourism Summit. I'd like to thank Ian McMillan, Executive Director of Tourism Sault Ste. Marie, for inviting me to tonight's proceedings. I'd also like to thank Lucidia for hosting this evening's reception.

Tourism has been a mainstay of the Northern Ontario economy for decades. Whether it has been traditional hunters and fishermen, campers and outdoor enthusiasts, or tourists coming up to hitch a ride on the Agawa Canyon Tour Train or visit Science North, our part of the country has been enticing visitors to experience true northern hospitality for a long time.

With so much happening in the sector and so much on offer across Northern Ontario, this summit is a natural opportunity to compare notes, swap stories, share best practices, and learn about the trends and developments that will shape the industry in the years to come.

To our visitors from out of town, welcome to Sault Ste. Marie. I hope you enjoy your time in our Naturally Gifted city. I know the agenda for the summit is a packed one, but I hope that you all have the opportunity to explore some of our city during your stay.

We've enjoyed some notable successes with our tourism sector in Sault Ste. Marie over the past year. I hope that the same has been true for many of you from other parts of the north as well.

Before I go, I would just like to thank all of the organizers and sponsors of this year's summit. An event such as this is always a big undertaking. We're very grateful to have the summit taking place here in Sault Ste. Marie and we appreciate the efforts of everyone who made it happen.

Thank you again and best wishes for a successful summit.