

Science Enterprise Algoma selects Consultant for IP Assessment

Sault Ste. Marie, ON – March 14, 2007

Science Enterprise Algoma (seA) has recently selected Gowlings, a law and consultant firm based in Ottawa, to conduct an assessment of intellectual property (IP) policies and procedures being utilized in Sault Ste. Marie and the Algoma region.

The purpose of the study is to investigate and identify IP strengths and weaknesses that exist in local science and technology organizations, in hopes of encouraging research, innovation and commercialization in the region.

Information will be collected by means of confidential interviews and a survey.

“With a world class research community and innovative businesses located in Sault Ste. Marie and the Algoma region, I anticipate this project will pay dividends for future business development opportunities,” says Errol Caldwell, executive director of seA.

As the exclusive legal rights that protect information, ideas and other intangibles from being copied or stolen, IP improves an organization’s investment readiness and marketability.

Unfortunately, this valuable asset is often overlooked by researchers, industry and individuals alike. Most large research and industrial organizations have established IP policies and procedures, but lack the expertise to enforce them.

This is especially true in Northern Ontario since there are few IP professionals in the region.

“We appreciate the financial support from Go North’s Northern Community Investment Readiness (NCIR) program and also our project partner, the Community Development Corporation,” says Caldwell.

seA has received \$10,000 from the NCIR initiative to finance the hiring of a consultant and \$3,400 to later conduct an IP workshop.

The workshop will provide an environment for local S&T organizations to obtain information about IP protection and commercialization, as well as discuss their difficulties in the area.

Funding will also be used to develop a resource guide for the Sault Ste. Marie business area and economic development community.

For more information, contact Heather Kent, Science Commercialization Officer, at (705) 541-5789 or h.kent@seainnovation.com.

About Science Enterprise Algoma (seA)

Science Enterprise Algoma was established in January 2005 to take advantage of economic development opportunities that exist in the natural resource and life science industry sectors in Sault Ste Marie, the Algoma region and Northern Ontario.