

September 21, 2011

MEDIA RELEASE



**OFIA, NOACC, NOMA AND FONOM RESPECTFULLY INVITE ALL MEDIA TO
ATTEND A PRESS CONFERENCE**

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2011

**10:00 AM – VIKING ROOM, VALHALLA INN
THUNDER BAY**

**RE: PROVINCIAL PARTY RESPONSES TO JOINT OFIA, NOACC, NOMA
AND FONOM ELECTION COMMITMENT LETTER ON FOREST ISSUES**

For more information please contact:

**Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce
(807) 624-2626**

Ontario Political Parties Acknowledge Importance of Forest Sector

Liberals, NDP and PC Parties Respond to Election Commitment Letter

Thunder Bay, Ontario

On July 5, 2011 the Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA), the Northwestern Associated Chambers of Commerce (NOACC), the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) outlined the needs of Ontario's forest sector in an election commitment letter to all three major political parties.

On September 22, 2011 the content of the party responses will be revealed during a media conference at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay.

"Business runs on certainty, and that certainty cannot be achieved without the right public policy. Investment in our companies and communities require effective implementation of good strategies. The provincial party responses we received provide the necessary insight into how each party intends to address key forestry issues and outlines how they will address this certainty".

Andy Scribilo, President, NOACC

"It is clear from the responses we received that forestry, and the 260 communities that rely on forestry as part of our economic well being, remain a focal point for all three main parties in the upcoming provincial election. This is an important step in the upcoming election."

Tom Laughren, Interim President, FONOM

"We are very pleased that all three parties represented in the Legislature responded to our election commitment letter. The responses address various issues and concerns that are fundamental to the recovery of this invaluable sector – from addressing shortcomings of the Endangered Species Act to ensuring the forest sector has the secure and affordable fibre supply it needs."

Scott Jackson, Manager of Forest Policy, OFIA

"Despite recent economic hardships, Ontario's renewable forest sector remains an integral part of Ontario's economic well-being and is a vital contributor to our province's standard of living. A strong forest sector is paramount to Ontario's return to economic prosperity – we are encouraged that forestry is clearly on the radar screen."

Ron Nelson, President, NOMA