

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**IGNITE PRESQUE ISLE RECEIVES MMG DONATION
AND MAINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S START UP SCALE GRANT**

Presque Isle, ME, June 14, 2021 — Ignite Presque Isle received a donation from MMG (Maine Mutual Group) for \$50,000 that dedicates the co-workspace and business center. The donation will support the build out and design of renovations to the former Copper's Lounge to create an innovative hub for entrepreneurship. The space will have a mixture of shared space, dedicated desks, and independent offices for rent to businesses and individuals choosing Presque Isle as their home.

The announcement of the donation comes at the same time as the Maine Community Foundation awarded Ignite PI a \$25,000 grant for furniture and equipment for its co-workspace. The grant comes from the Makerspace and Incubator Fund as recommended by the Start Up Scale Up advisors. This grant award comes just a few weeks after the announcement of Ignite PI receiving a \$10,000 Community Building Grant from the Maine Community Foundation.

Executive Director of the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce, LaNiece Sirois stated, "I am so excited for Ignite PI and our area. Having a modern co-workspace for entrepreneurs adds so much energy into the Downtown of Presque Isle. And it is so good to see companies like MMG rallying behind this initiative to support Ignite PI as it takes on an exciting project and renovation of The Northeastland Hotel."

"MMG Insurance is pleased to support Ignite Presque Isle's development of a co-working office space. This new concept will provide an office structure, amenities, and access to technology necessary for many entrepreneurs and small business owners, that also fosters collaboration and innovation." said Larry Shaw, MMG Insurance President and CEO. "We believe this co-working space will also bring new energy to downtown Presque Isle and offer a point of attraction to the area that will benefit the entire City. We look forward to the opening and future success of Ignite PI."



Left to right: Clint Deschene, Julie French (Ignite PI Board member), Larry Shaw, Matt McHatten (EVP/Chief Operating Officer), LaNiece Sirois

The Board of Ignite PI is working with local contractors and financial institutions to develop a phased plan for renovations. The co-workspace that design has already begun will occupy the area of The Northeastland Hotel that was Copper's Lounge. Current plans are to establish a new restaurant in a renovated Sidewalk Café renamed Rodney's at 436 Main. Future plans include a larger restaurant named 436 Main, in what was previously named Café Rouge on the main floor.

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Ignite PI (IGNITE PI) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization registered with the State of Maine. Federal accreditation is pending and is expected in mid-2021. Ignite PI owns and operates The Northeastland Hotel consistent with the history and tradition and it is the future location of premier co-workspace and a business center. Ignite PI envisions itself as the compliment to all organizations dedicated to make the City of Presque Isle succeed. It is the goal of Ignite PI to use fundraising revenues, donations, membership fees, and grant proceeds to build the structure of an economic development agency that prioritizes the City of Presque Isle. Ignite PI is a place for aspiring entrepreneurs to work and network as they establish a new business to create a synergy that will be contagious in the City.

If you would like more information, please contact Clint Deschene, Director of Community Innovation at (207) 478-5069, or email info@ignitepi.org