

**Speaking Notes – Sault Ste. Marie Science Festival**

**Friday April 22, 11:00 a.m. – Bushplane Heritage Centre**

**[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]**

Good morning everyone, I'm glad to join you here at the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre. Today happens to be Earth Day, so before I begin I would just like to wish a happy earth day to everyone in attendance.

As always, it is great to have the Honourable Minister David Oraziatti with us. I'd also like to welcome Science North CEO Guy Labine and our other guests from Science North here to Sault Ste. Marie

One of the pillars of science is experimentation. Last year in 2015, our City was privy to a really unique experiment: the first-ever Sault Ste. Marie Science Festival. 2015's event was a multi-day celebration of science, made possible by the collaboration of numerous partners.

As the first event of its kind, there was obviously some uncertainty as to how the festival would be received. However, it's now clear the hypothesis that it would be a success has been confirmed. At the City of Sault Ste. Marie, we're excited to have the Festival returning for a second year.

On behalf of the City, I'd like to thank the partners once again: Science North, Algoma University, the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre, Entomica, the Invasive Species Centre, Natural Resources Canada – Canadian Forest Service, Sault College, the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. I also want to commend the many sponsors, supporters and friends of the festival who have also lent their support.

For Sault Ste. Marie to prosper, we need to have a workforce that can compete in the knowledge economy. One of the important features of the festival is that it allows students and young people to learn about the career paths that are available in science and technology, and to meet and engage with local professionals who are working in these fields.

We have world class scientific research happening in Sault Ste. Marie and cutting-edge technologies in use. It's terrific to have a venue such as the Sault Ste. Marie Science Festival to showcase this work—and the people doing it—to the wider community.

So to all involved, thank you for your efforts and best wishes for another successful festival next week.

Thank you.