

**MICHAEL ERSKINE**

*Northern Region, LPC(O)*

Northern Ontario's Liberals have had a tough electoral run for the past few years—but we remain a vibrant and determined group, determined to make our presence felt across a region that comprised 95 percent of the landmass of the province of Ontario.

There are significant challenges ahead, but our EDA executives continue to build new relationships with Liberal supporters and electors across this vast and magnificent land.

Industry across the North has suffered from the global economic downturn and the challenges facing the region predate 2008, but the region's previous economic success was based on hardy Northern spirit and values, and even though our population may have declined somewhat over the past decade, the love of our rivers, lakes, rocks and trees of the Canadian Shield are deeply engrained in the souls of those born and raised here in the North. When we are successful in bringing economic stability and growth to the region once again, many of our youth will return to the communities of their youth.

As northern Liberals, we continue to set forth a vision for the North that will help to bring about the return of our diaspora and attract new residents from among Canadians and immigrants who possess a the dynamic Northern spirit.

I am pleased to have so many strong, dedicated Liberals on our Northern team and I look forward to the day when we will once again paint Northern Ontario EDA's red.

Michael Erskine

Northern Region President

