

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cochrane, Ontario - April 23, 2013:

CRITICAL TIMING – An Opportunity At Actual Change for Timiskaming-Cochrane

Dear Editor; As many have heard by now, I've accepted the nomination to run in the next Provincial election for Member of Provincial Parliament for the Timiskaming-Cochrane Riding. The outpouring of support from so many right across the Riding (which runs from French River near Sudbury to Cochrane) has been inspiring to say the least. The decision to accept the nomination though, was not so easy. The timing of the nomination is the most challenging part of the decision as it comes while I still have 1.5 years left in my term as Mayor of Cochrane. I truly agonized over this more than anything else. However, after many discussions with friends, family and key advisors, almost to a person it became clear that the opportunity this is for the riding and the North, should not be passed up. The opportunity to bring an actual seat in governing caucus here amidst all the critical negative impacts on our way of life and hope for the future is rare to say the least. After being approached by the leader of the party himself and having many discussions on what we saw as the end result, it became clear to me that the quickest way to positively impact the North and create the game changing policy needed to "rethink" northern governance, was to in fact hold a seat in the ruling government. Here, we could intelligently and passionately represent the key issues influencing the direction of the North with the best ability to influence and actually create game changing policy. Issues like creating more access to our lakes for families to enjoy our way of life, not less; opening parks, not closing them; building more rail and access to the territory to encourage more investment into economic development, not slashing key infrastructure like the ONTC (impacting upwards of 4,000 families across the region) or giving our entire fibre optics capacity to a private monopoly; and like continuing the development of an integrated health care model here where we can receive necessary medical services without traveling hundreds of kilometres elsewhere, not constantly threatening to dismantle it.

In accepting this nomination, I hope to get the rethinking of the North back on track and headed in the right direction (our direction). I also hope to regain the right perception of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario by refocusing on being the "progressive" conservatives who in the past influenced some of the greatest times here in the North and who recognize the importance of people and social issues. Who realize that while planning an economy and growth, we can never lose sight of the people themselves who make that growth possible. There were some very influential Progressive Conservatives who served this area at one time and who understood this all too well; Léo Bernier, René Brunelle, René Piché and Alan Pope to name a few. We would be very fortunate to have even half the influence these great past leaders had in our region. As importantly, wouldn't it be refreshing to at least get away from the regressive spiral we are now on, which has come under the "watch" of the other two parties representation here over the last several decades?

None of this change can be possible without you behind me and in this, I look forward to and appreciate everyone's support going forward. Together, we can bring the type of positive change to the north that we and our future generations deserve.

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SHORT BIO



Peter Politis is a passionate Northerner who has an affinity for bringing all Northerners together (including First Nations communities and municipalities) to organize themselves collaboratively, taking direct charge of their own destinies. Committed to not only building a proud Northern Ontario, but one that is growing and flourishing for generations to come. Mayor Peter Politis hopes that his seat as Mayor will lend itself well to these goals.

As Senior Consultant at For Evergreen Innovative Strategies, Peter has specialized in aboriginal negotiation, mediation and business development for over seventeen years. His uncommon insights and trademark flare for innovation consistently break barriers and pioneer breakthrough agreements and sustainable partnerships between government, industry, municipality and the aboriginal community across Canada.

His accomplishments clearly demonstrate his affinity for finding creative & innovate solutions to the most difficult barriers where least expected and in some cases even where those before have failed. He is an agent of change who understands that great organizations are always reinventing themselves. Attending some of the most prestigious institutions in the world like Harvard University, he has extensive experience and training in key disciplines such as negotiations, facilitation, people management, business & strategic planning, brainstorming and risk management. He was recently recognized for his creative accomplishments by being nominated for a prestigious Premiers Award for most outstanding college graduate in Ontario under the business category and received the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal for his voluntary commitment to his community and Canada. His experience, unique insights, & uncommon approach has played a crucial role in establishing his impressive track record of advancing aboriginal partnerships and economic development relationships to date.

As the Mayor of Cochrane, Ontario he leads the growth and development of one of the fastest growing communities in Northern Ontario. He maintains a passion for the preservation of the northern way of life and stays actively involved in key regional initiatives like, the Northern Growth Plan and the creation of a northern specific lobbying initiative that will give northerners a voice. In the public arena, Mayor Politis is quickly developing the same reputation of having a flare for finding innovative solutions where least expected to the challenges facing Northern Ontario, that he's renowned for in his private practice.

His combination of commercial/industrial experience, political experience and strategic thinking, along with his straight talking style, have played an important role in his accomplishments to date and will undoubtedly play a key role in the accomplishments that lie ahead.

"If you want there to be a difference in the world, sometimes you have to become that difference"

- Mayor Peter Politis