



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Path of the Paddle Association  
C/O 66 Keith Avenue, Suite 2  
Dryden, ON P8N 2Z3

**Dryden, Ontario, September 23, 2013** - A newly formed regional trail association in North Western Ontario is supporting one of the largest water-based trail sections of the Trans Canada Trail. Dr. Edward Shields is President of the Path of the Paddle Association and is pleased to announce that the Association will establish a 900 km + paddling route from Thunder Bay to the Kenora area. Developing this trail will be a huge undertaking by numerous volunteers from the region who will have their feet on-the-ground paddling and meeting with communities and stakeholders to finalize the route; clearing portages; planning bridges; and designing signage. Members of the Path of the Paddle Association hail from Thunder Bay, Atikokan, Dryden and Kenora.

Dr. Edward Shields states, "The Path of the Paddle Association is pleased to be working with partners such as Trans Canada Trail Ontario, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Parks, Municipal officials, First Nations and many grassroots trail organizations who are also committed to making this a unique eco-tourism destination for wilderness travelers showcasing the cultural and natural heritage in North western Ontario."

According to Paddling expert, Author and Artist Hap Wilson "There are traces of Canada's past everywhere along the Path of the Paddle...These ancient water trails can lead today's paddlers not only to an understanding of our shared history but also to a realization of what these waterways can mean for our shared future." Canadian Geographic.

"The Path of the Paddle ... a beautiful and rugged way to experience northern Ontario; an amazing regional tourism product; a celebration of the outdoors, active living and the traditional way of travel ... everything that Path of the Paddle is, and has the potential to be, is a result of the commitment of many people across the region. Thank you to all the volunteers and staff who are making this trail Northwestern Ontario's own impressive piece of the Trans Canada Trail." Melissa Pomeroy, General Manager, Trans Canada Trails Ontario.

The Trans Canada Trail is the world's longest and grandest recreational trail. It is used by millions of Canadians and international visitors to experience our country's legendary wilderness, cycle historic rail trails, explore provincial and territorial capitals, canoe the routes of early explorers, visit national and provincial parks and historic sites. By Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation in 2017, the Trail will stretch more than 23,000 kilometres from coast to coast to coast, linking millions of Canadians and celebrating our natural and cultural heritage.

For further information on the TCT visit [www.tctrail.ca](http://www.tctrail.ca)

For Further information contact:

Ange Sponchia, Path of the Paddle Consultant

807-597-1073

[ange\\_sponchia@hotmail.com](mailto:ange_sponchia@hotmail.com)